

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Laws of Minnesota 2018 Accomplishment Plan



**Date:** October 25, 2017

**Program or Project Title:** Metro Wildlife Management Areas

**Funds Recommended:** \$ 1,174,000

**Manager's Name:** Emilee Nelson

**Organization:** The Conservation Fund

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**Legislative Citation:** ML 2018, Ch. X, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd XX

**Appropriation Language:**

**County Locations:** Anoka, Hennepin, and Isanti.

**Regions in which work will take place:**

- Metro / Urban

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Fee

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Habitat
- Wetlands

### Abstract:

Using the best science and biological data available, this project will protect sites that the DNR and has identified as high priority habitat acquisitions that are vital to support specific wildlife targets in the Metro Section Planning region. The Conservation Fund (TCF) will proactively contact and negotiate land protection with willing landowners in these complexes in coordination with DNR and local conservation groups and local communities to maximize wildlife populations of statewide and local importance.

### Design and scope of work:

#### Problem to be Addressed

Throughout Minnesota, the MN DNR Division of Wildlife has identified wildlife habitat complexes, however many are only partially completed and not able to sustain viable populations of targeted species. Regional and state wildlife acquisition staff identified high priority DNR acquisitions, but have not yet been able, for a variety of reasons, to protect these sites.

#### Scope of Work

The priorities have been ranked by DNR wildlife management personnel and then vetted through statewide acquisition meetings held by DNR and attended by conservation partners. The parcels listed in this proposal comprise high priorities for DNR and our conservation partners. Although these priorities have been identified on a biologically important basis, it is our intention to also communicate long-term visions for wildlife habitat with local communities to establish a shared vision for conservation outcomes that will positively impact

local economic vitality.

#### Current Trends

Fluctuations in real estate markets have opened an opportunity to work with these willing sellers in to potentially protect wildlife habitat for a better value than has been seen in the recent past. This can create a mutually beneficial strategy - to protect ecologically important sites while also allowing willing sellers to liquidate marginal land. Selling non-productive lands benefits wildlife and benefits the landowner.

Another timely opportunity exists to improve stakeholder communication between wildlife professionals and communities toward a comprehensive vision for how wildlife habitat can be integrated with existing and future local community goals in these areas.

### **How does the request address MN habitats that have: historical value to fish and wildlife, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories:**

This project will provide habitat value to grassland and migratory birds, as well as aquatic habitat for the Blanding's turtle, identified as a Threatened status in Minnesota. As stated, the MN DNR have identified these sites as the highest ecological priority to protect critical habitat for the documented species.

### **Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:**

TCF has worked with DNR ecologists and Minnesota County Biological Survey staff to identify sites of importance for Species of Greatest Conservation Need to target the essential boundaries required for a species to persist in perpetuity in each of the priority areas. Once the areas are identified, the estimated carrying capacity the area can hold was then factored into the projected cost to protect those properties. By building on existing habitat complexes and focusing on marginal agricultural lands, the return on investment is far greater so that we can focus protection where costs of protection and restoration are low relative to the gain in conservation benefits.

### **Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this program:**

- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

### **Which other plans are addressed in this program:**

- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years
- The Campaign for Conservation: A Fifty-Year Vision: Conservation for Minnesota's Future

### **Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:**

#### **Metro / Urban:**

- Protect, enhance, and restore riparian and littoral habitats on lakes to benefit game and nongame fish species

### **Relationship to other funds:**

- Not Listed

#### **Describe the relationship of the funds:**

Not Listed

### **How does this program include leverage in funds or other effort to supplement any OHF appropriation:**

The Conservation Fund will include \$6,000 of leverage, in part from a grant awarded to us by the McKnight Foundation.

### **Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, whether the request is**

**supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose:**

This is not supplanting or substituting previous funding.

**Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:**

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2016	McKnight Foundation	6000

**How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:**

TCF will seek to acquire only those parcels that demonstrate the best yield of conservation outcomes relative to cost to the State. TCF This will help to increase the likelihood that the MN DNR will have sufficient resources to manage the acquired sites. Additionally, TCF, as a requirement of our organization and a byproduct of maintaining our accreditation, completes land management plans, including costs estimates for all land management needs.

**Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:**

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2018	TCF	Conduct cost-benefit analysis with partner	Complete management plan per LTA accreditation standards	

### Activity Details:

If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **Yes**

Explain

Fee title lands that will be held and managed in perpetuity by the MN DNR are subject to DNR policies regarding the planting of corn or any crop, and we are unsure at this time what those policies will entail regarding the lands listed in this proposal.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated - **No**

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition - **No**

The Conservation Fund will discuss projects with local government officials in conjunction with the acquisition process to determine if the conservation outcomes of the projects complement the goals of the community. The Conservation Fund does not seek pre-approval for land acquisitions but meets with local government officials to discuss the public benefits of the projects and the potential financial impacts.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection - **Yes**

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing - **No**

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion - **Yes**

No variation.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

MN DNR.

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **No**

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition - **No**

## Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Discuss conservation goals with local decision makers and communities.	Fall 2018
Real estate due diligence.	Summer 2019-Summer 2020
Close on priority projects.	Summer 2019-Summer 2020
Convey to DNR	Upon closing

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 11/1/2021

## Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

## Outcomes:

### Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need *The sites in this proposal contain 8 rare and threatened species and plant communities which are monitored by the MN County Biological Survey staff.*

# Budget Spreadsheet

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount

The program is scalable and will pursue priority tracts with the available recommendation.

**Total Amount of Request: \$ 1174000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$30,000	\$6,000	Private Source	\$36,000
Contracts	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,004,000	\$0		\$1,004,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$3,000	\$0		\$3,000
Professional Services	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Direct Support Services	\$4,000	\$0		\$4,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$108,000	\$0		\$108,000
Total	\$1,174,000	\$6,000		\$1,180,000

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MN State Director	0.04	2.00	\$15,000	\$0		\$15,000
MN Acquisition Associate	0.05	3.00	\$15,000	\$6,000	Private Source	\$21,000
Total	0.09	5.00	\$30,000	\$6,000		\$36,000

Amount of Request: \$1,174,000

Amount of Leverage: \$6,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.51%

DSS + Personnel: \$34,000

As a % of the total request: 2.90%

**How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program:**

Our real estate support staff keeps hourly time sheets to track direct time spent on projects by grant source. We have used those past metrics to estimate the costs for this grant.

**Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:**

Private sources support land protection work in this watershed, and funding is in-hand.

## Output Tables

**Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	20	0	0	280	300
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	20	0	0	280	300

**Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$70,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,104,000	\$1,174,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$70,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,104,000	\$1,174,000

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SEForest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	300	0	0	0	0	300
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	300	0	0	0	0	300

**Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SEForest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$1,174,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,174,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,174,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,174,000

**Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$3500	\$0	\$0	\$3943
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$3913	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

## Parcel List

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

### Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

### Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Anoka

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Carlos Avery WMA	03322211	80	\$84,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Hennepin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Robina WMA	11824208	40	\$620,000	No	Full	Full

Isanti

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Crown WMA	03425224	393	\$1,658,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

### Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

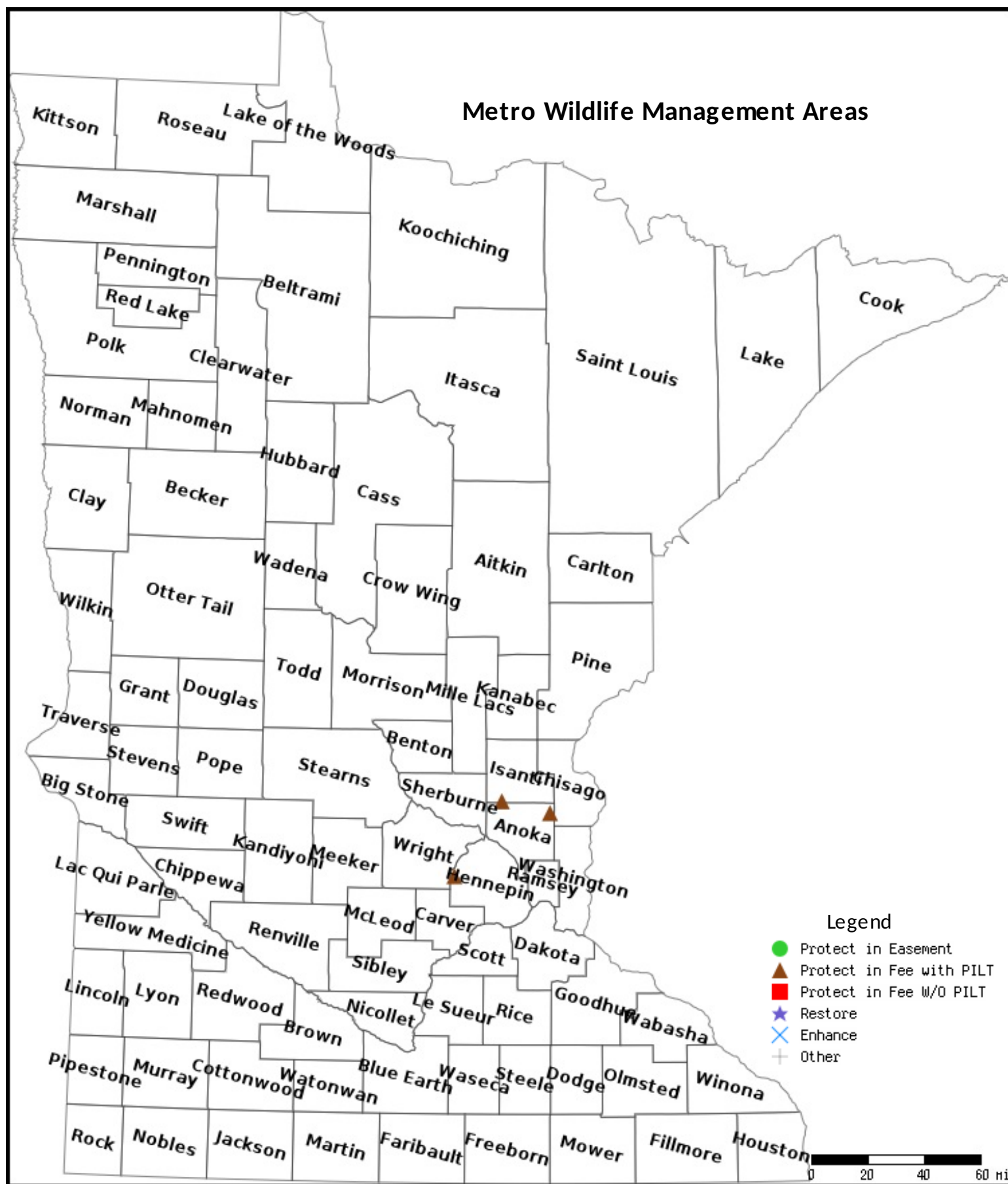
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

### Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.



## Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List



		Conservation Complex <sub>1</sub>		Conservation Complex <sub>2</sub>	
Category	Sub-category	Acres	Estimated \$ (10 yrs)	Acres	Estimated \$ (10 yrs)
Permanent Protection	Fee title (productive cropland) / acre		\$0		\$0
	Fee title (marginal cropland) / acre		\$0		\$0
	Easement / acre (productive cropland)				
	Easement / acre (marginal cropland)		\$0		\$0
<b>Totals</b>		-	\$0	-	\$0
Temporary Protection	CRP per acre / year		\$0		\$0
	Private Lands Agreements / acre		\$0		\$0
<b>Totals</b>		-	\$0	-	\$0
Restoration	Wetland / acre		\$0		\$0
	Upland tile / acre		\$0		\$0
	Grassland / acre	-	\$0		\$0
	Stream / mile		\$0		\$0
<b>Totals</b>		-	\$0	-	\$0
Enhancement	Prescribed fire / acre * 2 (every 5 yrs)		\$0		\$0
	Conservation grazing / mile		\$0		\$0
	Haying / acre * 2 (every 5 yrs)		\$0		\$0
	Woody removal (grove) / acre		\$0		\$0
	Woody removal (volunteer) / acre * 2 (every 5 yrs)		\$0		\$0
	Herbicide / acre (intensely infested site)		\$0		\$0
	Herbicide / acre (lightly infested site)		\$0		\$0
<b>Totals</b>		-	\$0	-	\$0
Stewardship	Personel hours / year		\$0		\$0
	Travel / mile (IRS rate) / year		\$0		\$0
	Build structures/parking areas		\$0		\$0
	PILT/acre/yr	-	\$0	-	\$0
<b>Totals</b>		-	\$0	-	\$0
<b>TOTAL CONSERVATION COMPLEX COST</b>		\$0		\$0	
<b>COST PER ACRE</b>		\$0.00		\$0.00	
Total Conservation Complex Acres					
Total Unprotected Acres					
Total Protected Acres					
<b>Total Cost of Conservation Complex per Conservation Indicator*</b>					

\* Using accepted models created by USFWS and others, we can estimate the number of duck breeding pairs, nesting grassland birds, etc, whatever model is applicable to the conservation complex. These metrics are indicators of success for the goal(s) set for each conservation complex.



# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Comparison Report

**Program Title:** 2018 - Metro Wildlife Management Areas  
**Organization:** The Conservation Fund  
**Manager:** Emilee Nelson

### Budget

Requested Amount: \$2,502,000  
 Appropriated Amount: \$1,174,000  
 Percentage: 46.92%

Budget Item	Total Requested		Total Appropriated		Percentage of Request	
	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Appropriated Amount	Anticipated Leverage	Percentage of Request	Percentage of Leverage
Personnel	\$44,000	\$6,000	\$30,000	\$6,000	68.18%	100.00%
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,150,000	\$0	\$1,004,000	\$0	46.70%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Travel	\$4,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	75.00%	-
Professional Services	\$60,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	33.33%	-
Direct Support Services	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	100.00%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$10,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	50.00%	-
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
DNR IDP	\$230,000	\$0	\$108,000	\$0	46.96%	-
Total	\$2,502,000	\$6,000	\$1,174,000	\$6,000	46.92%	100.00%

### How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?

The program is scalable and will pursue priority tracts with the available recommendation.

## Output

**Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type**

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	513	300	58.48%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	0	0	-

**Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type**

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	2,502,000	1,174,000	46.92%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	0	0	-

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	513	300	58.48%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	0	0	-

**Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	2,502,000	1,174,000	46.92%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	0	0	-