

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Laws of Minnesota 2018 Accomplishment Plan



**Date:** October 16, 2017

**Program or Project Title:** Enhanced Public Land – Grasslands - Phase III

**Funds Recommended:** \$ 2,160,000

**Manager's Name:** Eran Sandquist

**Title:** State Coordinator- MN

**Organization:** Pheasants Forever, Inc.

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

**Appropriation Language:**

**County Locations:** Not Listed

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

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Metro / Urban
- Prairie

**Activity types:**

- Enhance
- Restore

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Prairie
- Wetlands

### Abstract:

We propose to enhance 6,500 acres of grassland and wetland habitat to increase the productivity of game species and other wildlife on Minnesota lands open to public hunting including Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA), and National Wildlife Refuges (NWR). We will accomplish this by working with our partners to follow best practices to conduct wetland restorations, conservation grazing, invasive tree removal, prescribed fire, and diversity seeding in the prairie, forest/prairie transition, and metro regions.

### Design and scope of work:

Greater than 95% of Minnesota's prairies have been lost to the plow and development. Many of the remaining acres of native and restored grasslands have been degraded from lack of fire and spread of invasive trees. Many wetlands are now in need of repair while others can be enhanced or restored. This project aims to address the loss of productivity on WPAs, WMAs, and NWRs that are open to hunting so they can reach their full potential for wildlife production.

Research has shown that trees are detrimental to prairie/grassland wildlife and will be removed with this proposal. Common species

that degrade this habitat include but are not limited to Siberian Elm, Box Elder, and Eastern Red Cedar. The trees provide perches for avian predators such as red-tailed hawks, great-horned owls, and crows, and dens for red fox, raccoon, and skunk. Predators like these are highly effective at predating both nests and nesting birds, especially in fragmented habitat. Wetlands will be restored/enhanced by removing drain tile, and constructing/repairing earthen dams and/or water control structures. Wetlands targeted for enhancement are vital to providing food, cover, and space required for breeding waterfowl and are essential to water quality and aquifer recharge. Research has shown that a diverse mixture of native grasses and forbs is ideal for nesting and brood rearing of upland nesting birds along with being essential for pollinator species. Many WMAs, WPAs, or NWRs were purchased in sub-optimal habitat condition (e.g. monotype of brome grass) or were restored using low diversity seed mixes that are less productive for wildlife. We will use a site-specific combination of techniques (e.g. cultivation, tree removal, herbicide, and prescribed fire) to bring back productivity to these public lands. In close collaboration with the land managers, we will seed a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs that are well adapted to site conditions. Mowing will be used as needed to manage annual weed pressure to ensure establishment.

Conservation grazing is an important enhancement tool for sites that are difficult to conduct prescribed fires or need to target specific enhancement needs (e.g. cool season grass suppression, tree invasion, etc.). Permanent infrastructure with a lifespan of 30+ years will be installed to conduct conservation grazing plans written to benefit wildlife.

Prescribed burning is the primary management tool for managing grassland habitat for waterfowl, game birds, and songbirds. It increases vigor, sets back invasive woody species, and removes built up residue.

Our goal is to make every acre of public land as productive as possible. By adding capacity to enhance habitat on WPAs, NWRs and WMAs, we will strive to help our collective public land management entities so that they no longer need mechanical or chemical treatments and high-quality habitat can be sustained with prescribed fire only.

An RFP and ranking process has been developed in previous phases that allow us to identify, rank and deliver the projects that have the most impact for grassland and wetland wildlife.

### **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 directly addresses the loss of wildlife production on reconstructed and native prairies through restoration and enhancement best practices. By increasing the quality of existing remnant prairie habitat (largely through fire and invasive tree removal) we can benefit numerous species that are of special concern, threatened, or endangered. This proposal targets grassland species, including but not limited to greater prairie chicken, ring-necked pheasants, monarch butterflies, honey bees and Dakota skippers.

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

The science and strategy of habitat enhancement in this part of Minnesota is to build functional complexes of habitat where it once existed. The quantity and spatial arrangement of habitat is important. Another important aspect relates to the quality of habitat found there. By enhancing and restoring grasslands and wetlands in key landscapes, we aim to make every acre as productive as possible to provide the most benefit to wildlife and the people of Minnesota. To maximize efficiency and effectiveness, projects will be developed in conjunction with MNDNR and USFWS land managers.

### **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:**

- Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN
- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

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

#### **Forest / Prairie Transition:**

- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

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

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity

**Prairie:**

- Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

**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:**

This proposal is the third phase of an effort to enhance public lands for the benefit of wildlife and public recreation. All funding has been spent in the first phase and the second phase has been contracted and work is being completed as weather allows. Although we have accomplished a significant amount of quality work in the first and second phase, it was evident there is a significant amount of work remaining and an interest from agency managers to better our public lands. Pheasants Forever, USFWS, MN DNR and other partners are focused on managing grassland habitat for game birds, waterfowl, and all other species of grassland wildlife. Leverage is expected from multiple sources including but not limited to federal sources, contractor donations and PF.

**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 proposal accelerates enhancement efforts in the state and does not supplant any previous funding.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2002-2010	Heritage Enhancement Grants	\$145,000 HE / \$14,500 PF
2015-2017	NAWCA	\$150,000 HE

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

The portions of enhancement work that will be completed by this proposal will generally allow the unit to be managed more effectively by the resource manager, whether that be the USFWS or the MNDNR. However, with limited funds and constant pressure to our public land grasslands/wetlands from volunteer invasive trees, water quality decline, aging grasslands, etc., we also expect continued opportunity to supplement local agency efforts. While it's difficult for a third party like us to provide an analysis of future costs on existing public land, according to the Long-Range Budget Analysis of Land Management Needs, the cost of long-term management ranges from \$11-16/acre annually. We expect that average need to be the same for the parcels we worked on.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Post Project Completion - WMA	MN DNR - Game and Fish Funds	Monitoring	Maintenance	
Post Project Completion - WPA	USFWS - Federal	Monitoring	Maintenance	
Post Project Completion - NWR	USFWS-Federal	Monitoring	Maintenance	

**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 - **No**

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program - **Yes**

Is the activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 - **Yes**  
(WMA, WPA, Refuge Lands)

### Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Distribute Project Request for Proposals to Area Land Managers	Fall 2018
Review Project RFPs with project selection committee	Winter 2018-19
Select Projects for completion and hire contractors to complete habitat work	Winter 2018-19
Enhancement / Restoration work begins	Spring 2019
Re-evaluate project status/budget and solicit additional projects as needed	Winter 2020
Enhancement / Restoration work completed	Summer 2023

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/1/2023

### Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **Yes**

Are the funds confirmed - **No**

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds - **07/01/2018**

### Outcomes:

#### Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Increased waterfowl and upland bird migratory and breeding success *Outcomes will be measured by resource professionals and evaluated by using the best science available to land managers.*

#### Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Improved condition of habitat on public lands. Outcomes will be measured by resource professionals and evaluated by using the best science available to land managers.

#### Programs in prairie region:

- Improved condition of habitat on public lands *Outcomes will be measured by resource professionals and evaluated by using the best science available to land managers.*

# 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**

We have reduced accomplishments/costs proportionately across the overall program to accommodate the reduced appropriation. As a result of the reduction, we will be able to enhance fewer acres.

**Total Amount of Request: \$ 2160000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$86,700	\$0		\$86,700
Contracts	\$2,037,000	\$43,400	Federal, Private, PF	\$2,080,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$4,300	\$0		\$4,300
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$32,000	\$0		\$32,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$2,160,000	\$43,400		\$2,203,400

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF State Coordinator - MN	0.02	3.00	\$6,500	\$0		\$6,500
PF Field Staff	0.25	3.00	\$54,200	\$0		\$54,200
PF Grants Staff	0.12	3.00	\$26,000	\$0		\$26,000
Total	0.39	9.00	\$86,700	\$0		\$86,700

Amount of Request: \$2,160,000

Amount of Leverage: \$43,400

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 2.01%

DSS + Personnel: \$118,700

As a % of the total request: 5.50%

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

PF utilizes the Total Modified Direct Cost method. This methodology is annually approved by the U.S. Department of Interior's National Business Center as the basis for the organization's Indirect Cost Rate agreement. PF's allowable direct support services cost is 4.12%. In this proposal, PF has discounted its rate to 1.5% of the sum of personnel, contracts, and travel. We are donating the difference-in-kind.

**Does the amount in the contract line include R/E work?**

We anticipate that all of the contract funding will be used for restoration and enhancement activities.

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

Leverage is expected from multiple sources including but not limited to federal sources, land value donations, contractor donations, and PF. Not every source is 100% confirmed at this point. However, PF has an exemplary track record of delivery and over-achievement of match commitments that further stretch OHF funding.

## Output Tables

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

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	21	44	0	0	65
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	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	21	6,414	0	0	6,435
Total	42	6,458	0	0	6,500

**Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?**

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	21
Total	21

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

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$7,200	\$14,400	\$0	\$0	\$21,600
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$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	\$7,200	\$2,131,200	\$0	\$0	\$2,138,400
Total	\$14,400	\$2,145,600	\$0	\$0	\$2,160,000

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

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	15	15	0	35	0	65
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	108	1,300	0	5,027	0	6,435
Total	123	1,315	0	5,062	0	6,500

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

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$11,600	\$0	\$21,600
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$36,000	\$432,000	\$0	\$1,670,400	\$0	\$2,138,400
Total	\$41,000	\$437,000	\$0	\$1,682,000	\$0	\$2,160,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$343	\$327	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$343	\$332	\$0	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$333	\$333	\$0	\$331	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$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	\$333	\$332	\$0	\$332	\$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

No parcels with an activity type protect.

### Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

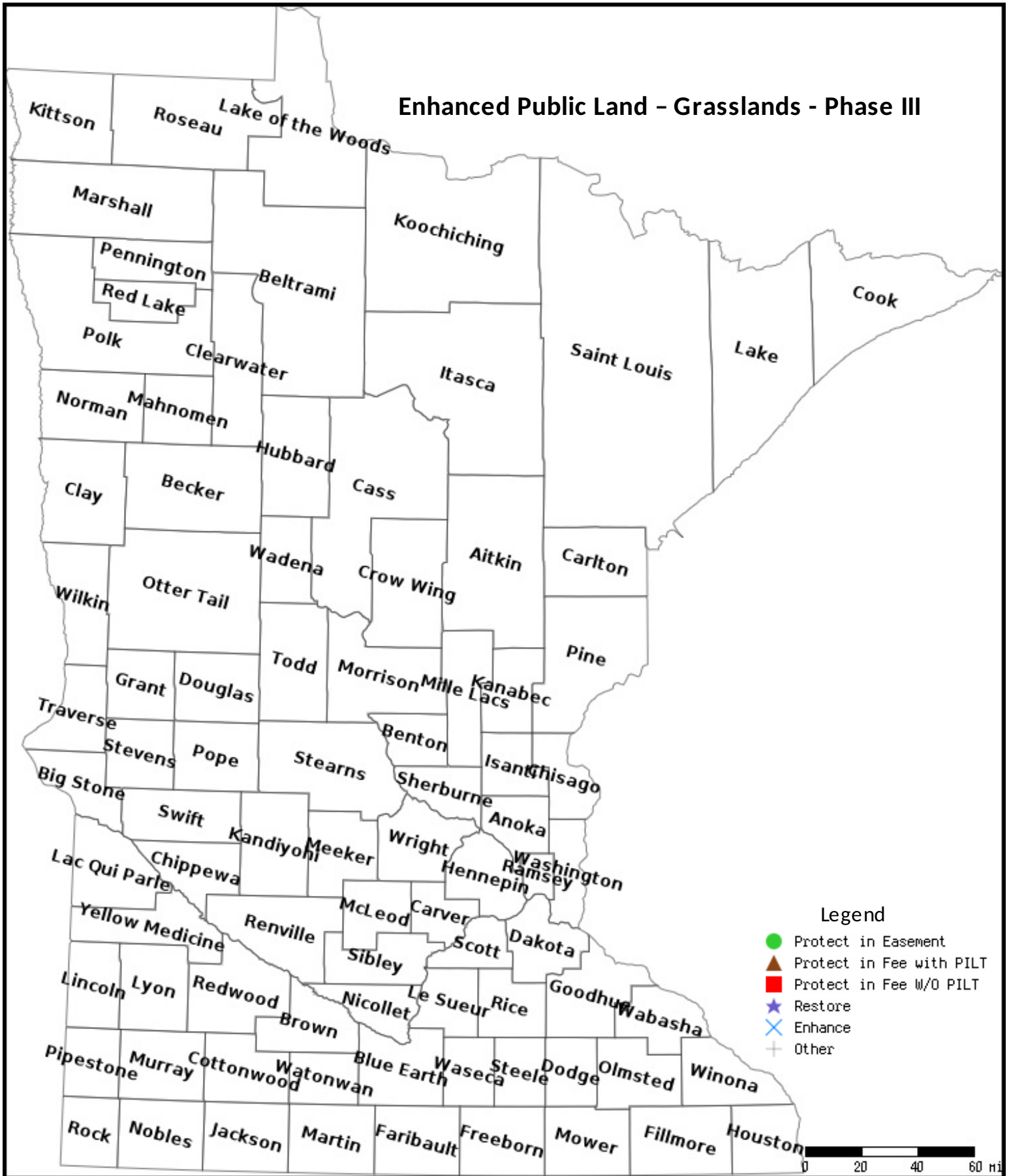
### Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.



# Parcel Map

## Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands - Phase III



Data Generated From Parcel List



## DRAFT-Enhanced Public Grasslands Scoring Sheet-DRAFT

Updated 10/16/2017

WMA/WPA/NWR Project Name	County	Township/Range/Section	Date:

### Project Type

☐ Tree Removal
 ☐ Prescribed Fire
 ☐ Diversity Seeding
 ☐ Conservation Grazing
 ☐ Wetland Restoration

### Must meet all these requirements to be eligible

- 1 ☐ Project is located in an eligible priority region (Prairie, Forest/Prairie Transition, Metro)
- 2 ☐ Project will occur on existing WMA, NWR, or WPA
- 3 ☐ Project is approved by appropriate public land manager
- 4 ☐ Project is open to public hunting
- 5 ☐ Without these funds, project would not be completed
- 6 ☐ Project can be completed by private contractor

Are you Eligible

NO

### Factors

**Possible Points      Score**

<b>1</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Will project affect increase wildlife productivity of upland and wetland habitat	5 pts	0
<b>2</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Will project benefit any T&E or SGCN species?	10 pts	0
<b>3</b>		<b>How large is existing contiguous public lands habitat complex?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> >240 acres <input type="checkbox"/> 81 - 240 acres <input type="checkbox"/> < 80 acres	25 pts 15 pts 5 pts	0
<b>4</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Will project help reduce future management costs?	10 pts	0
<b>6</b>		<b>Vegetative Diversity</b> <input type="checkbox"/> >20 native species exist or planted <input type="checkbox"/> 11-19 native species exist or planted <input type="checkbox"/> <10 native species exist or planted	15 pts 10 pts 0 pts	0
<b>7</b>		<b>Other Factors</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Conservation Plan core area <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Conservation Plan corridor or complex area <input type="checkbox"/> Pheasant Plan Complex <input type="checkbox"/> Site contains native prairie	15 pts 10 pts 15 pts 10 pts	0

TOTAL

0



# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Comparison Report

**Program Title:** 2018 - Enhanced Public Land – Grasslands - Phase III

**Organization:** Pheasants Forever, Inc.

**Manager:** Eran Sandquist

## Budget

Requested Amount: \$4,983,700

Appropriated Amount: \$2,160,000

Percentage: 43.34%

Budget Item	Total Requested		Total Appropriated		Percentage of Request	
	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Appropriated Amount	Anticipated Leverage	Percentage of Request	Percentage of Leverage
Personnel	\$200,000	\$0	\$86,700	\$0	43.35%	-
Contracts	\$4,700,000	\$100,000	\$2,037,000	\$43,400	43.34%	43.40%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Travel	\$10,000	\$0	\$4,300	\$0	43.00%	-
Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$73,700	\$0	\$32,000	\$0	43.42%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Total	\$4,983,700	\$100,000	\$2,160,000	\$43,400	43.34%	43.40%

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

We have reduced accomplishments/costs proportionately across the overall program to accommodate the reduced appropriation. As a result of the reduction, we will be able to enhance fewer acres.

## Output

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	150	65	43.33%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	14,850	6,435	43.33%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	49,800	21,600	43.37%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	4,933,900	2,138,400	43.34%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	150	65	43.33%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	14,850	6,435	43.33%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	49,800	21,600	43.37%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	4,933,900	2,138,400	43.34%