

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2019 / ML 2018 Request for Funding



Date: June 01, 2017

Program or Project Title: Metro Big Rivers Phase 8

Funds Requested: \$8,217,000

Manager's Name: Deborah Loon

Title: Executive Director

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County Locations: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, and Washington.

Regions in which work will take place:

- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Restore
- Enhance
- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat

Abstract:

Metro Big Rivers Phase 8 will protect 400 acres in fee title and 640 acres in permanent conservation easement, restore 30 acres and enhance 1,527 acres of priority habitat in the big rivers corridors in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area. MBR partners will leverage the OHF appropriation by at least 30% with partner funds, private funds, local government contributions and Clean Water Funds, as well as landowner donations of easement value. Significant volunteer engagement will be invested in many habitat enhancement activities, although not technically counted as leverage. Another 150 acres will be acquired in fee title with other funds.

Design and scope of work:

Metro Big Rivers Phase 8 will protect, restore, enhance and connect prioritized land habitats in the metropolitan area, with an emphasis on the three big rivers and their tributaries. The projects will benefit wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation (SGCN) and provide increased public access for wildlife-based recreation. The work is briefly described below. Please see the parcel list for additional detail.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) will enhance 35 acres of prairie and 180 acres of forest at five sites along the Mississippi River:

- William H. Houlton Conservation Area: Enhance 55 acres forest on an island in the Mississippi River.
- Cottage Grove Island: Enhance 3 acres forest on an island in the Grey Cloud Slough, a backwater of the Mississippi River.
- Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park: Enhance 48 acres forest adjacent to Ravine Lake.
- Spring Lake Park Reserve: Enhance 35 acres prairie and 60 acres forest along the Mississippi River.
- Riverside Park: Enhance 14 acres forest along the Mississippi River.

Great River Greening (GRG) will enhance 1,191 acres of prairie, oak savanna, forest and riverine habitat at 11 projects:

- Maple View Open Space: Enhance 43.5 acres of savanna, forest and wetland of new open space.
- Springbrook Nature Center, Phase II: Enhance 87 acres of wetland and oak savanna.
- Carrol's Woods: Enhance 127 acres of oak forest.
- Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Phase 2: Enhance 101 acres of oak savanna and prairie.
- Valley Park Xcel Pollinator Corridor: Enhance 9 acres to a prairie pollinator corridor.
- Chanhassen Nature Preserve: Enhance 16 acres of oak savanna.
- Minnehaha Creek Knollwood Riparian Corridor: Enhance 6 acre terrace forest.
- Six Mile Marsh: Enhance 115 acres of prairie.
- Westwood Hills Nature Center: Enhance 15 acres of maple-basswood forest and oak woodland.
- Brown's Creek Open Space: Enhance 13 acres of newly-acquired oak savanna complex.
- Grey Cloud Slough: Enhance 4.5 miles (658 acres) of Mississippi River side channel habitat.

Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will protect 640 acres of priority wildlife habitat through perpetual conservation easement, including riparian lands, forests, wetlands and grasslands. Projects will be selected through a competitive RFP process that ranks proposals based on ecological significance and cost (criteria attached).

MLT also will restore/enhance 150 acres of high quality natural communities on private lands already protected through permanent conservation easement. Properties selected are of high ecological significance, adjacent or in close proximity to public conservation investments (e.g., state parks, WMAs, streams and rivers) and owned by landowners who have a keen desire to manage these resources for conservation.

Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will protect through fee title acquisition 400 acres of river frontage, floodplain forest, wetland and upland habitat in the Minnesota River Valley to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. An additional 100 acres will be acquired with other non-state funds. All prospective lands have been prioritized by the USFWS and are along or very near the Minnesota River. All lands will be restored/enhanced, then open to the public for hunting and fishing.

Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

Metro Big Rivers Partnership (MBR) effectively targets action toward protecting, restoring and enhancing the long-term viability of the Metro Urbanizing Area's (MUA) essential natural terrestrial and aquatic habitats and their associated wildlife, along and in close proximity to the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers.

MBR advances the LSOHC 25 Year Strategic Framework for the MUA by creating a network of natural lands that provide healthy core areas of diverse natural communities, corridors for wildlife, and complexes of perpetually-protected and restored lands. MBR addresses all 11 of the LSOHC priority statewide criteria and all 4 of its priority criteria for the MUA.

MBR also advances the indicators of Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan by ensuring the long-term health and viability of Minnesota's wildlife, maintaining and enhancing the resilience of habitats on which SGCN depend, within the Wildlife Action Network and associated Conservation Focus Areas of the MUA.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Metro / Urban:

- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

Metro Big Rivers focuses on habitat within the three big river corridors and their tributaries. We are building, adding onto, connecting and restoring complexes and corridors of protected habitat that include wetlands, prairies, forests and aquatic habitat. Opportunities

are prioritized for the potential to contribute to building a permanent conservation legacy that includes outcomes for wildlife and the public. They supplement and expand on other conservation activities the partners are conducting in the metro area.

MBR works in partnership with local, state and federal agency partners and with willing, conservation-minded landowners. High quality lands are protected through fee title or easement acquisition. Lands that are already under public protection but in a degraded state are targeted for restoration and enhancement, as are land protected through MBR fee and easement acquisitions. Where possible, protected and restored lands are made available to the public for outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing, thereby addressing the need to provide such opportunities close to home to a growing and diversifying urban population.

MBR Phase 8 includes a diversity of projects that will significantly expand and improve the conservation legacy in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area. Specifically, MBR 8 projects will protect and restore prairie, oak savanna, forest, wetland, grassland, shoreline and in-stream aquatic habitat, all within the Metro Area.

Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

Protection partners prioritize work through science-based processes led by the public entities that own or will own interest in the properties (e.g., MN DNR, USFWS). Plans followed include MBS, RESA, Metropolitan Conservation Corridors, Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan, and the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Actions are targeted toward building conservation corridors and priority habitat complexes.

In addition, the easement partner's competitive RFP process includes a second analysis of all proposed projects submitted by landowners for protection. This assessment evaluates the ecological significance of the proposed parcel, which includes the following three factors:

- Quantity – the size of habitat and/or length of shoreline associated with a parcel, and abundance of Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species
- Quality – the condition of the associated habitat and populations of SGCN and T&E species
- Landscape Context – the extent and condition of natural habitat surrounding the parcel, and the degree to which adjacent property has been protected.

Restoration and enhancement partners use science-based criteria to prioritize activities. This includes consideration of the highest quality natural areas (as determined by MBS), as well as prioritization of work within important ecological corridors. All sites fall within the system of conservation corridors identified by a coalition of conservation partners and based on rare species and sensitive landscape features. This prioritization ensures that projects reduce fragmentation and link natural areas within already-established corridors. All of the restoration and enhancement sites are located along or near the three big rivers and important tributaries - some of the most important ecological corridors for migrating and sedentary plant and animal life.

How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species:

Metro Big Rivers projects specifically target protecting and improving habitats that are needed by wildlife species in greatest conservation need (SGCN) and other targeted species, and where they need them. Many of Minnesota's forest and grassland SGCNs are migratory. Improving habitat along the central flyway (the three big rivers) will provide great benefits to all wildlife species, especially during critical migration periods.

FMR will conduct significant habitat work on already-protected conservation lands to improve two critical habitat types for wildlife and SGCN Metro area -- forest and prairie. These activities will improve the habitat for all wildlife, especially birds using the Mississippi River migratory corridor and pollinators. The activities in this proposal will enhance forest and prairie habitat at 5 conservation sites in the metro area adjacent to or in close proximity to the Mississippi River.

GRG will also conduct significant habitat work on already-protected conservation lands to improve habitat values for wildlife and SGCN, including birds using the Mississippi River migratory corridor and pollinators. Work will restore and enhance riverine, forest, oak savanna, prairie, and wetland habitat at 11 conservation sites in the metro area.

MLT, the easement and restoration partner, will target its protection action to priority privately owned lands to permanently protect a variety of upland and shoreland habitats from fragmentation, development, and other impacts that undermine the viability of SGCN and T&E species. Restoration and enhancement of habitat is proposed for lands protected through easement.

MVT, the fee title partner, will acquire in fee title lands that have been identified through the USFWS Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This plan prioritizes lands for high biodiversity, connectivity, and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN. The acquisitions and subsequent habitat work will increase breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl,

shorebirds, neo-tropical migrants, and non-migratory resident species, protect the diversity of native ecosystems, and improve connectivity and resilience.

Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

DNR staff, in consultation with experts in NGOs and other agencies, compiled a select group of indicator species and associated quantities to be used to answer the question above. The metrics are derived from existing data sources and/or scientific literature, but are necessarily gross averages; they are not accurate at a site-specific scale. They are not intended to be used to score or rank requests, but represent the best information we have for immediate support to the Council's objective. We select a few, not fully inclusive indicators here.

Forests.

Indicator: White-tailed deer.

White-tailed deer use a wide variety of forested habitats throughout Minnesota. Deer densities in the Metropolitan Area will be higher than the six-year average (2010-2015) density of 0.02 deer (pre-fawning) per acre of forest habitat in the LSOHC Northern Forest section.

Grasslands/Prairie.

Indicator: Bobolink and Grasshopper Sparrow.

The breeding territory size of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows is 1.7 and 2.1 acres respectively in high quality habitat in Wisconsin. If all habitat is occupied, 100 acres could hold approximately 60 and 48 pairs of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows respectively.

Wetlands.

Indicator: Mallards.

A Joint Venture biological model used to estimate habitat needs uses an accepted rate of 1 mallard pair per 2.47 acres of wetland habitat (noting that upland nesting habitat is also needed).

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 *Partners work together to identify priority lands using existing data and public plans, then coordinate protection, restoration and enhancement activities in those priority areas. Work builds upon prior phases and is intended to continue into the future for maximum impact. Mapping shows progress in connecting corridors. Species collections and counts measure impact of activities over time on wildlife and Species in Greatest Conservation Need.*

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

All public partners have committed to maintaining the restoration / enhancement habitat improvements after OHF funds are expended. The MBR restore/enhance partners will continue to raise public and private sources to continue the work past the grant timeline, and will work cooperatively with partners to ensure the project benefits are maintained.

Lands protected through easement will be sustained following best standards and practices. MLT is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, records management, addressing inquiries, tracking ownership changes, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. In addition, MLT provides habitat management plans to landowners and helps them access resources and technical expertise to undertake restoration, enhancement and ongoing management of properties.

Lands acquired in fee title for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be maintained and sustained over the long-term by the USFWS. Initial habitat restoration / enhancement will be completed by the MVT prior to transfer to the USFWS, which is a critical activity for the future of conservation.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2021-23	FMR, GRG & Local Partners	Monitoring and assessment	Targeted actions to maintain habitat	Restorative actions, as needed, to correct any damage
2021-23	MLT & Landowner (R/E Projects)	Monitoring and assessment	Targeted actions to maintain habitat	Restorative actions, as needed, to correct any damage
2021	MVT (MN Valley Lands, subsidiary) & USFWS	Post property	Development habitat restoration / enhancement and management plan	Conduct initial restoration / enhancement and management activities
2022	MVT (MN Valley Lands, subsidiary) & USFWS	Continue restoration / enhancement and management activities	Develop hunting plan, if needed	Develop hunter parking lot and related signage, if needed
2022-25	MVT (MN Valley Lands, subsidiary) & USFWS	Continue restoration / enhancement and management activities	Transfer property to USFWS, upon completion of habitat restoration / enhancement	
Perpetual	MLT Stewardship & Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of completed easements	Enforcement actions, as necessary	

What is the degree of timing/opportunistic urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:

The three major rivers, which converge in the Metro Urbanizing Area (MUA), are of significant importance to a myriad of migrating species and SGCN. Three intersecting issues create urgency for Metro Big Rivers Partnerships' work in the MUA -- 1) the continued decline of many wildlife species, most notably, birds and pollinators, 2) declining habitat these species need to rebound and thrive, and 3) rising land values and development activity.

Protecting and enhancing habitat in the MUA is especially critical now, as land values and housing developments are both rising, placing renewed demand on lands throughout the area. Metro Big Rivers projects will defend against rising land values (especially along lakes and rivers), add needed and significant wildlife habitat, improve connectivity and habitat values (especially for wildlife and SGCN) and increase needed public access to wildlife-based outdoor opportunities in metro area, including hunting and fishing.

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

Metro Big Rivers 8 will leverage the OHF appropriation by at least 30% (almost \$2,500,000).

The partnership has already secured commitments of supplemental funding for the fee title protection and restoration / enhancement projects from the partners, private sources, local government units, soil and water conservation districts and Minnesota Clean Water Fund. This leverage is estimated at \$1,525,000.

MLT encourages private landowners to fully or partially donate the appraised value of their conservation easement. This donated value is shown as leveraged funds in the proposal. MLT has a long track record gaining landowner participation in this fashion. To date across all MBR grants, \$1,417,000 in easement value has been donated as leverage. We expect a significant landowner contribution to continue in MBR Phase 8; conservative estimate of leverage is \$945,000.

Crews of volunteers will add significant in-kind value to the restoration / enhancement projects. This value is not included in the leverage funds, but is important to note here. Volunteers effectively replace or enhance paid crews and contracts on many projects, saving funds. Use of volunteers also effectively educates and engages the community in conservation work, which is critical for the future of conservation.

Relationship to other funds:

- Clean Water Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

An appropriation from the Clean Water Fund is removing a road and local funds will replace the road with a bridge, allowing unimpeded flow and recreational access to make the larger Grey Cloud Slough restoration and enhancement project possible. This MBR 8 proposal includes funds for Phase 2 of initial follow up restoration work, development of an instream restoration plan, and project monitoring. This proposal supplements and does not supplant any other sources of funds.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2009	Other State Funds	741,058
2011	Local Funds	295,993
2011	Federal Funds	247,907
2011	Private and Other Funds	1,578,572
2012	Other State Funds	244,449
2012	Local Funds	343,234
2012	Federal Funds	70,327
2012	Private and Other Funds	2,063,388
2013	Other State Funds	1,820,284
2013	Local Funds	1,166,826
2013	Federal Funds	153,780
2009	Local Funds	91,972
2013	Private and Other Funds	1,253,038
2014	Other State Funds	1,648,257
2014	Local Funds	516,119
2014	Private and Other Funds	1,931,527
2015	Other State Funds	2,128,751
2015	Local Funds	1,295,000
2015	Private and Other Funds	1,449,198
2016	Other State Funds	856,157
2016	Local Funds	2,161,500
2016	Private and Other Funds	1,609,091
2009	Federal Funds	138,338
2017	Other State Funds	416,860
2017	Local Funds	76,000
2017	Private and Other Funds	1,212,156
2009	Private and Other Funds	940,884
2010	Other State Funds	2,010,658
2010	Local Funds	364,460
2010	Federal Funds	120,662
2010	Private and Other Funds	3,516,521
2011	Other State Funds	1,429,358

Activity Details

Requirements:

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

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition - **Yes**

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

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

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**
(County/Municipal, Watershed Districts, Private lands under permanent conservation easement)

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

Land Use:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **No**

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

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

Lands acquired for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) will be open for public hunting and fishing according to the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act. The lands will be opened through a public process prescribed by the Act. We anticipate hunting and fishing opportunities will be like those already established for lands previously acquired for the Refuge. For specific information, refer to the Refuge's website - http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley/documents/hunting_regs.pdf.

Will the eased land be open for public use - **No**

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Some parcels may have existing field roads or low maintenance trails.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition - **Yes**

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

Any pre-existing low-maintenance roads and trails on properties acquired for the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) may be continued under a plan developed for the purpose of property access for habitat maintenance and public use of the property for wildlife-dependent recreation (e.g., hunting and fishing).

Trails and roads on eased lands are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of MLT's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads or trails in line with the easement terms will be the responsibility of the landowner.

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

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
FMR - Restore / enhance 215 acres.	June 2022
G RG - Enhance 1,191 acres.	June 2021
MLT - Protect 640 acres under conservation easements.	June 2021
MLT - Restore / enhance 150 acres.	June 2021
MVT - Protect 400 acres through fee title acquisition.	June 2021

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$8,217,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$481,300	\$234,100	BWCD, MCWD, SWWD, Dakota County, Cities of Fridley, Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park, MCWD, SWWD, Dakota County, Cities of Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park, Dakota County, Cities of Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park, FMR, FMR, Local Unit of Government, Foundation	\$715,400
Contracts	\$1,949,500	\$526,500	BWCD, MCWD, SWWD, Dakota County, Cities of Fridley, Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park, Dakota County, Clean Water Fund	\$2,476,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,989,500	\$750,000	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$2,739,500
Easement Acquisition	\$3,150,000	\$945,000	Private landowner donations	\$4,095,000
Easement Stewardship	\$240,000	\$0		\$240,000
Travel	\$21,700	\$0		\$21,700
Professional Services	\$201,500	\$0		\$201,500
Direct Support Services	\$88,500	\$0		\$88,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$10,500	\$0		\$10,500
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$19,000	\$0		\$19,000
Supplies/Materials	\$65,500	\$14,300	SWWD, Foundation	\$79,800
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$8,217,000	\$2,469,900		-\$10,686,900

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Manager	0.32	3.00	\$59,800	\$125,800	BWCD, MCWD, SWWD, Dakota County, Cities of Fridley, Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park	\$185,600
Crew	0.29	3.00	\$28,300	\$46,900	MCWD, SWWD, Dakota County, Cities of Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park	\$75,200
Volunteer Manager	0.10	3.00	\$13,600	\$31,300	Dakota County, Cities of Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park	\$44,900
Director of Conservation Programs	0.10	3.00	\$24,600	\$0		\$24,600
Grant Management Assistant	0.13	3.00	\$15,400	\$0		\$15,400
Director of Finance	0.02	3.00	\$6,200	\$0		\$6,200
Finance Operations Manager	0.21	3.00	\$30,800	\$0		\$30,800
Conservation Director	0.02	4.00	\$8,500	\$100	FMR	\$8,600
Senior Ecologist	0.04	4.00	\$12,400	\$15,000	FMR, Local Unit of Government	\$27,400
Ecologist	0.04	4.00	\$12,100	\$0		\$12,100
Bookkeeper	0.02	4.00	\$5,600	\$0		\$5,600
Stewardship Staff	0.04	4.00	\$0	\$15,000	Foundation	\$15,000
MLT Staff - Program Manager, Legal, etc.	0.98	3.00	\$264,000	\$0		\$264,000
Total	2.31	44.00	\$481,300	\$234,100		-\$715,400

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$178,700	\$204,000	BWCD, MCWD, SWWD, Dakota County, Cities of Fridley, Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park, MCWD, SWWD, Dakota County, Cities of Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park, Dakota County, Cities of Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park	\$382,700
	Great River				

Contracts	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$948,900	\$526,500	BWCD, MCWD, SWWD, Dakota County, Cities of Fridley, Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park, Dakota County, Clean Water Fund	\$1,475,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$5,900	\$0		\$5,900
Professional Services	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$17,000	\$0		\$17,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$17,000	\$0		\$17,000
Supplies/Materials	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$60,500	\$5,000	SWWD	\$65,500
DNR IDP	Great River Greening (GRG)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		-\$1,228,000	\$735,500		-\$1,963,500

Personnel - Great River Greening (GRG)

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Manager	0.32	3.00	\$59,800	\$125,800	BWCD, MCWD, SWWD, Dakota County, Cities of Fridley, Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park	\$185,600
Crew	0.29	3.00	\$28,300	\$46,900	MCWD, SWWD, Dakota County, Cities of Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park	\$75,200
Volunteer Manager	0.10	3.00	\$13,600	\$31,300	Dakota County, Cities of Mendota Heights, Rosemount, St. Louis Park	\$44,900
Director of Conservation Programs	0.10	3.00	\$24,600	\$0		\$24,600
Grant Management Assistant	0.13	3.00	\$15,400	\$0		\$15,400
Director of Finance	0.02	3.00	\$6,200	\$0		\$6,200
Finance Operations Manager	0.21	3.00	\$30,800	\$0		\$30,800
Total	1.17	21.00	\$178,700	\$204,000		-\$382,700

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$38,600	\$30,100	FMR, FMR, Local Unit of Government, Foundation	\$68,700
Contracts	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$483,600	\$0		\$483,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$0	\$0		\$0

Easement Acquisition	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$3,800	\$0	\$3,800
Professional Services	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Direct Support Services	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$0	\$0	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Equipment	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$0	\$9,300	Foundation
DNR IDP	Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total		\$526,000	\$39,400	-\$565,400

Personnel - Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservation Director	0.02	4.00	\$8,500	\$100	FMR	\$8,600
Senior Ecologist	0.04	4.00	\$12,400	\$15,000	FMR, Local Unit of Government	\$27,400
Ecologist	0.04	4.00	\$12,100	\$0		\$12,100
Bookkeeper	0.02	4.00	\$5,600	\$0		\$5,600
Stewardship Staff	0.04	4.00	\$0	\$15,000	Foundation	\$15,000
Total	0.16	20.00	\$38,600	\$30,100		-\$68,700

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$264,000	\$0		\$264,000
Contracts	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$517,000	\$0		\$517,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$3,150,000	\$945,000	Private landowner donations	\$4,095,000
Easement Stewardship	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$240,000	\$0		\$240,000
Travel	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$12,000	\$0		\$12,000
Professional Services	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$201,500	\$0		\$201,500
Direct Support Services	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$71,500	\$0		\$71,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
DNR IDP	Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$4,463,000	\$945,000		-\$5,408,000

Personnel - Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Staff - Program Manager, Legal, etc.	0.98	3.00	\$264,000	\$0		\$264,000
Total	0.98	3.00	\$264,000	\$0		-\$264,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.				

Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$1,989,500	\$750,000	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$2,739,500
Easement Acquisition	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$10,500	\$0		\$10,500
Capital Equipment	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$2,000,000	\$750,000		\$2,750,000

Amount of Request: \$8,217,000
Amount of Leverage: \$2,469,900
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 30.06%
DSS + Personnel: \$569,800
As a % of the total request: 6.93%
Easement Stewardship: \$240,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 7.62%

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

Partners have direct support expenses essential to complete conservation projects, which include such costs as administrative support staff, office space, printing and office supplies. GRG -- DSS rate is 9% of personnel costs.
MLT -- In a process approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, MLT's DSS rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. This is similar to the MLT's proposed federal indirect rate. MLT will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses.
FMR and MVT are not requesting DSS.

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

FMR - 100% of Contracts is for R/E work
GRG - 100% of Contracts is for R/E work
MLT - 82% of Contracts is for R/E work, as follows:
- Restoration plans - \$30,000
- Restoration subcontracts - \$392,000
18% of Contracts is for landowner outreach:
- Landowner outreach by SWCDs - \$35,000
- Development of habitat management plans - \$60,000

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental? - Yes

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging:

MLT staff rent vehicles for grant-related purposes.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

FMR and GRG have secured commitments from local partners, foundations, other private sources and their own organizations as leverage. MLT encourages landowners (and has a track record of success) to make a full or partial donation of easement value. MVT has committed its own private funds as leverage.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes

Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the “economy of scale” and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:

Because MBR protects multiple parcels, it is scalable. Less funding will result in fewer acres protected, restored and enhanced, and thus missed opportunities. Some of the administrative and outreach costs are more fixed; lower funding also reduces the economies of scale.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	30	30
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	160	100	140	0	400
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	640	640
Enhance	704	263	440	120	1,527
Total	864	363	580	790	2,597

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	76
Total	76

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$106,300	\$106,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$800,000	\$500,000	\$700,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,931,700	\$3,931,700
Enhance	\$205,000	\$403,000	\$1,146,000	\$425,000	\$2,179,000
Total	\$1,005,000	\$903,000	\$1,846,000	\$4,463,000	\$8,217,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	30	0	0	0	0	30
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	400	0	0	0	0	400
Protect in Easement	640	0	0	0	0	640
Enhance	1,527	0	0	0	0	1,527
Total	2,597	0	0	0	0	2,597

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$106,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$106,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000
Protect in Easement	\$3,931,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,931,700
Enhance	\$2,179,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,179,000
Total	\$8,217,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,217,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,543
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,143
Enhance	\$291	\$1,532	\$2,605	\$3,542

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$3,543	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$6,143	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$1,427	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

8

I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

Parcel List

Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:

FMR and GRG work with their public partners and other interested stakeholders to identify priority projects and areas. Criteria includes ecological and habitat value and potential (biodiversity, size and location), congruence with existing plans and priority areas, adjacency and connectedness to other public and protected lands and complexes, willing and committed landowners and leveraged opportunities.

MLT's competitive RFP process for identifying, prioritizing and selecting parcels for the Metro Big Rivers easement program is attached.

MVT works exclusively within the boundaries established by the USFWS for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Anoka

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
GRC - Maple View Open Space	03224211	44	\$102,700	Yes
GRC - Springbrook Nature Center Phase II	30240203	87	\$96,750	Yes

Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
FMR - Spring Lake Park Reserve	11518221	95	\$162,572	Public
GRC - Carrols Woods Woodland enhancement	11519230	127	\$157,700	Yes
GRC - Lebanon Hills Parks: Star Pond Savanna Expansion and Schultze-Portage Woodland Enhancement, Phase II	02723235	101	\$355,400	Yes
GRC - Valley Park Xcel Pollinator Corridor	28230223	9	\$29,550	Yes

Hennepin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
GRC - Chanhassen Nature Preserve	11623216	16	\$99,700	Yes
GRC - Minnehaha Creek Knollwood Riparian Corridor	11721218	6	\$32,200	Yes
GRC - Six Mile Marsh	11724228	115	\$110,200	Yes
GRC - Westwood Hills Nature Center	11721206	16	\$78,350	Yes

Sherburne

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
FMR - William H. Houlton Conservation Area	03226205	55	\$168,500	Public

Washington

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
FMR - Cottage Grove Island	27210230	3	\$27,300	Public
FMR - Cottage Grove Ravine Park	27210222	48	\$129,628	Public
FMR - Riverside Park	27220211	14	\$38,000	Public
G RG - Browns Creek	30210212	13	\$56,200	Yes
G RG - Grey Cloud Slough Restoration, Phase 2	27210230	658	\$106,400	Yes
MLT - Afton State Park	02820227	27	\$40,800	Yes
MLT - Bass Lake	03021209	80	\$72,000	Yes
MLT - Hardwood Creek	03221235	157	\$80,000	Yes
MLT - Old Mill Stream	03120201	44	\$70,000	Yes
MLT - St. Croix 1	03219206	91	\$29,200	Yes
MLT - Valley Creek	02820217	49	\$45,200	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Carver

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MVT - Rapids Lake Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11423206	118	\$472,000	No	Full	Full
MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11424201	168	\$672,000	No	Full	Full

Scott

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MVT - Blakely Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11326236	100	\$300,000	No	Full	Full

Sibley

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MVT - Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11326213	100	\$300,000	No	Full	Full

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

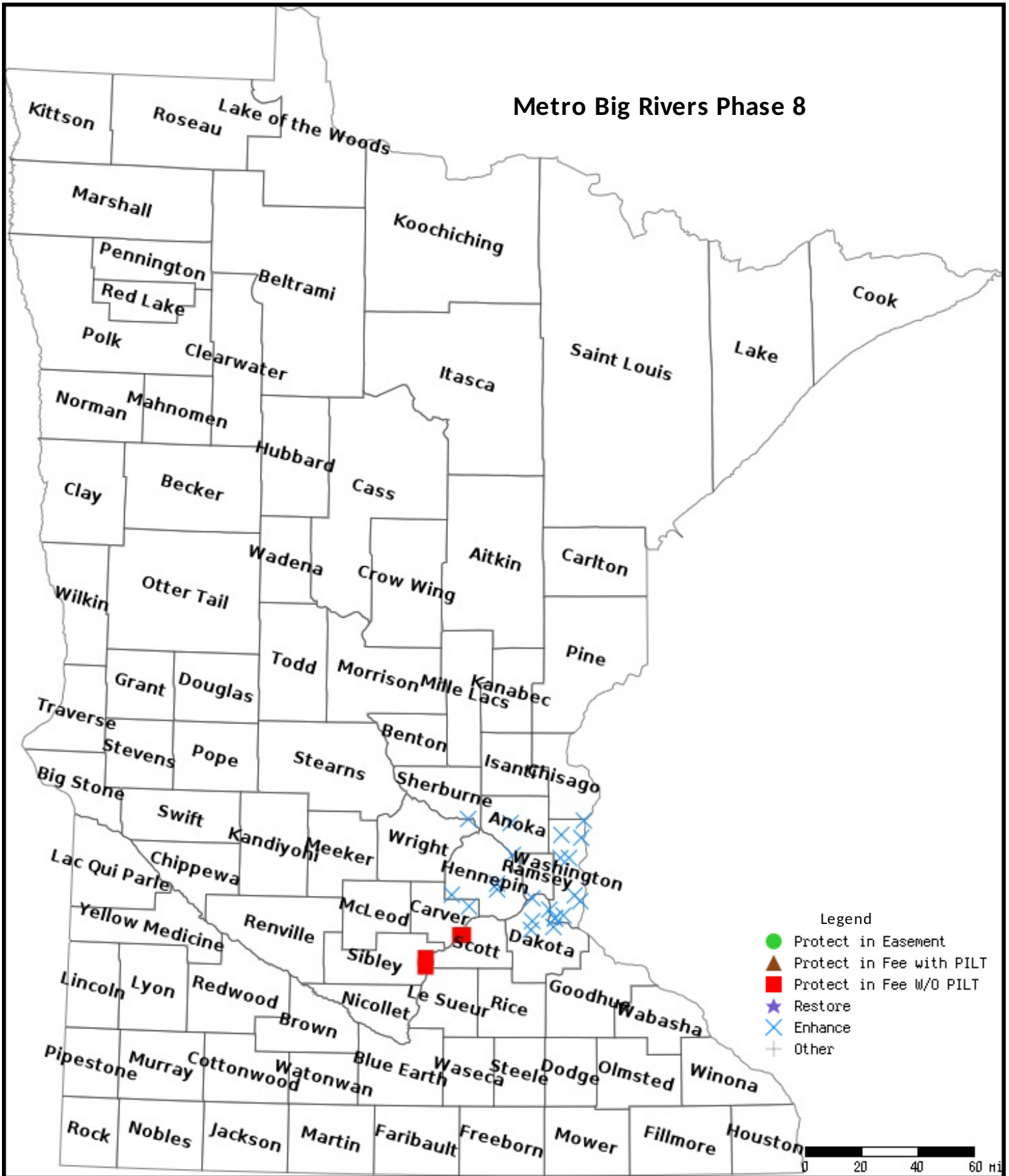
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Metro Big Rivers Phase 8



Data Generated From Parcel List

Metro Big Rivers

The Metro Big Rivers (MBR) habitat program protects, restores and enhances high priority wildlife habitat within the 3 big river corridors and tributaries in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area. With rising land values and development pressure in the metro area, along with declining habitat and wildlife species, the timing is urgent. MBR projects benefit wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation, provide increased public access for wildlife-based recreation in the metro area and build support for conservation.

MBR is a proven partnership. It gets results with OHF funds. To date, Metro Big Rivers has protected, restored and enhanced more than 3,800 acres of important habitat in the metro urbanizing area. MBR will leverage OHF grant funds by at least another 30% from other sources.

**Metro Big Rivers Habitat Phase 8
Outdoor Heritage Fund Request – 8,217,000**

**Anticipated Leverage - \$2,469,900
Protect 1,040 acres, restore & enhance 1,557 acres**

With Phase 8 OHF funds, Metro Big Rivers will permanently protect 400 acres in fee title and 640 acres in easement, restore 30 acres and enhance another 1,527 acres. Funds will be leveraged to protect *at least* another 150 acres.

Specifically:

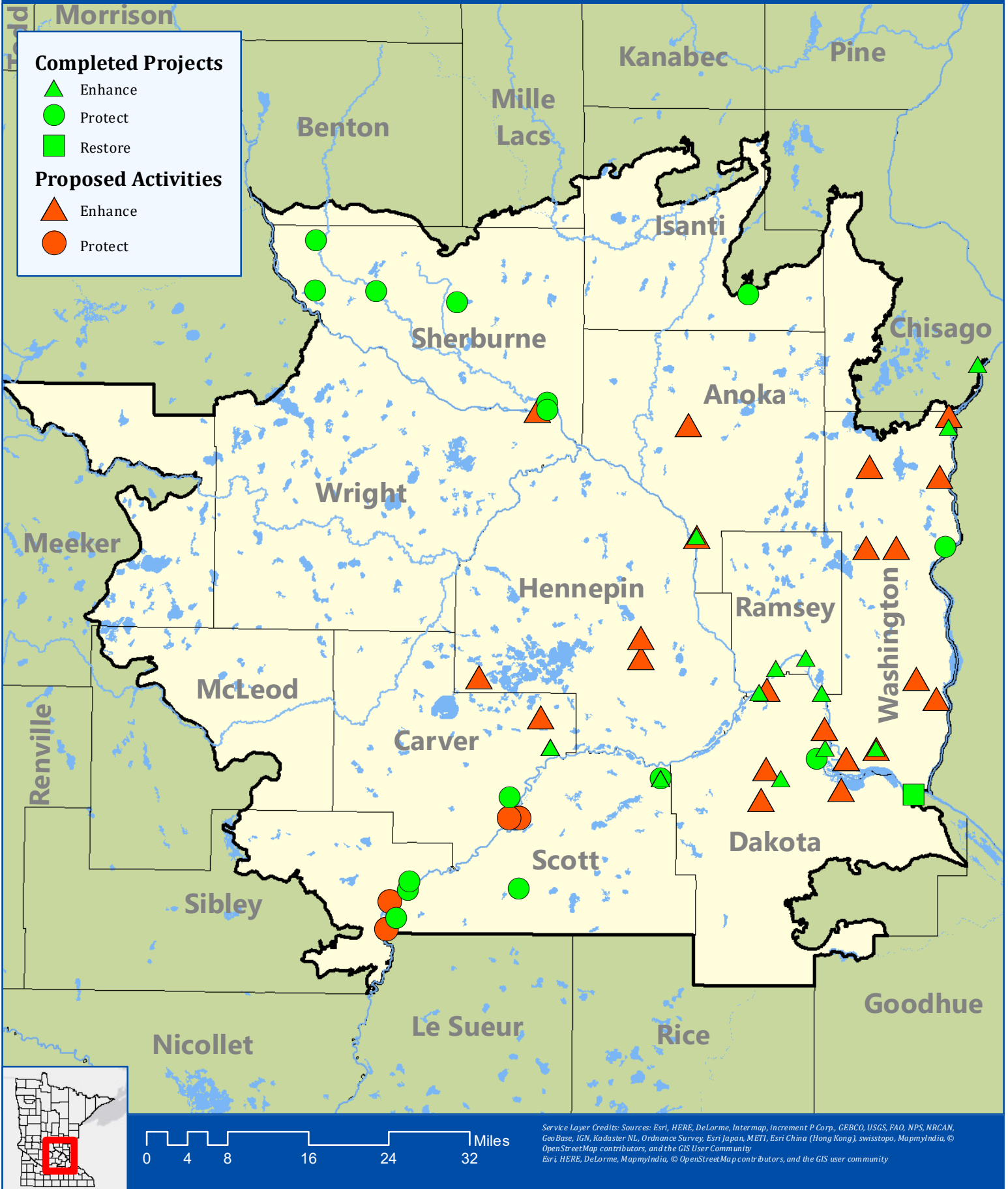
- Friends of the Mississippi River will enhance 35 acres of prairie and 180 acres of forest at five sites along the Mississippi River.
- Great River Greening (GRG) will enhance 1,191 acres of prairie, oak savanna, forest and riverine habitat at 11 projects.
- Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will protect 640 acres of priority wildlife habitat through perpetual conservation easement, including riparian lands, forests, wetlands and grasslands.
- MLT also will restore/enhance 150 acres of high quality natural communities on private lands already protected through permanent conservation easement.
- Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will protect through fee title acquisition at least 400 acres on the Minnesota River, expanding the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. An additional 150 acres will be protected with other non-state leverage funds.

Metro Big Rivers partners work with local, state and federal public partners to identify and prioritize projects to achieve the priorities of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for Outdoor Heritage Funds.



For more information:
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Metro Big Rivers Partnership Phase 8



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Metro Big Rivers Habitat Program

-Minnesota Land Trust Easement Sign-Up Criteria-



The Metro Big Rivers (MBR) Habitat program protects Minnesota's rich array of wildlife habitat within the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Funded through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Minnesota Land Trust (Land Trust) employs perpetual conservation easements in collaboration with private landowners to protect important wildlife habitat (forest, wetlands, and grasslands) and their associated wildlife.

Through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, landowners within targeted priority areas submit an application for participation in the MBR program. Submitted projects are initially scored based on two primary factors: 1) ecological significance, and 2) cost.

Ecological Significance is determined through an analysis of three subfactors:

- Quantity – the size of habitat and/or length of shoreline associated with a parcel, and abundance of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species;
- Quality – the condition of the associated habitat and populations of SGCN and T&E species;
- Landscape Context – the extent and condition of natural habitat surrounding the parcel, and the degree to which adjacent property has been protected.

Cost is determined in large part by the bid amount proposed by the landowner, and ultimately substantiated through an appraisal process. Landowners are given additional credit through whole or partial donation of appraised easement value.

These two factors inform an initial score that is used to initially rank a proposed parcel relative to others. Subsequent discussions with each landowner participating in the RFP allow the Land Trust to gain a better sense of the landowner's desires for and expected uses of the property, and to ground-truth the parcel's ecological condition. These post-proposal evaluations may result in proposed parcels moving up or down on the prioritization list. This additional evaluation allows for the Land Trust to most effectively target priority lands for protection.

The Land Trust has set certain minimum criteria for inclusion into the program:

- Lands must be located within the MBR Program area.
- Lands must have a maximum of 20% of total proposed easement area in agricultural use unless such areas are targeted for restoration; consideration to exceed this cap may be warranted if the easement is donated.
- Lands must contain high quality examples of native plant communities (forests, prairies, woodlands, etc.), trout streams, shoreland along rivers and streams, or rare and threatened species; or, consideration may be given to lands not containing high quality examples that lie adjacent to critically important protected properties if restoration is a required element of the easement.
- Lands cannot be enrolled previously in permanent protection programs (e.g., RIM).

Additional requirements are stipulated within the body of each conservation easement, as pertinent to the special characteristics of the land and the particular situation of the landowner.

The Land Trust's ranking and selection system is informed by ranking and prioritization modules used by the Minnesota DNR, The Nature Conservancy, and nationally by the Natural Heritage Data Center Network. Utilizing a ranking system that prioritizes projects based upon ecological value and cost enables the Land Trust to secure conservation easements that effectively and efficiently protect Minnesota's wildlife resources.

Initial Ranking of Applications									
<i>Existing Ecological Significance</i>	<i>Units Affected</i>	<i>Scoring framework for prioritizing conservation value among applicants through an RFP process.</i>							
		1. Size/Abundance of Habitat Protected by Easement (Maximum 100 pts)							
	0	Total acres of native plant community or extent of target feature within proposed easement							
	0	Feet of shoreline to be protected by an easement							
		2. Diversity/Quality of Natural Resources to be Protected by the Easement (Maximum 100 pts)							
	0	Average quality of existing native plant communities							
	0	Number and quality of rare species on parcel; rarity of the species							
		3. Landscape Context (Maximum 100 pts)							
	0	Location of parcel relative to biodiversity "hotspots" or priority areas delineated in conservation plans							
	0	Location of parcel relative to other conservation lands							
	0	Location of parcel relative to existing moderate-high quality native plant communities; degree of habitat fragmentation							
		Total Score (Maximum 300 pts)							
<i>Cost</i>	<i>Score</i>								
		4. Cost							
	0	Bid amount (\$)/acre							
	0	Estimated Donative value (\$)/acre							
Revised Scoring of Applications Following Discussion with Landowner									
<i>Potential Impacts by Landowner</i>	<i>Score Adjustments (+/-)</i>	<i>Enhancement or downgrade of existing biodiversity significance scores based on easement rights retained by the landowner, easement actions required of the landowner, and their potential impact on existing biodiversity.</i>							
		5. Size/Abundance of Habitat Protected by Easement							
	0	Total acres of native plant community or extent of target feature impacted by retained rights or proposed actions if exercised.							
		6. Diversity/Quality of Natural Resources to be Protected by the Easement							
	0	Estimated potential impact on diversity/quality of native plant community or extent of target feature by retained rights or proposed actions if exercised.							
	0	Estimated potential impact on number/quality of rare species resulting from retained rights or proposed actions if exercised.							
0	REVISED BIODIVERSITY SIGNIFICANCE SCORE								