Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Fiscal Year 2019 / ML 2018 Request for Funding

Date: May 31, 2017

Program or Project Title: Grassland Conservation Partnership, Phase III

Funds Requested: $6,514,300

Manager's Name: Emilee Nelson
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County Locations: Not Listed

Regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Southeast Forest
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Habitat

Abstract:

The Conservation Fund and Minnesota Land Trust will protect 1,200 acres of high-priority grassland, prairie, and wetland wildlife habitat with working lands conservation easements in western, central, and southeastern Minnesota. Grasslands represent one of Minnesota's most threatened habitat types. Privately-held and well-managed grasslands in strategic habitat complexes have provided lasting benefits for Minnesota's wildlife. This project will permanently prevent the conversion of grasslands to row crops.

Design and scope of work:

The Grasslands Conservation Partnership project builds upon the success The Conservation Fund (TCF) and the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) have had in protecting more than 2,000-acres of important wildlife habitats in the two previous phases of this project through privately-held conservation easements that use innovative managed grazing and grassland management as an important conservation tool for Minnesota. These previous projects were completed in the Prairie Region, and more opportunities exist in the central and southeastern parts of the state, where private grasslands complete connectivity between wildlife complexes.

Conservation Easements:

As one of the founding partners in the development of the Prairie Plan, TCF has been working with other non-profits, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to protect more than 4,000 acres of habitat in the prairie region over the past four years. Part of this effort was working with BWSR, MLT, and DNR to develop strategies to protect working grasslands that are vital for wildlife in the prairie region. This joint effort enabled MLT to establish two privately-held working-grassland conservation easements in the prairie region of Minnesota protecting over 2,000 acres of grasslands.

Science has proven that proper application of haying and grazing techniques can be used to mimic natural processes necessary for healthy natural grassland communities. Our colleagues at The Nature Conservancy and the USFWS have proven these techniques successful in Minnesota over a significant period of time. Working with these partners, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, DNR, the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association, the McKnight Foundation, private agriculture corporations and co-ops, we are confident that the time is right to expand our previous efforts to protect even more grassland.

All easements will be held and monitored by MLT. TCF will perform the initial landowner contact and negotiations, in full coordination with MLT, leading to the establishment of a conservation easement.

Lands targeted for conservation easement protection will meet the following criteria:
• Lands with significant existing prairie or grassland habitat.
• Lands adjacent to or in close proximity to permanently protected land (e.g. WMA, WPA, CREP, TNC preserves, etc.).
• Lands which will help establish connections to permanently protected land wherever possible and create larger habitat complexes.
• Lands which may also include low-production cropland that can be converted back into grasslands, thereby increasing overall grassland habitat.

MLT and TCF will use the above criteria to generate a systematic ranking system to vet potential projects and ensure maximum conservation values. We will also screen for producers with a proven ability to successfully implement best management practices for conservation grazing. Project priorities will be those that provide the greatest conservation benefits at the lowest cost to the State.

Capacity:

TCF and MLT are two of only four land trusts operating in Minnesota accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The Commission awards accreditation to land trusts that meet national standards for excellence.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan
- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

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

The Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan calls for 9-square mile habitat complexes consisting of 40% grasslands and 20% wetlands. This project will continue to identify projects in these complexes in the prairie and forest/prairie transition region. This project will also create functional landscapes, which are defined in the Prairie Plan to have multiple uses that compliment local economies and functioning grassland and wetland habitat systems.

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025 calls for management of prairies and surrogate grasslands using conservation grazing with a focus on system resilience, and seeding mixtures that reflect a changing climate. The restoration of pastures and limiting agricultural drainage in the vicinity of protected wetlands and wet prairies will become increasingly important. This project will identify projects that address this priority.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Prairie:

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

Forest / Prairie Transition:

- Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

Northern Forest:

- Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

Metro / Urban:

- Protect from long-term or permanent endangerment from invasive species

Southeast Forest:

- Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

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:

Because the majority of prairie and grassland habitats are found on private lands, this project will provide increased availability and improved condition of habitat corridors by protecting grassland connections between existing protected (often public) conservation areas that provide critical habitat for game and non-game wildlife. These complexes will consist primarily of native prairies, restored prairies, and quality grasslands. The two previous pilot phases protected 2,000 grassland acres in Prairie Plan Core areas to increase the percentage of grassland in the complex to the 40% target goal. Both of these pilot sites have documented the following species: pheasants, multiple grassland songbirds, sharp-tailed grouse, moose, elk, and white-tailed deer.

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:

We will use existing conservation plans, such as the Prairie Plan, Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan, and local conservation plans such as One Watershed One Plan, and county water plans to complement and integrate ongoing conservation efforts. In past pilot phases, collaboration with DNR scientists who specialize in grassland game and nongame species prior to project implementation has been instrumental in ensuring robust and resilient projects within larger complexes. Project staff have worked closely with members of the MN Prairie Plan Local Technical Teams and the MN County Biological Survey to construct restoration and enhancement practices that are complementary to adjacent grassland complexes to ensure longevity of the grassland system as a whole.

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:

The MN Wildlife Action Plan (2015-2025), which directly addresses species in greatest conservation need, lists conservation grazing as a recommended conservation approach in half of all identified Conservation Focus Areas as a means to protect prairie and wetland habitat degradation due to invasive species. Studies have shown that many grassland and migratory birds rely on varying heights of grassland vegetation for parts of their life cycle, and that conservation grazing is a recommended tool to achieve ideal habitat conditions for nesting and rearing chicks.

Connecting fragmented landscapes is listed as a priority in almost every conservation plan. Increasing connectivity within habitat complexes for species that have limited dispersal ability, and among sites for species that require multiple habitats throughout their life history may increase opportunities for those species to adapt to stressors.

Targeted species for this project that have been shown to flourish with the use of conservation grazing include grasshopper sparrow, bobolink, eastern meadowlark, marbled godwit, burrowing owl, golden-winged warbler, northern pintail, northern harrier, greater prairie-chicken, sharp-tailed grouse, upland sandpiper, and loggerhead shrike (Migratory Bird Responses to Grazing, NRCS-USDA 2006). All of these bird species are Minnesota state listed species in greatest conservation need.

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

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 of the habitat was occupied, a 100 acres of habitat could potentially hold approximately 60 and 48 pairs of Bobolinks and Grasshopper Sparrows respectively.

Pheasant - By looking at the ratios of CRP acres in Minnesota to pheasant harvest, we can estimate that every three acres of grassland habitat has the potential to produce one harvested pheasant rooster.

Outcomes:

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors *Grasslands, vital to the conservation of many grassland dependent bird species, will be conserved and enhanced through thoughtful conservation grazing.*
  Stable presence of grassland birds dependent upon edge habitat, such as Golden-winged Warblers, will be a measure of success.

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands *Grasslands, vital to the conservation of many grassland dependent bird species, will be conserved and enhanced through thoughtful conservation grazing.*
  Stable presence of grassland birds dependent upon edge habitat, such as Golden-winged Warblers, will be a measure of success.

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need *Grasslands, vital to the conservation of many grassland dependent bird and pollinator species, will be conserved and enhanced through thoughtful conservation grazing.*
  Grassland plant species diversity and relative health will be the measure of success.

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Rivers, streams, and surrounding vegetation provide corridors of habitat *Grasslands, vital to the conservation of many grassland dependent bird and pollinator species, will be conserved and enhanced through thoughtful conservation grazing.*
  Grassland plant species diversity and relative health will be the measure of success.

Programs in prairie region:

- Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife *Grasslands, vital to the conservation of many grassland dependent bird and pollinator species, will be conserved and enhanced through thoughtful conservation grazing.*
  Grassland plant species diversity and relative health will be the measure of success.
  Pheasant counts, using annual roadside surveys, will be a measure of success.

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

MLT is a nationally accredited land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. The conservation easements secured under this program will also require landowners to have robust habitat management plans to guide the ongoing management of the property.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2019	MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring for compliance with terms of conservation easements	Defend easements 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 two previous pilots have established working grassland easements in the northwest and west-central areas of the state. This model which we have proposed requires solid demonstrations in each pertinent part of the state. Conservation partners need additional pilots to effectively move the program forward. Further delay and partial funding with fail to realize this conservation tool. The price of farmland has now stabilized from the recent boom, market conditions are conducive to an expanded and targeted acquisition effort. The conservation partners recognize the need to expand our efforts to include privately held land managed for grassland habitat. This has been a gap within the existing programs.

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

This project, like Phase I and Phase II, will coordinate with local conservation partners that are utilizing OHF appropriations for habitat work to complement habitat goals in specific landscapes. TCF is working with private agribusiness where interests coincide to leverage private capital with public funding. Foundations, most prominently the McKnight Foundation, strongly support working landscapes as a means of ensuring sustainable and leveraged conservation.

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

Describe the relationship of the funds:

Not Listed

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2015	McKnight Foundation	20000
2016	McKnight Foundation	20000
2017	McKnight Foundation	20000

Activity Details

Requirements:

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

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

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

Are the funds confirmed - **Yes**

Documentation

What are the types of funds?
Cash Match - $500000

Land Use:

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

Explain

Limited food plots are sometimes allowed on conservation easements. Row crops are a tool to that can be used to establish vegetation for grassland restoration purposes.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated - **Yes**

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:

Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, these established trails and roads are permitted in the terms of the easement and can be maintained for personal use if their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed.

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

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the Land Trust's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in line with the terms of the easement 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
TCF to initiate landowner contact and negotiate base parameters of the conservation easement	June 2021
MLT to complete acquisition of conservation easements	June 2021

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: $6,514,300

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$190,000	$20,000	Private Sources	$210,000
Contracts	$48,000	$500,000	RCPP EQIP	$548,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$0	$0		$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$0	$0		$0
Easement Acquisition	$6,000,000	$0		$6,000,000
Easement Stewardship	$120,000	$0		$120,000
Travel	$16,000	$0		$16,000
Professional Services	$103,000	$0		$103,000
Direct Support Services	$32,300	$0		$32,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$0	$0		$0
Capital Equipment	$0	$0		$0
Other Equipment/Tools	$5,000	$0		$5,000
Supplies/Materials	$0	$0		$0
DNR IDP	$0	$0		$0
Total	$6,514,300	$520,000	-	$7,034,300

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Specialist	0.33	3.00	$90,000	$0		$90,000
Conservation Acquisition Associate	0.40	2.00	$100,000	$20,000	Private Sources	$120,000
Total	0.73	5.00	$190,000	$20,000	-	$210,000

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	MLT	$90,000	$0		$90,000
Contracts	MLT	$48,000	$0		$48,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	MLT	$0	$0		$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	MLT	$0	$0		$0
Easement Acquisition	MLT	$6,000,000	$0		$6,000,000
Easement Stewardship	MLT	$120,000	$0		$120,000
Travel	MLT	$12,000	$0		$12,000
Professional Services	MLT	$103,000	$0		$103,000
Direct Support Services	MLT	$24,300	$0		$24,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	MLT	$0	$0		$0
Capital Equipment	MLT	$0	$0		$0
Other Equipment/Tools	MLT	$5,000	$0		$5,000
Supplies/Materials	MLT	$0	$0		$0
DNR IDP	MLT	$0	$0		$0
Total	-	$6,402,300	$0	-	$6,402,300

Personnel - MLT

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Specialist	0.33	3.00	$90,000	$0		$90,000
Total	0.33	3.00	$90,000	$0	-	$90,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	TCF	$100,000	$20,000	Private Sources	$120,000
Contracts	TCF	$0	$500,000	RCPP EQIP	$500,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	TCF	$0	$0		$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	TCF	$0	$0		$0
Easement Acquisition	TCF	$0	$0		$0

Easement Stewardship	TCF	$0	$0		$0
Travel	TCF	$4,000	$0		$4,000
Professional Services	TCF	$0	$0		$0
Direct Support Services	TCF	$8,000	$0		$8,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	TCF	$0	$0		$0
Capital Equipment	TCF	$0	$0		$0
Other Equipment/Tools	TCF	$0	$0		$0
Supplies/Materials	TCF	$0	$0		$0
DNR IDP	TCF	$0	$0		$0
Total	-	$112,000	$520,000	-	$632,000

Personnel - TCF

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservation Acquisition Associate	0.40	2.00	$100,000	$20,000	Private Sources	$120,000
Total	0.40	2.00	$100,000	$20,000	-	$120,000

Amount of Request:	$6,514,300
Amount of Leverage:	$520,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request:	7.98%
DSS + Personnel:	$222,300
As a % of the total request:	3.41%
Easement Stewardship:	$120,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition:	2.00%

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

MLT: In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services.
TCF: 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.

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

N/A

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:

None.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

The McKnight Foundation supports working landscapes, and funding is in-hand. NRCS RCPP funding is in-hand for EQIP work on protected projects.

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:

This project can be scaled, however travel costs and staff time can be more expedient when working on multiple projects in the same geography.

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	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	200	0	1,000	1,200
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	200	0	1,000	1,200

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	30
Enhance	0
Total	30

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	$0	$0	$0	$0	$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	$1,514,300	$0	$5,000,000	$6,514,300
Enhance	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total	$0	$1,514,300	$0	$5,000,000	$6,514,300

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	100	400	100	400	200	1,200
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	400	100	400	200	1,200

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
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	$991,300	$1,523,000	$500,000	$3,000,000	$500,000	$6,514,300
Enhance	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total	$991,300	$1,523,000	$500,000	$3,000,000	$500,000	$6,514,300

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	$0	$0	$0	$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	$0	$0	$0	$0
Protect in Easement	$0	$7,572	$0	$5,000
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	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Protect in Easement	$9,913	$3,808	$5,000	$7,500	$2,500
Enhance	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

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:

Projects selected will be based on strategic location within existing conservation complexes, connectivity between permanently protected habitat, permanently protected public lands that are/can be managed with conservation grazing, and proven landowner ability to implement conservation grazing.

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.

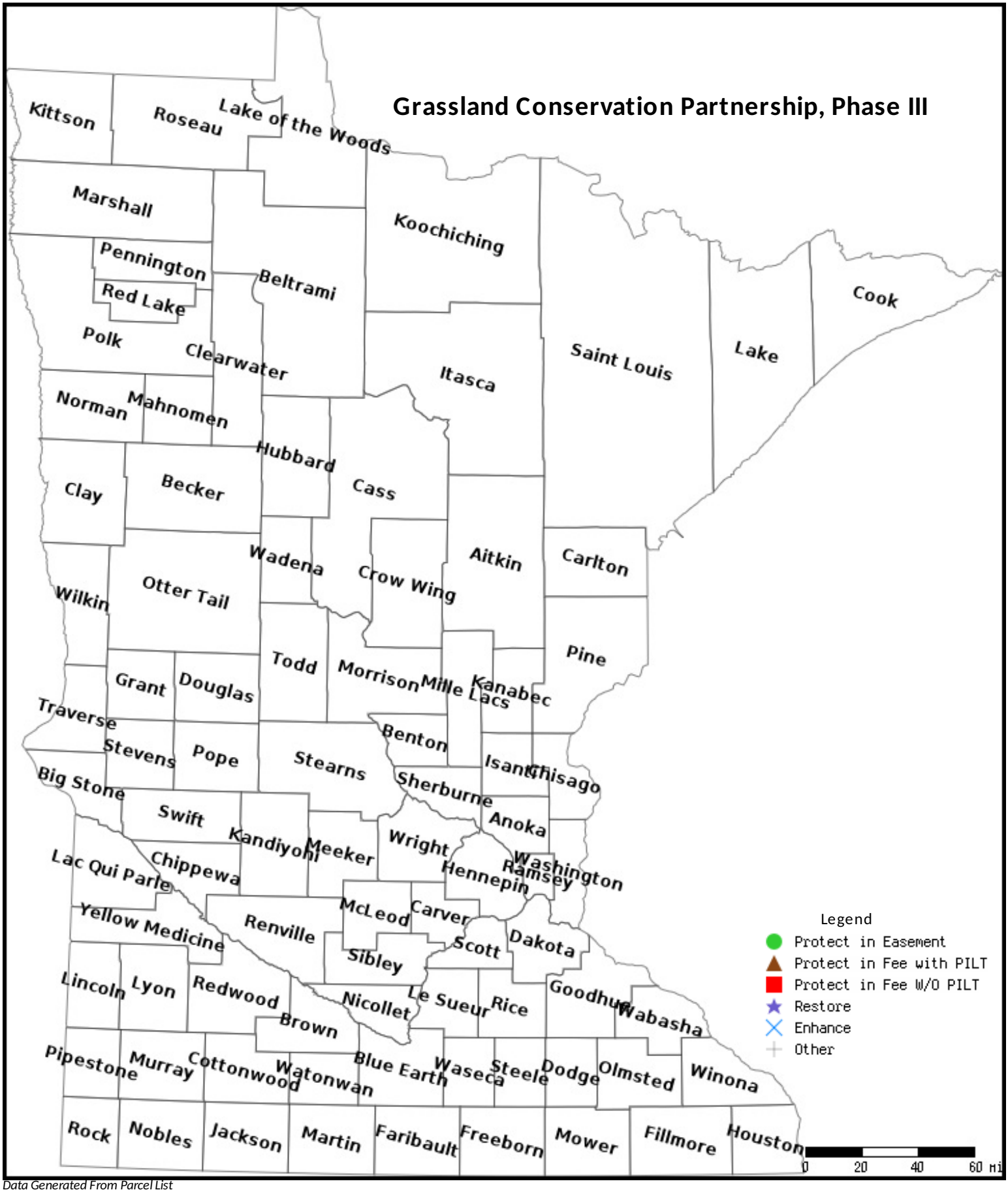
Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

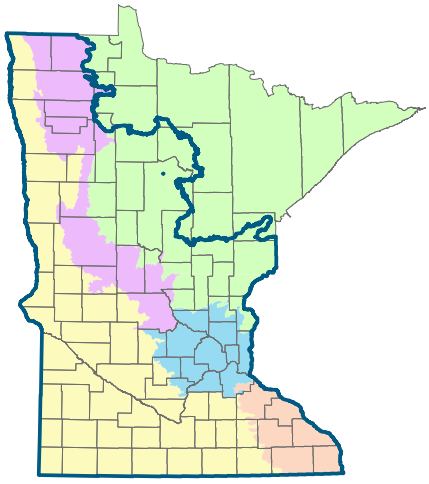


Data Generated From Parcel List

THE CONSERVATION FUND

MINNESOTA LAND TRUST

Grasslands Conservation Partnership Phase III



Project Area

The Conservation Fund and Minnesota Land Trust will protect 1,200 acres of high-priority grassland, prairie, and wetland wildlife habitat with working lands conservation easements in western, central, and southeastern Minnesota. Grasslands represent one of Minnesota's most threatened habitat types. Privately-held and well-managed grasslands in strategic habitat complexes have provided lasting benefits for Minnesota's wildlife.

Science has proven that proper application of haying and grazing techniques can be used to mimic natural processes necessary for healthy natural grassland communities.

The two previous pilots have established working grassland easements in the northwest and west-central areas of the state. This model requires solid demonstrations in each pertinent part of Minnesota where conservation partners need additional pilots to effectively move the program forward.

Like Phase I and Phase II, this project will coordinate with local conservation partners that are utilizing OHF appropriations for habitat work to complement habitat goals in specific landscapes. The Conservation Fund is working with private agribusiness where interests coincide to leverage private capital with public funding.

Lands targeted for conservation easement protection will meet the following criteria:

- Lands with significant existing prairie or grassland habitat.
- Lands adjacent to or in close proximity to permanently protected land (e.g. WMA, WPA, CREP, TNC preserves, etc.).
- Lands which will help establish connections to permanently protected land wherever possible and create larger habitat complexes.
- Lands which may also include low-production cropland that can be converted back into grasslands, thereby increasing overall grassland habitat.

The Conservation Fund will perform the initial landowner contact and negotiations leading to the establishment of a conservation easement. All easements will be held and monitored by the **Minnesota Land Trust**.

Partners
The Conservation Fund
Minnesota Land Trust

OHF Funding Requested
$6.55 million

Protection Type
Private conservation easements

Project Outcomes
- 1,200 acres of increased habitat availability and connectivity within existing corridors
- Cost-efficient management for healthy grassland habitat
- Working grasslands help local communities and wildlife populations

Phase I & II Outcomes
- Over 2,000 acres protected in targeted habitat complexes
- Achieved 40% grassland complex goal in Prairie Plan Core Areas

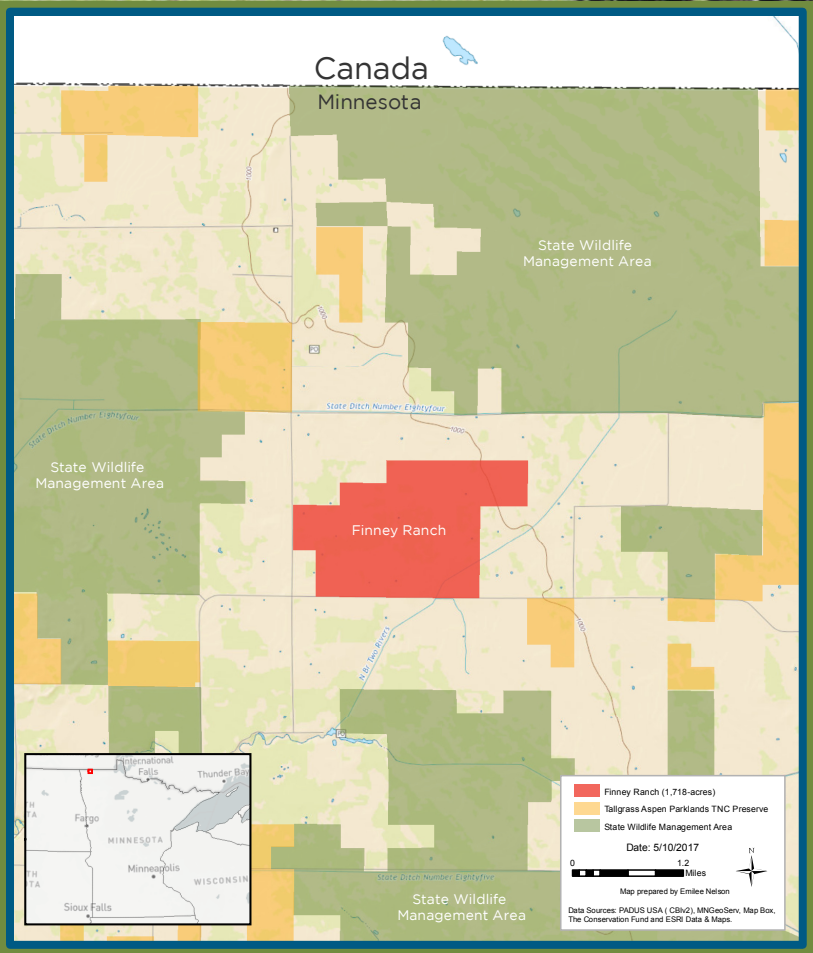
TCF and MLT are accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.

ACCREDITED LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

Working grassland conservation easements benefit Minnesotan's and the diverse wildlife habitats found throughout the state. This project promotes active periods of grazing and rest to ensure healthy, permanent wildlife habitat on lands that are located in conservation hot-spots.

Grazing is increasing as a popular and cost-effective habitat management tool that has proven benefits on both private and public grasslands. It provides diverse stands of grass heights and also benefits ranchers in greater Minnesota.

This 1,713 acre working grasslands easement is located in a nexus of existing conservation grasslands. It will be completed in 2017 as part of Phase II of this project.



		Conservation Complex 1		Conservation Complex 2	
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
Totals		**-**	**$0**	**-**	**$0**
Temporary Protection	*CRP per acre / year*		$0		$0
	Private Lands Agreements / acre		$0		$0
Totals		**-**	**$0**	**-**	**$0**
Restoration	*Wetland / acre*		$0		$0
	Upland tile / acre		$0		$0
	Grassland / acre	-	$0		$0
	Stream / mile		$0		$0
Totals		**-**	**$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
Totals		**-**	**$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
Totals		**-**	**$0**	**-**	**$0**
TOTAL CONSERVATION COMPLEX COST		$0		$0	
COST PER ACRE		**$0.00**		**$0.00**	
Total Conservation Complex Acres					
Total Unprotected Acres					
Total Protected Acres					
Total Cost of Conservation Complex per Conservation Indicator*					

* 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.