

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Laws of Minnesota 2019 Accomplishment Plan

FRE 03



Date: December 21, 2018

Program or Project Title: Minnesota Forest Recovery Project: Phase I

Funds Recommended: \$ 1,058,000

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Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

County Locations: Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest

Abstract:

Northern Minnesota's forests are at a crossroads: they are increasingly challenged by invasive species, insect pests, a changing climate, and the legacy of inadequate management. Furthermore, some habitats have declined in many areas, including long-lived-conifers, young-forest, and large-patch habitats. These habitats are critical for numerous game and non-game species of concern. Through enhancements applied to 2,465 acres of degraded forests, the proposed project will increase long-lived conifers, young forest gaps, riparian forest complexity, and patch-size diversity. By acting today, we can improve the health and resilience of our forests for all the benefits they provide.

Design and scope of work:

In northern Minnesota, hundreds of thousands of acres of forest are now in poor condition with diminished value for both wildlife and forest health. Long-lived conifers and early successional habitats have declined in many areas. Rapidly changing economic conditions plus threats such as invasive species, disease, a warming climate, fragmentation, and habitat loss pose great challenges for forest and wildlife managers. Over time, forest health issues tend to become more difficult and expensive to reverse. Significant investments in Minnesota's forests are urgently needed now to improve forest health for wildlife, clean water, cultural values, and local economies.

Major goals of this project are to:

- Enhance forest productivity in degraded stands to benefit forest wildlife
- Enhance riparian and upland forests to improve water quality and fish habitat
- Enhance tree species, age-class, and patch size diversity to improve habitat and increase forest resilience

This work will build on the strong partnerships and on-the-ground results produced over the past 20 years. Since 2009, TNC-supervised projects planted over 3 million trees across 15,000 acres of forests and have applied numerous enhancement treatments to those acres. The proposed project builds on this foundation.

Enhancement activities will include:

- Site preparation including shearing and brush cutting
- Brush removal around seedlings
- Coordinating activities across multiple landowners to maintain or increase both young and mature forest patch size
- Browse protection
- Prescribed burning
- Black Ash stand diversification to prepare for Emerald Ash Borer

We used a collaborative approach to identify sites and expect to include additional county, tribal, and industry partners over time. Sites included in this proposal are on US Forest Service, DNR, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and Beltrami and St. Louis County lands. We will also work with and provide leadership to collaborative efforts including the Minnesota Forest Resources Council Landscape Committees, the Minnesota Forest Wildlife Habitat Collaborative, emerging all-lands collaboratives with the National Forests that utilize Stewardship and Good Neighbor Authorities, and the North Shore, Manitou, Sand-Lake Seven Beavers collaboratives. Other partners include the American Bird Conservancy, the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, the Wildlife Management Institute, The Minnesota Land Trust, Trout Unlimited, the Ruffed Grouse Society, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

To implement the project, a new forest restoration position will coordinate management with landowners, supervise contractors and contracting crews, and strengthen local partnerships. This position will be supervised by existing staff and will be advised by a core team of partners.

Project sites will focus on core, priority areas with additional, smaller satellite sites or “stepping stones” that provide good opportunities for expansion in the future.

Core areas emphasize:

- North Shore: restoring productivity and diversity in declining birch and riparian forests
- Manitou Landscape: enhancing diversity and reducing fuel loads in a large, mature forest patch
- St. Louis River Headwaters: coordinating and enhancing large, young forest patches; diversity plantings
- Mississippi Headwaters/North Central Pines: controlled burns in mature pines, ash diversification, browse protection

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 proposal addresses Species of Greatest Conservation Need in two main ways. First, it clearly addresses Objective 1 of the State Wildlife Action Plan: “Within the Wildlife Acton Network, maintain and enhance the resilience of the habitats upon which Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and other wildlife depend.” The proposed habitat projects increase forest diversity and thus maintain or enhance resilience. The majority of proposed sites fall within higher ranking areas of the Wildlife Action Network. Second, specific treatments carried out by this project will benefit at least 20 SGCNs. For example, treatments that increase long-lived conifer abundance will benefit:

- Evening Grosbeak
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Spruce Grouse
- Purple Finch
- Connecticut Warbler
- Black-backed Woodpecker
- Winter Wren
- Moose
- Boreal Owl
- Canada Lynx

Treatments that create young forest conditions will benefit:

- Veery
- Wood Thrush
- Golden-winged Warbler

- Moose

Gap creation and planting in riparian areas will benefit:

- Veery
- Black-billed Cuckoo
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Common Merganser
- Winter Wren
- Four-toed salamander
- Eastern red-backed salamander
- Coaster Brook Trout
- Lake Sturgeon

At initiation of this project, we will convene a panel of experts on these species and review approaches for improving their habitat. Following that we will convene periodic meetings to review progress and new information on habitat needs and population status.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

We used a combination of GIS data layers to prioritize sites that will enhance corridors and complexes, limit fragmentation, and enhance priority areas identified by the MN Biological Survey. These data layers include the Minnesota Wildlife Action Network, Minnesota Biological Survey Biodiversity significance ranks, existing areas of collaborative focus identified by The Nature Conservancy and partners, and areas with poor forest stocking identified by agencies. For the initial pool of sites that we considered for this proposal, we used a GIS overlay approach of these different data sets to choose sites that meet partner priorities and meet LSOHC Northern Forest Section priorities. LSHOC priorities that were weighted most heavily included high-ranking locations within the Wildlife Action Network (indicating value for Species of Greatest Conservation Need and high-ranking areas identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey) and proximity to water (indicating value for cold-water lakes and watersheds).

In addition, we used a new data layer developed by a multi-state initiative called "Conserving Nature's Stage." Pioneered and led by TNC, this approach maps and ranks habitat connectivity and habitat resilience across large regions. If this project is funded, we will also incorporate a LiDAR derived assessment of forest structure that we are developing in partnership with the US Forest Service to identify areas of greatest restoration need.

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

- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- LU10 Support and expand sustainable practices on working forested lands

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans
- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:

Northern Forest:

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

Relationship to other funds:

- Private Contributions to TNC, US Forest Service Funds and in-kind work.

Describe the relationship of the funds:

We are leveraging state funds with private funds through a contribution of 50% of our Direct Support Services, plus additional leverage as detailed in the leverage section.

Does this program include leverage in funds:

Yes

To support our ongoing forest enhancement work, we continually seek and acquire private foundation grants, public funds, and donations from corporations and individuals. Leverage sources and amounts for this proposal include:

- TNC private donations and foundation grants (\$215,600)
- In-kind labor provided by National Forests (\$35,000 value)

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 does not substitute or supplant previous funding that was not from a legacy fund.

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

Not Listed

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

This project will strengthen and support the many collaborative efforts across the forested region by mobilizing efforts to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration and enhancement. Through this effort, we are developing consistent methodologies and approaches that can be institutionalized through a collaborative process, thus ensuring a long-term commitment that follows ecological need and urgency. When possible, Outdoor Heritage funds will be used to leverage federal and private funds to expand restoration and enhancement efforts to the most critically needed locations.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
1-7	We will seek a mix of private and public funds	Install browse protection on planted seedlings	Monitor seedling survival	
5	We will seek a mix of private and public funds	Release/cut competing brush around seedlings		
7, 10	We will seek a mix of private and public funds, landowner responsibility	Check sapling condition	Prune white pines for blister rust	
20, 40, 60	Landowner responsibility	Check stand condition	Thin or treat as appropriate	

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, Permanently Protected Conservation Easements County/Municipal, State Forests, US Forest Service Lands)**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Complete fall prescribed burns if conditions allow; complete first season of fall site preparation	December 2019
Complete first season of spring site preparation	April 2020
Complete first season of planting	May 2020
Complete first season of browse protection	November 2020
Complete second season of site preparation	April 2021
Complete second season of planting	May 2021
Complete second season of browse protection	November 2021
Complete third season of site preparation	April 2022
Complete third season of planting	May 2022
Complete final prescribed burns	June 2022

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/1/2022

Federal Funding:

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

Outcomes:

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Improved availability and improved condition of habitats that have experienced substantial decline *We will seek and leverage funds to measure regeneration success, structural variables, and other measures of stand condition of treated sites. We will encourage landowner partners to do the same.*

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

Scaled back project to lower acreage number, cut some of the higher cost sites.

Total Amount of Request: \$ 1058000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$144,300	\$0		\$144,300
Contracts	\$513,600	\$86,400	US Forest Service, private donors and foundations	\$600,000
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	\$6,100	\$0		\$6,100
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$115,600	\$115,600	The Nature Conservancy	\$231,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$278,400	\$48,600	US Forest Service, private donors and foundations	\$327,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$1,058,000	\$250,600		\$1,308,600

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Forest Recovery Specialist, Project Coordination, Grants Admin	0.60	3.00	\$144,300	\$0		\$144,300
Total	0.60	3.00	\$144,300	\$0		\$144,300

Amount of Request: \$1,058,000
 Amount of Leverage: \$250,600
 Leverage as a percent of the Request: 23.69%
 DSS + Personnel: \$259,900
 As a % of the total request: 24.57%

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

DSS is based on The Nature Conservancy's Federally Negotiated rate as approved by the US Department of Interior. The proportion requested from the grant represents 50% with the other 50% contributed as leverage.

What is included in the contacts line?

Includes labor for on-the-ground enhancement work.

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental? - No

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

Only includes mileage.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

TNC will leverage privately sourced funds to cover half of direct support services (DSS) costs. Other leverage sources include private and public funds and in-kind labor as detailed in the leverage section of the proposal narrative.

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	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	2,465	0	2,465
Total	0	0	2,465	0	2,465

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$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	\$0	\$0	\$1,058,000	\$0	\$1,058,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$1,058,000	\$0	\$1,058,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N 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	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	2,465	2,465
Total	0	0	0	0	2,465	2,465

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N 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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,058,000	\$1,058,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,058,000	\$1,058,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$429	\$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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$429

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

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

Beltrami

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
North Central Pines-213048	15032220	7	\$945	Yes
North Central Pines-217001	15131215	5	\$675	Yes
North Central Pines-Darrigan1	15032201	11	\$1,485	Yes
North Central Pines-Darrigan2	15032212	4	\$540	Yes
North Central Pines-fire-salvage	15132230	124	\$16,740	Yes
North Central Pines-old fields1	15032202	13	\$1,755	Yes
North Central Pines-old fields2	15032211	4	\$540	Yes

Cass

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Ash Diversification	14228235	30	\$30,000	Yes
Pinepoint	14231202	482	\$96,400	Yes

Cook

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
DNR-10	05905216	38	\$9,500	Yes
East Colvill WMA	06103106	35	\$16,450	Yes
hdwd-diversity	05904208	9	\$2,250	Yes
hdwd-diversity-2	05904216	9	\$2,250	Yes

Lake

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Caribou Falls WMA	05806236	80	\$27,600	Yes
DNR-11	05906216	105	\$26,250	Yes
DNR-8	05411216	20	\$5,000	Yes
Little Marais WMA	05706216	70	\$37,100	Yes
Lookout-Egge Ridges Diversity Gap Planting	05807228	29	\$5,800	Yes
Manitou Stony1	05906210	51	\$28,050	Yes
Manitou Stony2	05906209	187	\$74,800	Yes
North Shore-05410235	05410235	100	\$45,500	Yes

St. Louis

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Bird Lk, Stand 79, 81	05814236	56	\$11,480	Yes
DNR-7	05312216	45	\$11,250	Yes
Eveleth, Stand 104, 201, 204	05817228	50	\$5,000	Yes
Eveleth, Stand 129, 196	05817233	30	\$3,000	Yes
Gnesen	05014204	188	\$94,000	Yes
Hardwoods_White Pine	05510216	150	\$37,500	Yes
Hoo-Dis	06319202	69	\$34,500	Yes
Skibo-Lindwood1	05614233	50	\$22,750	Yes
Skibo-Lindwood3	05614226	66	\$30,030	Yes
Skibo-Lindwood4	05614223	75	\$34,125	Yes
Skibo-Lindwood5	05614222	90	\$40,950	Yes
Smashed	05216210	42	\$21,000	Yes
Stand 126	05614228	4	\$420	Yes
Stand 190	05614216	13	\$1,310	Yes
Stand 369	05617216	4	\$1,170	Yes
Stand 419	05617221	8	\$840	Yes
Stand 448	05616236	73	\$7,300	Yes
Stand 51	05614218	39	\$3,880	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

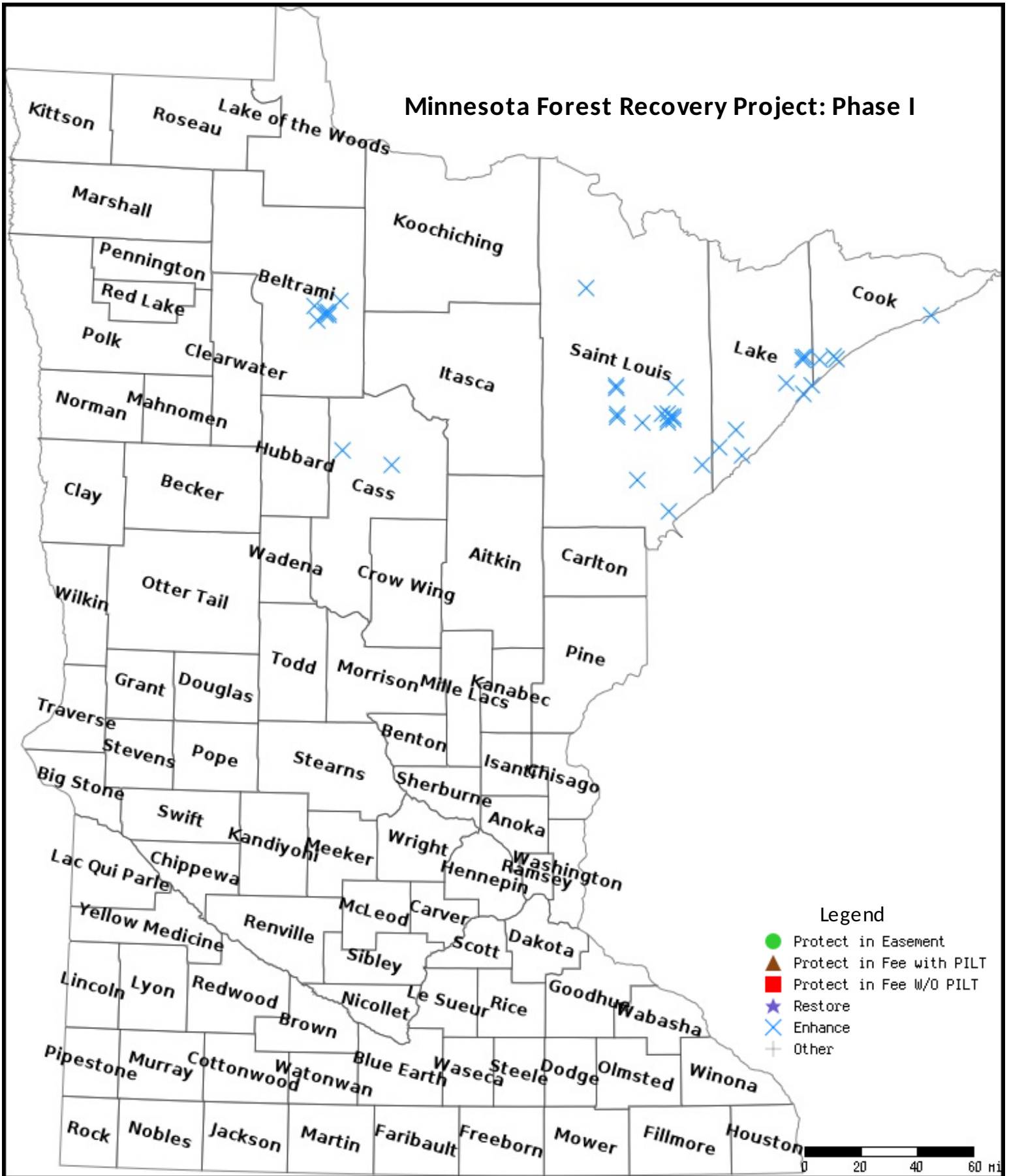
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Minnesota Forest Recovery Project: Phase I



Data Generated From Parcel List

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Comparison Report

Program Title: 2019 - Minnesota Forest Recovery Project: Phase I

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Manager: Jim Manolis

Budget

Requested Amount: \$2,996,400

Appropriated Amount: \$1,058,000

Percentage: 35.31%

Budget Item	Total Requested		Total Appropriated		Percentage of Request	
	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Appropriated Amount	Anticipated Leverage	Percentage of Request	Percentage of Leverage
Personnel	\$367,600	\$0	\$144,300	\$0	39.25%	-
Contracts	\$1,485,000	\$318,500	\$513,600	\$86,400	34.59%	27.13%
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	\$11,400	\$0	\$6,100	\$0	53.51%	-
Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$327,600	\$327,600	\$115,600	\$115,600	35.29%	35.29%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$804,800	\$200,000	\$278,400	\$48,600	34.59%	24.30%
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Total	\$2,996,400	\$846,100	\$1,058,000	\$250,600	35.31%	29.62%

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

Scaled back project to lower acreage number, cut some of the higher cost sites.

Output

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	6,049	2,465	40.75%

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	2,996,400	1,058,000	35.31%

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	6,049	2,465	40.75%

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	2,996,400	1,058,000	35.31%