



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2019 Accomplishment Plan

Date: October 18, 2018

Program or Project Title: Fairmont Chain of Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan, Phase 1

Funds Recommended: \$ 1,390,000

Manager's Name: Troy Nemmers

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Organization: City of Fairmont

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Legislative Citation: ML 2019, Ch. X, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd, X(x)

Appropriation Language:

County Locations: Martin

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Enhance
- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat
- Prairie
- Wetlands

Abstract:

The City of Fairmont, and its partners, are proposing to begin the first phase of the Fairmont Chain of Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan. This multi-phase plan will restore and enhance a 1,200+ acre fishery, including lakes (1,141 acres), stream, floodplain, wetland and upland habitat restorations. The plan will benefit fish, waterfowl and other wildlife species as well as provide educational opportunities for the community.

Design and scope of work:

The Fairmont Chain of Lakes are positioned within the heart of the City of Fairmont, appropriately nicknamed The City of Lakes. The five lakes flow from South to North and are all connected by streams and channels. Fairmont has a population of 10,000 and is the County Seat of Martin County which has a population of 20,000. Martin County has 49 named lakes and 20 + unnamed lakes. The lakes are used for recreation, with the most popular activities being hunting and fishing. The Fairmont Chain of Lakes are the most popular lakes for recreation and are critical to the local economy.

The City of Fairmont is partnering with Martin Soil and Water Conservation District, The Fairmont Lakes Foundation, DNR Fish and Wildlife, and the Martin County Conservation Alliance to restore and reconnect two floodplain wetlands along Dutch Creek, which flows into the Fairmont Chain of Lakes. The basins will be restored with adjustable wetland hydrology and seeding with native wetland vegetation. The upland areas will be seeded with native prairie plant species, including local source ecotype, to benefit pollinator

species. A diversion weir and cross vanes allowing for fish passage will be installed in the Creek to divert flow into the wetland basins. This will allow for adjustable water levels within the wetland to ensure Northern Pike are able to spawn and to exclude Carp access and spawning.

The project will provide the largest, highest quality spawning habitat within the Fairmont Chain of Lakes Watershed. Previously usable spawning habitat has been degraded due to development, drainage and loss of connectivity of the floodplain wetlands to the Chain of Lakes. Due to loss and degradation of suitable spawning habitat, the Fairmont Chain of Lakes has had a significant decrease in the Northern Pike (Apex Predator) population. This has allowed the Invasive Carp and Yellow Bass populations to grow rapidly. This shallow lake system, located in Southern Minnesota, is a critical part of the Fairmont economy and is a place where many in Martin County, and the region, go to recreate. The fishery has been in decline as it has lost its balance without a healthy Northern Pike population. The DNR would like to improve habitat for native species, and the Northern Pike.

By restoring and reconnecting the floodplain wetlands with the stream and lake, the primary benefit will be the restoration of critical Northern Pike spawning habitat. Intentionally, there will be a host of secondary benefits to restoring these wetlands. Martin County has a heavily studied population of the Blanding's Turtle, which is on the State's Rare and Threatened Species Lists. Additionally, this area will benefit other amphibious species, waterfowl and other local wildlife species.

The City of Fairmont intends to purchase a permanent conservation easement on the land where the restoration will take place.

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:

Restoring floodplain wetlands and improving upland habitat will benefit Blanding's Turtles, a State of Minnesota Threatened Species. While no Blanding's Turtles have been identified at the Dutch Creek site, this species has been found on the north part of the lake chain habitat corridor and the south part of the lake chain habitat corridor. This site will provide suitable habitat for the introduction of listed plant species and has the potential to support species like the Monarch, pollinator species and other insects in need of habitat. Martin SWCD has been working with the Fairmont School District, growing local source rare and declining prairie species in the School's greenhouse. This would provide another high quality, permanently protected, site for the SWCD and the students to establish populations of the rare and declining local sourced plants. Burrowing Owl, Trumpeter Swan, Horned Grebe, American Bittern, Sandhill Crane, Wilson's Phalarope are species that have been identified in Martin County, utilizing similar habitats to the habitat planned for the proposed project area.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

Just downstream of the site is a designated Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) site with moderate biodiversity significance, Hall Lake Woods. This woodland park was identified as a Basswood – Bur Oak – Green Ash forest by MCBS in 2008. This native riparian forest extends south along the west shore of Hall lake and Budd Lake for over a mile and is included in the 260-acre City of Fairmont Cedar Park. The restored wetlands will expand the habitat corridor along the west side of the Fairmont Chain of Lakes. The five lakes in the City of Fairmont are part of a habitat corridor that expands from the south edge of the Martin County, into Iowa, and to the north edge of Martin County, into Watonwan County. It is in the Northern part of the habitat complex that the largest population of Blanding's Turtles are being studied. We hope to expand their range with the addition of high quality habitat projects such as this. This would provide a 25+ mile corridor, with the proposed project area being a high priority area within the habitat corridor.

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

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

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management
- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:

Prairie:

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

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

Funds from the ENRTF will be utilized to install an advanced bio-reactor on a small portion of this property. This bio-reactor will be used for water quality treatment of the upstream runoff.

Does this program include leverage in funds:

Yes

The City of Fairmont purchased the 35 acres for this project in 2003, the land was purchased with the intent of completing a project of this nature in this watershed. The City of Fairmont has funds available to provide \$10,000 to help construct the project. The City of Fairmont plans to manage the project leveraging \$20,000 in personnel expenses.

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:

Appropriation from LSOHC would not be supplanting or a substitution for any other previous funds and this project can't happen without funds from LSOHC.

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:

The City of Fairmont and its partners will act as ongoing stewards of the Lakes and will work to maintain this site after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended. Project partners have already committed funds to monitor the water quality of Dutch Creek and the five lakes, multiple members of the Fairmont Lakes Foundation are already Citizen Stream and Lake Monitors. The City and Martin SWCD already have experience maintaining restoration sites on numerous other project sites.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2024	City & Partners	Monitor	Vegetation Management	Maintenance as Needed
2025 & Ongoing	City & Partners	Monitor for Sedimentation	Cleanout as Needed	Revegetate as Needed

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 (Permanently Protected Conservation EasementsCounty/Municipal)**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Selection of consultant for design work.	Fall 2019
Design Project	Fall 2019-Summer 2020
Bid and construct wetlands, restore and enhance upland habitats	Summer 2020-Spring 2022
Restoration and enhancement maintenance	Spring 2022-2024

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/1/2024

Federal Funding:

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

Outcomes:

Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands *The diversity of the restored and expanded native prairie habitat will improve habitat and water quality, and the promote the health of the fishery in the Fairmont Chain of Lakes.*

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

An update was made to the output table to better identify existing conditions and match the presentation handout. The amount of prairie restoration/enhancement has not changed from 30 acres, but was split into 16 acres of restoration and 14 acres of enhancement based on current land use.

Total Amount of Request: \$ 1390000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$20,000	City of Fairmont	\$20,000
Contracts	\$1,090,000	\$0		\$1,090,000
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	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$300,000	\$0		\$300,000
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$10,000	City of Fairmont	\$10,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$300	City of Fairmont	\$300
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$1,390,000	\$30,300		\$1,420,300

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Manager	0.40	6.00	\$0	\$20,000	City of Fairmont	\$20,000
Total	0.40	6.00	\$0	\$20,000		\$20,000

Amount of Request: \$1,390,000

Amount of Leverage: \$30,300

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 2.18%

DSS + Personnel: \$0

As a % of the total request: 0.00%

What is included in the contacts line?

The contracts include funds for the construction of the project, work related to restoration and enhancement of the upland habitat, and aquatic vegetation establishment in the wetlands.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

The City of Fairmont has funds available for the \$10,300 in leverage for this project.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	5	16	0	0	21
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	14	0	0	14
Total	5	30	0	0	35

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

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	16
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	14
Total	30

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$1,308,400	\$61,600	\$0	\$0	\$1,370,000
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	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Total	\$1,308,400	\$81,600	\$0	\$0	\$1,390,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	21	0	21
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	14	0	14
Total	0	0	0	35	0	35

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,370,000	\$0	\$1,370,000
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	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,390,000	\$0	\$1,390,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$261680	\$3850	\$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	\$1429	\$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	\$65238	\$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	\$1429	\$0

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

Martin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
City of Fairmont Parcel	10230219	35	\$0	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

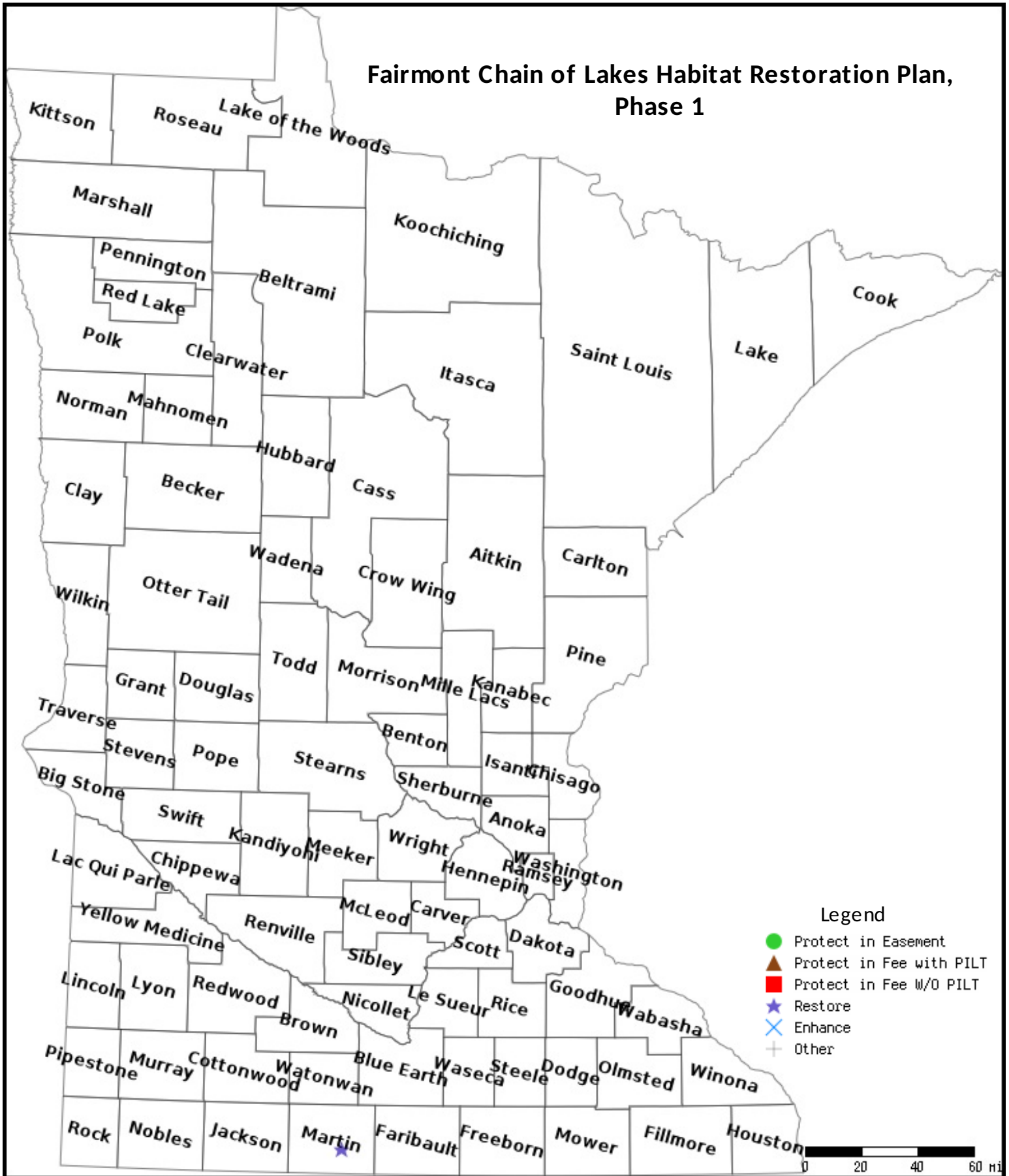
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Fairmont Chain of Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan, Phase 1



Data Generated From Parcel List

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Comparison Report

Program Title: 2019 - Fairmont Chain of Lakes Habitat Restoration Plan, Phase 1

Organization: City of Fairmont

Manager: Troy Nemmers

Budget

Requested Amount: \$1,390,000

Appropriated Amount: \$1,390,000

Percentage: 100.00%

Budget Item	Total Requested		Total Appropriated		Percentage of Request	
	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Appropriated Amount	Anticipated Leverage	Percentage of Request	Percentage of Leverage
Personnel	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	-	100.00%
Contracts	\$1,090,000	\$10,000	\$1,090,000	\$0	100.00%	0.00%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$77,000	\$0	\$0	-	0.00%
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Professional Services	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000	\$0	100.00%	-
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300	-	-
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Total	\$1,390,000	\$107,000	\$1,390,000	\$30,300	100.00%	28.32%

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

An update was made to the output table to better identify existing conditions and match the presentation handout. The amount of prairie restoration/enhancement has not changed from 30 acres, but was split into 16 acres of restoration and 14 acres of enhancement based on current land use.

Output

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	33	21	63.64%
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	14	700.00%

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	1,370,000	1,370,000	100.00%
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	20,000	20,000	100.00%

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	33	21	63.64%
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	14	700.00%

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	1,370,000	1,370,000	100.00%
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	20,000	20,000	100.00%