

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Fiscal Year 2020 / ML 2019 Request for Funding



**Date:** June 01, 2018

**Program or Project Title:** Restoration Evaluations - ML 2019

**Funds Requested:** \$150,000

**Manager's Name:** Wade Johnson

**Organization:** MN DNR

**Address:** 500 Lafayette Road

**Address 2:** Box 25

**City:** St Paul, MN 55155-4025

**Office Number:** 651-259-5075

**Email:** Wade.A.Johnson@state.mn.us

**County Locations:** Not Listed

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

- Not Listed

**Activity types:**

- Not Listed

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Not Listed

### Abstract:

This program annually evaluates a sample of up to twenty-five Outdoor Heritage Fund habitat restoration and enhancement projects, provides a report on the evaluations in accordance with state law and delivers communications on project outcomes and lessons learned in restoration practice.

### Design and scope of work:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) are jointly responsible for convening a Restoration Evaluation Panel (Panel) of technical experts to annually evaluate a sample of habitat restoration projects completed with Outdoor Heritage funding, as provided in M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10. Primary goals of the restoration evaluations program are to provide on the ground accountability for the use of Legacy funds and to improve future habitat restorations in the State. Per statute, the Panel will evaluate the selected habitat restoration projects relative to the law, current science, and the stated goals and standards in the restoration plan. The program coordinator will identify projects to be evaluated, coordinate field assessments and provide a report to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and the legislature determining if the restorations are meeting planned goals, any problems with the implementation of restorations, and, if necessary, recommendations on improving restorations.

Restoration evaluation reports are available: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/edocs/edocs.aspx?oclnumber=823766285>

The anticipated long-term outcomes of this program are the increased success of habitat restorations and an increased awareness among practitioners and decision-makers of common challenges associated with habitat restorations and recommended management options to improve future restorations. Outputs from this program for Fiscal Year 2017 include case studies of specific practices, project outcomes and lessons learned in the field from restoration practice.

This request supports a portion of the inter-agency Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluations Program, which provides for the evaluation of habitat restoration projects completed with funds from the Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53 Subd. 5), Outdoor Heritage Fund (M.S. 97A.056 Subd. 10), and Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50 Subd. 6) as required by state law. Up to twenty initial Outdoor Heritage Fund project evaluations will be reported on in the 2020 annual report, an additional three to five follow up evaluations of previously assessed sites will also be reported. Follow up assessments will provide valuable insight in tracking progress and estimating trajectory towards planned goals.

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

**project:**

- Not Listed

**Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:**

- Not Listed

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

-

**Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:**

Not Listed

**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:**

-

**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:**

-

**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:**

This program supports the habitat work of all evaluated projects through the assessment of implementation and progress towards planned goals.

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

Not Listed

**Outcomes:**

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

It is anticipated that the evaluation program outputs will help to create a framework for continuous improvement in restoration practice. Direct work of the Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation Program will be sustained for the period of funding.

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

Not Listed

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

-

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

The restoration evaluation program formalizes and promotes the process of assessing restoration project performance. Site assessment teams will use project appropriate assessment measures to establish that current science based practices are being applied on the ground in selected Outdoor Heritage Fund restoration projects. This level of assessment goes beyond standard reporting requirements and exceeds operational capacity of most programs. This program also increases the communication of specific project outcomes and lessons learned from restoration implementation. Reports will focus on improving future restorations by providing feedback to practitioners regarding challenging situations and viable solutions. Creation of this continuous learning environment provides an important tool for improving restoration practice throughout the state.

## Relationship to other funds:

- Clean Water Fund
- Parks and Trails Fund

### Describe the relationship of the funds:

The Restoration Evaluation Program for Legacy Projects concurrently fulfills requirements to conduct restoration evaluations (M.L. 2013, Ch. 137) for projects completed with funds from the Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50) and Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53).

**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:**

Not Listed

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

Not Listed

## Activity Details

### Requirements:

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

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**

## Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Evaluation Panel establishes annual priorities	July 1, 2019
Program Coordinator selects up to twenty-five project sites for evaluation	July 1, 2019
Site assessors (State staff and contractors) conduct field surveys of selected sites	August 30, 2020
2020 Restoration Evaluation report submitted to Legislature and LSOHC	February 28, 2021

# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$150,000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$108,000	\$0		\$108,000
Contracts	\$28,500	\$0		\$28,500
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	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,500	\$0		\$1,500
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$150,000	\$0	-	\$150,000

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Coordinator	0.57	1.00	\$55,000	\$0		\$55,000
Evaluation Specialist	0.57	1.00	\$48,000	\$0		\$48,000
Site Assessors (State Agency Staff)	0.05	1.00	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
Total	1.19	3.00	\$108,000	\$0	-	\$108,000

Amount of Request: \$150,000  
 Amount of Leverage: \$0  
 Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%  
 DSS + Personnel: \$118,000  
 As a % of the total request: 78.67%  
 Easement Stewardship: \$0  
 As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -%

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

DNR Direct and Necessary Calculator

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

Not Listed

**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:**

Not Listed

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

Not Listed

**Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - No**

## 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	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

**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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**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	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

**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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**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	\$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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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:**

Not Listed

## **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**

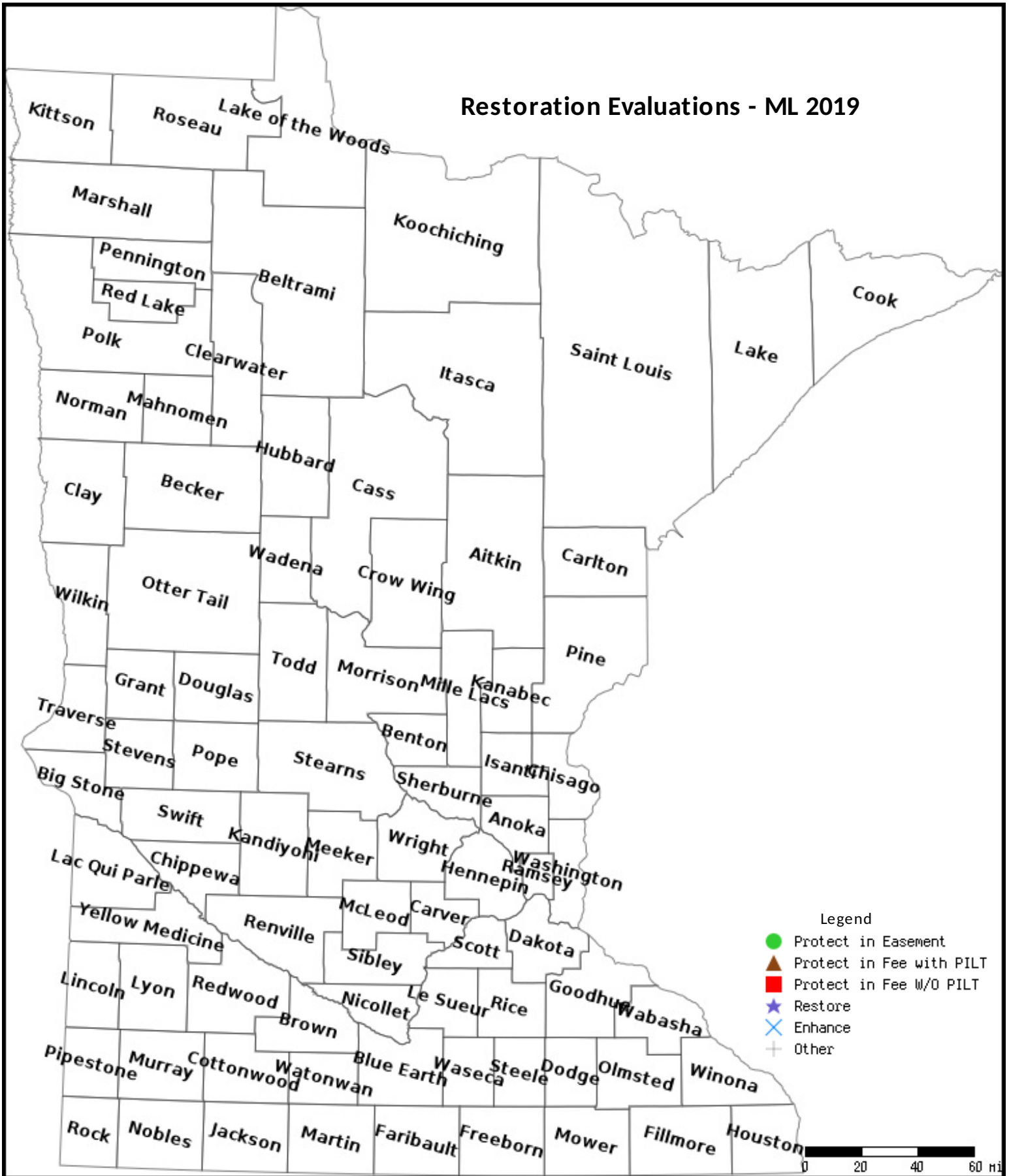
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

## **Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity**

No parcels with an other activity type.

# Parcel Map

## Restoration Evaluations - ML 2019



Data Generated From Parcel List



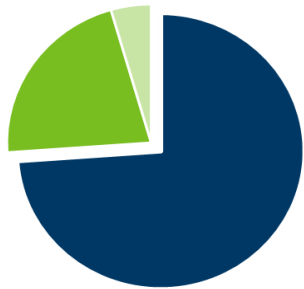
# Evaluating Restorations - Promoting Success - Improving Minnesota's Legacy

## Lessons from the Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation Program

### What We Have Seen

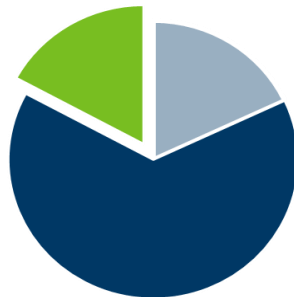
Restorations are largely using good science, and on track to meet their goals, **and we can do better for Minnesotans**. After reviewing more than 110 Parks and Trails, Clean Water and Outdoor Heritage Fund projects, we have identified opportunities for improvement.

#### Utilized Current Science



■ Yes ■ Portions ■ No

#### On Track to Meet Stated Goals



■ Exceed goals  
■ Meet goals  
■ Minimally meet goals

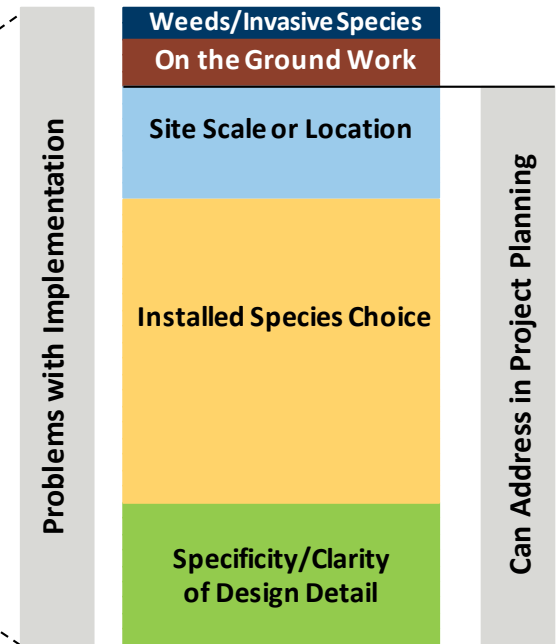
#### Problems with Implementation



■ No ■ Yes

### Opportunities to Improve

The good news: **most problems we've seen can be addressed in project planning**.



### Recommendations for Your Restorations

- **Prioritize documentation** of project planning and implementation.
- **Multidisciplinary project teams** can improve ecological outcomes.
- Practitioners need **comprehensive science based training**.
- **Minimum design criteria** can ensure projects benefit habitat.



**m** MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

# Evaluating Restorations - Promoting Success - Improving Minnesota's Legacy

## Restoration Evaluation Program Performance

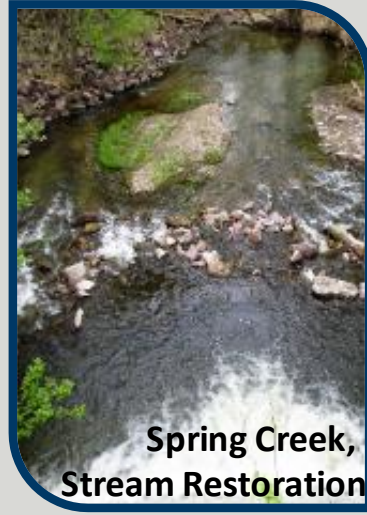
From **2012-2017 53 OHF project sites were evaluated**, reviewed by the Restoration Evaluation Panel, and communicated to more than 1,000 stakeholders to improve future restorations in Minnesota.

- **In 2018 25 OHF project sites are being evaluated**, reviewed, and incorporated into program communications.
- Moving forward our **annual target is to complete 25 OHF evaluations, have them reviewed by the Panel, and reach > 300 stakeholders** with best practices and lessons learned to improve future work.



**Knutson Tract,  
Prairie Restoration**

**Dutch Charley WMA,  
Savanna Restoration**



**Spring Creek,  
Stream Restoration**

**Stadsvold Easement, Wetland Restoration**



## OHF Appropriations Being Evaluated in 2018

Annually we update our project pool to include all completed OHF restoration and enhancement projects. A subset of projects are identified for field evaluations.

### 2018 field evaluations include projects from:

- MN Prairie Recovery Project Phase II and III
- Root River Protection and Restoration
- Accelerated Forest Wildlife Program, Phase I
- Accelerated Forest Habitat Enhancement, Phase II
- Cold Water River and Stream Restoration, Protection, and Enhancement
- Floodplain Forest Enhancement on Mississippi River
- Accelerated Shallow Lake and Wetland Enhancement and Restoration Program, Phase II
- Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program