

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2020 Accomplishment Plan



Date: December 13, 2019

Program or Project Title: Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition Phase 4

Funds Recommended: \$ 2,785,000

Manager's Name: Doug Hartke

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Legislative Citation: ML 2020, Ch. X, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd XX

Appropriation Language:

County Locations: Martin, and Watonwan.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Prairie
- Wetlands

Abstract:

This program will continue our conservation partnership into Phase 4. We will continue to restore diverse prairie and wetland habitat in areas that adjoin existing MN DNR WMAs. Parcels are identified with representatives of local government, Windom Area MN DNR, Ducks Unlimited (DU), The Conservation Fund (TCF), the Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. (FLCL), and other local partners. Wetland restoration and additional grasslands are needed to make our WMAs sustainable. We will use the real estate expertise of TCF, wetland and grassland restoration expertise of DU, and the efforts of the Fox Lake Conservation League to ensure success.

Design and scope of work:

Selective project sites will be targeted by the habitat needs and land availability in areas adjacent to exiting WMAs, existing habitat and land already protected from development or other land use change. Work is designed to provide the most habitat value. The landscape will be restored as close as possible to conditions that existed prior to its conversion to agricultural production. Wetlands will be restored without the disruption of the natural drainage system. Native vegetation will be restored with a diverse range of species suitable to the landscape.

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 project will protect threatened habitats in Martin and Watonwan Counties. Native prairie and high quality wetland will be protected, buffered and expanded upon. Restoration sites will provide the opportunity to expand populations of at-risk and

threatened plant species that Martin SWCD has propagated and introduced into permanently protected sites. The FLCL is continuing the work Martin SWCD initiated, by selecting additional locally rare at-risk species for propagation and use in this and future habitat restoration projects. While hundreds of Sullivant's milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*) and Tuberous Indian Plantain (*Cacalia tuberosa*) have been introduced into WMAs and other protected land, Small white lady's slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*) and Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) will continue to be propagated using local source plant material for use in this project. Parcels selected for this proposal expand habitat protection for the threatened Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) Perch Creek population that has been studied by the MN DNR and featured in the "MN Volunteer".

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

Our "Martin County Conservation Alliance" has grown into a planning group that includes wildlife group representatives, NGOs, local government, and state agencies. There is a wide range of knowledge and interest within the group. Historic information, the MN County Biologic Survey, and local knowledge help identify areas where habitat restoration will likely be most beneficial for multiple reasons. Expanding habitat adjacent to existing high quality native habitat and habitat already protected by public ownership or perpetual conservation easements are often targeted. Sites with threatened, endangered and species in decline are good targets to build upon, especially when these expansions can link sites to help extend corridors, expand blocks, and protect and enhance habitat buffers along water courses and lake chains.

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

- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- H7 Keep water on the landscape

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

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:

- Not Listed

Does this program include leverage in funds:

No

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 supplant or substitute previous funding for the same purpose.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2014	LCCMR	400000

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

Maintaining and improving this work after our restoration plans will be the responsibility of the MN DNR with support from project partner CPL grants if and when appropriate. Local Partners will continue to install additional local source native plant species to enhance habitat to support more species, including pollinators. Local Partner monitoring will assist with identifying invasive species threats and provide assistance with eradication or control when necessary.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Ongoing	Local	Monitor to add local species	Monitor for invasive species	Treat and Plant as needed
Ongoing	Game and Fish Budget	Monitoring	Maintenance	Management

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 - **Yes**

Explain

Soybeans or Oats may be planted in order to reduce fertilizer build-up and herbicide carry over from previous crop years. This will only be done to improve soil condition and provide a more suitable seedbed prior to restoring grasslands and wetland acres.

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j) - **Yes**

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

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

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

All acquisitions will be part of the MN DNR WMA program and public hunting will be part of the process.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

We plan to close 2 to 3 acquisitions.

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **No**

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

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation? - **Yes**

Not Listed

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Begin acquisition negotiation	October 2020
Acquire properties	March 2021-March 2022
Begin restoration of properties	Fall 2021
Transfer properties to MN DNR	Fall 2021
Complete restorations	2022
Follow-up/maintenance/weed control	2023

Date of Final Report Submission: 12/20/2023

Federal Funding:

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

Outcomes:

Programs in prairie region:

- Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife *By adding these important parcels to the Martin County and Watonwan County WMA complexes we are adding valuable grasslands to the WMAs of Southern Minnesota. This additional diverse upland will provide much needed nesting habitat for our many wildlife species. This project will also add valuable acres for public hunting, fishing and other outdoor opportunities with all of the fish, game, and rare species that will be found on this new public land. The measurable habitat value will be based on the diversity of habitat protected and restored and the volume of public use these new acres receive.*

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

All budget items and acres were reduced proportionally to accommodate the recommended appropriation.

Total Amount of Request: \$ 2785000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$87,000	\$0		\$87,000
Contracts	\$457,000	\$0		\$457,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,967,000	\$0		\$1,967,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$7,000	\$0		\$7,000
Professional Services	\$45,000	\$0		\$45,000
Direct Support Services	\$11,000	\$0		\$11,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	\$0		\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	\$185,000	\$0		\$185,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$2,785,000	\$0		\$2,785,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Grant Administration	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0		\$0
Ducks Unlimited Conservation Staff - Biologist & Engineer	0.40	3.00	\$37,000	\$0		\$37,000
MN Acquisition Associate	0.25	2.00	\$50,000	\$0		\$50,000
Total	0.65	5.00	\$87,000	\$0		\$87,000

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$70,000	\$0		\$70,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$1,967,000	\$0		\$1,967,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$1,000	\$0		\$1,000
Professional Services	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000
Capital Equipment	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	FoxLake Conservation League, Inc	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$2,063,000	\$0		\$2,063,000

Personnel - Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Grant Administration	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0		\$0

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Ducks Unlimited	\$37,000	\$0		\$37,000
Contracts	Ducks Unlimited	\$387,000	\$0		\$387,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Ducks Unlimited	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Ducks Unlimited	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Ducks Unlimited	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	Ducks Unlimited	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	Ducks Unlimited	\$4,000	\$0		\$4,000
Professional Services	Ducks Unlimited	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	Ducks Unlimited	\$4,000	\$0		\$4,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Ducks Unlimited	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Ducks Unlimited	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Ducks Unlimited	\$1,000	\$0		\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	Ducks Unlimited	\$185,000	\$0		\$185,000
DNR IDP	Ducks Unlimited	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$618,000	\$0		\$618,000

Personnel - Ducks Unlimited

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Ducks Unlimited Conservation Staff - Biologist & Engineer	0.40	3.00	\$37,000	\$0		\$37,000
Total	0.40	3.00	\$37,000	\$0		\$37,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	The Conservation Fund	\$50,000	\$0		\$50,000
Contracts	The Conservation Fund	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	The Conservation Fund	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	The Conservation Fund	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	The Conservation Fund	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	The Conservation Fund	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	The Conservation Fund	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Professional Services	The Conservation Fund	\$45,000	\$0		\$45,000
Direct Support Services	The Conservation Fund	\$7,000	\$0		\$7,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	The Conservation Fund	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	The Conservation Fund	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	The Conservation Fund	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	The Conservation Fund	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	The Conservation Fund	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$104,000	\$0		\$104,000

Personnel - The Conservation Fund

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MN Acquisition Associate	0.25	2.00	\$50,000	\$0		\$50,000
Total	0.25	2.00	\$50,000	\$0		\$50,000

Amount of Request: \$2,785,000

Amount of Leverage: \$0

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%

DSS + Personnel: \$98,000
As a % of the total request: 3.52%

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

Fox Lake Conservation will not add for 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.

DU - Minnesota DNR grants staff previously reviewed and approved DU accounting methodology for Direct Support Services, which are calculated and included in DU staff costs. DU Direct Support Services constitute approximately 10% of DU overall staff costs on average among DU conservation staff billing categories. DU breaks out and invoices for Direct Support Service expenses approved by DNR for reimbursement separately from Personnel expenses. In accordance with 2 CFR 200, DU uses the direct allocation method of allocating costs to programs and final cost objectives. This process of allocating costs is accomplished through the use of hourly rates. The direct cost of activities, including direct support expenses, is included in these hourly rates. The rates are comprised of costs for salaries, benefits, office space, general insurance, support staff, office supplies, and other various direct expenses incurred at the regional offices and conservation department at the home office. All costs are assigned to conservation projects (net of applicable personnel and other costs that are non-conservation related.) Hourly charges represent the amount that DU charges conservation projects per hour for each staff member working on the project. These costs represent expenses that directly support the labor cost necessary for the development of a specific water/wetlands conservation project.

What is included in the contracts line?

Fox Lake contracts line includes expense for tree removal, potential building demolition, and parking lot construction. Ducks Unlimited contracts line includes expense for both wetland and prairie restoration.

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:

There is no match or leverage of funds.

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	280	0	0	280
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	280	0	0	280

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	0
Total	0

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	\$2,785,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,785,000
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	\$2,785,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,785,000

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	280	0	280
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	280	0	280

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	\$2,785,000	\$0	\$2,785,000
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	\$2,785,000	\$0	\$2,785,000

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	\$9946	\$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	\$9946	\$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

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

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Martin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Armburst WMA	10 430 231	160	\$750,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Caron WMA Parcel 14	10 333224	80	\$580,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Caron WMA Parcel 15	10 333225	50	\$335,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Caron WMA Parcel 21A & 21B	10 333223	110	\$775,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Gruven WMA Parcel 6	10 330 236	181	\$750,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Perch Creek Parcel 26	10 431230	83	\$750,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Watsonwan

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Perch Creek Parcel 14	10 530 231	155	\$1,500,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Perch Creek Parcel 17	10 530 230	150	\$1,250,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

Martin

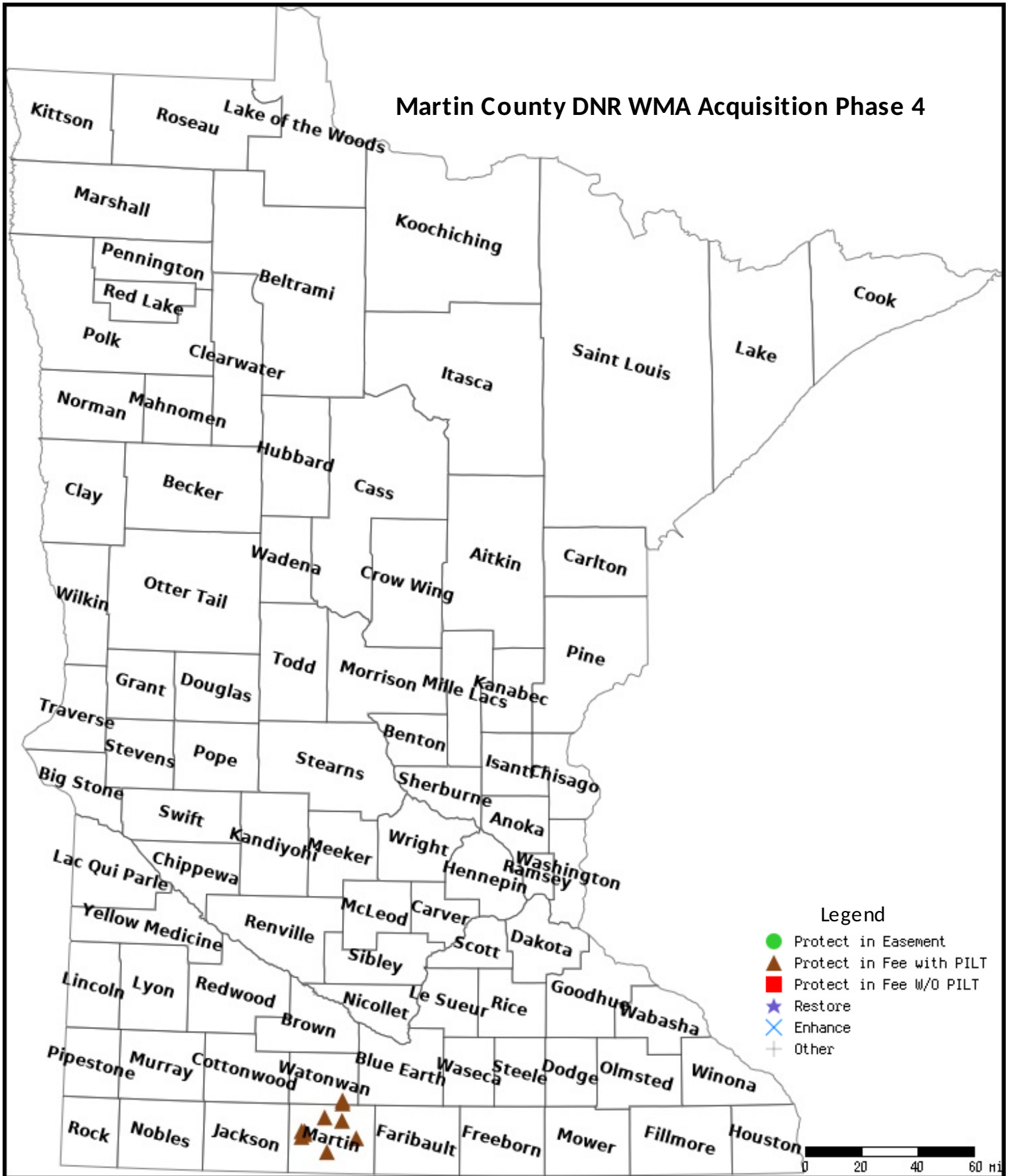
Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	# Bldgs?	Bldg Improve Desc	Value of Bldg	Disposition of Improvements
Four Corners WMA Parcel 12	10 333235	154	\$1,300,000	1	N/A	\$0	
Island WMA Parcel 7	10 231229	200	\$2,000,000	1	N/A	\$20,000	

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition Phase 4



Data Generated From Parcel List