

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2020 Accomplishment Plan



Date: December 18, 2019

Program or Project Title: Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex - Phase IX

Funds Recommended: \$ 1,339,000

Manager's Name: DJ Forbes

Title: Project Manager

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

Appropriation Language:

County Locations: Goodhue, Le Sueur, Rice, Steele, and Waseca.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie
- Southeast Forest

Activity types:

- Enhance
- Protect in Fee
- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Habitat
- Prairie
- Wetlands

Abstract:

The Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex Phase IX program will protect approximately 150 acres in fee, and restore and enhance approximately 93 acres of high priority wildlife habitat within the Cannon River Watershed, including wetlands, prairies, Big Woods forest, and river/shallow lake shoreline. Its goal is to reverse habitat loss, prevent degradation of water quality, improve watershed function, and provide public access.

Design and scope of work:

Phase IX of the Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex program will continue to prevent degradation and loss of quality habitat in the Cannon River Watershed. It will increase the amount of available public lands for hunting and angling opportunities within an easy drive for over half of the State's population. In addition, increased restoration activities will occur in this phase to improve the habitat conditions of currently protected public lands.

Located south of the Twin Cities, the 1,460 square mile Cannon River Watershed includes over 800 linear miles of streams and rivers that drain a diverse landscape. This area has seen increased development pressure due to the transportation ease of the I-35 corridor and the attraction of the Cannon Lakes, and much of this area has already suffered fragmentation and habitat loss. Historically inhabited by Big Woods, the landscape is now dominated by agricultural fields and, to a lesser extent, development. Agricultural practices and shoreline development are the major contributors to the impaired status of stretches of the Cannon River and its associated lakes and streams. The DNR's Southern Region Conservation Focus Area assessment tool ranked the Cannon River area as having the highest level of interdivisional conservation priority when examined at the landscape level.

This conservation effort is part of a multi-year, multi-partner strategy that includes acquisition, protection, and restoration of core parcels of land that will contribute to large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, wetlands, lakeshore, and river shoreline. Acquisitions are targeted toward existing large wetland/upland complexes, rare communities (Big Woods forest, tamarack swamp), shallow lakes, river shoreline, and lands adjacent to existing protected areas. Ongoing partnerships with the MN DNR, The Nature Conservancy, and the Cannon River Watershed Partnership are critical in further identifying priority conservation opportunities and protection strategies for the existing high biodiversity areas.

Protecting and restoring vegetative cover within basins and the riparian areas of the lakes, rivers and streams in this focus area will also help protect water quality by reducing surface water runoff and by providing ecological services such as infiltration through natural buffers to our waterways. Parcels targeted for restoration will be evaluated by Great River Greening in collaboration with MN DNR and county SWCD personnel, to determine existing and desired conditions for each site. Information gathered will be used to develop a site specific scope of work plans for restoring ecologically desired habitats. Project management plans will detail the methods and practices to be used and a time line for successful completion of each site/project. Restoration practices could include; invasive species removal via controlled burning, chemical treatment, physical removal of individual plants, reseeding and/or plug planting, and shoreline revetments using native materials. All restoration efforts are aimed at improving habitat and protecting water quality for the benefit of all wildlife and human communities.

Work will be completed in phases depending on funding availability and landowner willingness to sell. Properties targeted for acquisition and restoration can be found in the parcel list below.

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:

The areas targeted by the Trust for Public Land have been identified and prioritized through state, regional and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity qualities and connectivity. Their protection will occur through fee title acquisition, and will target Big Woods, oak savannas, wetlands and sensitive shoreline communities within the Cannon River Watershed.

Great River Greening will conduct significant habitat restoration work on already permanently protected conservation lands identified by DNR and County Staff within the watershed. The aim is to improve habitat values for wildlife and Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), including birds using the Mississippi River migratory corridor, and pollinators. Work will restore and enhance riverine, forest, wetlands, Broadleaf Forest, oak savanna, and prairie habitat at 4 conservation sites.

Protection, restoration and/or enhancement of these significant parcels will provide critical habitat for game species, including upland birds (dove, turkey, pheasant, and woodcock), white tail deer, migratory waterfowl (mallards, canvasback, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, pintails, and lesser scaup), and aquatic species critical for the protection of fish (northern pike, black crappies, bluegills, and walleye). Protection will also provide access for a diversity of recreational experiences including duck, pheasant, turkey and deer hunting as well as river, stream, and lake fishing. The nongame wildlife, including species in Greatest Conservation Need, that also benefit from this effort includes Bald Eagle, Bell's Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Loggerhead Shrike, Sandhill Crane, Red-headed Woodpecker, Greater Yellowlegs, Buffbreasted Sandpiper, Blanding's Turtle, Mudpuppies, and the Giant Floater, a species of freshwater mussel.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

This program uses the Minnesota County Biological Survey, and several other GIS data analysis tools to identify priority lands for protection and restoration to create and expand conservation corridors and habitat complexes. In addition, we will consult several watershed wide landscape planning efforts such as the Cannon River Watershed Landscape Stewardship Plan and the Cannon River Watershed - Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) to further identify critical lands in need of protection and restoration.

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:

- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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

Southeast Forest:

- Protect forest habitat through acquisition in fee or easement to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

This effort is seeking the significant portion of funding for acquisition and initial restoration work from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Past matching funds have been provided from the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund as part of the Statewide Habitat Corridors Partnership.

Does this program include leverage in funds:

Yes

One-half of TPL's DSS costs and all travel costs are provided as privately sourced leverage for this proposal. TPL will attempt to bring various state, local and private funds to acquire additional property and leverage the OHF grant, and will attempt to leverage fee-acquisition with partial donations of the appraised value of parcels. GRG will provide privately sourced leverage for DSS costs.

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:

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2011	ENRTF	350000
2012	ENRTF	200000
2012	RIM	105000
2013	RIM	200000

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

Once land has been acquired and conveyed to the DNR, initial site development and restoration of these lands will begin. Estimated costs for initial restoration work are included in this proposal. The Trust for Public Land will work with DNR to complete a restoration and management plan, and implementation of that plan will be completed in the following years. These properties will be managed and maintained by the Minnesota DNR according to their guidelines.

In collaboration with MN DNR and county SWCD personnel, parcels targeted for restoration will be evaluated by Great River Greening to determine existing and desired conditions for each site. Information gathered will be used to develop a site specific scope of work plans for restoring ecologically desired habitats. Project management plans will detail the methods and practices to be used and a timeline for successful completion of each site/project.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2021	TPL - OHF and DNR	Post property	Develop restoration/management plan for property	
2022	TPL - DNR	Develop restoration/management plan for property	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	
2023	TPL - DNR	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation		
2021	GRG - OHF	Perform site evaluation and assessment in collaboration with DNR	Develop R/E plan for property. Begin monitoring	Initiate site preparation from R/E work. Continue monitoring
2022	GRG - OHF	Initiate R/E work	Continue R/E depending on appropriate methods and time of year	Continue R/E and begin stewardship as needed using appropriate methods and dependent on time of year
2023	GRG - OHF	Continue R/E and begin stewardship. Target actions to maintain habitat	Restorative action to correct damage as needed	Evaluate progress and determine if additional actions are 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 - **Yes**

Explain

For lands acquired that are conveyed as WMAs to the DNR, the DNR has indicated the following:

The primary purposes of WMAs are to develop and manage for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife. Lands proposed to be acquired as WMAs may utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources. In some cases this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank, however, neonicotinoids will not be used.

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j) - **No**

We will follow the County/Township Board notification processes as directed by the current statutory language.

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**

Lands acquired by The Trust for Public Land will be open for fishing and hunting.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA, SNA, AMA, State Forest

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

TPL expects to close on one to three fee acquisitions with this appropriation.

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**

TPL - Initial restoration activities will occur on parcels acquired with this appropriation.

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, SNA, AMA, Permanently Protected Conservation Easements County/Municipal, State Forests)**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Landowner negotiations, agreements and due diligence	June 30, 2023
Land acquired	June 30, 2023
Initial site development/restoration	Fall 2023
Finalize restoration and enhancement plans	June 30, 2021
Restoration and enhancement	June 30, 2025

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/1/2025

Federal Funding:

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

Outcomes:

Programs in southeast forest region:

- High priority riparian lands, forestlands, and savannas are protected from parcelization and fragmentation *Core parcels are identified in partnership with the DNR as well as the partners of the Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex. Success will be determined based on the acreage of lands protected and restored, and the percentage of protected lands in the watershed.*

Programs in prairie region:

- Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife *Core parcels are identified in partnership with the DNR as well as the partners of the Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex. Success will be determined based on the acreage of lands protected and restored, and the percentage of protected lands in the watershed.*

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

Reduced acreage of fee title acquisition, restoration, and enhancement activities.

Total Amount of Request: \$ 1339000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$95,400	\$0		\$95,400
Contracts	\$230,600	\$0		\$230,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$838,500	\$0		\$838,500
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$3,900	\$2,500	Private TPL Funds	\$6,400
Professional Services	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000
Direct Support Services	\$43,000	\$73,300	Private TPL Funds, GRG	\$116,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$15,000	\$0		\$15,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,100	\$0		\$2,100
Supplies/Materials	\$30,500	\$0		\$30,500
DNR IDP	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000
Total	\$1,339,000	\$75,800		\$1,414,800

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection and Legal Staff	0.12	3.00	\$60,000	\$0		\$60,000
GRG Personnel	0.13	5.00	\$35,400	\$0		\$35,400
Total	0.25	8.00	\$95,400	\$0		\$95,400

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Trust for Public Land	\$60,000	\$0		\$60,000
Contracts	Trust for Public Land	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Trust for Public Land	\$838,500	\$0		\$838,500
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$2,500	Private TPL Funds	\$2,500
Professional Services	Trust for Public Land	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000
Direct Support Services	Trust for Public Land	\$21,500	\$21,500	Private TPL Funds	\$43,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Trust for Public Land	\$15,000	\$0		\$15,000
Capital Equipment	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	Trust for Public Land	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000
Total		\$1,035,000	\$24,000		\$1,059,000

Personnel - Trust for Public Land

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection and Legal Staff	0.12	3.00	\$60,000	\$0		\$60,000
Total	0.12	3.00	\$60,000	\$0		\$60,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Great River Greening	\$35,400	\$0		\$35,400
Contracts	Great River Greening	\$210,600	\$0		\$210,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	Great River Greening	\$3,900	\$0		\$3,900
Professional Services	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	Great River Greening	\$21,500	\$51,800	G RG	\$73,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Great River Greening	\$2,100	\$0		\$2,100
Supplies/Materials	Great River Greening	\$30,500	\$0		\$30,500
DNR IDP	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$304,000	\$51,800		\$355,800

Personnel - Great River Greening

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
G RG Personnel	0.13	5.00	\$35,400	\$0		\$35,400
Total	0.13	5.00	\$35,400	\$0		\$35,400

Amount of Request: \$1,339,000

Amount of Leverage: \$75,800

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 5.66%

DSS + Personnel: \$138,400

As a % of the total request: 10.34%

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

The Trust for Public Land's DSS request is based upon our federally approved indirect rate, which has been approved by the DNR. This rate does not include costs that are included in other budget lines. 50% of these costs are requested from the grant and 50% is contributed as leverage. G RG's DSS rate was approved by the DNR in September 2019 and includes direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget.

What is included in the contacts line?

TPL's contract line includes potential site clean-up, initial restoration activities, and outreach through local entities. G RG's contract line includes restoration/enhancement contracts by service providers and outreach by local entities.

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:

TPL is not seeking travel costs from the OHF grant. There are no travel costs in G RG's proposal which lie outside of normal and traditional travel costs.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

TPL: One-half of DSS costs and all travel costs are provided as privately sourced leverage for this proposal. TPL will attempt to leverage fee-acquisition with partial donations of the appraised value of parcels. G RG will provide privately sourced leverage for DSS costs.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	30	0	30
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	37	38	38	37	150
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	37	26	0	63
Total	37	75	94	37	243

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	\$107,000	\$0	\$107,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$258,000	\$259,000	\$259,000	\$259,000	\$1,035,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$111,000	\$86,000	\$0	\$197,000
Total	\$258,000	\$370,000	\$452,000	\$259,000	\$1,339,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	30	0	30
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	70	80	0	150
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	63	0	63
Total	0	0	70	173	0	243

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$107,000	\$0	\$107,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$466,600	\$568,400	\$0	\$1,035,000
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	\$197,000	\$0	\$197,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$466,600	\$872,400	\$0	\$1,339,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$3567	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$6973	\$6816	\$6816	\$7000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$3000	\$3308	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3567	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$6666	\$7105	\$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	\$3127	\$0

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

.5 miles

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

Le Sueur

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Dora Lake WMA Phase II	11023211	31	\$90,000	Yes
Murphy WMA	10923205	6	\$21,000	Yes

Rice

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Sunktokeca Creek WMA - Forest Restoration PH II	11021211	26	\$86,000	Yes
Trout Lily WMA	11020217	30	\$107,000	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Goodhue

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA Addition	11316227	200	\$615,000	No	Full	Full
Little Cannon River AMA	11018201	160	\$700,000	No	Full	Full

Le Sueur

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Dora Lake WMA Addition	11023214	172	\$650,000	No	Full	Full
Dove Lake WMA Addition	10924221	66	\$290,000	No	Full	Full
Earl Swain WMA Addition	10924222	75	\$330,000	No	Full	Full
Horseshoe Lake WMA/AMA Addition	10923212	127	\$800,000	No	Full	Full

Rice

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Caron Lake WMA/AMA Addition	11022229	80	\$450,000	No	Full	Full
Robert Lick WMA Addition	11122210	80	\$450,000	No	Full	Full
Sakatah WMA Addition	10922216	80	\$210,000	No	Full	Full

Steele

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Aurora WMA Addition	10619219	50	\$230,000	No	Full	Full

Waseca

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Moontan Marsh WMA Addition	10822225	75	\$316,000	No	Full	Full

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

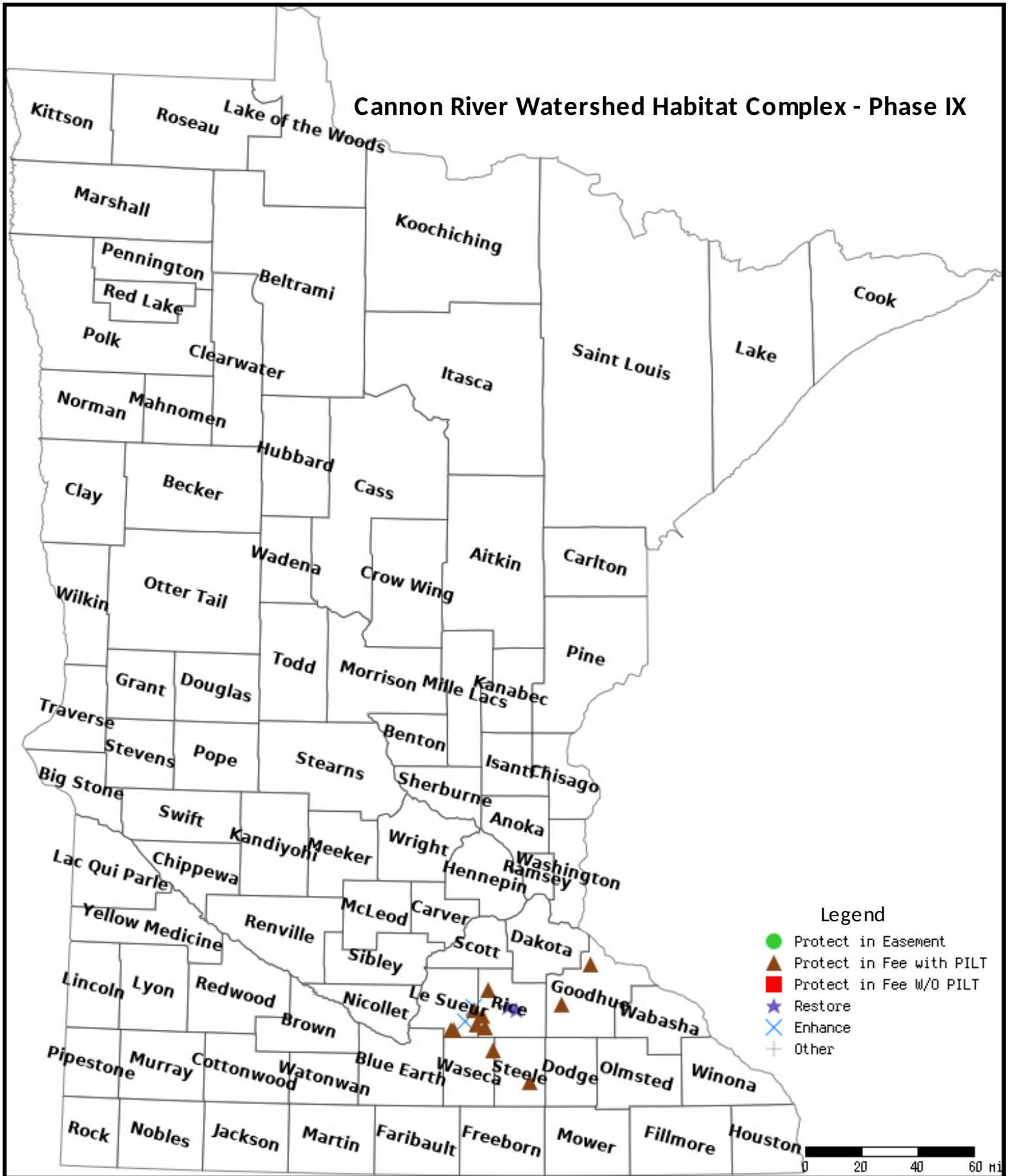
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex - Phase IX



Data Generated From Parcel List