

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2020 Accomplishment Plan



Date: December 17, 2019

Program or Project Title: Enhanced Public Land – Grasslands - Phase IV

Funds Recommended: \$ 2,660,000

Manager's Name: Alexander Nelson
Title: MN Restoration Manager
Organization: Pheasants Forever, Inc.
Address: 1000 150th ave NW
City: Spicer, MN 56288
Office Number: 320-292-6678
Mobile Number: 320-292-6678
Email: anelson@pheasantsforever.org
Website: www.pheasantsforever.org

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

Appropriation Language:

County Locations: Not Listed

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Metro / Urban
- Prairie

Activity types:

- Enhance
- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Prairie
- Wetlands

Abstract:

7337 acres of grassland and wetland habitat will be enhanced through this proposal to increase the productivity of game and non-game upland species on Minnesota lands open to public hunting including Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA), and National Wildlife Refuges (NWR). We will accomplish this by working with our partners to follow best practices to conduct wetland restorations, conservation grazing, invasive tree removal, prescribed fire, and diversity seeding in the prairie, forest/prairie transition, and metro regions.

Design and scope of work:

According to the MN Prairie Conservation Plan, less than 2% of Minnesota's native prairie remains. Many of the remaining acres of native and restored prairie are degraded from lack of fire, low diversity and spread of invasive trees. There are wetlands in these landscapes that need be to restored and many previously restored basins that are in need of repair. This proposal aims to build on past investments to increase productivity on WPAs, WMAs, and NWRs that are open to hunting so they can reach their full potential for wildlife production.

Activities could include the following:

- 1) Wetlands will be restored/enhanced by removing drain tile, constructing/repairing earthen dams and/or water control structures, and invasive narrow leaf cattail control. Wetlands targeted for enhancement are vital to providing food, cover, and space required for breeding waterfowl and are essential to water quality and aquifer recharge.
- 2) A diverse mixture of native grasses and forbs is ideal for nesting and brood rearing of upland nesting birds and also essential for pollinator species. Many WMAs, WPAs, or NWRs were purchased in sub-optimal habitat condition (e.g. monotype of brome grass) or were restored using low diversity seed mixes that are less productive for wildlife. We will use a site-specific combination of techniques (e.g. cultivation, tree removal, herbicide, and prescribed fire) to bring back productivity to these public lands. In close collaboration with the land managers, we will seed a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs that are well adapted to site conditions. Mowing will be used as needed to manage annual weed pressure to ensure establishment.
- 3) Prescribed burning is the primary tool for managing grassland habitat. It increases vigor, sets back invasive woody species, and removes built up residue.
- 4) Conservation grazing is an important enhancement tool for sites that are difficult to conduct prescribed fires or need to target specific enhancement needs (e.g. cool season grass suppression, tree invasion, etc.). Permanent infrastructure with a lifespan of 30+ years will be installed to conduct conservation grazing plans written to benefit wildlife.
- 5) Research has shown that invasive trees are detrimental to prairie/grassland wildlife and will be removed with this proposal. These trees reduce nesting success and provide perches and dens for predators. These predators are highly effective at preying on both nests and nesting birds, especially in fragmented low quality habitat.

By creating the best possible habitat on WPAs, NWRs and WMAs, we will strive to help our public land management entities by reducing future investments for management.

A RFP and ranking process has been developed in previous phases that allow us to identify, rank and deliver the projects that have the most impact for grassland and wetland wildlife.

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 directly addresses the loss of quality habitat on reconstructed and native prairies through restoration and enhancement best practices. By increasing the quality of existing remnant and reconstructed prairie habitat we benefit numerous species that are of special concern, threatened, or endangered. This proposal targets grassland species, including but not limited to, greater prairie chickens, ring-necked pheasants, monarch butterflies, honey bees and dakota skippers.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

The science and strategy of habitat enhancement in this part of Minnesota is to build functional complexes of habitat where it once existed. The quantity and spatial arrangement of habitat is important. Another important aspect relates to the quality of habitat found there. By enhancing and restoring grasslands and wetlands in key landscapes, we aim to make every acre as productive as possible to provide the most benefit to wildlife and the people of Minnesota. To maximize efficiency and effectiveness, projects will be developed in conjunction with MNDNR and USFWS land managers.

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

- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN
- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:

Forest / Prairie Transition:

- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

Metro / Urban:

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high

biological diversity

Prairie:

- Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

Does this program include leverage in funds:

Yes

This proposal is the fourth phase of an effort to enhance public lands for the benefit of wildlife and public recreation. All funding has been spent in the first phase and the second phase has a few final projects to complete. Phase III is 100% obligated and work is progressing as planned. Although we have accomplished a significant amount of quality work in previous phases, it is evident there is a significant amount of work remaining and an interest from agency managers to better our public lands. Pheasants Forever, USFWS, MN DNR and other partners are focused on managing grassland habitat for game birds, waterfowl, and all other species of grassland wildlife. Leverage is expected from multiple sources including but not limited to federal sources, contractor donations and PF.

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 supplements past investments and is aimed at accelerating the existing enhancement and restoration of strategic public lands.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2002-2010	Heritage Enhancement Grants	\$145,000 HE / \$14,500 PF
2015-2017	NAWCA	\$150,000 HE

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

The portions of enhancement work that will be completed by this proposal will generally allow the unit to be managed more effectively by the resource manager, whether that be the USFWS or the MNDNR. However, with limited funds and constant pressure to our public land grasslands/wetlands from volunteer invasive trees, water quality decline, aging grasslands, etc., we also expect continued opportunity to supplement local agency efforts. While it's difficult for a third party like us to provide an analysis of future costs on existing public land, according to the Long-Range Budget Analysis of Land Management Needs, the cost of long-term management ranges from \$11-16/acre annually. We expect that average need to be the same for the parcels we worked on.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Post Project Completion - WMA	MN DNR - Game and Fish Funds	Monitoring	Maintenance	
Post Project Completion - WPA	USFWS - Federal	Monitoring	Maintenance	
Post Project Completion - NWR	USFWS-Federal	Monitoring	Maintenance	

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, WPA, Refuge Lands)**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Distribute Project Request for Proposals to Area Land Managers	Fall 2020
Review Project RFPs with project selection committee	Winter 2020-21
Select Projects for completion and hire contractors to complete habitat work	Winter 2020-21
Enhancement / Restoration work begins	Spring 2021
Re-evaluate project status/budget and solicit additional projects as needed	Winter 2021
Enhancement / Restoration work completed	Summer 2025

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/1/2025

Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **Yes**

Are the funds confirmed - **No**

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds - **03/15/2021**

Outcomes:

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Increased waterfowl and upland bird migratory and breeding success *Outcomes will be measured by resource professionals and evaluated by using the best science available to land managers.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Improved condition of habitat on public lands. Outcomes will be measured by resource professionals and evaluated by using the best science available to land managers.

Programs in prairie region:

- Improved condition of habitat on public lands *Outcomes will be measured by resource professionals and evaluated by using the best science available to land managers.*

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

We have reduced accomplishments/costs proportionately across the overall program to accommodate the reduced appropriation. As a result of the reduction, we will be able to enhance fewer acres. As in past appropriations, we will focus on the most strategic, highest priority projects.

Total Amount of Request: \$ 2660000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$131,000	\$0		\$131,000
Contracts	\$2,472,300	\$79,000	Federal, Private, PF	\$2,551,300
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	\$5,200	\$0		\$5,200
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$51,500	\$0		\$51,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$2,660,000	\$79,000		\$2,739,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF State Coordinator	0.02	3.00	\$5,200	\$0		\$5,200
PF Field Staff	0.40	3.00	\$94,400	\$0		\$94,400
PF Grants Staff	0.13	3.00	\$31,400	\$0		\$31,400
Total	0.55	9.00	\$131,000	\$0		\$131,000

Amount of Request: \$2,660,000

Amount of Leverage: \$79,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 2.97%

DSS + Personnel: \$182,500

As a % of the total request: 6.86%

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

PF utilizes the Total Modified Direct Cost method. This methodology is annually approved by the U.S. Department of Interior's National Business Center as the basis for the organization's Indirect Cost Rate agreement. PF's allowable direct support services cost is 4.12%. In this proposal, PF has discounted its rate to 2.0% of the sum of personnel, contracts, and travel. We are donating the difference in-kind.

What is included in the contacts line?

We anticipate that all of the contract funding will be used for enhancement activities.

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:

n/a

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

Leverage is expected from multiple sources including but not limited to federal sources, land value donations, contractor donations, and PF. Not every source is 100% confirmed at this point. However, PF has an exemplary track record of delivery and over-achievement of match commitments that further stretch OHF funding.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	26	52	0	0	78
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	26	7,233	0	0	7,259
Total	52	7,285	0	0	7,337

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	\$78,600	\$31,400	\$0	\$0	\$110,000
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	\$26,200	\$2,523,800	\$0	\$0	\$2,550,000
Total	\$104,800	\$2,555,200	\$0	\$0	\$2,660,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	18	18	0	42	0	78
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	131	1,572	0	5,556	0	7,259
Total	149	1,590	0	5,598	0	7,337

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0	\$97,000	\$0	\$110,000
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	\$46,900	\$562,500	\$0	\$1,940,600	\$0	\$2,550,000
Total	\$53,400	\$569,000	\$0	\$2,037,600	\$0	\$2,660,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$30 23	\$60 4	\$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	\$10 08	\$349	\$0	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$36 1	\$36 1	\$0	\$2310	\$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	\$358	\$358	\$0	\$349	\$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

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

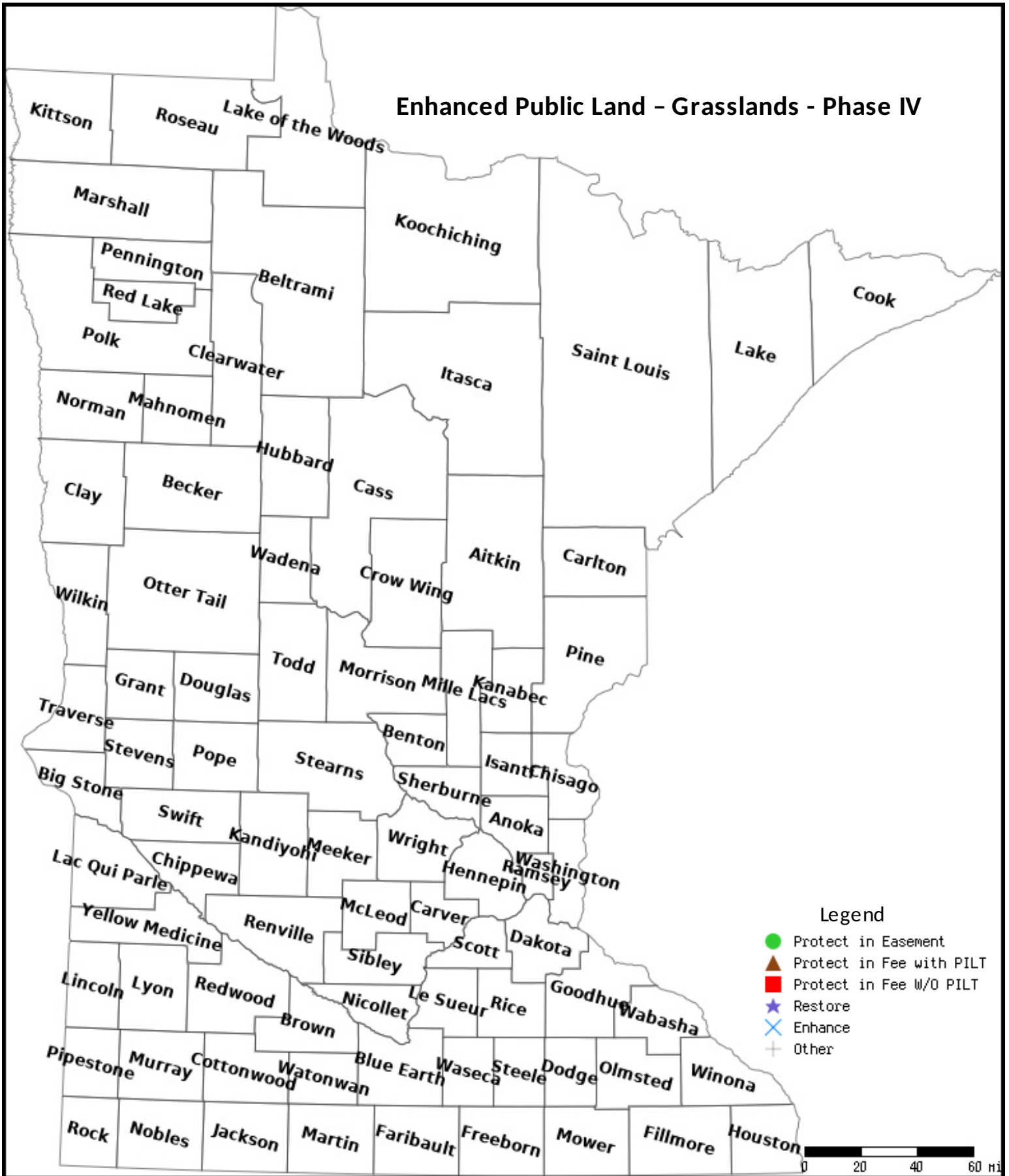
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands - Phase IV



Data Generated From Parcel List