

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Laws of Minnesota 2009 Final Report

Date: July 17, 2013

Program or Project Title: Accelerated Wildlife Management Area Acquisition, Phase 1

Funds Recommended: \$2,900,000

Manager's Name: Patrick Rivers

Title:

Organization: DNR

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Legislative Citation: ML 2009, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(a)

Appropriation Language: \$2,900,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire land for wildlife management areas. A list of proposed fee title acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Dakota, Isanti, Otter Tail, and Wright.

Ecological Planning Regions:

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Metro / Urban

Activity Type:

- Protect in Fee

Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Abstract:

This program protected and restored 734 acres of new wetland wildlife habitat in wetland complexes in Minnesota through fee title acquisition. Title of all lands acquired are held by the State and designated as Wildlife Management Area.

Activity Detail

Design and Scope of Work:

The Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan states that "Habitat fragmentation, degradation and loss are arguably the most important issues facing the conservation and preservation of Minnesota resources. Over 90% of Minnesota's prairie wetlands have been drained or filled, including 1,500 shallow wildlife lakes. Remaining wetlands and shallow lakes are in a degraded state and upland grass buffers have been largely converted to cropland. DNR acquired remaining and restorable wetlands and surrounding uplands in high priority wetland complexes as Wildlife Management Areas. Uplands have been or will be restored to native grassland buffers, wetlands have been or will be enhanced where possible and acquisitions will be developed to make them functional units in the outdoor recreation system. Collaborative partnerships were promoted in order to acquire key lands. DNR received a resolution from the County Board of Commissioners approving WMA acquisitions.

Planning

MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities:

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H4 Restore and protect shallow lakes
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Plans Addressed:

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN
- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda
- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

LSOHC Statewide Priorities:

- Allow public access. This comes into play when all other things about the request are approximately equal
- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Ensures activities for "protecting, restoring and enhancing" are coordinated among agencies, non profits and others while doing this important work
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities
- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model

LSOHC Forest Prairie Transition Section Priorities:

- Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife
- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

LSOHC Northern Forest Section Priorities:

- No Northern Forest Priorities Listed

LSOHC Metro Urban Section Priorities:

- Protect, enhance, and restore riparian and littoral habitats on lakes to benefit game and nongame fish species

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds:

- No Relationships Listed

Sustainability and Maintenance:

Lands acquired under this program were designated as State Wildlife Management Areas under authority of the Outdoor Recreation Act of 1978. Ongoing maintenance will be accomplished through routine management activities accomplished by our network of DNR offices. Periodic enhancements will be accomplished by existing staff, CCM crews, temporary project staffing or through vendor contract using traditional habitat project funding, bonding, and future requests for funding from dedicated funding sources. Payment in-lieu of tax payments are made to the counties from biennial appropriations by the Legislature from the general fund.

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Improved aquatic habitat indicators

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Improved aquatic habitat indicators
- Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors
- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need
- Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands
- Water is kept on the land

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need
- Protected habitats will hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount: \$2,900,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,800,000	\$2,814,200	\$0	\$1,712,600	multiple	\$2,800,000	\$4,526,800
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$100,000	\$84,700	\$0	\$24,100	multiple	\$100,000	\$108,800
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,900,000	\$2,898,900	\$0	\$1,736,700	-	\$2,900,000	\$4,635,600

Output Tables

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	140	320	560	414	0	0	0	0	700	734
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	140	320	560	414	0	0	0	0	700	734

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$560,000	\$337,400	\$2,340,000	\$2,561,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,900,000	\$2,898,900
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$560,000	\$337,400	\$2,340,000	\$2,561,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,900,000	\$2,898,900

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	Forest Prairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	533	533	115	115	0	0	0	0	86	86	734	734
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	533	533	115	115	0	0	0	0	86	86	734	734

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	Forest Prairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$2,034,000	\$2,034,000	\$742,700	\$742,700	\$0	\$0	\$8,300	\$7,300	\$114,900	\$114,900	\$2,899,900	\$2,898,900
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,034,000	\$2,034,000	\$742,700	\$742,700	\$0	\$0	\$8,300	\$7,300	\$114,900	\$114,900	\$2,899,900	\$2,898,900

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles (original)

0 miles

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles (final)

3 miles

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Vermillion River WMA	11419223	40	\$300,000	No	Full	Full

Isanti

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Becklin Homestead	13624213	85	\$275,000	No	Full	Full
Spencer Brook WMA	03525215	235	\$250,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Otter Tail

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Dead Lake WMA	13540220	115	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Full

Wright

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Pelican Lake WMA	12125234	258	\$800,000	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.

Completed Parcel: Becklin Homestead

# of Total Acres:	85
County:	Isanti
Township:	136
Range:	24
Direction:	2
Section:	13
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	50
# of Acres: Forest:	10
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	20
Amount of Shoreline:	6070 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Rum River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MnDNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5209
Purchase Date:	June 25, 2012
Purchase Price:	\$100,000
Appraised Value:	\$224,300
Professional Service Costs:	\$14,868
Total Project Cost:	\$114,868
Donations:	\$124,300
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Becklin Homestead WMA

Completed Parcel: Dead Lake WMA

# of Total Acres:	115
County:	Otter Tail
Township:	135
Range:	40
Direction:	2
Section:	20
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	15
# of Acres: Forest:	5
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	20
Amount of Shoreline:	6925 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Dead Lake
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MnDNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5209
Purchase Date:	June 16, 2010
Purchase Price:	\$722,500
Appraised Value:	\$1,487,500
Professional Service Costs:	\$20,153
Total Project Cost:	\$742,653
Donations:	\$765,000
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Dead Lake WMA

Completed Parcel: Pelican Lake WMA

of Total Acres: 258
County: Wright
Township: 121
Range: 25
Direction: 2
Section: 34
of Acres: Wetlands/Upland: 70
of Acres: Forest: 55
of Acres: Prairie/Grassland: 130
Amount of Shoreline: 1500 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable): Unnamed open water wetland
Has there been signage erected at the site: Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name: MnDNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name: Pat Rivers
Annual Reporting Address: 500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City: St. Paul
Annual Reporting State: MN
Annual Reporting Zip: 55155
Annual Reporting Email: Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone: 651.259.5209
Purchase Date: December 30, 2010
Purchase Price: \$1,600,000
Appraised Value: \$2,065,000
Professional Service Costs: \$43,139
Total Project Cost: \$1,643,139
Donations: \$465,000
Property Managed By: DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager: Pelican Lake WMA

Completed Parcel: Spencer Brook WMA

# of Total Acres:	235
County:	Isanti
Township:	035
Range:	25
Direction:	2
Section:	15
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	80
# of Acres: Forest:	35
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	75
Amount of Shoreline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MnDNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5209
Purchase Date:	December 21, 2010
Purchase Price:	\$191,700
Appraised Value:	\$610,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$15,563
Total Project Cost:	\$207,263
Donations:	\$418,300
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Spencer Brook WMA

Completed Parcel: Vermillion River WMA

# of Total Acres:	40
County:	Dakota
Township:	114
Range:	19
Direction:	2
Section:	23
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	15
# of Acres: Forest:	5
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	20
Amount of Shoreline:	130 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Vermillion River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MnDNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	Pat.Rivers@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5209
Purchase Date:	December 28, 2010
Purchase Price:	\$200,000
Appraised Value:	\$200,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$6,386
Total Project Cost:	\$206,386
Donations:	\$0
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Vermillion River WMA