

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Laws of Minnesota 2009 Final Report



**Date:** February 06, 2015

**Program or Project Title:** Cold Water River and Stream Restoration, Protection, and Enhancement, Phase 1

**Funds Recommended:** \$2,050,000

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**Legislative Citation:** ML 2009, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(c )

**Appropriation Language:** \$2,050,000 in fiscal year 2010 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Trout Unlimited or successor to restore, enhance, and protect cold water river and stream habitats in Minnesota. A list of proposed acquisitions and a list of proposed projects, describing the types and locations of restorations and enhancements, must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The commissioner of natural resources must agree to each proposed acquisition, restoration, and enhancement.

**County Locations:** Benton, Dakota, Fillmore, Goodhue, Hubbard, Olmsted, St. Louis, Wilkin, and Winona.

### Regions in which work will take place:

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

### Activity types:

- Restore
- Enhance

### Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat

## Abstract:

This program restored and enhanced in-stream and riparian fish and wildlife habitat in 12 watersheds across the state of Minnesota. The projects improved habitat for both game and non-game fish and wildlife species uniquely associated with cold water trout streams and provided expanded recreational opportunities for Minnesota anglers.

## Design and scope of work:

As part of our ongoing program of trout and salmon habitat restoration and enhancement, the Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited ("MNTU") identified the priority conservation projects listed below. MNTU restored or enhanced more acres and miles of stream habitat than originally targeted. We restored or enhanced 277 acres of in-stream and riparian fish and wildlife habitat in and along 21 miles of numerous Minnesota waters, including:

1. Hay Creek (Goodhue);

2. Kabekona Creek (Hubbard);
3. Lawndale Creek (Wilkin);
4. Little Rock Creek (Benton);
5. Middle Branch of Whitewater River (Olmsted);
6. Mill Creek (Fillmore);
7. Pickwick Creek (Winona);
8. Trout Run Creek (Fillmore);
9. Straight River (Hubbard);
10. Sucker River (St. Louis);
11. Vermillion River (Dakota);
12. Rush Creek (Winona).

Degraded cold water habitat is an important statewide conservation issue that requires immediate investment through habitat restoration and enhancement projects. The distinct natural resource characteristics of each ecologically distinct region of Minnesota, together with the variation in the type and magnitude of poor land uses practices in different watersheds, require that fish habitat restoration methods vary around the state. MNTU understands this and tailored projects accordingly. In the Lake Superior basin, this meant restoring in-stream cover logs; in Southeast Minnesota this meant restoring overhead bank cover, while drastically sloping soil back to remove thick sediment deposited from the uplands and restore streams' access to their floodplains; on the Straight River it meant placing whole trees in the overly wide channel to narrow and deepen it.

The projects undertaken by MNTU as part of this program were designed to accomplish a number of the following purposes: a) reduce stream bank erosion and associated sedimentation, b) reconnect streams to their floodplains to reduce negative impacts from severe flooding, c) increase natural reproduction of trout and other aquatic organisms, d) maintain or increase adult trout abundance, e) increase biodiversity for both in-stream and non-game species, f) be long lasting with minimal maintenance required, and g) improve angler access.

The results of the projects will be evaluated not only in measures of habitat restored and/or enhanced, but also through trout population assessments.

### Which LSOHC state-wide priorities are addressed in this proposal:

- Address conservation opportunities that will be lost if not immediately acted on
- Address wildlife species of greatest conservation need, Minnesota County Biological Survey data, and rare, threatened and endangered species inventories in land and water decisions, as well as permanent solutions to aquatic invasive species
- Allow public access. This comes into play when all other things about the request are approximately equal
- Are able to leverage effort and/or other funds to supplement any OHF appropriation
- 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
- Restore or enhance habitat on state-owned WMAs, AMAs, SNAs, and state forests
- Target unique Minnesota landscapes that have historical value to fish and wildlife
- 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

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

Prairie:

- Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

#### **Forest / Prairie Transition:**

- Not Listed

#### **Northern Forest:**

- Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

#### **Metro / Urban:**

- Enhance and restore coldwater fisheries systems

#### **Southeast Forest:**

- Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

### **Relationship to other funds:**

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

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

The habitat restoration and/or enhancement projects are designed for long-term ecological and hydraulic stability. Once they are completed we do not anticipate that there will be any significant maintenance required in order to sustain the habitat improvements for several decades. We anticipated that long-term monitoring of the integrity of the improvements and condition of vegetation will be done in conjunction with routine inspections and biological monitoring conducted by local DNR staff, MNTU members, or landowners as appropriate. This monitoring will not require separate OHF or other constitutional funding. Some subsequent cutting or treatment of invasive vegetation may be needed, and potential sources of funding and volunteer labor include MNTU, MNDNR AMA maintenance funding, and other grant funds and organizations.

### **Outcomes:**

#### **Programs in the northern forest region:**

- Not Listed

#### **How will they be measured and evaluated?**

The ultimate measure is whether the number of larger adult trout increases in these two streams. This will be measured over time via fish population surveys conducted by the MNDNR.

#### **Programs in forest-prairie transition region:**

- Not Listed

#### **How will they be measured and evaluated?**

Whether the channel narrows and deepens over time to create deeper cover habitat for trout. DNR stream surveys will document this over time.

#### **Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:**

- Not Listed

#### **How will they be measured and evaluated?**

The outcome of more trout will be measured over time via fish population surveys conducted by the MNDNR. The outcome of greater

angler use can be observed or quantified via a creel survey conducted by DNR.

**Programs in southeast forest region:**

- Not Listed

**How will they be measured and evaluated?**

The ultimate measure is whether the trout populations increase and/or the number of larger trout increases in these streams. This will be measured over time via fish population surveys which are periodically conducted by the MNDNR.

**Programs in prairie region:**

- Not Listed

**How will they be measured and evaluated?**

The outcome of an increased trout population will be measured over time via fish population surveys conducted by the MNDNR.

# Budget Spreadsheet

Final Budget line item reallocations are allowed up to 10% and do not need require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

Total Amount: \$2,050,000

## Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$95,000	\$79,300	\$0	\$0		\$95,000	\$79,300
Contracts	\$867,000	\$821,400	\$0	\$400,000	Federal, TU and State	\$867,000	\$1,221,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
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	\$2,900	\$0	\$1,400	Trout Unlimited	\$0	\$4,300
Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
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	\$1,088,000	\$1,146,400	\$0	\$370,000	Federal, TU and State	\$1,088,000	\$1,516,400
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,050,000	\$2,050,000	\$0	\$771,400		\$2,050,000	\$2,821,400

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	Spent	Cash Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project administrator	0.43	5.00	\$73,300	\$0		\$73,300
Project manager	0.13	5.00	\$6,000	\$0		\$6,000
Comptroller	0.13	5.00	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	0.68	15.00	\$79,300	\$0		\$79,300

## Output Tables

**Table 1a. 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	160	175	160	175
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	96	102	96	102
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	256	277	256	277

**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	\$1,730,000	\$1,725,000	\$1,730,000	\$1,725,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	\$320,000	\$325,000	\$320,000	\$325,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,050,000	\$2,050,000	\$2,050,000	\$2,050,000

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (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	23	0	5	0	96	0	42	0	9	0	175
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	12	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	102
Total	0	23	0	17	0	186	0	42	0	9	0	277

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (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	\$228,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,391,000	\$0	\$65,000	\$0	\$40,000	\$0	\$1,725,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	\$310,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$325,000
Total	\$0	\$228,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,701,000	\$0	\$65,000	\$0	\$55,000	\$0	\$2,050,000

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (original)**

0

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (final)**

21.0

## Parcel List

### Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

#### Benton

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Little Rock Creek	03831203	5	\$1,000	Yes

#### Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Vermillion River #1	11418219	11	\$74,000	Yes
Vermillion River #2	11419222	12	\$154,000	Yes

#### Fillmore

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Several creeks	10411218	90	\$310,000	Yes

#### Goodhue

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Hay Creek	11215226	19	\$140,000	Yes

#### Hubbard

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Kabekona Creek	14332207	6	\$9,000	Yes
Straight River	13935205	12	\$15,000	Yes

#### Olmsted

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Middle Branch Whitewater River	10711226	37	\$366,000	Yes
Mill Creek	10512223	10	\$329,000	Yes
Trout Run Creek	10510230	7	\$135,000	Yes

#### St. Louis

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Sucker River	05212218	3	\$31,000	Yes

#### Wilkin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Lawndale Creek	13646234	42	\$65,000	Yes

#### Winona

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Pickwick Creek	10606224	17	\$349,000	Yes
Rush Creek	10508233	6	\$72,000	Yes

### 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.



## Completed Parcel: Hay Creek

# of Total Acres:	19
County:	Goodhue
Township:	112
Range:	15
Direction:	2
Section:	26
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	8200 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Hay Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

## Completed Parcel: Kabekona Creek

# of Total Acres:	6
County:	Hubbard
Township:	143
Range:	32
Direction:	2
Section:	07
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	2800 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Kabekona Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

## Completed Parcel: Lawndale Creek

# of Total Acres:	42
County:	Wilkin
Township:	136
Range:	46
Direction:	2
Section:	34
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	18480 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Lawndale Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

## Completed Parcel: Little Rock Creek

# of Total Acres:	5
County:	Benton
Township:	038
Range:	31
Direction:	2
Section:	03
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	2000 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Little Rock Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

## Completed Parcel: Middle Branch Whitewater River

# of Total Acres:	37
County:	Olmsted
Township:	107
Range:	11
Direction:	2
Section:	26
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	16300 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Middle Branch Whitewater River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

## Completed Parcel: Mill Creek

# of Total Acres:	10
County:	Olmsted
Township:	105
Range:	12
Direction:	2
Section:	23
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	4600 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Mill Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

## Completed Parcel: Pickwick Creek

# of Total Acres:	17
County:	Winona
Township:	106
Range:	06
Direction:	2
Section:	24
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	7400 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Pickwick Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

## Completed Parcel: Rush Creek

# of Total Acres:	6
County:	Winona
Township:	105
Range:	08
Direction:	2
Section:	33
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	2700 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Rush Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0



## Completed Parcel: Several creeks

<b># of Total Acres:</b>	90
<b>County:</b>	Fillmore
<b>Township:</b>	104
<b>Range:</b>	11
<b>Direction:</b>	2
<b>Section:</b>	18
<b># of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Forest:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:</b>	
<b>Amount of Shoreline:</b>	33000 (Linear Feet)
<b>Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):</b>	Lost Creek; Hay Creek; Pickwick Creek; Pine Creek; West Indian Creek
<b>Has there been signage erected at the site:</b>	Yes
<b>Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:</b>	\$0

## Completed Parcel: Straight River

# of Total Acres:	12
County:	Hubbard
Township:	139
Range:	35
Direction:	2
Section:	05
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	5280 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Straight River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

## Completed Parcel: Sucker River

# of Total Acres:	3
County:	St. Louis
Township:	052
Range:	12
Direction:	2
Section:	18
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	1300 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Sucker River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

## Completed Parcel: Trout Run Creek

# of Total Acres:	7
County:	Olmsted
Township:	105
Range:	10
Direction:	2
Section:	30
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	2900 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Trout Run Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

## Completed Parcel: Vermillion River #1

# of Total Acres:	11
County:	Dakota
Township:	114
Range:	18
Direction:	2
Section:	19
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	4900 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Vermillion River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

## Completed Parcel: Vermillion River #2

# of Total Acres:	12
County:	Dakota
Township:	114
Range:	19
Direction:	2
Section:	22
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	5000 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Vermillion River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

# Parcel Map

## Cold Water River and Stream Restoration, Protection, and Enhancement, Phase 1

