

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2010 Final Report



Date: November 07, 2016

Program or Project Title: Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Acceleration , Phase 1

Funds Recommended: \$1,000,000

Manager's Name: Rick Walsh
Organization: DNR
Address: 500 Lafayette Road
City: Saint Paul, 55155
Office Number: 6512595232
Email: rick.walsh@state.mn.us

Legislative Citation: ML 2010, Ch. 361, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(g)

Appropriation Language: \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2011 is to the commissioner of natural resources to accelerate agency programs and for cooperative agreements to acquire land in the Root River watershed. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The commissioner of natural resources must agree in writing to each proposed acquisition, restoration, and enhancement. All restorations must comply with subdivision 9, paragraph (b).

County Locations: Houston

Regions in which work was completed:

- Southeast Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie

Summary of Accomplishments:

This program resulted in permanent protection of three parcels totaling 350 acres. All three parcels are now being managed as Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) by MN DNR. This exceeds the original goal of 319 acres. Acquisition of two other parcels were attempted, but the offers were turned down by the sellers.

The Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Partnership is a long-term effort to restore habitat connectivity and improve water quality in critical areas along the Mississippi River corridor from the Twin Cities to the Iowa border by reconnecting tributaries to their floodplains, revitalizing backwaters and channels, and protecting and restoring floodplain forests, wetlands, and prairies that are essential to sustaining the incredible diversity of plants, animals, and human uses provided by this great river. Critical areas include the lower reaches of the Root, Zumbro, Cannon, and Vermillion Rivers, and the backwaters and channels of Mississippi River Pools 2 and 3 (St. Paul to Red Wing). FY2011 funding from the LSOHC focused on acquisition and restoration of key parcels in the Lower Root River floodplain. Acquisitions will be completed by the MN Dept of Natural Resources and restoration will be accomplished through outside contracts.

Process & Methods:

MN DNR protected lands in the SE bluffland ecological section with this appropriation, and has or will restore grassland by planting

native prairie. DNR prioritizes acquisitions at sites where there is an existing habitat base to address fragmentation and to maximize habitat benefits. Potential acquisitions are scored and ranked on numerous ecological and management criteria. DNR seeks out willing landowners and conducts all transactions in accordance with state law and departmental policy. County Board approval is obtained for all WMA acquisitions.

Three properties totaling over 400 acres are now permanently protected as a result of acquisitions funded by this program. This appropriation provided funding for 350 of those acres. Additional acres were funded by a Phase II OHF appropriation. We were able to meet or nearly meet our original goals for forest and wetland acres protected, but failed to meet our prairie protection goal. The final and largest parcel acquired with this funding was dominated by wetland and forest habitat, so we fell about 20% short of the prairie goal.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition:

To accomplish this program, DNR partnered with The Conservation Fund and the USFWS.

The Conservation Fund was engaged to facilitate the acquisition of the final tract for this appropriation. The owners of that land had expectations for a closing date the DNR would not have been able to meet. The Conservation Fund was able to successfully acquire the tract at almost \$50,000 below appraised value. They also contributed significant non-reimbursed staff time and resources.

Partnership with the USFWS was in the form of funding. Federal funds for stream restoration planning were awarded. Not only did this allow additional work to be done, it extending the availability of the appropriation. Extending appropriation availability was crucial to ensure adequate time to acquire the last parcel, and meet program goals.

Additional Comments:

Exceptional challenges, expectations, failures, opportunities, or unique aspects of program

Not Listed

Other Funds Received:

- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM); TUDARE/USFWS

How were the funds used to advanced the program:

The seller of one parcel sold for \$47,000 under appraised value. This donation resulted in a 1:1 match from RIM. The \$47,000 in RIM match was applied to the cost of completing the acquisition.

A small grant from the USFWS was awarded to help with planning and design of a river restoration project situated on one of the acquired parcels.

What is the plan to sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

All sites funded through this proposal are or will be state lands, and are part of the state outdoor recreation system. Ongoing maintenance will be accomplished through routine management activities accomplished by our network of DNR offices. Periodic enhancements will be accomplished by existing staff, MCC crews, temporary project staffing or through vendor contract using traditional habitat project funding, bonding, and future requests for funding from dedicated funding sources.

Outcomes:

The original accomplishment plan stated the program would

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Not Listed

How will the outcomes be measured and evaluated?

Outcomes not defined.

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: \$1,000,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Contracts	\$78,400	\$4,200	\$0	\$0		\$78,400	\$4,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$921,600	\$880,300	\$0	\$49,000	RIM; TUDARE	\$921,600	\$929,300
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	\$0	\$74,100	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$74,100
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$800	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$800
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	\$11,100	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$11,100
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,000,000	\$970,500	\$0	\$49,000		\$1,000,000	\$1,019,500

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

This appropriation life span crossed over a major upgrade in the statewide accounting system used by all state agencies. The former system (MAPS) was not capable of tracking cast by specific acquisitions, whereas the new system (SWIFT) is. Therefore some of the expenditures under the old system are subject to error. But this would apply only to the first year of Professional Services spending under this appropriation. The overall uncertainty is less than \$1,000.

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	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	86	151	135	113	98	86	0	0	319	350
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	86	151	135	113	98	86	0	0	319	350

Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?

Type	Native Prairie (original)	Native Prairie (final)
Restore	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0
Enhance	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 2. Total 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	\$253,500	\$417,300	\$430,500	\$242,600	\$316,000	\$310,600	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$970,500
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	\$253,500	\$417,300	\$430,500	\$242,600	\$316,000	\$310,600	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$970,500

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	319	350	0	0	0	0	319	350
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	0	0	0	0	319	350	0	0	0	0	319	350

Table 4. Total 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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$970,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$970,500
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$970,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$970,500

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

0

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

0

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals:

Not Listed

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Houston

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Mound Prairie WMA Tract 3	10405228	65	\$196,300	No			
Parcel A Root River WMA	10404235	215	\$500,000	No			
Root River WMA Parcel 12A	10404229	70	\$184,000	No			

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: Mound Prairie WMA Tract 3

# of Total Acres:	65
County:	Houston
Township:	104
Range:	05
Direction:	2
Section:	28
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	53
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	12
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MN DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers (Rick Walsh)
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	rick.walsh@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	6512595232
Purchase Date:	May 25, 2012
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$196,330
Appraised Value:	\$196,300
Professional Service Costs:	\$34,345
Assessed Value:	\$134,000
Total Project Cost:	\$198,916
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$0
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Mound Prairie WMA

Completed Parcel: Parcel A Root River WMA

# of Total Acres:	215
County:	Houston
Township:	104
Range:	04
Direction:	2
Section:	35
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	94
# of Acres: Forest:	86
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	35
Amount of Shoreline:	4705 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Root River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers (Rick Walsh)
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	rick.walsh@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651-259-5232
Purchase Date:	September 08, 2014
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$500,000
Appraised Value:	\$717,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$80,210
Assessed Value:	\$468,700
Total Project Cost:	\$670,000
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$0
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Root River WMA

Completed Parcel: Root River WMA Parcel 12A

# of Total Acres:	70
County:	Houston
Township:	104
Range:	04
Direction:	2
Section:	29
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	4
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	66
Amount of Shoreline:	1675 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	unnamed stream
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Pat Rivers (Rick Walsh)
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	rick.walsh@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	6512595232
Purchase Date:	August 05, 2011
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$184,000
Appraised Value:	\$184,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$9,338
Assessed Value:	\$192,400
Total Project Cost:	\$184,000
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$0
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Root River WMA

Parcel Map

Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Acceleration , Phase 1

