

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2012 Final Report



Date: March 31, 2017

Program or Project Title: Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program , Phase 4

Funds Recommended: \$3,300,000

Manager's Name: Eran Sandquist

Organization: Pheasants Forever

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Legislative Citation: ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(f)

Appropriation Language: \$3,300,000 in the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire land in fee for wildlife management area purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Cottonwood, Kandiyohi, Le Sueur, McLeod, Renville, Stearns, and Yellow Medicine.

Regions in which work was completed:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Summary of Accomplishments:

The proposal was to accelerate the protection of 550 acres of prairie grassland, wetland, and other wildlife habitat as State Wildlife Management Areas open to public hunting. However, over the course of the appropriation, we acquired seven parcels for a total of 638 acres which exceeded our total acre goal of 550 acres by 88 acres. Breaking down acres by ecological section we exceeded our 440 acre goal for the prairie region by 171 acres. We have a balance of \$62,300 that will be returned to the Fund despite exceeding our acre goals.

In total, we under spent on our budget, over delivered on acre goals, and over delivered on match leverage received while using less personnel costs than proposed.

One tract of significance worth mentioning is Mel Roehrl WMA which was one of the largest permanent protection projects in this proposal at 110 acres. The Mel Roehrl WMA Addition builds on the existing 197 acre Mel Roehrl WMA. Within three miles of this tract there are four WPAs totaling 491 acres, two SNAs totaling 226 acres, and one 197 acre WMA. In addition there are numerous perpetual USFWS conservation easements in this area. This habitat complex is a mere 22 miles from Alexandria in western Stearns County, has outstanding grasslands, wetlands and winter habitat and is located in an area of the county with large numbers of existing CRP tracts. Opportunities for public hunting and trapping is very high. This area is a notable pheasant and deer hunting area of the county. This tract, like many of the other tracts purchased in this proposal, are within identified priority areas by MN DNR, USFWS, and other

partners. Some of the factors we use to prioritize acquisitions are Grassland Bird Conservation Areas, Fish and Wildlife habitat rankings (e.g. HAPET scores, duck nesting pair density), and stateside plans (e.g. Pheasant Action Plan, Wildlife Action Plan). In addition we use site specific factors such as rare species, native prairie, and restoration potential to decide which tracts will best benefit fish, game, and wildlife.

Process & Methods:

Working in close collaboration with partners, Pheasants Forever acquired 638 acres of strategic habitat that builds onto existing protected lands and/or develops corridors for wildlife. All lands acquired have been enrolled into the state Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Program and will be protected and managed in perpetuity by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. We have worked together with federal, state and local partners when acquiring the seven parcels which will now be celebrated as new WMAs. These new additions to existing WMAs not only provides access and recreational opportunities for all Minnesotans, but helps reduce erosion, improve water filtration, and provide quality habitat for many of Minnesota's non-game species.

The offers to the landowner were based on fair market values and appraisals. The acquired parcels addressed a backlog of willing sellers that now are helping slow the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of habitat in Minnesota. Parcels were identified jointly with the MN DNR, ranked, and prioritized on habitat goals and feasibility. Pheasants Forever's methods are formed around the principle of accelerating the Wildlife Production Area program in MN by targeting only the best available habitat with willing sellers. We utilize local partner expertise to focus on building a system of interconnected wildlife complexes that create habitat mosaics. We also utilize the latest geospatial layers to help determine factors such as: habitat restoration potential, landscape scale significance, presence of rare features and native habitat, and how these acquisitions fit into other priorities for our partners such as the MN prairie Conservation Plan, the Pheasant Action Plan, or the State Wildlife Action Plan to name a few.

All parcels acquired have been restored and/or enhanced to as a high quality as practicable. All agricultural row crops on these parcels have been restored to native grassland/wetland complexes. The grasslands were restored using a broadcast or drill seeded method with a diverse mix of native grasses and forb species. Wetlands were restored using a combination of tile breaking, sediment removal, dike construction, and water control structures. Scattered invasive tree removal and prescribed fire were used where appropriate to enhance existing grassland habitat after protection.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition:

We worked in close collaboration with MN DNR to find and evaluate the best properties to peruse based on the criteria listed in the process and methods section. During the process, we also worked with many other partners to gauge interest levels and determine if the property is suitable for a Wildlife Management Area.

Additional Comments:

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

There were no exceptional failures or challenges that were encountered. This is due in part to our high level of collaboration and efficiency. We also strive to be respectful and accommodating in helping to facilitate landowners wishes when working with willing sellers as many see this as leaving their own habitat legacy.

Other Funds Received:

- Not Listed

How were the funds used to advanced the program:

Not Listed

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

All parcels acquired have been transferred to the MN DNR for enrollment into the Wildlife Management Area program. All parcels were acquired then restored as part of this effort. The long-term management & maintenance of these new WMAs will be the responsibility of the MN DNR. Pheasants Forever is also active in additional habitat enhancement and restoration activities on existing public lands where there is a need.

Outcomes:

The original accomplishment plan stated the program would

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Not Listed

How will the outcomes be measured and evaluated?

Not Listed

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Not Listed

How will the outcomes be measured and evaluated?

Not Listed

Programs in prairie region:

- Short-term and Intermediate Outcomes: Agricultural lands are converted to grassland/wetland complexes resulting in net-gain of wildlife habitat. (225 acres of 550 proposed acquired acres converted), Improved access to public lands (550 additional acres of previously private lands protected and opened permanently for public access). Long Term and End Results: This proposal is working towards a long term outcome of creating stable and/or increasing wildlife populations of game and non-game species while increasing opportunities for wildlife dependent recreation through an increase in permanently protected public lands.

How will the outcomes be measured and evaluated?

We over delivered on our measurable short-term outcomes as defined in our accomplishment plan as follows: 1) We restored 329 acres of agricultural land back to grassland and wetland complexes resulting in net-gain of wildlife habitat, 2) We created new public land access to 638 acres of now permanently protected habitat that builds on existing protected lands and creates an essential mosaic of habitat complexes. These short term outcomes contribute to our long term goals of creating stable and/or increasing game and non-game wildlife populations while increasing opportunities for wildlife dependent recreation by the public.

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: \$3,300,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$40,000	\$27,000	\$0	\$0		\$40,000	\$27,000
Contracts	\$169,000	\$135,700	\$30,000	\$26,900	PF, Fed, Private	\$199,000	\$162,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$3,000,000	\$3,002,600	\$300,000	\$507,200	PF, Fed, Private	\$3,300,000	\$3,509,800
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	\$70,000	\$51,400	\$0	\$0		\$70,000	\$51,400
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$0	\$0		\$21,000	\$21,000
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	\$3,300,000	\$3,237,700	\$330,000	\$534,100		\$3,630,000	\$3,771,800

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	Spent	Cash Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF Director of Conservation	0.03	3.00	\$10,100	\$0		\$10,100
PF Regional Staff (2)	0.03	3.00	\$13,500	\$0		\$13,500
Acquisition Specialist	0.03	3.00	\$3,400	\$0		\$3,400
Total	0.09	9.00	\$27,000	\$0		\$27,000

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Pheasants Forever and our partners are happy to bring in over \$534,100 of non-state match dollars to this effort. This represents \$204,100 additional dollars (beyond our \$330,000 goal) brought to bear on the projects of this appropriation. We also came in significantly under budget for personal costs, using only \$27,000 of the \$40,000 budgeted to buy more acres than our original proposal. This demonstrates the efficiency of Pheasants Forever as the economical provider for building Wildlife Management Areas. No challenges were encountered and PF achieved and exceeded all outlined goals within the budget.

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	110	73	440	565	0	0	0	0	550	638
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	110	73	440	565	0	0	0	0	550	638

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	\$660,000	\$368,100	\$2,640,000	\$2,869,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,300,000	\$3,237,700
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	\$660,000	\$368,100	\$2,640,000	\$2,869,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,300,000	\$3,237,700

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	30	27	80	0	0	0	440	611	0	0	550	638
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	30	27	80	0	0	0	440	611	0	0	550	638

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	\$165,000	\$146,200	\$495,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,640,000	\$3,091,500	\$0	\$0	\$3,300,000	\$3,237,700
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	\$165,000	\$146,200	\$495,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,640,000	\$3,091,500	\$0	\$0	\$3,300,000	\$3,237,700

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

0

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

0.72 miles

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals:

We acquired 7 parcels for a total of 638 acres which exceeded our total acre goal of 550 acres by 88 acres. Breaking down acres by ecological section we exceed our 440 acre goal for the prairie region by 171 acres. In the metro region we were short of our 30 acre goal by 3 acres.

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Cottonwood

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Farhagen WMA	10536211	104	\$708,000	No	Full	Not Applicable	

Kandiyohi

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Dalton Johnson WMA Addition	11733221	19	\$31,500	No			

Le Sueur

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Sanborn WMA Tr 1	11223226	218	\$1,270,000	No	Full	Full	

McLeod

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Rich Valley WMA Tr.2	11628219	27	\$136,000	No	Full	Not Applicable	

Renville

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Beaver Falls WMA Addition	11335225	80	\$403,500	No	Yes		

Stearns

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Mel Roerhl WMA Addition	12535233	110	\$87,306	No	Yes		

Yellow Medicine

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Dennis Haaland WMA Addition	11543236	80	\$280,000	No	yes		

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: Beaver Falls WMA Addition

# of Total Acres:	80
County:	Renville
Township:	113
Range:	35
Direction:	2
Section:	25
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	1.91
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	78.09
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:	Kim Hennings
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	kim.hennings@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	6512595220
Purchase Date:	December 31, 2012
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$403,500
Appraised Value:	\$403,500
Professional Service Costs:	\$5,475
Assessed Value:	\$233,500
Total Project Cost:	\$403,500
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:	Jeff Zajac

Completed Parcel: Dalton Johnson WMA Addition

# of Total Acres:	19
County:	Kandiyohi
Township:	117
Range:	33
Direction:	2
Section:	21
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	2.68
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	16.52
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:	Kim Hennings
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	kim.hennings@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	6512595220
Purchase Date:	April 30, 2014
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$31,500
Appraised Value:	\$31,500
Professional Service Costs:	\$9,043
Assessed Value:	\$74,600
Total Project Cost:	\$31,500
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:	Cory Netland

Completed Parcel: Dennis Haaland WMA Addition

# of Total Acres:	80
County:	Yellow Medicine
Township:	115
Range:	43
Direction:	2
Section:	36
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	4.04
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	75.96
Amount of Shoreline:	811.56 (Linear Feet)
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:	Kim Hennings
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	kim.hennings@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	6512595220
Purchase Date:	March 15, 2013
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$280,000
Appraised Value:	\$280,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$8,664
Assessed Value:	\$331,100
Total Project Cost:	\$280,000
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:	Wendy Krueger

Completed Parcel: Farhagen WMA

# of Total Acres:	104
County:	Cottonwood
Township:	105
Range:	36
Direction:	2
Section:	11
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	104
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:	Kim Hennings
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Rd
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	kim.hennings@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	6512595220
Purchase Date:	November 19, 2012
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$728,000
Appraised Value:	\$813,500
Professional Service Costs:	\$8,636
Assessed Value:	\$693,400
Total Project Cost:	\$813,500
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$85,500
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Randy Markl

Completed Parcel: Mel Roerhl WMA Addition

# of Total Acres:	110
County:	Stearns
Township:	125
Range:	35
Direction:	2
Section:	33
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	42.82
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	67.18
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:	Kim Hennings
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	kim.hennings@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	6512595220
Purchase Date:	December 04, 2012
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$390,000
Appraised Value:	\$395,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$6,623
Assessed Value:	\$212,300
Total Project Cost:	\$395,000
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$5,000
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Fred Bengtson

Completed Parcel: Rich Valley WMA Tr.2

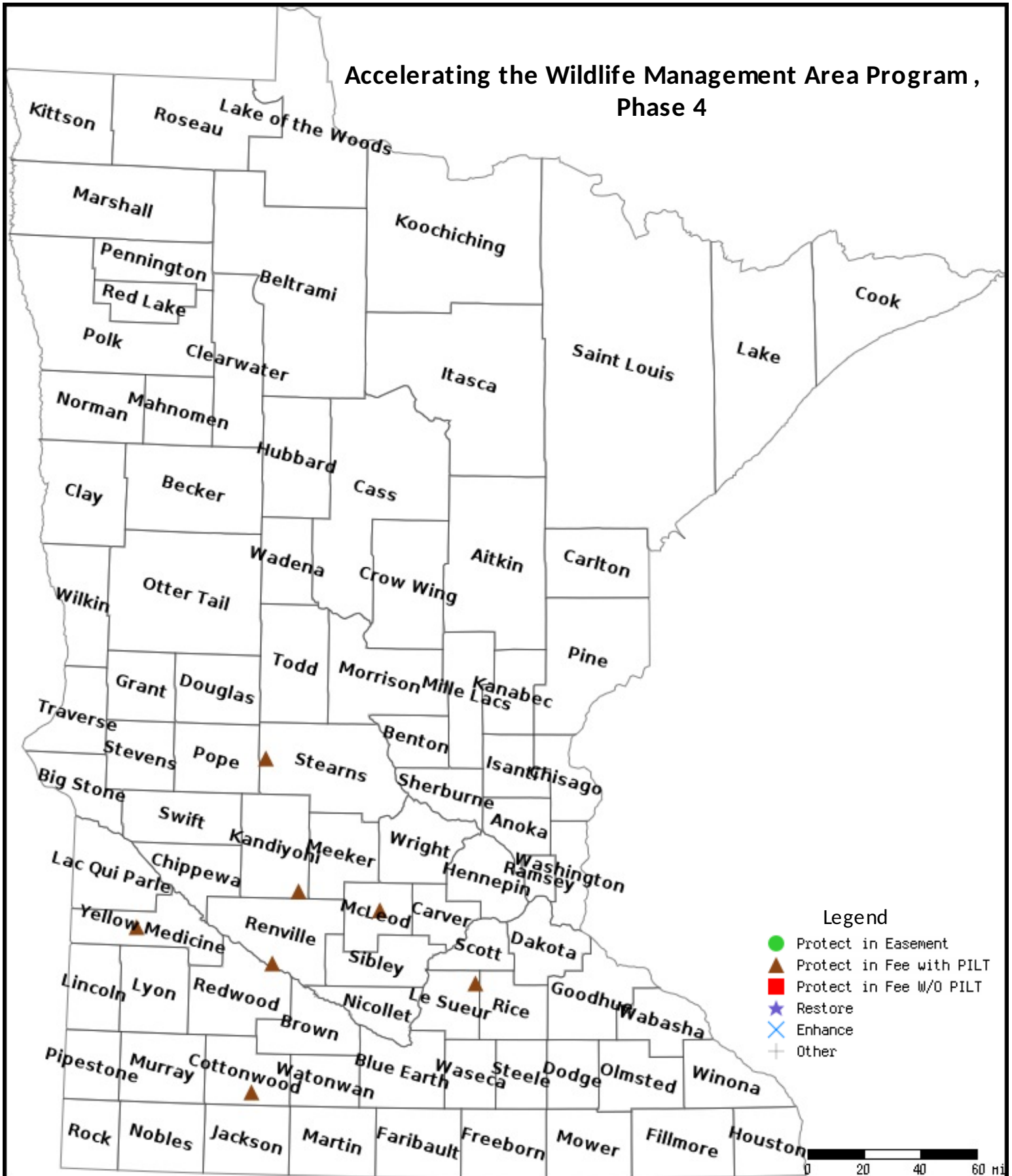
# of Total Acres:	27
County:	McLeod
Township:	116
Range:	28
Direction:	2
Section:	19
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	1.91
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	25.52
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MN DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Kim Hennings
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	kim.hennings@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	6512595220
Purchase Date:	March 07, 2014
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$136,000
Appraised Value:	\$153,589
Professional Service Costs:	\$10,133
Assessed Value:	\$97,961
Total Project Cost:	\$151,345
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$64,000
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Joe Stangl

Completed Parcel: Sanborn WMA Tr 1

# of Total Acres:	218
County:	Le Sueur
Township:	112
Range:	23
Direction:	2
Section:	26
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	19.27
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	198.27
Amount of Shoreline:	3009 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Sanborn Lake
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MN DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Kim Hennings
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	kim.hennings@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	6512595220
Purchase Date:	September 28, 2012
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$1,270,000
Appraised Value:	\$1,300,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$34,625
Assessed Value:	\$1,024,000
Total Project Cost:	\$1,300,000
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$30,000
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Joe Stangl

Parcel Map

Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program , Phase 4



Data Generated From Parcel List