

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2012 Accomplishment Plan



Date: October 01, 2014

Program or Project Title: Protecting Mississippi River Corridor Habitat ACUB Partnership , Phase 2

Funds Recommended: \$ 480,000

Manager's Name: Dan Steward

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Legislative Citation: ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a)

Appropriation Language: \$480,000 in the second year is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements on land adjacent to the Nokasippi River and the boundaries of the Minnesota National Guard Army compatible use buffer (ACUB). A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The accomplishment plan must include an easement stewardship plan. Up to \$4,800 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund and a description of annual monitoring and enforcement activities

County Locations: Crow Wing, and Morrison.

Regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Habitat
- Prairie
- Wetlands

Abstract:

Convey two ACUB/RIM Easements on 494.3 acres of high quality, riparian habitat in the Little Nokasippi WMA area of influence to enhance the project Phase 2, and provide lasting wildlife habitat.

Design and scope of work:

The easements will protect 11,400' (2.15 miles) of the Nokasippi River, 102.0 acres of wetlands (50.15 acres of deepwater aquatic habitat DNR protected lakes and 51.85 acres of undisturbed wetlands), 63.0 acres of prairie, and 325.0 acres of forested hardwoods and softwoods. These properties lie within the ACUB (Army Compatible Use Buffer) zone as it was reassessed . These easement s continues the Phase 2 effort of buffering the Little Nokasippi WMA complex which is the largest public hunting opportunity adjacent to the Mississippi between Brainerd and Anoka. It will be the largest single owner parcel in the WMA buffering initiative, but also a unique opportunity to protect one parcel that has had only two owners in 120 years. The area would lend itself to prime development if not protected while there are willing landowners. The property is vulnerable for development because it is made up of the type of waters, hills, and forest that are highly desired for residential development. In addition the property is very near black top infrastructure of Co.

Rd. 2 and MN State Hwy 371. The interagency interdisciplinary project review team ranked these parcels as having the highest habitat value .

There is no stakeholder opposition.

Planning

The landscape within which the projects are located is designated as one of the highest biodiversity landscapes in the state. The designation resulted from an eco-regional planning process through The Nature Conservancy which defined the landscape as the most functional/intact landscape within the Prairie Forest Eco-region. Also unique to the project area is the position within a larger habitat complex that encompasses the Mississippi River Corridor including the Mississippi Flyway and the rugged Eastern Bluff shoreline. What's more the WMA includes the confluence of the Little Nokasippi River and the Nokasippi River which occupies 4,498 feet and 13,161 feet of river shoreline, respectively. The confluence of the Nokasippi River with the Mississippi River is located about 1,000 feet west of the WMA. The habitat value of the project is reflected in the science based planning process that included the entire area as an Important Birding Area (IBA) in according to the Audubon Society. The Little Nokasippi River WMA expansion ranks 10 among all WMA projects for the MNDNR.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- The Little Nokasippi River WMA

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

- Address conservation opportunities that will be lost if not immediately acted on
- 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
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Forest / Prairie Transition:

- 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

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

How does this proposal accelerate or supplement your current efforts in this area:

Without LSOHC funding, we have no ability to convey easements on these parcels. RIM is not extended up here at the present time. There is no other source of funding for the project.

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

These easements are perpetual. Monitoring will occur every other year in perpetuity, by the Morrison SWCD in coordination with BWSR. Maintenance of the properties is the responsibility of the landowner but tied to a Conservation Plan describing the habitat as it is and restrictions of the easement. The BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry-out oversight monitoring and inspection of its conservation easements. Easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted and document findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Activity Details:

Will the eased land be open for public use - **No**

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection - **Yes**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Applications (already prepared and signed by landowners) - Submitting to BWSR upon funding July 1, 2012	June 30, 2014
RIM easements recorded	September 30, 2014

Outcomes:

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced aspen parklands and riparian areas
- These are protection easements prohibiting conversion of the high quality habitat or any future structure development. Since BWSR easements are perpetual, there can never be any changes to land use. Preserving the rural and natural aesthetics of Crow Wing and Morrison Co, 2) Long-term protection within Audubon IBA

Budget Spreadsheet

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

Total Amount of Request: \$ 480000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	\$2,400	\$0		\$2,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$473,900	\$0		\$473,900
Easement Stewardship	\$2,400	\$0		\$2,400
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$1,300	\$0		\$1,300
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	\$480,000	\$0		\$480,000

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	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	103	63	328	0	494
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	103	63	328	0	494

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 Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$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	\$100,900	\$59,500	\$319,600	\$0	\$480,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$100,900	\$59,500	\$319,600	\$0	\$480,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	494	0	0	0	494
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	494	0	0	0	494

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	\$480,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$480,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$480,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$480,000

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

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

Crow Wing

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Mervin Eisel	04331218	449	\$411,900	No	No	No

Morrison

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Tom Goebel	13029229	45	\$62,000	No	No	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: Mervin Eisel

# of Total Acres:	449
County:	Crow Wing
Township:	043
Range:	31
Direction:	2
Section:	18
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	

Completed Parcel: Tom Goebel

# of Total Acres:	45
County:	Morrison
Township:	130
Range:	29
Direction:	2
Section:	29
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	

Parcel Map

Protecting Mississippi River Corridor Habitat ACUB Partnership , Phase 2

