

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2015 Accomplishment Plan



Date: August 08, 2019

Program or Project Title: Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex - Phase V

Funds Recommended: \$ 1,380,000

Manager's Name: Bob McGillivray

Title: Senior Project Manager

Organization: The Trust for Public Land

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Legislative Citation: ML 2015, First Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(g)

Appropriation Language: \$1,380,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with The Trust for Public Land to acquire and restore lands in the Cannon River watershed for wildlife management purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be given to acquisition of lands that are eligible for the native prairie bank under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Goodhue, Le Sueur, and Rice.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Habitat
- Prairie
- Wetlands

Abstract:

Protect approximately 276 acres in and near the Cannon River Watershed, including wetlands, prairies, Big Woods forest, and river and shallow lake shoreline to reverse habitat loss, improve watershed function and provide access.

Design and scope of work:

The Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex Phase V effort will prevent degradation and loss of quality and diversity of habitat in the prairie section of the State as well as degradation of water quality in the Cannon River watershed. In addition, it will increase the amount of available public lands for hunting and angling opportunities, especially within an easy drive for over half of the state's population.

Located south of the Twin Cities metro in an area that has seen development pressure due to the I-35 corridor and the Cannon Lakes,

much of this area has already suffered fragmentation and habitat loss. Historically inhabited by Big Woods, the landscape is now dominated by agricultural fields and, to a lesser extent, development. Agricultural practices and shoreline development are also the major contributors to the impaired status of stretches of the Cannon River and its associated lakes and streams.

This conservation effort is part of a multi-year effort that includes acquisition, protection, and restoration of core parcels of land that will contribute to a large complex of restored prairies, grasslands, wetlands, lakeshore, and river shoreline.

The DNR's Southern Region Conservation Focus Area assessment tool ranked the Cannon River area as having the highest level of inter-divisional conservation priority when examined at the landscape level. Acquisitions are targeted toward existing large wetland/upland complexes, rare communities (Big Woods forest, tamarack swamp), shallow lakes, river shoreline, and lands adjacent to existing protected areas. Restoration work will be focused on the degraded portions of the lands acquired (approximately 65 acres) and will include restoration of agricultural fields near wetlands, lakes, rivers and existing protected areas to native habitat. There is an effort underway which involves several partners (including The Cannon River Watershed Partnership and MN DNR) to procure funding for landscape planning in the Cannon River watershed. This effort may be able to help the Partnership further identify priority conservation opportunities and protection strategies for high biodiversity areas.

Protection and restoration of these significant parcels will provide critical habitat for game species, including migratory waterfowl (mallards, canvasback, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, pintails, and lesser scaup), upland birds (dove, turkey, pheasant, and woodcock), deer, and fish (northern pike, black crappies, bluegills, and walleye). Protection will also provide access for a diversity of recreational experiences including duck, pheasant, turkey and deer hunting as well as river, stream, and lake fishing. A host of non-game wildlife, including Species in Greatest Conservation Need, likely to benefit from this protection and restoration work includes Bald Eagle, Bell's Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Loggerhead Shrike, Sandhill Crane, Red-headed Woodpecker, Greater Yellowlegs, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Short billed Dowitcher, Blanding's Turtle, Mudpuppies, and the Giant Floater, a species of freshwater mussel.

Protecting and restoring vegetative cover within basins and the riparian areas of the lakes, rivers and streams in this focus area will also help protect water quality by reducing surface water runoff and by providing ecological services such as infiltration through natural buffers to our waterways. All wildlife-and humans -will benefit from improved water quality.

Work will be completed in phases depending on funding availability and landowner willingness to sell. Properties targeted for acquisition and restoration as part of this Phase V request to LSOHC (FY16) include the following:

Dora Lake WMA tracts 2 & 5 (Le Sueur County)

These lands build on the 510-acre Dora Lake WMA property that was created with FY 12 Outdoor Heritage Funds. This large upland-wetland complex with a mosaic of native plant types contains Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS)-identified native habitat including a portion of remnant Big Woods, some southern-most occurrence of tamarack swamp in the state, and over 2 miles of naturally flowing Cannon River, directly upstream from a concentration of rare freshwater mussels.

Boyd Sartell WMA – tract 3 (Rice County)

This tract contains diverse marsh habitats and uplands consisting of oak islands and grassy knolls, Big Woods and tamarack forests, and over ¼ mile of the headwaters of the Cannon River. It will add additional habitat for a variety of wildlife and provide greater connectivity to the tract 5 parcel that this program acquired with OHF funding last fall.

Le Tamaracque WMA (addition) – tract 28 (Rice County)

These 200 acres of rolling terrain with grasslands, forest and wetlands riparian to the Cannon River are located within a 1000-acre complex of MCBS identified habitat with high biodiversity significance. Rare communities include Big Woods, some of the southern-most occurrence of Tamarack Swamp in the state, and mixed emergent marsh and prairie.

Caron Lake WMA (new) – tracts 4,5,6,7 and 8 (Rice County)

These 260 acres of croplands, grasslands, forest and wetlands include lands riparian to the shallow Caron Lake and an unditched tributary, Devil's Creek, which is rare in this area of the state. The property is adjacent to the Caron Lake Aquatic Management Area, and contains approximately ½ mile frontage on Caron Lake.

Kelley Dudley WMA/AMA (new)

This land encompasses approximately 240 acres between French Lake and Kelley Dudley Lake in Rice County, with 1400 feet of shoreline along Kelley-Dudley Lake. Kelley-Dudley Lake is a deep and clear lake, with a relatively undisturbed shoreline and forested riparian zone. Wild rice in the lake provides important feeding ground for waterfowl. Acquisition of this parcel presents an opportunity to protect a pristine lake and quality fishery.

The Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex effort is supported by the Cannon River Watershed Partnership, the Dark House Anglers Southern Chapter, the Izaak Walton League Owatonna Chapter, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association South Central Prairieland Bucks Chapter (Le Sueur, Rice, Waseca, and Steele Counties), Minnesota Waterfowl Association – Scott-Le Sueur Chapter, Montgomery

Sportsmen's Club, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Pheasants Forever – Le Sueur County Chapter, the Tri-Lake Sports Club, Waterville Sportsman's Club, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

How does the request address MN habitats that have: historical value to fish and wildlife, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories:

All of the areas targeted by the Trust for Public Land have been identified and prioritized through state, regional and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity and connectivity. The Cannon River watershed includes Big Woods, oak savannas, wetlands and sensitive shorelines, which provide habitat for a variety of Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

The project uses the Minnesota Biological Survey, and GIS mapping to identify priority lands for protection and restoration. We are optimistic that if watershed wide landscape planning efforts are successful, we will be able to dialogue with partner organizations and further identify lands in need of protection.

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

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

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:

Prairie:

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

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

LSOHC funding would provide capital for the land acquisition and funding for the restoration work included in this proposal. These costs are not included in the Trust for Public Land's organizational budget. Additionally, TPL staff time, legal costs and costs for appraisals, title, environmental investigation, and survey work is not included in this request. Acquisition associated costs incurred by the DNR as part of accepting ownership of these lands are not included in the request. The LSOHC funding will not substitute for any traditional funding sources.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose:

Not Listed

Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2009	ENTRF	350,000
2010	ENTRF	200,000
2010	RIM	105,000
2011	RIM	200,000
2012	N/A	N/A

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

Once the Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex lands have been acquired and conveyed to the DNR to be managed as a WMA and/or AMA, initial site development and restoration of these lands will begin. Estimated costs for the restoration work are included in this proposal. The Trust for Public Land will work with DNR to complete a restoration plan and implementation of that plan will be completed in the following years. The property will be managed for the long term as a WMA and/or AMA and will be maintained by the Minnesota DNR according to their WMA and AMA guidelines.

Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2016	OHF and DNR Fish and Wildlife	Post property as DNR WMA or AMA	Develop restoration/management plan for property	
2017	DNR Fish and Wildlife	Develop restoration/management plan for property	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	
2018	DNR Fish and Wildlife	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation		

Activity Details:

If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **No**

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition - **No**

Notification will be made unless otherwise required

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing - **No**

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion - **Yes**

N/A

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Landowner negotiations, agreements and due diligence	June 30, 2017
Land acquired	June 30, 2017
Initial site development/restoration	Fall 2018

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/1/2018

Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

Outcomes:

Programs in prairie region:

- Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife *Core parcels are identified in partnership with the DNR as well as the partners of the Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex. Protected lands will be measured in acres.*

Budget Spreadsheet

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

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount

Not Listed

Total Amount of Request: \$ 1380000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,245,000	\$138,000	Various state, local and private funds	\$1,383,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$110,000	\$0		\$110,000
Total	\$1,380,000	\$138,000		\$1,518,000

Amount of Request: \$1,380,000

Amount of Leverage: \$138,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 10.00%

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	94	72	53	57	276
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	94	72	53	57	276

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 Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$470,000	\$360,000	\$265,000	\$285,000	\$1,380,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$470,000	\$360,000	\$265,000	\$285,000	\$1,380,000

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	276	0	276
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	276	0	276

Table 4. Total 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	\$1,380,000	\$0	\$1,380,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,380,000	\$0	\$1,380,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$5000	\$5000	\$5000	\$5000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5000	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0.70

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

Goodhue

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Warsaw WMA	11118207	18	\$61,900	No	Full	Full

Le Sueur

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Dora Lake WMA (tract 2)	11023211	80	\$330,000	No	Full	Full
Dora Lake WMA (tract 5)	11023210	125	\$361,000	No	Full	Full
Factor WMA (tract 4 & 6)	11023206	54	\$272,200	No	Full	Full
Schmidt WMA Addition	11024233	160	\$600,000	No	Full	Full

Rice

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Boyd Sartell WMA (tract 3)	11022210	75	\$255,000	No	Full	Full
Caron Lake WMA (tracts 4-8)	11022232	586	\$1,550,000	No	Full	Full
Circle Lake	11121209	160	\$530,000	No	Full	Full
Erin Township	11122223	130	\$375,000	No	Full	Full
Gray Fox WMA (tract 1)	11122232	65	\$406,000	No	Full	Full
Kelley Dudley WMA/AMA	11021207	240	\$750,000	No	Full	Full
Le Tamaracque WMA (tract 28)	11022218	200	\$750,000	No	Full	Full
Trou t Lily WMA (Phase I)	11020217	84	\$602,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Trou t Lily WMA (Phase II)	11020217	21	\$120,600	No	Full	Full
Wells Township	11021211	200	\$750,000	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: Factor WMA (tract 4 & 6)

# of Total Acres:	54
County:	Le Sueur
Township:	110
Range:	23
Direction:	2
Section:	06
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	22
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	0 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$272,200
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MN DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	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:	July 30, 2018
Purchase Price:	\$272,200
Appraised Value:	\$272,200
Professional Service Costs:	\$38,657
Total Project Cost:	\$272,200
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Tim Koppelman

Completed Parcel: Gray Fox WMA (tract 1)

# of Total Acres:	65
County:	Rice
Township:	111
Range:	22
Direction:	2
Section:	32
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	29
# of Acres: Forest:	6
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	30
Amount of Shoreline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$406,000
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MN DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	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:	October 19, 2018
Purchase Price:	\$406,000
Appraised Value:	\$406,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$47,459
Assessed Value:	\$305,500
Total Project Cost:	\$406,000
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Jeanine Vorland

Completed Parcel: Trout Lily WMA (Phase I)

# of Total Acres:	84
County:	Rice
Township:	110
Range:	20
Direction:	2
Section:	17
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	0
# of Acres: Forest:	20
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	0
Amount of Shoreline:	452 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Cannon River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$602,000
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MN DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	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:	August 09, 2017
Purchase Price:	\$602,000
Appraised Value:	\$602,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$67,360
Assessed Value:	\$657,400
Total Project Cost:	\$602,000
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Jeanine Vorland

Completed Parcel: Trout Lily WMA (Phase II)

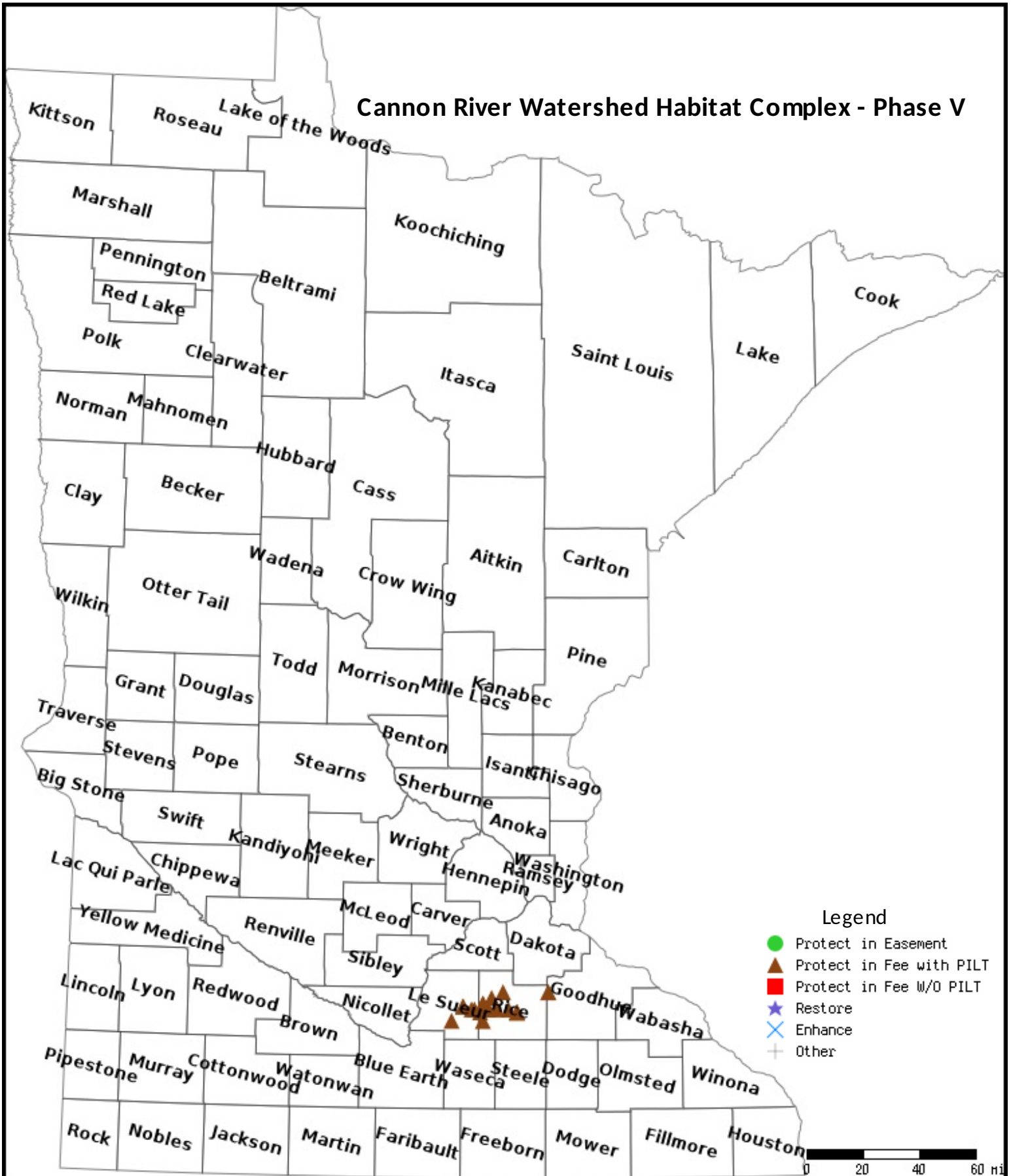
# of Total Acres:	21
County:	Rice
Township:	110
Range:	20
Direction:	2
Section:	17
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	2
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	19
Amount of Shoreline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$120,600
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MN DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	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 17, 2018
Purchase Price:	\$120,600
Appraised Value:	\$120,600
Professional Service Costs:	\$13,504
Assessed Value:	\$140,500
Total Project Cost:	\$120,600
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Jeanine Vorland

Completed Parcel: Warsaw WMA

# of Total Acres:	18
County:	Goodhue
Township:	111
Range:	18
Direction:	2
Section:	07
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	11
# of Acres: Forest:	0
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	0
Amount of Shoreline:	0 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$61,900
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MN DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	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:	July 31, 2018
Purchase Price:	\$61,900
Appraised Value:	\$61,900
Professional Service Costs:	\$40,862
Total Project Cost:	\$61,900
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Ryan Tebo

Parcel Map

Cannon River Watershed Habitat Complex - Phase V



Data Generated From Parcel List