Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Laws of Minnesota 2017 Accomplishment Plan

Date: May 24, 2017

Program or Project Title: Restoration Evaluations

Funds Recommended: $ 150,000

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Legislative Citation: ML 2017, Ch. 91, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 6(c)

Appropriation Language: $150,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for a technical evaluation panel to conduct up to fifteen restoration and enhancement evaluations under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 10.

County Locations: Not Listed

Regions in which work will take place:

- Not Listed

Activity types:

- Restoration Evaluation

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Not Listed

Abstract:

This program annually evaluates a sample of up to twenty Outdoor Heritage Fund habitat restoration and enhancement projects, provides a report on the evaluations in accordance with state law and delivers communications on project outcomes and lessons learned in restoration practice.

Design and scope of work:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) are jointly responsible for convening a Restoration Evaluation Panel (Panel) of technical experts to annually evaluate a sample of habitat restoration projects completed with Outdoor Heritage funding, as provided in M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10. Primary goals of the restoration evaluations program are to provide on the ground accountability for the use of Legacy funds and to improve future habitat restorations in the State. Per statute, the Panel will evaluate the selected habitat restoration projects relative to the law, current science, and the stated goals and standards in the restoration plan. The program coordinator will identify projects to be evaluated, coordinate field assessments and provide a report to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and the legislature determining if the restorations are meeting planned goals, any problems with the implementation of restorations, and, if necessary, recommendations on improving restorations.
Restoration evaluation reports are available: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/edocs/edocs.aspx?oclcnumber=823766285
The anticipated long-term outcomes of this program are the increased success of habitat restorations and an increased awareness among practitioners and decision-makers of common challenges associated with habitat restorations and recommended management options to improve future restorations. Outputs from this program for Fiscal Year 2017 include case studies of specific practices, project outcomes and lessons learned in the field from restoration practice.

This request supports a portion of the inter-agency Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluations Program, which provides for the evaluation of habitat restoration projects completed with funds from the Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53 Subd. 5), Outdoor Heritage Fund (M.S.97A.056 Subd.10), and Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50 Subd. 6) as required by state law. Up to twenty initial Outdoor Heritage Fund project evaluations will be reported on in the Fiscal Year 2018 report, an additional three to five follow up evaluations of previously assessed sites will also be reported. Follow up assessments will provide valuable insight in tracking progress and estimating trajectory towards planned goals.

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:

This program supports the habitat work of all evaluated projects through the assessment of implementation and progress towards planned goals.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

Not Listed

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

- Not Listed

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Not Listed

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:

Not Listed

Relationship to other funds:

- Clean Water Fund
- Parks and Trails Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

The Restoration Evaluation Program for Legacy Projects concurrently fulfills requirements to conduct restoration evaluations (M.L. 2013, Ch. 137) for projects completed with funds from the Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50) and Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53).

How does this program include leverage in funds or other effort to supplement any OHF appropriation:

The restoration evaluation program formalizes and promotes the process of assessing restoration project performance. Site assessment teams will use project appropriate assessment measures to establish that current science based practices are being applied on the ground in selected Outdoor Heritage Fund restoration projects. This level of assessment goes beyond standard reporting requirements and exceeds operational capacity of most programs. This program also increases the communication of specific project outcomes and lessons learned from restoration implementation. Reports will focus on improving future restorations by providing feedback to practitioners regarding challenging situations and viable solutions. Creation of this continuous learning environment provides an important tool for improving restoration practice throughout the state.

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

Not Listed

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

It is anticipated that the evaluation program outputs will help to create a framework for continuous improvement in restoration practice. Direct work of the Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation Program will be sustained for the period of funding.

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

Not Listed

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**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Evaluation Panel Establishes Annual Priorities	July 1, 2017
Program Coordinator Selects up to Fifteen Projects for Evaluation	July 1, 2017
Site Assessment Staff Conduct Field Surveys of Selected Sites	July 30, 2018
FY-17 Report Submitted to Legislature and LSOHC	December 31, 2018

Date of Final Report Submission: 12/31/2018

Federal Funding:

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

Outcomes:

Budget Spreadsheet

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

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

Full request recommended

Total Amount of Request: $ 150000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$92,000	$0		$92,000
Contracts	$44,000	$0		$44,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$0	$0		$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$0	$0		$0
Easement Acquisition	$0	$0		$0
Easement Stewardship	$0	$0		$0
Travel	$2,000	$0		$2,000
Professional Services	$0	$0		$0
Direct Support Services	$10,000	$0		$10,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$0	$0		$0
Capital Equipment	$0	$0		$0
Other Equipment/Tools	$2,000	$0		$2,000
Supplies/Materials	$0	$0		$0
DNR IDP	$0	$0		$0
Total	$150,000	$0		$150,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Coordinator	0.55	1.00	$48,000	$0		$48,000
Stie Assessors (State Agency Staff)	0.55	1.00	$44,000	$0		$44,000
Total	1.10	2.00	$92,000	$0		$92,000

Amount of Request:	$150,000
Amount of Leverage:	$0
Leverage as a percent of the Request:	0.00%
DSS + Personnel:	$102,000
As a % of the total request:	68.00%

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program:

DNR direct and necessary calculator

Does the amount in the contract line include R/E work?

-

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

-

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	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	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	$0	$0	$0	$0	$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
Total	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	Forest Prairie	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	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	Forest Prairie	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	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Enhance	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0

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	$0	$0	$0	$0
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	$0	$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

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

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

No parcels with an activity type protect.

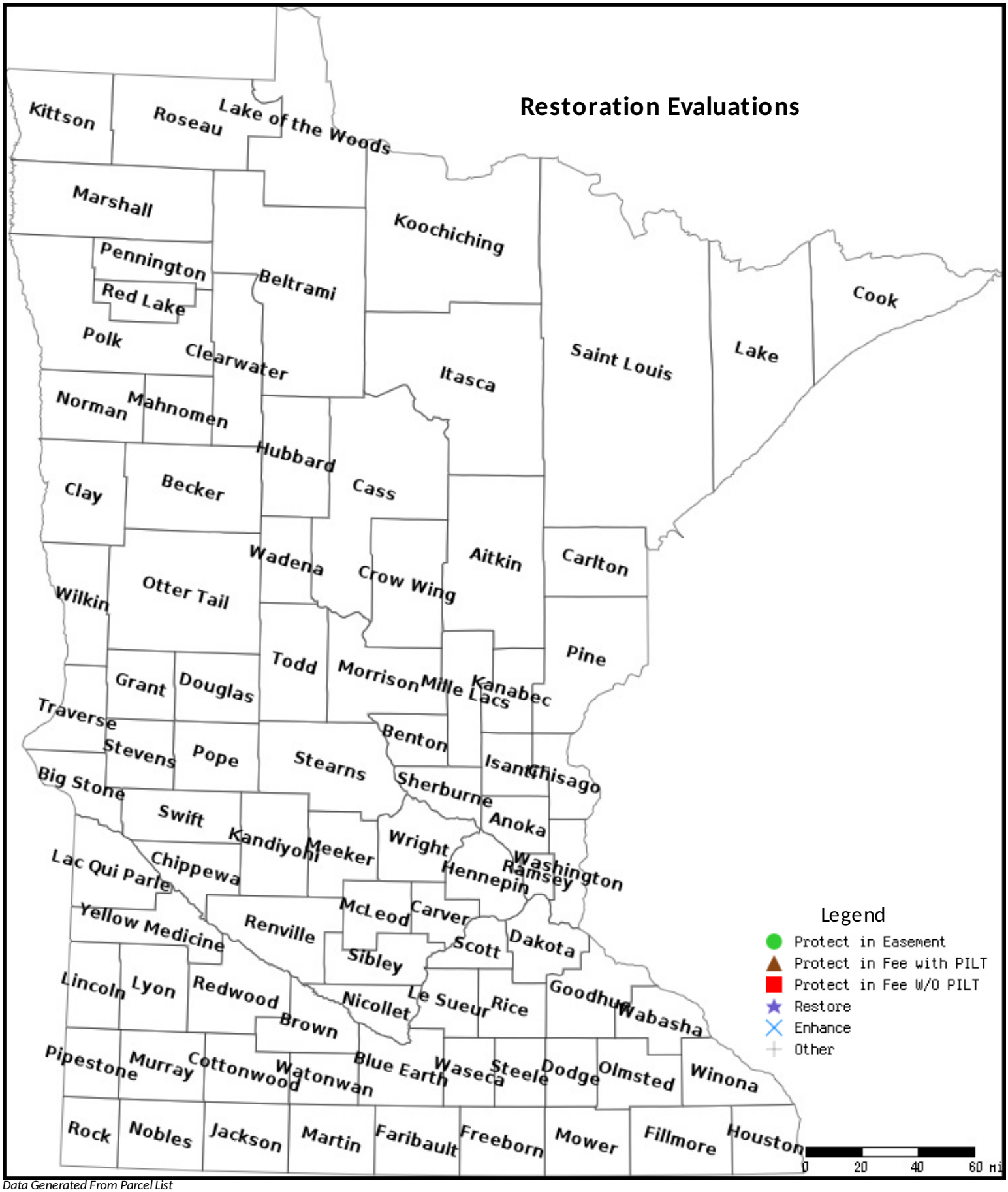
Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List

LEGACY FUND RESTORATION EVALUATIONS
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

May 26, 2016

Proposal Illustration

ML 17 Outdoor Heritage Fund, Restoration Evaluations

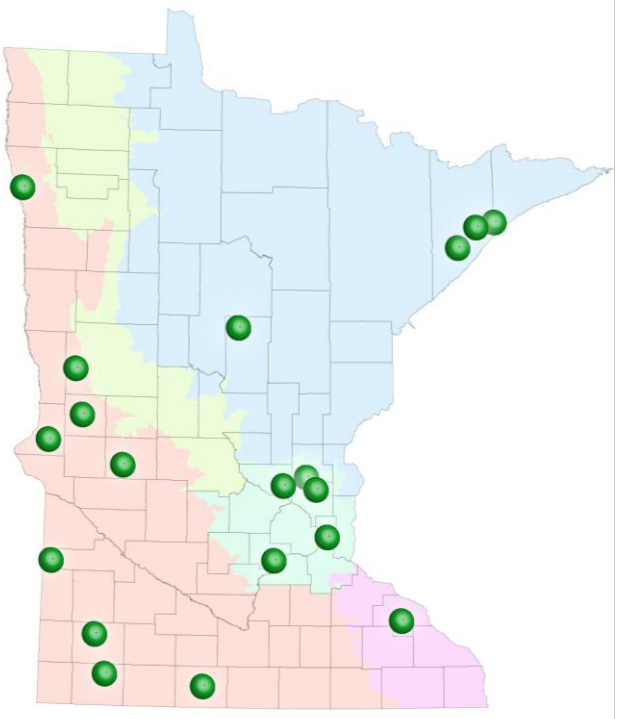
Goals

- Provide on the ground accountability for the use of Legacy funds
- Improve future habitat restorations in Minnesota

Process

- Up to 20 new and 3-5 revisit project sites selected for field assessment
- Site assessors use project appropriate assessment measures to establish 1. current science based practices are being applied and 2. project trajectory. Answer the following questions:

- Expert evaluation Panel reviews field evaluations
- Evaluation outcomes and Panel recommendations for improving future restorations reported annually to LSOHC and Legislature



42 Outdoor Heritage Fund Project Sites evaluated to date, 2012-2015
Note: Single dot may represent more than one project site

LEGACY FUND RESTORATION EVALUATIONS
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Evaluation Program Logic Model

Inputs	**Activities**	**Outcomes**	
		Short term	***Long term***
~0.1% annual funds: - Clean Water Fund - Outdoor Heritage Fund - Parks and Trails Fund Technical Evaluation Panel (unpaid experts) Program Coordinator (DNR) Site Assessment Experts (DNR, BWSR, Contractors)	Communicate with project managers regarding implementation of their restoration practices Site assessment experts conduct field assessment of restoration projects (15-25 new and revisited OHF projects annually) Evaluation Panel reviews assessed projects relative to: *the law, current science, stated goals and standards;* and *makes recommendations for improving future recommendations* Panel's recommendations for improvement reviewed by Agencies; procedures and protocols developed and promoted to address identified areas for improvement Annual Report to Legislature focused on *improving future restorations*	<u>Feedback Loop:</u> Restoration education and technical assistance training for project managers supported by lessons learned from field assessments Project managers adopt improved documentation and implementation practices Funding agencies improve granting and review procedures for restoration projects	Greater transparency and accountability in the use of Legacy Funds <u>Improved restoration outcomes</u>