



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Trout Stream Conservation Easements

Laws of Minnesota 2018 Final Report

General Information

Date: 11/04/2022

Project Title: DNR Trout Stream Conservation Easements

Funds Recommended: \$642,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2018, Ch. 208, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 5(d)

Appropriation Language: \$642,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire land in permanent conservation easements to protect trout stream aquatic habitat. Up to \$52,500 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Martin Jennings

Title: Fisheries Habitat Program Manager

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Address: 500 Lafayette Road

City: St Paul, MN 55155

Email: martin.jennings@state.mn.us

Office Number: 651-259-5176

Mobile Number:

Fax Number:

Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Fillmore, Winona, Carlton, Houston, Wabasha and St. Louis.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Southeast Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

Through this appropriation MN DNR was able to acquire 115 acres of permanent trout stream conservation easements, nearly doubling the AP goal of 62 acres. This amounts to over seven miles of protected shoreline. We were able to nearly fully spend the appropriation. All the acquired easements are now open to public angling and are located in SE and NE Minnesota. This appropriation also included a contribution to the Conservation Stewardship Account.

Process & Methods

We take a programmatic approach to acquisition, with scoring systems specific to trout stream conservation easements to determine priority of candidate parcels.

Candidate parcels for trout stream conservation easements are scored and ranked with relevant criteria specific to trout streams. DNR Central Office program staff work with the Fish and Wildlife Acquisition unit and field staff to identify candidate parcels with landowners willing to sell conservation easements, and prioritize candidates based on scores. Trout stream easements are valued using the formula in statute, so the landowner knows the maximum value from the start of the acquisition process.

How did the program address habitats of significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, threatened or endangered species, and/or list targeted species?

Criteria used to score and rank candidate parcels for the AMA system include MCBS sites of biodiversity significance, and any occurrences of rare species in the Natural History Information System.

How did the program use science-based targeting that leveraged or expanded corridors and complexes, reduced fragmentation, or protected areas in the MN County Biological Survey.

Scoring criteria include adjacent protected parcels that expand protected areas and provide permanent protection of corridors. Both fee title AMA and easements have a goal of watershed protection. The programs target parcels in watersheds that have the potential for a critical level of protection that is expected to provide long term protection of water quality.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

Trout stream conservation easements have strong support of Trout Unlimited and other trout angling groups. LGU's are supportive because they keep land in private hands, protect the stream corridor, and increase recreational opportunities. In the Southeast, the easements are fairly narrow, which leads to criticism that protection could/should be more extensive; conversely, minimal agricultural land is taken out of production and this leads to greater acceptance by landowners and support from LGU's.

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

What other fund may contribute to this program?

- Other : Other state budgets including Trout & Salmon Stamp and Critical Habitat Private Sector Matching Account were used to pay for easements and professional services.

How were the funds used to advance the program?

The other budgets were used to make easement payments which allowed for additional protection beyond what could have been accomplished by this appropriation only. Other budgets also cover a substantial amount of professional services because this appropriation was under budgeted for that activity.

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

The easements purchased with this appropriation each had a deposit from this appropriation to the easement stewardship account. This is an investment account with annual disbursement of funds to DNR to support easement stewardship activities, following DNR Operation Order 128 and applicable Division Guidance for Conservation Easement Stewardship. Regular monitoring of these easements will be conducted at least once every three years. Monitoring will help identify potential violations and need for enforcement, as well as need for habitat improvement. Funding for monitoring and enforcement will partially come from the easement stewardship account.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2023 and beyond	easement stewardship account	complete baseline property report if not already complete	subsequent monitoring at 3-yr or less intervals	respond to any suspected noncompliance
2023 and beyond	Game and Fish Fund	complete site level Management Guidance Document	management following MGD	periodic checks for encroachment or other issues

Budget

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Antic. Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$527,600	-	\$122,800	Trout Stamp and SRI	\$525,000	\$650,400
Easement Stewardship	\$52,500	\$52,500	\$52,500	-	-	-	\$52,500	\$52,500
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$52,500	\$52,500	\$57,700	-	\$110,800	RIM Interest and SRI	\$52,500	\$168,500
Direct Support Services	\$2,500	\$2,500	-	-	-	-	\$2,500	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$9,500	\$9,500	-	-	-	-	\$9,500	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$642,000	\$642,000	\$637,800	-	\$233,600	-	\$642,000	\$871,400

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

We were successful in fully spending this appropriation. Additionally, we leveraged \$122,811 in funding from other state sources (Trout & Salmon Stamp and Sales & Reinvestment Initiative). The main budgetary challenge was that the professional services budget was not adequate to cover the cost of all 15 transactions. We covered the additional cost with other DNR budgets. In future appropriations we have increased the request for the professional services budget.

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: \$0

Of the money disclosed above, what are the appropriate uses of the money:

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Acres (AP)	Total Acres (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	62	115	62	115
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	115	62	115

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Funding (AP)	Total Funding (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$642,000	\$637,800	\$642,000	\$637,800
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$642,000	\$637,800	\$642,000	\$637,800

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	37	88	0	0	25	27	62	115
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	37	88	0	0	25	27	62	115

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	\$385,200	\$583,700	-	-	\$256,800	\$54,100	\$642,000	\$637,800
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	\$385,200	\$583,700	-	-	\$256,800	\$54,100	\$642,000	\$637,800

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

7 miles of trout stream

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Improved aquatic habitat indicators ~ *Trout stream easements will be monitored by DNR Fisheries staff. The easement agreements provide a protected corridor including riparian vegetation. Regular monitoring of these easements will be conducted at least once every three years. Monitoring will help identify potential violations and need for enforcement, as well as need for habitat improvement.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Rivers, streams, and surrounding vegetation provide corridors of habitat ~ *Trout stream easements will be monitored by DNR Fisheries staff. The easement agreements provide a protected corridor including riparian vegetation. Regular monitoring of these easements will be conducted at least once every three years. Monitoring will help identify potential violations and need for enforcement, as well as need for habitat improvement.*

Parcels

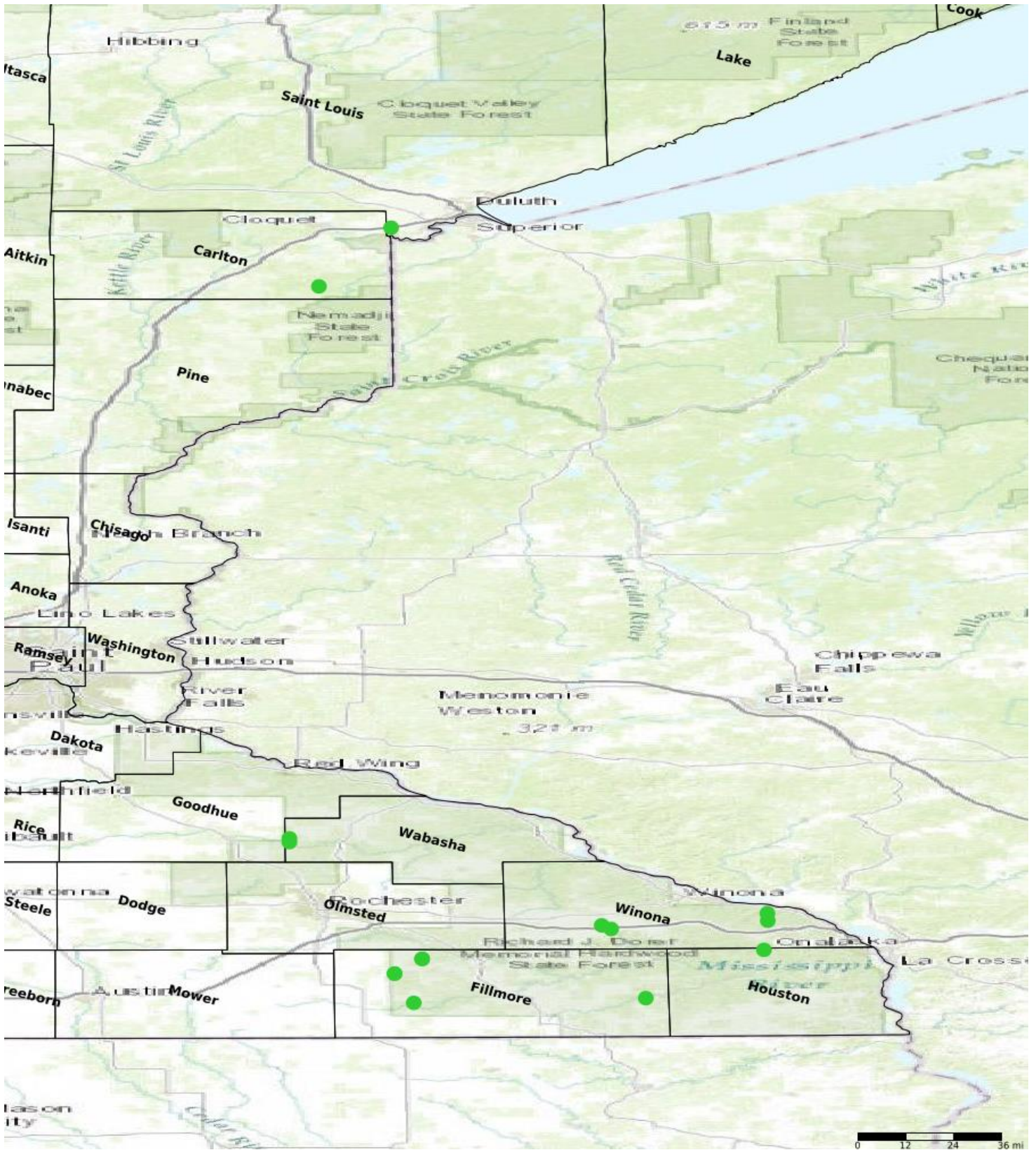
Sign-up Criteria?

No

Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Silver Creek	Carlton	04617214	3	\$15,000	No
Lost Creek	Fillmore	10212216	1	\$10,000	No
Bear Creek	Fillmore	10312206	4	\$40,000	No
Lost Creek	Fillmore	10412215	22	\$165,000	No
Bear Creek	Fillmore	10312206	3	\$25,000	No
Vesta Creek	Fillmore	10208210	3	\$15,300	No
Lost Creek	Fillmore	10412215	3	\$25,000	No
Looney Creek	Houston	10406202	8	\$50,000	Yes
Mission Creek tract 1	St. Louis	04915230	24	\$80,000	No
North Fork Zumbro River	Wabasha	11014231	9	\$60,000	No
North Fork Zumbro River	Wabasha	10914206	4	\$30,000	No
Rush Creek	Winona	10609235	9	\$80,000	No
Pickwick Creek	Winona	10606226	10	\$55,000	No
Rush Creek tract 9	Winona	10509201	9	\$65,000	No
Cedar Valley Creek	Winona	10606214	4	\$30,000	No

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✦ Enhance
- + Other