



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition Phase 3
Laws of Minnesota 2019 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/24/2023

Project Title: Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition Phase 3

Funds Recommended: \$3,650,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd, 2(f)

Appropriation Language: \$3,650,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire lands in fee and restore and enhance strategic prairie grassland, wetland, and other wildlife habitat in Martin County for wildlife management under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8. Of this amount, \$3,002,000 is to Fox Lake Conservation League Inc., \$554,000 is to Ducks Unlimited, and \$94,000 is to The Conservation Fund. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Doug Hartke

Title: Grant Coordinator/Board Member

Organization: Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.

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Location Information

County Location(s): Martin.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee
- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Narrative**Abstract**

This program continues a partnership to restore diverse prairie and wetland habitat in areas adjacent to existing DNR Wildlife Management Areas. Parcels are identified by working with the representatives of local government, Windom Area DNR, Ducks Unlimited (DU), The Conservation Fund (TCF), and the Fox Lake Conservation League. Wetland restoration and additional grasslands are needed to make our WMA's sustainable. We will use the real estate expertise of TCF, wetland and grassland restoration expertise of DU, and the local efforts of the Fox Lake Conservation League to ensure success of this conservation effort.

Design and Scope of Work

Selective project sites were targeted by the habitat need and land availability in areas adjacent to existing WMA's, existing habitat and lands already protected from development or other land use change. Work is designed to provide the most habitat value. The landscape will be restored as close as possible to conditions that existed prior to its conversion to agricultural production. Wetlands will be restored without the disruption of the natural drainage system. Native vegetation will be restored with a diverse range of species suitable to the landscape.

How does the plan address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species?

This project will protect threatened habitats in Martin County. Native prairie and high quality wetland will be protected and expanded upon. Restoration sites will provide the opportunity to expand populations of at-risk and threatened plant species that the Martin SWCD has been propagating for introduction to permanently protected sites. Threatened species include, Eared gerardia (*Agalinis auriculata*); Sullivant's milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*); and Tuberous Indian plantain (*Cacalia tuberosa*). Other locally rare or Special Concern species include: Small white lady's slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*) and Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*). Plans to include local ecotype native plant materials in the establishment of a highly diverse prairie landscape will provide habitat to support native pollinators, including several species of milkweed to support the Monarch butterfly.

Describe how the plan uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

Our Martin County Conservation Planning Group includes wildlife group representatives, local government, and state agencies. There is a wide range of knowledge and interest within the group. Historic Information, the MN County Biological Survey, and local knowledge help identify areas where habitat restoration will likely be most beneficial for multiple reasons. Expanding habitat adjacent to existing high quality native habitat and habitat already protected by public ownership or perpetual conservation easements are often targeted. Sites with threatened, endangered and species in decline are good targets to build upon, especially when expansions can link sites to help expand corridors, and along water courses and lake chains.

Which two sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are most applicable to this project?

- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

- H7 Keep water on the landscape

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

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

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

- Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife ~ *Expanding the existing WMA's in Martin County is important. We need larger grassland/wetland complexes so we are targeting properties next to our current WMA's.*

Does this program include leveraged funding?

-

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain 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.

This proposal does not supplant or substitute previous funding for the same purpose.

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2014	LCCMR	-

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

Maintaining and improving upon this work will be the responsibility of the MN DNR with support from project partners when appropriate. Local partners will continue to install additional local source native plant species to enhance habitat to support more species, including pollinators. Local partner monitoring will assist with identifying invasive species threats and provide assistance with eradication or control if necessary.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Volunteer	Local	Monitor to add species	Monitor for invasive species	Treat and plant as needed
MN DNR	Game and Fish Funds	Monitoring	Maintenance	Management

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Yes

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**

No

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:

The Fox Lake Conservation League and other local wildlife organizations in coordination with the Minnesota DNR and other partners, will formally keep local units of government informed on the progress of all land acquisition projects.

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

Yes

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- WMA

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?

Yes

Explain what will be planted:

A food plot is planned by the DNR on some of the parcels in this proposal. These food plots are viewed by DNR as important wildlife management elements in this part of the state.

Some limited duration crop planting may be required as site preparation for prairie restoration on parcels where herbicides with long (18+ month) residual carryover have been used. Conversion of old fields infested with invasive plants such as smooth brome and reed canary grass require a year of cropping with herbicides. Plantings may be needed for temporary cover or for other restoration purposes.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated?

True

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?

No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?

Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:

There is no variation from MN DNR hunting regulations.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

- State of MN

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

- WMA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

We anticipate to close on three priority acquisitions.

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?

No

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?

No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?

Yes

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Acquire Properties	March 2020
Transfer Properties to MN DNR	Spring 2020
Begin Restoration	Winter 2020
Complete restoration	2022
Followup/Maintenance/Weed Control	2023

Date of Final Report Submission: 12/20/2022

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Unless otherwise provided, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2022. For acquisition of real property, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2023, if a binding agreement with a landowner or purchase agreement is entered into by June 30, 2022, and closed no later than June 30, 2023. Funds for restoration or enhancement are available until June 30, 2024, or five years after acquisition, whichever is later, in order to complete initial restoration or enhancement work. If a project receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds, the time of the appropriation may be extended to equal the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if that federal funding was confirmed and included in the original draft accomplishment plan. Funds appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

Budget

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

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$113,000	-	-	\$113,000
Contracts	\$294,000	-	-	\$294,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,780,000	-	-	\$2,780,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$6,000	-	-	\$6,000
Professional Services	\$50,000	-	-	\$50,000
Direct Support Services	\$6,000	-	-	\$6,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$60,000	-	-	\$60,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$60,000	-	-	\$60,000
DNR IDP	\$281,000	-	-	\$281,000
Grand Total	\$3,650,000	-	-	\$3,650,000

Partner: DU

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$48,000	-	-	\$48,000
Contracts	\$243,000	-	-	\$243,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Professional Services	\$5,000	-	-	\$5,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	\$256,000	-	-	\$256,000
Grand Total	\$554,000	-	-	\$554,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
DU Biologists and Engineers	0.33	3.0	\$48,000	-	-	\$48,000

Partner: Fox Lake Conservation League

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Contracts	\$51,000	-	-	\$51,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,780,000	-	-	\$2,780,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$60,000	-	-	\$60,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$60,000	-	-	\$60,000
DNR IDP	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Grand Total	\$3,002,000	-	-	\$3,002,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Grant Administration	0.25	3.0	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000

Partner: TCF**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$40,000	-	-	\$40,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$3,000	-	-	\$3,000
Professional Services	\$45,000	-	-	\$45,000
Direct Support Services	\$6,000	-	-	\$6,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$94,000	-	-	\$94,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MN Representative	0.2	2.0	\$40,000	-	-	\$40,000

Amount of Request: \$3,650,000

Amount of Leverage: -

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%

DSS + Personnel: \$119,000

As a % of the total request: 3.26%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

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

All expense was proportionately decreased to accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation. This allocation should allow for the acquisition, restoration, and protection of at least three priority tracts in Martin County.

Contracts**What is included in the contracts line?**

The contracts line under Ducks Unlimited includes \$222,000 of wetland restoration, \$7,000 of contracted tree removal, and \$14,000 of parking lot construction. The Fox Lake Conservation League will be contracting an estimated \$21,000 worth of building and debris removal work.

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?

No

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging

None.

I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:

No

Direct Support Services

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

TCF -Our real estate support staff keeps hourly time sheets to track direct time spent on projects by grant source. We have used those past metrics to estimate the costs for this grant.

DU - Minnesota DNR grants staff previously reviewed and approved DU accounting methodology for Direct Support Services, which are calculated and included in DU staff costs. DU Direct Support Services constitute approximately 10% of DU overall staff costs on average among DU conservation staff billing categories. DU breaks out and invoices for Direct Support Service expenses approved by DNR for reimbursement separately from Personnel expenses. In accordance with 2 CFR 200, DU uses the direct allocation method of allocating costs to programs and final cost objectives. This process of allocating costs is accomplished through the use of hourly rates. The direct cost of activities, including direct support expenses, is included in these hourly rates. The rates are comprised of costs for salaries, benefits, office space, general insurance, support staff, office supplies, and other various direct expenses incurred at the regional

offices and conservation department at the home office. All costs are assigned to conservation projects (net of applicable personnel and other costs that are non-conservation related.) Hourly charges represent the amount that DU charges conservation projects per hour for each staff member working on the project. These costs represent expenses that directly support the labor cost necessary for the development of a specific water/wetlands conservation project.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	30	471	0	0	501
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	30	471	0	0	501

How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie? (Table 1b)

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	10
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	0
Total	10

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$225,000	\$3,425,000	-	-	\$3,650,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$225,000	\$3,425,000	-	-	\$3,650,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	501	0	501
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	501	0	501

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$3,650,000	-	\$3,650,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	\$3,650,000	-	\$3,650,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
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Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$7,500	\$7,271	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$7,285	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

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.

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?

No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

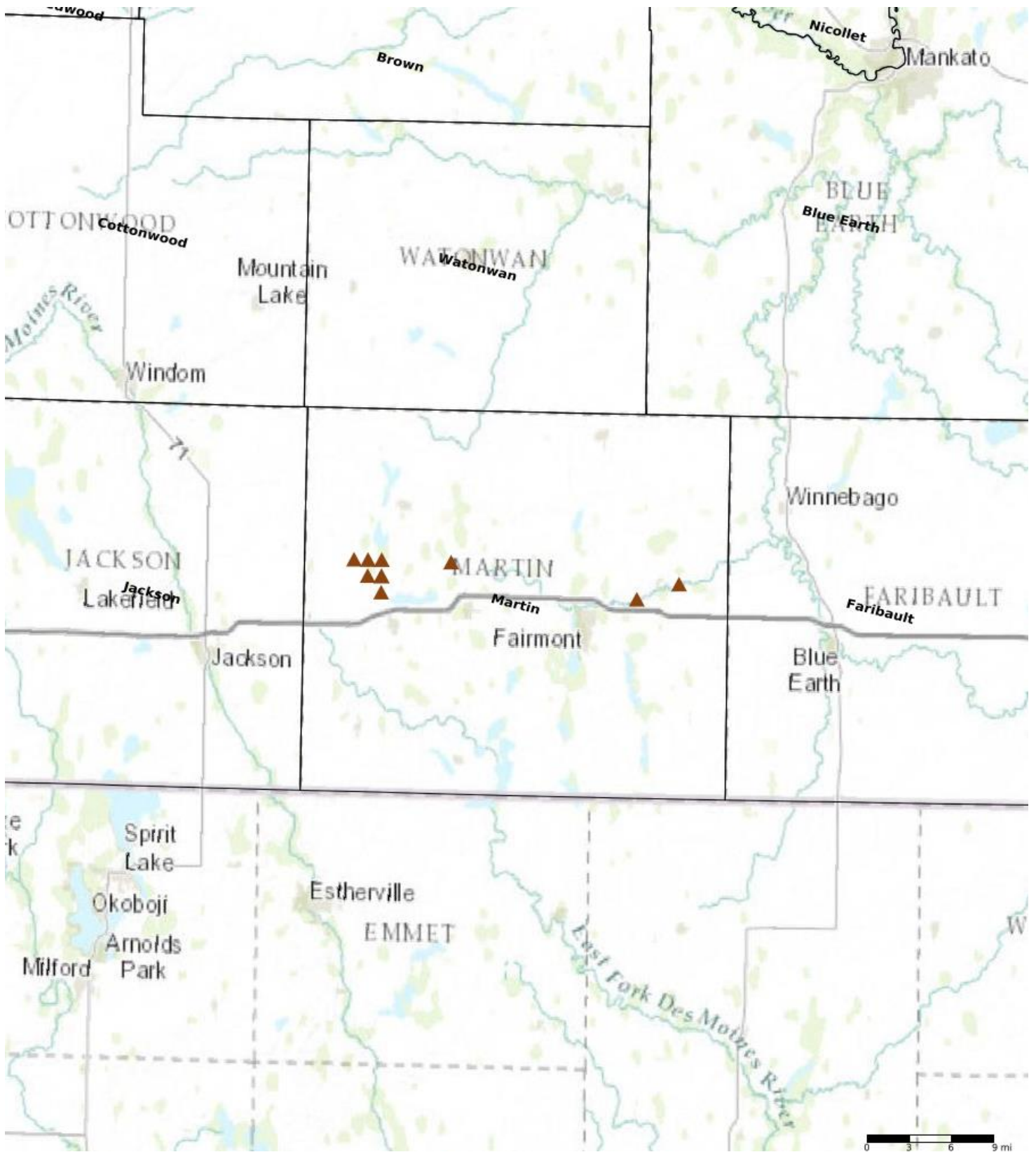
Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Caron WMA Swanson Parcel Tract 11	Martin	10332223	160	\$1,200,000	Yes
Gruven WMA Parcel #6	Martin	10330236	181	\$750,000	No
Caron WMA Parcel #13B	Martin	10333226	209	\$1,600,000	No
Caron WMA Parcel #22	Martin	10333222	80	\$590,000	No
Caron WMA Parcel #14	Martin	10333224	80	\$580,000	No
Caron WMA Parcel #15	Martin	10333225	50	\$335,000	No
Kittleson Parcel Tract #11	Martin	10333236	303	\$2,000,000	No
Caron WMA Parcel #13A	Martin	10333225	135	\$1,050,000	No
Caron WMA Parcel #21A & #21B	Martin	10333223	110	\$775,000	No

Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Center Creek WMA Parcel #15	Martin	10329228	240	\$1,150,000	No	6	\$1,300

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ⊕ Other