

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2019 Accomplishment Plan



Date: January 03, 2020

Program or Project Title: Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition Phase 3

Funds Recommended: \$ 3,650,000

Manager's Name: Doug Hartke

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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.

County Locations: Martin

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee
- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Prairie
- Wetlands

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 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 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 the science based planning and evaluation model used:

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

- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- H7 Keep water on the landscape

Which 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

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Local Match

Describe the relationship of the funds:

The Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. was successful in a 2014 LCCCMR grant application of \$400,000 for the Vanderweert Parcel that now is a part of the county park system. We will continue to work with the local DNR staff to determine where we need to best use our local match dollars.

Does this program include leverage in funds:

Not Listed

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:

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

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2014	LCCMR	\$400,000.00

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.

Explain the things you will do in the future 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:

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 - **Yes**

Explain

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.

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j) - **No**

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**

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

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

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 acquisitions on the parcel list - **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**

Not Listed

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program - **Yes**

Is the activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 - **Yes (WMA)**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
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

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 *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.*

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

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.

Total Amount of Request: \$ 3650000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$113,000	\$0		\$113,000
Contracts	\$264,000	\$0		\$264,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,810,000	\$0		\$2,810,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$6,000	\$0		\$6,000
Professional Services	\$50,000	\$0		\$50,000
Direct Support Services	\$6,000	\$0		\$6,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$60,000	\$0		\$60,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$60,000	\$0		\$60,000
DNR IDP	\$281,000	\$0		\$281,000
Total	\$3,650,000	\$0		\$3,650,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
DU Biologists and Engineers	0.33	3.00	\$48,000	\$0		\$48,000
Grant Administration	0.25	3.00	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000
MN Representative	0.20	2.00	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000
Total	0.78	8.00	\$113,000	\$0		\$113,000

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	DU	\$48,000	\$0		\$48,000
Contracts	DU	\$243,000	\$0		\$243,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	DU	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Professional Services	DU	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
Direct Support Services	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	DU	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	DU	\$256,000	\$0		\$256,000
Total		\$554,000	\$0		\$554,000

Personnel - DU

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
DU Biologists and Engineers	0.33	3.00	\$48,000	\$0		\$48,000
Total	0.33	3.00	\$48,000	\$0		\$48,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	FoxLake Conservation League	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000
Contracts	FoxLake Conservation League	\$21,000	\$0		\$21,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	FoxLake Conservation League	\$2,810,000	\$0		\$2,810,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	FoxLake Conservation League	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	FoxLake Conservation League	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	FoxLake Conservation League	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	FoxLake Conservation League	\$1,000	\$0		\$1,000
Professional Services	FoxLake Conservation League	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	FoxLake Conservation League	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	FoxLake Conservation League	\$60,000	\$0		\$60,000
Capital Equipment	FoxLake Conservation League	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	FoxLake Conservation League	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	FoxLake Conservation League	\$60,000	\$0		\$60,000
DNR IDP	FoxLake Conservation League	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000
Total		\$3,002,000	\$0		\$3,002,000

Personnel - Fox Lake Conservation League

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Grant Administration	0.25	3.00	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000
Total	0.25	3.00	\$25,000	\$0		\$25,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	TCF	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000
Contracts	TCF	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	TCF	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	TCF	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	TCF	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	TCF	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	TCF	\$3,000	\$0		\$3,000
Professional Services	TCF	\$45,000	\$0		\$45,000
Direct Support Services	TCF	\$6,000	\$0		\$6,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	TCF	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	TCF	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	TCF	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	TCF	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	TCF	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$94,000	\$0		\$94,000

Personnel - TCF

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MN Representative	0.20	2.00	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000
Total	0.20	2.00	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000

Amount of Request: \$3,650,000

Amount of Leverage: \$0

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%

DSS + Personnel: \$119,000
As a % of the total request: 3.26%

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.

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.

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.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

N/A

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	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

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

Type	Native Prairie
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

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	\$225,000	\$3,425,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,650,000
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	\$225,000	\$3,425,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,650,000

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	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

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	\$3,650,000	\$0	\$3,650,000
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	\$3,650,000	\$0	\$3,650,000

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	\$7500	\$7272	\$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	\$7285	\$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

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

Martin

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Caron WMA Parcel #13A	10 333225	135	\$1,050,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Caron WMA Parcel #13B	10 333226	209	\$1,600,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Caron WMA Parcel #14	10 333224	80	\$580,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Caron WMA Parcel #15	10 333225	50	\$335,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Caron WMA Parcel #21A & #21B	10 333223	110	\$775,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Caron WMA Parcel #22	10 333222	80	\$590,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Caron WMA Swanson Parcel Tract 11	10 332223	160	\$1,200,000	Yes	Full	Not Applicable
Gruven WMA Parcel #6	10 330 236	181	\$750,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Kittleson Parcel Tract #11	10 333236	303	\$2,000,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

Martin

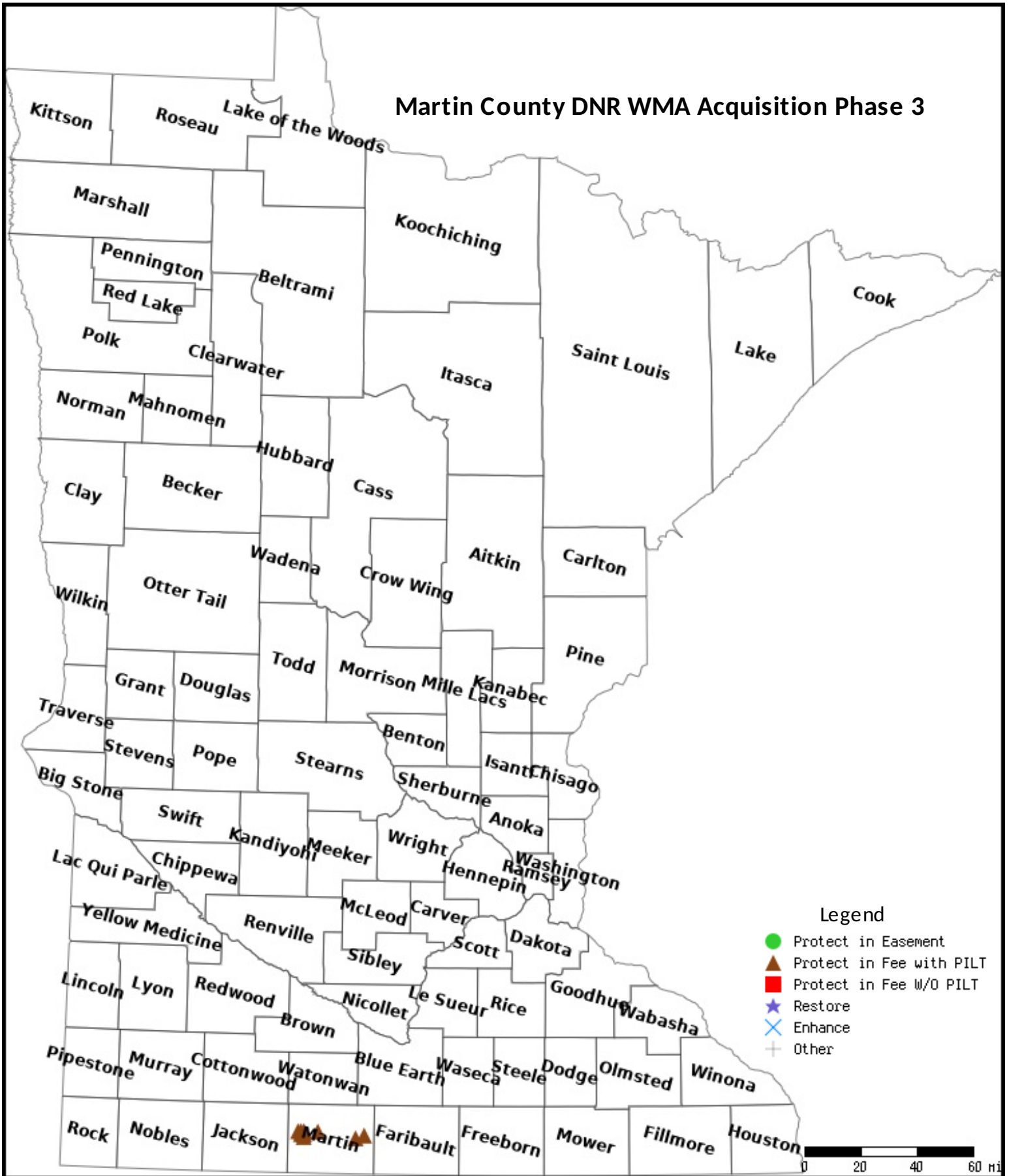
Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	# Bldgs?	Bldg Improve Desc	Value of Bldg	Disposition of Improvements
Center Creek WMA Parcel #15	10 329228	240	\$1,150,000	6	Sheds and grain storage	\$1,300	

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition Phase 3



Data Generated From Parcel List