



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

### Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Phase 11: Statewide and Metro Habitat Laws of Minnesota 2019 Final Report

---

#### General Information

**Date:** 10/18/2024

**Project Title:** Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Phase 11: Statewide and Metro Habitat

**Funds Recommended:** \$10,760,000

**Legislative Citation:** ML 2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd, 5(p)

**Appropriation Language:** \$10,760,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for a program to provide competitive matching grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional, state, and national organizations for enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount, at least \$3,000,000 is for grants in the seven-county metropolitan area and cities with a population of 50,000 or greater. Grants must not be made for activities required to fulfill the duties of owners of lands subject to conservation easements. Grants must not be made from the appropriation in this paragraph for projects that have a total project cost exceeding \$575,000. Of the total appropriation, \$445,000 may be spent for personnel costs and other direct and necessary administrative costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests in land. Easements must be permanent. Grants may not be used to establish easement stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee must be open to hunting and fishing during the open season unless otherwise provided by law. The program must require a match of at least ten percent from nonstate sources for all grants. The match may be cash or in-kind resources. For grant applications of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner must provide a separate, simplified application process. Subject to Minnesota statutes, the commissioner of natural resources must, when evaluating projects of equal value, give priority to organizations that have a history of receiving, or a charter to receive, private contributions for local conservation or habitat projects. If acquiring land in fee or a conservation easement, priority must be given to projects associated with or within one mile of existing wildlife management areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic management areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02. All restoration or enhancement projects must be on land permanently protected by a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual maintenance and protection of restored and enhanced habitat, by a conservation easement or public ownership or in public waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority must be given to restoration and enhancement projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded under this paragraph. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2023. No less than five percent of the amount of each grant must be held back from reimbursement until the grant recipient has completed a grant accomplishment report by the deadline and in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The commissioner must provide notice of the grant program in the summary of game and fish law prepared under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051, subdivision 2.

## Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Kathy Varble

**Title:** CPL Program Coordinator

**Organization:** MN DNR

**Address:** 500 Lafayette Road Box 20

**City:** St. Paul, MN 55155

**Email:** kathy.varble@state.mn.us

**Office Number:** 651-259-5216

**Mobile Number:**

**Fax Number:**

**Website:** [www.mndnr.gov/cpl](http://www.mndnr.gov/cpl)

## Location Information

**County Location(s):** Washington, Crow Wing, Hennepin, Cook, Mille Lacs, Houston, Mower, Faribault, Polk, Hubbard, Carlton, Ramsey, Goodhue, Clay, Blue Earth, Dakota, Sherburne, Wilkin, Anoka, St. Louis, Pine, Otter Tail, Aitkin, Koochiching, Marshall, Chisago, Carver, Lake of the Woods, Morrison, Beltrami, Isanti, Pope, Scott, Yellow Medicine, Le Sueur, Olmsted, Douglas, Grant, Kandiyohi, Brown, Lake, Itasca, Cass, Kanabec and Big Stone.

### Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban
- Southeast Forest

### Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee
- Restore
- Enhance

### Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

## Narrative

### Summary of Accomplishments

As of 11/1/2023, the CPL program has provided over 970 grants totaling \$115 million to over 250 different grantee organizations, improving or protecting over 577,000 acres of habitat. Demand for CPL grants has continued to grow each year as new applicants hear about the program and successful grantees return. In ML 2019 there were 99 grants awarded- 15 metro grants, 29 traditional grants, and 55 Expedited Conservation Partners grants. Through these 99 grants, over 34,000 acres were restored, enhanced, or protected. Over \$10.6M was awarded to organizations for projects.

## **Process & Methods**

The CPL program fulfills MS 97a.056 Subd. 3a, directing LSOHC to establish a conservation partner's grant program encouraging/supporting local conservation efforts. \$10,315,000 was available for grants. Of this amount, up to \$3,000,000 was used for projects in the 7-county metro area and in cities with a population of 50,000 people or greater. This is a stand-alone program, but depends on support/technical advice from public land managers and habitat and acquisition specialists.

Grant activities included enhancement, restoration and protection of forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. A 10% match from non-state sources is required for all grants, and may be in-kind or cash. Applicants described the project, location, activity, habitat, benefit, etc. For acquisition projects, applicants described the parcel selection process. CPL Staff developed an RFP incorporating LSOHC priorities. Staff worked with applicants to submit applications, oversaw grant selection, prepared/executed grant documents, reviewed expenditures, approved payments/reports, monitored work, and assisted recipients with close-out. Staff complies with Office of Grants Management policies.

The CPL program has 3 annual grant cycles- Traditional, Metro, and Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP). The Traditional and Metro cycles had two grant rounds with the first beginning August 2018. Projects under \$25,000 will have a simplified application. The ECP grant cycle had four rounds of funding.

CPL staff reviewed applications for completeness. Technical Review Committees, comprised of habitat experts across the state and approved by the DNR Commissioner, reviewed and scored Traditional and Metro applications based on evaluation criteria (see attached). The DNR Directors of Fish and Wildlife, Eco Waters, and Forestry reviewed the committee's recommendations and provide a final ranking to the Commissioner. Funding decisions were made by the Commissioner's office. ECP grants are reviewed by CPL staff and DNR habitat experts using established criteria. The Director of Fish and Wildlife made final funding decisions for ECP.

Grantees were required to submit annual and final accomplishment reports. Grantees were paid on a reimbursement or "for services rendered" basis, meaning payment is made to the grantee after work has been performed. Proof that the vendor was paid must be submitted to staff before additional payments are made. Funds were advanced for acquisitions to accommodate cash flow needs.

### **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?**

All CPL project requests include a Natural Heritage Database Review, which addresses wildlife species of greatest conservation need, the MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories. These results are incorporated into the requests, along with mitigation measures if needed. Habitat value/species benefits is also one of the evaluation criterion used to score applications. When the projects are reviewed by the technical habitat experts, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, targeted species, and threatened/endangered species are all discussed, and add to the overall habitat quality and urgency of applications which is reflected in the scoring and funding recommendations.

### **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.**

The CPL program has a Technical Review Committee that reviews and scores projects based on evaluation criteria. One of the evaluation criterion addresses the overall project value, and includes the habitat quality and quantity of the site, whether or not it is part of a habitat corridor, and the use of currently accepted practices based on sound conservation science. A second evaluation criterion addresses the habitat benefits of the proposal, such as

protecting areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey. A third evaluation criterion addresses public use and access, and the project's proximity to other protected lands. The technical experts ensure that CPL proposals recommended for funding are using current conservation science and best management practices.

### **Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition**

CPL works with partners all over the state, including non-profit organizations and local, state, and federal units of government. There were over 50 partners that were awarded grants through CPL this year. Many LGUs were awarded funding as well as NGOs of all sizes. There were many new LGUs in the seven county metro area that applied this year, likely because ECP became more accessible to more organizations in 2018. The partners of the CPL program continually exceed our match requirements and expectations. Though the grantees are responsible for a 10% match, we often see a far higher amount reported. The match frequently comes from community volunteers that are engaged in the projects and conservation partners that are working with grantees to accomplish the goals of the projects.

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

CPL is unique because the program works with over 250 organizations throughout the state. CPL also requires local investment in projects of at least 10% of the grant award. Nearly \$1M was unspent of the total funding due to continuing challenges with staffing due to COVID, the drought in 2021 and 2022, and a large acquisition that fell through. The Friends of Sax Zim Bog had a \$400,000 acquisition that wasn't completed, and several smaller expedited restoration and enhancement projects were unable to be completed due to COVID staffing limitations. Up to \$3 Million in grant funding was to be used for projects occurring in the 7-county metro area and in cities with populations above 50,000. This goal was exceeded, with over \$3.3 Million awarded to metro applicants.

### **What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this program?**

- N/A

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

Applicants are asked to describe or submit their long-term management plans when submitting a project proposal, and the Technical Review Committee considers these plans when scoring proposals and making funding recommendations. The sustainability of the project is also addressed through one of the evaluation criterion. Long-term maintenance commitment from the applicant is crucial to a successful proposal. The CPL program has a monitoring process to ensure that funds are being used to complete work as described in the grantee's work plans. The CPL program manager and natural resource specialist conducts site visits for projects that are over \$50,000, and smaller projects as needed. When conducting site visits, CPL staff meets with the project manager and land manager to discuss and evaluate the work, and to address any issues that may have come up during the grant period, as well as discuss long-term management goals.

## Budget

### Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$126,200	-	-	-	\$350,000	\$126,200
Contracts	\$10,315,000	\$10,315,000	\$8,339,300	\$1,031,500	\$1,699,800	Grantees	\$11,346,500	\$10,039,100
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$1,300	-	-	-	\$30,000	\$1,300
Professional Services	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$4,700	-	-	-	\$30,000	\$4,700
Direct Support Services	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$22,000	-	-	-	\$30,000	\$22,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,100	-	-	-	\$5,000	\$2,100
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$10,760,000</b>	<b>\$10,760,000</b>	<b>\$8,495,600</b>	<b>\$1,031,500</b>	<b>\$1,699,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$11,791,500</b>	<b>\$10,195,400</b>

### Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Grants Coordinator	1.0	2.0	\$126,200	-	-	\$126,200
Grants Specialist	0.5	2.0	-	-	-	-
Natural Resources Specialist	0.5	2.0	-	-	-	-

### Direct Support Services

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

DNR's D&N calculator

**Explain any budget challenges or successes:**

There were several large acquisitions that fell through, and many projects came in under budget. COVID staffing complications and multiple droughts led to some grantees not being able to complete all planned parts of their initial work plans. Some projects were cancelled and re-applied for because of timing issues and project manager changes. Personnel, travel, and direct support services also came in under 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	2,374	0	2,299	0	6,370	0	11,043
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	2	0	31
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	269	0	0	0	269
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	2,545	0	5,949	0	7,536	0	5,980	0	22,010
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,352</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,104</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,352</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33,353</b>

**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	-	-	-	\$2,238,000	-	\$778,800	-	\$1,453,200	-	\$4,470,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$137,000	-	\$44,500	-	\$261,700	-	\$443,200
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	\$276,500	-	-	-	\$276,500
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	\$197,100	-	\$1,019,800	-	\$933,600	-	\$1,155,400	-	\$3,305,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$197,100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$3,394,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,033,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,870,300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$8,495,600</b>

**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	925	0	381	0	65	0	7,199	0	2,473	0	11,043
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	2	0	31
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	269	0	269
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	1,803	0	6,062	0	0	0	1,599	0	12,546	0	22,010
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,728</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,443</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,827</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,290</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33,353</b>

## 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	-	\$1,906,000	-	\$483,800	-	\$142,000	-	\$903,600	-	\$1,034,600	-	\$4,470,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$138,400	-	\$304,800	-	\$443,200
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$276,500	-	\$276,500
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	\$834,600	-	\$429,400	-	-	-	\$1,067,600	-	\$974,300	-	\$3,305,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,740,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$913,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$142,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,109,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,590,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$8,495,600</b>

## Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

## Explain the success/shortage of acre goals

Acreage exceeded our initial goals. Initial acreage for applications received totaled 32,634 acres, while final acreage totaled 33,353. This can be due to several factors including bids for restoration and enhancement projects coming in lower than expected, allowing contractors to increase acreage, as well as amendments increasing funding to allow grantees to increase their project's footprint.

## Outcomes

### Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Other ~ Outcomes were dependent on applications received and projects funded.

### Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Other ~ Outcomes were dependent on applications received and projects funded.

### Programs in the northern forest region:

- Other ~ Outcomes were dependent on applications received and projects funded.

### Programs in prairie region:

- Other ~ Outcomes were dependent on applications received and projects funded.

### Programs in southeast forest region:

- Other ~ Outcomes were dependent on applications received and projects funded.



## Parcels

### Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](#)

### Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Aitkin County Bud Capping	Aitkin	04927214	684	\$50,000	Yes	Bud capping of upland conifers on approximately 328 acres to reduce deer browsing pressure.
Minnewawa Outlet Fish Passage Restoration	Aitkin	04923232	1	\$77,802	Yes	The project will cut a notch in a DNR-owned concrete dam and build a series of boulder weirs below to allow fish passage at all flows. The Minnewawa watershed is 22 square miles and will allow connectivity to upstream lakes in addition to Minnewawa. Downstream of Minnewawa is Big Sandy Reservoir and completing this project will allow fish from this large reservoir to swim upstream to Minnewawa and connected waters.
Rum River Revetments Phase 1	Anoka	03324219	6	\$185,000	Yes	Enhancement of habitat and erosion stabilization along up to 3,600 linear feet of Rum Riverbank, one of Minnesota's seven Wild and Scenic Rivers. Riverbanks that are most likely to worsen if left untreated will be stabilized using a dense armor of naturally rot resistant Eastern red cedar trees, inter-planted with live willow stakes or other native vegetation.
Bemidji/Park Rapids Thermal Cover Improvement 2	Beltrami	14734206	297	\$40,890	Yes	Establishment of 240 acres of thermal cover to maintain deer herd health and protection for winter. Jack pine, white pine, red pine, balsam fir, white cedar, and other species will be planted.
Chippewa NF Pollinator Restoration Project	Beltrami	14730224	158	\$50,000	Yes	Restoration of degraded forest openings through prescribed fire, tilling, and application of a pollinator friendly native seed mix.

Bentsen Lake Fishway	Big Stone	12246213	6,000	\$73,156	Yes	Restoration of upstream connectivity from Stoney Run Creek into Bentsen Lake to allow desirable fish and other aquatic organisms to migrate between water bodies.
Thompson Slough WMA Wetland + Habitat Enhancement	Blue Earth	10525204	45	\$35,438	Yes	Enhancement of a 45-acre wetland within the Thompson Slough Wildlife Management Area to benefit species like waterfowl, ring-necked pheasants, and monarchs. In addition, the project will provide water quality benefits for fish and other wildlife in downstream waters, including the Little Cobb River and Severson Lake.
Brown County WMA Tree Removal	Brown	10834215	50	\$49,307	Yes	Removal of trees and woody encroachment from Terri, Verona, and Helget-Braulick Wildlife Management Areas to provide high quality grassland habitat.
Harvest West Park Enhancements	Carver	11523206	12	\$49,300	Yes	Creation of a 12-acre park consisting of 7 acres of woodland, 3.5 acres of prairie, and 1.5 acres of wetland. Project will remove invasive reed canary grass and buckthorn currently on-site
Tribal Black Ash Diversification	Cass	14528233	807	\$208,972	Yes	Enhancement of 800 acres of black ash forest (234 acres on Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe land, 300 acres on Chippewa National Forest land, 250 acres on state land, and 16 acres on Itasca County land). The results of doing this will provide numerous benefits. Most importantly, by diversifying black ash stands, we will give them the best chance of remaining forested after they come into contact with EAB.
Janet Johnson WMA Forest Habitat	Chisago	03521234	35	\$39,464	Yes	Removal of timber and regeneration of a healthy aspen forest through clearcutting/removing the trees, but leaving some typical ecological reserves as directly by MN Forest Resource Council Site Level Guidelines.

Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative Moorhead, MN	Clay	13948205	297	\$51,445	Yes	Enhancement of 297 acres of riparian habitat along the Red River for three growing seasons in Moorhead, MN with methods such as mowing, chemical/mechanical control of invasive species, and prescribed burns. Of those 297 acres, 16 wetland acres will be re-seeded with native species, 19 acres of established prairies will receive a high diversity enhancement seeding, and 10 acres of riparian woodlands will receive invasive species removal.
North Shore Lake Superior Restoration FY20	Cook	06202125	240	\$49,997	Yes	Restoration of conifer and other native tree species to areas where regeneration is not naturally occurring with the goals of protecting the water quality of Lake Superior, improving critical wildlife habitat for a variety of species, and developing a resilient ecosystem for the future.
MDHA Brainerd Area Buckthorn Control 2	Crow Wing	04332226	94	\$36,789	Yes	Enhancement of Poor Farm, Ray Cook, Telef Paulson, and Little Nokasippi WMAs through the control of invasive buckthorn.
Rotary Riverside Park	Crow Wing	04531235	43	\$49,967	Yes	Restoration of prairies and natural areas within Rotary Riverside Park through buckthorn removal, prescribed burning, goat grazing, and planting of native species.
DCAS Native Prairie Enhancement	Dakota	11319206	193	\$108,557	Yes	Mechanical removal of encroaching cottonwoods on a 193-acre wetland and prairie complex.

Terrace Oaks Restoration - North Central Phase II	Dakota	11520217	26	\$63,372	Yes	Restoration of 26 acres of forest in Terrace Oaks Park through control of woody regrowth, control of invasive forb species, establishment of a diverse understory of native plants, improvement of wildlife habitat, promotion of the health and regeneration of oak trees, providing a public showcase for oak savanna restoration, and expanding on an existing 19 acre restoration that's directly adjacent to the current project area.
Sabolik WPA Woody Removal	Douglas	12740225	110	\$49,499	Yes	Restoration of 110 acres of wetland-associated grassland habitat through flush cutting woody cover and basal treating small diameter trees, which will enhance adjacent prairie upland and wetland habitat.
Faribault County Wetland and Grassland Restoration	Faribault	10327216	106	\$50,077	Yes	Restoration of 106-acres of prairie-wetland complex within the prairie pothole region. Methods include earthwork to clear sediment from degraded wetlands, removal of drain tile, blocking/removing drainage ditches, and applying diverse wetland and prairie seed mixes.
Windom WMD Restorations	Faribault	10128202	365	\$274,611	Yes	Restoration of wetland and upland acres on Twin Lakes WPA, Bhagyam WPA, and Winnebago WPA. These properties are currently fallow or cropped and will be restored to diverse native prairie plantings. Additionally a total of 15 drained or altered wetlands will be restored. Additionally upland acres on Pilot Grove WPA and Two Islands WPA will be enhanced by converting brome grass and invasive trees to diverse native grasslands.

Valhalla Park Restoration - Phase 2	Goodhue	11213212	7	\$50,000	Yes	Restoration of native plant communities to Valhalla Park, restoration of habitat for wildlife species, particularly bird species (including recently-sighted endangered red-headed woodpeckers) utilizing the Mississippi Flyway, and maintaining the legacy character of the park as an integral part of the Historic Preservation District.
Blakesley WPA Woody Removal	Grant	12941219	252	\$47,500	Yes	Removal of trees and woody encroachment from 252 acres of prairie and wetland ecosystems.
Douglas and Grant County WPA Restorations	Grant	13043206	303	\$178,984	Yes	Removal of woody encroachment on remnant prairies within Lillemon, Sabolik, and McDowell WPA's. Wetlands will be restored through tile checks, tile removals, cattail spraying, ditch filling, and ditch plug construction.
Baker/Rebecca Prairie	Hennepin	11823219	193	\$215,479	Yes	Creation of a 160 acre prairie and wetland complex to provide habitat to SGCN grassland birds and waterfowl. Additional benefits include providing nectaring and larval sites for pollinators.
Oriental Bittersweet Management - Three Rivers	Hennepin	12023230	140	\$233,313	Yes	Removal and control of over 140 acres of Oriental Bittersweet infestation within 9 distinct areas of Three Rivers Park District - across 3 park reserves. There will be a reduction of not less than 70% of the original area of Bittersweet infestation on each site.
Pennsylvania Woods Habitat Restoration	Hennepin	11821229	4	\$42,980	Yes	Removal of buckthorn within a 6-acre nature area and establishment of native grasses, sedges, forbs, and shrubs to provide habitat for various waterfowl and pollinator species, and improve water quality through vegetative buffers and enhanced ground cover.

Houston County Grassland Restorations	Houston	10104227	49	\$46,339	Yes	Restoration of prairies on degraded food plots and brome fields within RJD Memorial Hardwood State Forest, Yucatan WMA, and Winnebago WMA. Restoration efforts include herbicide application, prescribed fire, tilling, and seeding a diverse prairie seed mix.
Badoura Forest Openings	Hubbard	13932223	217	\$29,895	Yes	The cutting 250 acres of old rank brush to improve habitat conditions for a multitude of wildlife species. Main habitat benefits will be wild turkey, deer and grouse.
Crow Wing Oak Enhancement	Hubbard	13933235	151	\$18,815	Yes	Mechanical or hand release of 150 acres of oak regeneration sites. Sites have heavy competition from brush species and by mechanical or hand releasing the oak regeneration there will be better growth of oak stump sprouting and acorn production.
Anderson Park - Hanon Farm	Isanti	03522235	125	\$100,000	Yes	Restoration of 125 acres of agricultural land into native prairie. Dry, mesic, and wet seed mixes were applied following site preparation.
Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve Phase 1	Isanti	03423222	92	\$115,249	Yes	Treatment and removal of 92 acres of glossy buckthorn, common buckthorn, reed canary grass, and Canada thistle from Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve. Native re-seeding seeding will occur in targeted areas.
MDHA Cass/Itasca County Oak Enhancement	Itasca	05826236	59	\$10,970	Yes	Enhancement of 200 acres of forest using timber stand improvement methods to release and enhance the growth of young oak saplings, oak stump sprout thinning and the planting of acorns to increase oak on the landscape. Ironwood will also be cut to release oak.
MDHA Itasca County Thermal Cover Improvement	Itasca	06123235	772	\$49,789	Yes	Bud capping of jack pine, white pine, and red pine on 800 acres of forest to reduce tree mortality from deer browsing.

Holy Cow WMA Prairie Restoration	Kanabec	04222231	60	\$42,535	Yes	Conversion of 66 acres of degraded cool season grass hayland into native grassland through herbicide and seeding. Increasing (and maintaining) the amounts of quality openlands habitat for grassland nesting birds.
Kandiyohi County Public Land Enhancement	Kandiyohi	12136235	209	\$173,637	Yes	Enhancement of 157 acres of wetland and upland habitats on Dengerud, Evenson, Weber, and Swan WPA's. Enhancement activities include converting low-diversity monocultures into high diversity grasslands via herbicide, stump grubbing, tilling, and seeding.
MDHA/TEC Thermo Cover	Koochiching	15126205	79	\$15,000	Yes	Enhancement of 50 acres of forest through planting 2-5 acre areas to balsam fir or white spruce as is most appropriate to the site. The sites will be interplanted with the natural regeneration at a spacing that will achieve reduction in snow depth once the trees have matured. This project will assist in movement near known deer yarding areas to reach browse.
Two Harbors EDNR of Buckthorn	Lake	05310231	250	\$21,740	Yes	Restoration of 250 acres of forest through removal of invasive buckthorn. Buckthorn will be removed through cut stump treatments and foliar application of herbicide.
Graceton WMA Brushlands Enhancement	Lake of the Woods	16233236	240	\$47,449	Yes	Shearing and/or Mulching and mowing of approximately 300 acres of standing rank dense woody vegetation on lowland brush habitats. Mechanical enhancement will return these acres to early seral stages generating improved STGR habitats.
Ney Nature Center Grassland Restoration	Le Sueur	11225206	98	\$13,231	Yes	Conversion of 49 acres of cropland into prairie using a diverse native seed mix. An additional 28 acres of existing prairie will be burned.

MDHA/RMEF Thief Lake Buckthorn Removal	Marshall	15840219	120	\$57,717	Yes	Enhancement of habitats within the Karlstad and Thief Lake DNR Wildlife Work Areas through removal of invasive buckthorn. Buckthorn control methods include hand pulling, cut-stump treatment, basal bark treatment, and foliar spraying.
Thief Lake WMA Brushlands Enhancement	Marshall	15842208	263	\$49,715	Yes	Enhancement of 500 acres in Northwest Minnesota through the use of brush mulching, hydro-axing, and/or shearing equipment to setback succession and prepare for Rx Fire in future years.
MLWMA Brushland Complex Rx Fire	Mille Lacs	04125232	4,625	\$2,551	Yes	Enhancement of 4625 acres of Sharp Tailed Grouse habitat using contracted aerial ignition to burn large decadent stand of lowland willow/alder brush encroaching on large wetland/upland complexes within the WMA.
MLWMA Native Prairie Resotation	Mille Lacs	04026213	43	\$38,000	Yes	Restoration of 50 acres of existing CFA agriculture fields to a native mesic prairie and brushland complex. This will establish additional open landscape habitats for avian species such as pheasant, turkeys, woodcock and sharptail grouse, and will also restore significant pollinator habitat.
MLWMA Native Prairie Resotation -- 2	Mille Lacs	04026213	43	\$36,774	Yes	Restoration of 40 acres of existing CFA agriculture fields to a native mesic prairie and brushland complex. This will establish additional open landscape habitats for avian species such as pheasant, turkeys, woodcock and sharptail grouse, and will also restore significant pollinator habitat.
City of Pierz Hillman Creek Restoration	Morrison	04030209	1	\$68,000	Yes	Stabilization and restoration of stream bank erosion on Hillman Creek. Project will improve water quality, reduce sediment load, and provide benefits to aquatic species of wildlife.



Hormel Nature Center Critical Habitat III	Mower	10317231	106	\$297,849	Yes	Restoration of 65 acres of oak savanna/woodland, and terrace forest. Restoration of historic hydrology and native vegetation to three historically drained wetlands totaling approximately 20 acres. Restoration of diverse native plant cover and reduction of invasive brush on 30 acres of remnant prairie. Restoration of 11 acres of mesic and wet prairie in a newly purchased parcel.
Prairie Crossing Park	Olmsted	10714204	9	\$29,275	Yes	Restoration of 9 acres of oak savanna and prairie through the removal and control of invasive buckthorn and other invasive species.
C & M Ranch WPA Restorations	Otter Tail	13242228	187	\$119,301	Yes	Removal of trees and woody encroachment from remnant prairies and restoration of wetlands using tile checks, tile removal, ditch fill, and ditch plug construction. Disturbed areas will be re-seeded with local ecotype seed.
Duenow WPA Woody Removal	Otter Tail	13442233	198	\$50,000	Yes	Removal of encroaching sumac and other woody species from a 198 acre prairie and wetland complex in Duenow WPA.
Ecological Habitat Area	Otter Tail	13243211	40	\$49,500	Yes	Restoration of 10-acre highly diverse prairie plantings called Ecological Habitat Areas within a larger 40-acre monoculture environment.
Otter Tail Co. Wetland and Grassland Restoration	Otter Tail	13342209	380	\$399,401	Yes	Restoration and enhancement of 380 acres of prairies and wetlands to benefit wildlife habitat, increase water quality, sequester carbon, increase climate change adaptation, and enhance recreational opportunities for the public.

Prairie to the People: Habitat Restoration	Otter Tail	13243214	14	\$46,031	Yes	Restoration of 21 acres of prairie in Fergus Falls, creating the beginnings of a corridor of pollinator and wildlife habitat throughout the city. This project is just the beginning of a series of phases to expand and connect these independent sites into a network throughout the city.
Pine County Grassland Restoration	Pine	03822203	6	\$7,768	Yes	Enhancement of 6 acres of prairie through the removal of non-native cool season grasses, buckthorn and other woody invasive species followed by native seeding.
Burnham Creek Wildlife Habitat Structure Repair	Polk	14845201	82	\$163,096	Yes	Replacement of a failing 31-year-old water control structure on the 82-acre Burnham Creek WMA wetland complex with a new concrete weir structure with a stoplog bay.
Glacial Ridge NWR Grazing Program Expansion	Polk	14944212	3,721	\$21,700	Yes	Creation of additional pastures to expand a prescribed grazing program. Grazing will be used to control encroachment of young willow and aspen in Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge.
Restoring Prairie Pothole Wetlands & Grasslands #4	Pope	12639209	492	\$380,479	Yes	Restoration of 484 acres of prairie, oak savanna, and wetlands in the prairie pothole region; these complexes of prairie grasslands, oak savanna and wetlands would provide high quality habitat for waterfowl, pollinators, and other wildlife.
4th St and Otter Lake Road Restoration	Ramsey	03022215	2	\$7,900	Yes	Removal of buckthorn and other understory invasive species on 2 acres of forest. along with broadcast seeding of native understory plant species.
Grass Lake West Woodland Project	Ramsey	03023225	24	\$54,750	Yes	Restoration of 24 acres of old growth oak woodland on the west side of grass lake through the removal of buckthorn and other invasive woody species. Planting of native herbaceous and woody species will follow invasive species removal.

Island lake prairie conversion & woodland project	Ramsey	03023226	27	\$150,099	Yes	Conversion of Amur dominated woodland edges and old fields to native prairie (12.35 acres) and remove invasive woody species from the greater mixed woods (14.5 acres) areas in this section of the park. Removal of buckthorn and other woody invasive species from the small section of oak woods within the defined "mixed woods" area to the west. Prescribed burns of select areas and seeding of a native herbaceous understory to follow the initial removal of invasive woody species through the mixed woods.
Owasso Park Prairie Restoration	Ramsey	03023236	1	\$6,100	Yes	Restoration of a 1-acre prairie adjacent to Lake Wabasso. Restoration activities include removal of invasive brome groundcover, prescribed fire, mowing, brush removal, and native seeding.
Phalen Oak Woodland Enhancement	Ramsey	02922216	30	\$105,953	Yes	Enhancement of 30 woodland acres, predominantly southern mesic oak-basswood forest (MHs38) and southern dry mesic oak (maple) woodland (FDs37), adjacent to the Lake Phalen and Round Lake lakeshores within Phalen Regional Park. Enhancement of these remnant native plant communities will be accomplished through invasive species management, prescribed burning, and revegetation efforts.
Prairie Preservation Project	Ramsey	03022210	109	\$22,450	Yes	Enhancement of 109 acres of prairies through mowing, spot spraying of well-established patches of weeds, and prescribed burns for all prairies. This work will revive the health of these prairies to provide higher quality habitat for pollinators and grassland birds.

Villa Park Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	Ramsey	02923213	42	\$43,483	Yes	Enhancement of 42 acres of native ground cover to improve the species richness, seasonal availability of forage for pollinators, improve overall wildlife habitat, resist reinvasion by invasives, and increase the resilience of the native plant community to pressures such as climate change, emerging invasives and others.
Woodland Protection Project	Ramsey	03023217	200	\$50,000	Yes	Enhancement of 200 acres of woodlands utilizing prescribed burns in select areas (Battle Creek and Fish Creek sites), monitoring and removal of invasive herbaceous species, planting of trees/native grass and forb seed, and foliar treatment of re-emerging buckthorn at all sites.
Courthouse Lake Pollinator Buffers	Scott	11523209	3	\$12,430	Yes	Conversion of 2 acres of turf grass into prairie along Courthouse Lake in Caska. Turf will be killed and removed, followed by application of a native seed mix and additional plant plugs.
Liberty Glen Lowland Restoration	Sherburne	03531212	35	\$119,213	Yes	Restoration and enhancement of prairie and forest habitats totaling 30 acres within the Liberty Glen Lowland located in Riverside Regional Park in St. Cloud, MN. The project will fully restore and provide for a new 20-acre pollinator focused prairie habitat within an environmentally significant site located at Riverside Regional Park.
Sherburne NWR Aerial Cattail Spray 5	Sherburne	03528225	924	\$49,941	Yes	Enhancement of 576 acres of wetland through invasive cattail removal via aerial spraying of herbicide and burning of dead and decaying vegetation.
Sherburne NWR: B&B Units Invasive Species Control	Sherburne	03527216	160	\$49,995	Yes	Enhancement of 160 acres of prairie and oak savanna by removing leafy spurge, black locust, and Siberian elm via herbicide application.

Cooperative Enhancement of Forest Habitats in NEMN	St. Louis	05813213	5,198	\$400,000	Yes	Restoration of species diversity, protecting seedlings from deer browse, releasing seedlings, and preventative pruning of white pine seedlings to reduce the spread of white pine blister rust fungus. Activities will be on 140 forest stands totaling 3200 acres.
MDHA Laurentian Budcapping-Phase III	St. Louis	05812236	879	\$38,418	Yes	Bud capping of white pine, red pine, and jack pine on 650 acres of forest to reduce tree mortality from deer browsing.
Orr Area Trout Streams 3	St. Louis	06620232	1	\$40,000	Yes	Replacement of a culvert on an unnamed tributary of the Lost River leading to additional stream habitat for brook trout and other fish species.
Restoring Fish Passage on Keene Creek	St. Louis	05015236	1	\$201,991	Yes	Replacement of an undersized culvert that is blocking fish passage in Keene Creek, a designated trout stream running through the Cities of Duluth and Hermantown. Removing this barrier will restore connection to over 2.3 miles of stream and will allow native brook trout to access the headwaters of Keene Creek where coldwater is abundant and habitat is in excellent condition.
Restoring Riparian Uplands on Impaired Streams	St. Louis	05113232	70	\$30,385	Yes	Restoration of 68 acres of riparian uplands through the removal of invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn and the planting of white cedar, white pine, paper birch, American elm, black willow, balsam fir, red osier dogwood, elderberry, alder, and chokecherry.

Restoring Trout Passage on Captain Jacobson	St. Louis	05212202	1	\$330,000	Yes	Replacement of a severely undersized culvert that is blocking fish passage in Captain Jacobson Creek – a tributary to the Knife River. Removing this barrier will restore connection to over 4.25 miles of stream and will allow steelhead trout and native brook trout to access the headwaters of Captain Jacobson Creek where coldwater is abundant and habitat is in excellent condition.
City of Marine, JMNA Habitat Restoration	Washington	03120201	32	\$53,776	Yes	Restoration and management of a 32-acre wetland, forest, and prairie complex through invasive species removal, wetland regeneration, and re-seeding of prairie and woodland species.
Crestview Elementary School Outdoor Laboratory	Washington	02721208	10	\$49,920	Yes	Creation of an outdoor laboratory through 2.5 acres of turf conversion into prairie as well as the reintroduction of 2.9 acres of oak savanna, 3.5 acres of oak-basswood forest and 1 acre of wooded wetland, rehabilitated through the removal of invasive species, canopy thinning and reintroduction of species typical to mesic oak forest types and lowland hardwood forest.
Kingston Park/Prairie Belt Habitat Restoration	Washington	02721210	38	\$121,898	Yes	Restoration of high quality native wildlife habitat to further improve the six-mile long Prairie Belt that traverses the entire city. Restoring quality native habitats will be of particular benefit for nongame and Species in Greatest Conservation Need wildlife within the project area (Bell's vireo and western fox snake).

Lake Elmo Park Reserve Oak Savanna Resto Phase II	Washington	02921215	176	\$365,647	Yes	Restoration and enhancement of 166 acres of native dry-mesic oak savannas and prairies (UPs24 and UPs23) surrounding Eagle Point Lake and its uplands to restore key habitats, provide habitat for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, create connectivity between the aquatic and upland habitats, and stabilize the slopes to maintain and improve water quality in Eagle Point Lake.
Shields Lake City Park Shoreline Restoration	Washington	03221222	2	\$8,000	Yes	Approximately 65 feet of shoreline within the Shields Lake City Park on the east side of the lake will be restored with a 10-foot wide native buffer. The shoreline in the park is currently dominated by nonnative reed canary grass.
Sunfish Lake Park Restoration	Washington	02921215	40	\$139,000	Yes	Restoration of a 35-acre FDs37 forest that exemplifies native biodiversity, particularly welcoming for native animals. Buckthorn and other woody invasive species will be removed using herbicide treatment and mechanical removal.
Valley Creek Overlook Habitat Restoration	Washington	02820215	47	\$145,727	Yes	Restoration of 33 acres of degraded woodland and grassland to a near native state of mixed hardwood forest, prairie, and savanna habitat. By restoring the habitat to native species, we will enhance the health of Valley Creek trout stream and surrounding habitat, benefiting fish species, pollinators, native plants, shrubs and trees, and overall water quality in the watershed. This project will also add to contiguous habitat needed by species that are threatened by habitat loss.
Native Seed Supplement	Wilkin	13546219	114	\$24,710	Yes	Conversion of 114 acres of former cropland into prairie. Seeding of project sites will be accomplished using a Truax prairie seed drill.

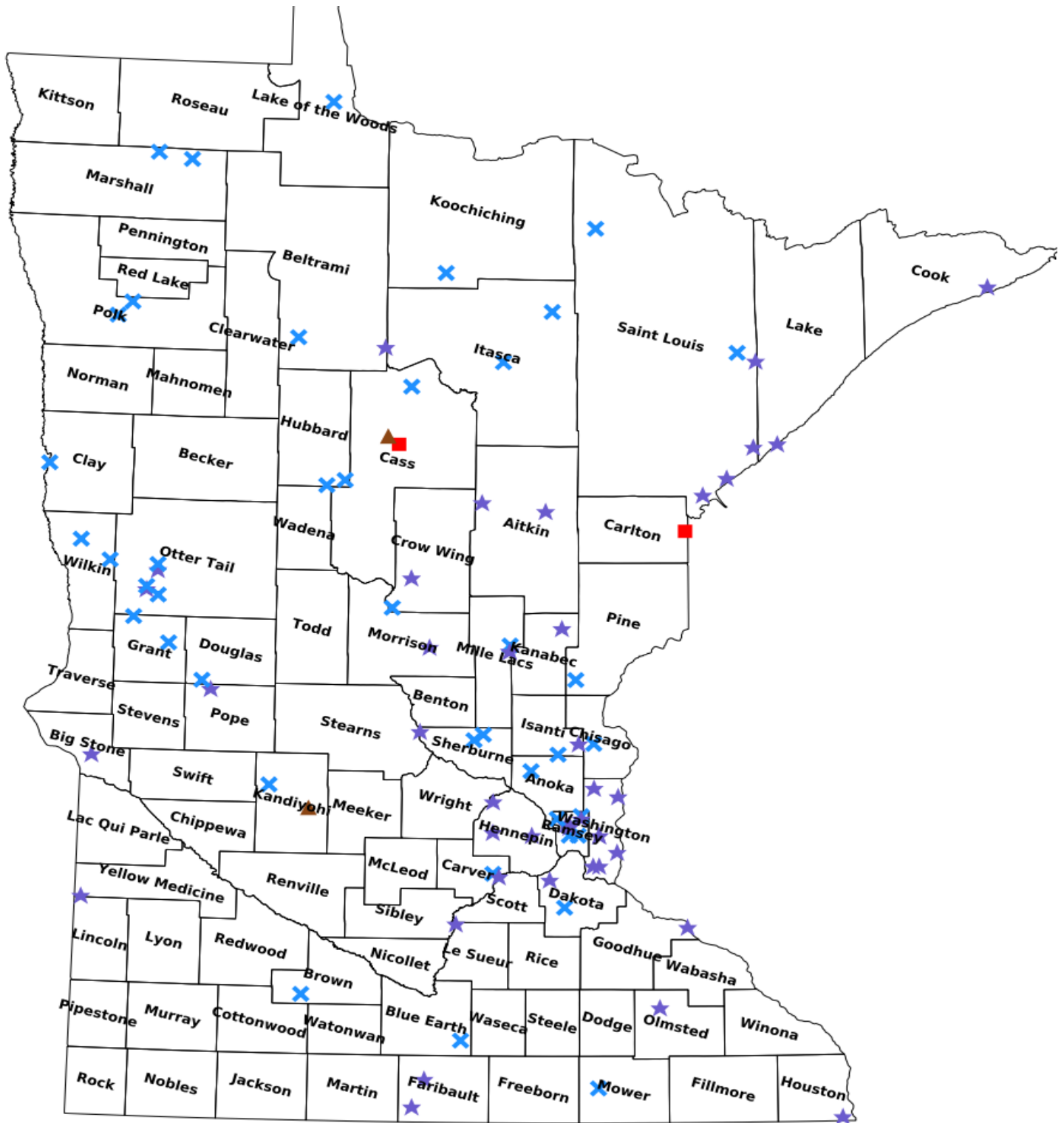
Seasonal Wetland Cattail Control VII	Wilkin	13445226	1,564	\$47,242	Yes	Removal of invasive cattails and their root mass with wide track, low impact bulldozers and long reach track excavators, reestablishing open water pair ponds. Additional aerial spraying of large tracks of invasive cattails by helicopter and repairing or constructing water control structures to flood cattails.
Yellow Medicine Upland Restorations	Yellow Medicine	11446233	124	\$49,608	Yes	Restoration of prairie on food plots on the Bohemian, Miller- Richter, Mound Spring, and Sioux Nation WMA's in Yellow Medicine County. Removal of invasive trees on St. Leo WMA.

### Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Carlton County Land Addition	Carlton	04716201	242	\$271,425	No
Cass County Land Acquisition	Cass	14129214	27	\$41,800	No
Leech Lake Miller's Bay AMA Tract 4	Cass	14229231	2	\$258,993	No
Yohi WMA Addition Acquisition	Kandiyohi	11934212	29	\$134,269	No



## Parcel Map



0 16 32 48 mi

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