



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Heron Lake Area Conservation Partnership
Laws of Minnesota 2020 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/04/2024

Project Title: Heron Lake Area Conservation Partnership

Funds Recommended: \$4,493,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 2(i)

Appropriation Language: \$4,493,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee for wildlife management under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8, or to be designated and managed as waterfowl production areas in Minnesota, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; to acquire land in permanent conservation easement; and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat within the Heron Lake Watershed as follows: \$1,450,000 is to Ducks Unlimited; \$1,181,000 is to Pheasants Forever; \$801,000 is to the Heron Lake Watershed District; and \$1,061,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to \$120,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is for establishing monitoring and enforcement funds as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jen Willaert

Title:

Organization: Heron Lake Watershed District

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Location Information

County Location(s): Jackson, Nobles and Murray.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee
- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Narrative**Abstract**

The Heron Lake Area Conservation Partnership (HLACP) will permanently protect 402 acres of prairie and wetlands within the Heron Lake watershed in southwest Minnesota. The landscape has less than one percent of its pre-settlement wetlands remaining. The HLACP will use conservation easements and fee-title land acquisition to protect and restore high-value wetland and prairie lands identified as critical habitat for many Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Tracts will be prioritized and landowner outreach targeted to maximize wildlife habitat conservation benefit and financial investment.

Design and Scope of Work

Heron Lake was once a water bird production and migration area of international significance. The vast beds of wild celery and robust stands of bulrush, combined with a seemingly endless prairie around the lake, supported an awe-inspiring number of colonial water birds, waterfowl, and other migratory birds. Observations recorded around the turn of the century reported 700,000 staging canvasbacks, 50,000 nesting Franklin's gulls, and hundreds of thousands of other migratory birds using Heron Lake and surrounding marshes.

With the movement of settlers to the area, the prairie ecosystem was converted to an intensive row crop landscape. This conversion resulted in the drainage of 99.3% of the original wetlands, destruction of 99% of the native prairie, and loss of many species of native flora and fauna. Agriculture was not the only threat. As towns grew, so did their contribution to natural resource degradation.

An increase in the quality and quantity of waterfowl and wetland wildlife habitat within the Heron Lake watershed is critical. This partnership aims to protect and restore prairie and wetland habitats, the first concerted effort of this type in many years. Efforts are supported by the Heron Lake Waterfowl Working Group, a recently formed partnership of conservation and government organizations focusing on restoration efforts within the watershed.

Heron Lake Watershed District Conservation Technician:

The HLWD will hire a Conservation Technician to proactively contact prospective landowners, explain options for flood-prone land, build relationships to develop conservation opportunities, and assist with implementation.

Tracts will be targeted within priority areas using a combination of conservation plans and models. Local coordination and outreach to develop partnerships with landowners and local officials is key to project success.

Conservation Easements:

The HLWD Conservation Technician will coordinate with MLT and other partners to identify landowners interested in managing their lands for wildlife habitat in perpetuity. Landowners will submit proposals to MLT using a competitive request for proposal (RFP) process that will rank properties based on ecological value and cost, prioritizing the projects that provide the best ecological value and acquiring them at the lowest cost to the state. MLT will secure approximately 156 acres of permanent conservation easements and develop restoration/habitat management plans for eased acres. Lands eased will not be open for public use, however partners and the HLWD Conservation Technician will inform landowners and encourage enrollment in the State Walk-In Access Program. The HLWD and MLT, in cooperation with DU, PF, and USFWS Partners Private Lands Program, will restore/enhance wetlands and associated upland habitat on conservation easements.

Fee acquisition:

DU and PF will coordinate with the MNDNR and USFWS Windom Wetland Management District on potential fee-title acquisitions. DU and PF will work with willing sellers to purchase and restore two tracts or 246 acres of land strategically identified within the HLWD, and then donate the parcels to the MNDNR as a WMA or USFWS as a WPA, where they will be managed in perpetuity.

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?

The Heron Lake Area is a significant migratory corridor for waterfowl and other migratory species and was once a highly productive breeding landscape for prairie and wetland-dependent wildlife. Jackson and Nobles Counties, which includes most of the Heron Lake Watershed, have less than one percent of the wetlands that were present at the time of settlement by European- Americans. Wetlands have been reduced in the two counties from greater than 284,000 acres in the late 1800's to presently about 2,000 acres. A primary issue in wetland loss is the loss of water storage, as well as the water quality and other ecological services that wetlands provide. The loss of wetlands has caused extreme lake level fluctuations on the main Heron Lakes, which has degraded wetland wildlife habit in and around the lakes. Flooding has been observed to cause lake-levels to rise close to three feet within 48 hours.

According to the "Characterization of Rainfall-Runoff Response and Estimation of the Effect of Wetland Restoration on Runoff, Heron Lake Basin, Southwestern Minnesota, 1991-97" done by Perry Jones, USGS, "The restoration of wetlands in the Heron Lake Basin may reduce peak and total runoff by increasing available depressional storage and by increasing the potential for evaporation and transpiration. Riparian wetlands adjacent to streams provide hydraulic and hydrologic benefits. Additional storage in riparian wetlands and increased resistance to downstream flow provided by additional wetland vegetation reduces peak discharges following storms."

This program will strive to reestablish high-value prairie and wetland habitat which is identified as critical habitat of many SGCN. Species such as bobolinks, upland sandpiper, grasshopper sparrow, Eastern meadowlark, short-eared owl, Northern harrier, dickcissel, Northern grasshopper mouse, Arogos skipper, and Sullivant's milkweed will benefit from the high diversity grassland restored and protected within the watershed. Upland nesting waterfowl and other wetland- dependent SGCN that historically utilized habitat across the watershed such as Northern pintail, Franklin's gull, trumpeter swan, black tern, American bittern, Wilson's phalarope, burrowing owl, Le Conte's sparrow, and marbled godwit will all benefit from the estimated 180 acres of wetland restoration planned.

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:

This partnership aims to build upon existing investments in public and protected lands within the Heron Lake Watershed in order to establish greater function of habitat complexes that echo the pre-settlement level of wildlife use and productivity. The HLACP will target acquired or eased lands by identifying focus areas within the Heron Lake Watershed with numerous restorable wetlands adjacent to existing public and protected lands. Due to significant historical conversion of prairie wetlands within the watershed (<1% remain) we will utilize the USFWS Restorable Wetlands Duck Production model along with public and protected lands layers and areas identified within the MN Prairie Plan, MN Long Range Duck Recovery Plan, Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN, and the MN County Biological Survey to identify high-value existing complexes where land protection will contribute significantly to existing investments. The HLWD Conservation Technician, with support from partners, will then conduct boots-on-the-ground outreach to landowners within these focus areas. The ultimate objective is to identify tracts in which protection and restoration can provide "multiple benefits" or the highest wildlife habitat and public value within the watershed while in turn providing downstream benefits to Heron Lake itself. Once specific parcels and willing landowners have been identified, tracts will be scrutinized further according to wetland restoration potential and feasibility, size of tract, condition of existing habitat, acquisition and restoration expense, NGO Partner goals and values, and DNR and USFWS interest.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN

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:

- Agriculture lands are converted to grasslands to sustain functioning prairie systems ~ *Lands near existing protected lands will be acquired or eased and restored back to functioning wetlands and native grass and forbs for waterfowl, ring-necked pheasants, pollinators and other prairie and wetland dependent wildlife. Lands will be transferred to the MNDNR or the USFWS to provide additional prairie habitat and public use. Restored lands that become WMAs or WPAs will be monitored by area MNDNR or USFWS staff and managed to optimize conditions for wildlife. Lands eased will be stewarded by MLT in perpetuity and actively managed in partnership with landowners to ensure continued wildlife habitat benefits long after restoration.*

Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

Partners will strive to use all non-federal expense to leverage federal North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant funds to further work within the HLWD. NAWCA, however, is highly competitive and complex so proposal success is uncertain. Partners will work closely with the MNDNR and the USFWS Wetland Management District to offer past state OHF acquisitions as non-federal match and leverage federal NAWCA funds to help fund OHF land restoration and acquire additional lands. The USFWS WMD will also offer their Private Lands Biologist for technical assistance on restorations within both fee-title and eased lands acquired within this grant. Local groups such as the North Heron Lake Game Producers Association and HLWD will also provide small amounts of funds as leverage as a testament for their passion for this important area of the state and the strength of this partnership.

MLT encourages landowners to fully or partially donate the appraised value of their conservation easement, thereby receiving less than the appraised value may otherwise allow. This donated value is shown as leveraged funds in the proposal and is expected to be 10% of the acquisition cost. MLT has a long track record of incentivizing landowners to participate in this process.

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 request is for land acquisition and easement funding to supplement traditional conservation activities and will not supplant or substitute traditional sources of funding for land acquisition.

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2013	ENTRF	-
2019	Clean Water Fund	\$61,500
2019	EPA Section 319	\$122,125

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

All lands acquired in fee-title by DU and PF through this grant will be transferred to either the MNDNR as a WMA or to the USFWS as a WPA. Thus, MNDNR or USFWS managers will sustain and maintain the prairie and wetlands acquired and restored by DU and PF in perpetuity and manage them to provide optimal wildfire habitat for public use.

MLT will sustain the land protected through working lands conservation easements following Land Trust Alliance (LTA) easement stewardship standards and practices. MLT is an LTA nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a successful easement stewardship program that conducts annual property monitoring, maintains effective records management, addresses inquiries and interpretations, tracks changes in ownership, investigates potential violations and defends the easement in case of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget. In addition, MLT encourages landowners to undertake active management of their properties, provides them with habitat management plans, and works with them to secure expertise and funding to undertake management activities over time. USFWS, DNR, DU, and PF biologists will provide technical assistance.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027	DNR G&F Fund, USFWS, OHF	Monitor restored prairie for weed control	Periodically burn or graze tracts every 3-5 years as needed	Assess and manage water levels in larger restored wetlands as vegetation and ecological conditions warrant action

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 HLWD is a special purpose local unit of government whose boundaries follow those of the natural watershed. The HLWD was formed by petition to the Water Resources Board (now known as BWSR) in 1970. County Commissioners appoint a board of five managers - two from Nobles County, two from Jackson County, and one from Murray County. The managers serve three-year terms at the will of the County Commissioners. The Board of Managers of the HLWD unanimously approved this funding request prior to the development of this partnership and proposal. Further, the HLWD provides a monthly activity report to all County Boards within the watershed district. Each year, a PowerPoint presentation explaining HLWD activities is given to each county board. If funded, activities conducted within this grant will be included in monthly updates and annual presentations.

Partners will also strive to have discussions and provide notification to County Boards prior to land acquisition. Due to the nature of land acquisitions as private and sensitive matters, disclosing details in advance of purchase agreements can jeopardize land deals. Requesting formal local approval requires county board members to vote on private land deals, which invites local politics and makes private landowner's intentions public. Partners will not seek local government pre-approval of our land acquisitions but instead meet with county boards in person to inform and discuss to ensure local government awareness of the public benefits of land acquisition and restoration work in the Heron Lake Watershed.

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

No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:

A very limited number of tracts may include a federal or state easement which provide permanent protection for wetlands or grasslands. The value of these areas will be accommodated in the appraisal.

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

No

Describe the expected public use:

A very limited number of tracts may include a federal or state easement which provide permanent protection for wetlands or grasslands. The value of these areas will be accommodated in the appraisal.

Who will manage the easement?

Minnesota Land Trust

Who will be the easement holder?

Minnesota Land Trust

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

Two to four easements

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?

-

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?

Yes

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:

It is a common practice to utilize cropping to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding to

accommodate herbicide carry-over. Increasingly, farmers are using herbicides with an 18-month carryover residual effect that requires an additional year of farming with other compatible herbicides before native plants can be seeded. In restorations non-neonicotinoid treated seed and herbicide limited to glyphosate will be utilized in any farming practices on these lands. Partners will also strive to work with farmers who can incorporate crops that benefit wildlife, increases soil health, and absorb excess nutrients. These might include cover crops such as oats or rape seed.

Finally, fee-title acquisitions to be donated as State Wildlife Management Areas may incorporate very limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife and compatible outdoor recreation. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%) MNDNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes (such as the Heron Lake Watershed) largely devoid of winter food sources.

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:

Fee-title acquisition land secured as part of this project will be open for public hunting and fishing.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

- State of MN
- Federal

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

- WMA
- WPA

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

It is anticipated that two parcels will be acquired and restored with this appropriation.

Will the eased land be open for public use?

No

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

Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, these established trails and roads are permitted in the terms of the

easement and can be maintained for personal use if their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition?

Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the Land Trust's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in line with the terms of the easement will be the responsibility of the landowner.

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

The easement parcels will be restored or enhanced.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
HLWD will advertise and hire a Conservation Technician	December 2020
HLWD Conservation Technician will conduct targeted outreach to identify tracts	December 2021
Prioritize, appraise, survey and acquire lands in fee-title or easement	June 2022
Restore Lands acquired and transfer to the Minnesota DNR or USFWS Windom Wetland Management District	June 2027
Restore Lands under easement to be managed and monitored by MLT	June 2027
Complete conservation easements by MLT	June 2022

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2027

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, 2023. For acquisition of real property, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2024, if a binding agreement with a landowner or purchase agreement is entered into by June 30, 2023, and closed no later than June 30, 2024. Funds for restoration or enhancement are available until June 30, 2025, 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 the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved 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	\$411,300	\$28,900	DU, Private, NAWCA, HLWD	\$440,200
Contracts	\$1,008,600	\$7,700	-, USFWS Private Lands Program	\$1,016,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,720,000	\$39,000	-, PF, Private, Federal	\$1,759,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$252,000	\$8,500	-, PF, Private, Federal	\$260,500
Easement Acquisition	\$710,000	\$71,000	-, Private Landowners	\$781,000
Easement Stewardship	\$120,000	-	-	\$120,000
Travel	\$45,700	\$1,000	DU, Private, NAWCA	\$46,700
Professional Services	\$90,800	-	-	\$90,800
Direct Support Services	\$39,700	-	-	\$39,700
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$25,400	-	-	\$25,400
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	\$9,500	\$3,300	-, NHLGPA	\$12,800
DNR IDP	\$58,000	-	-	\$58,000
Grand Total	\$4,493,000	\$159,400	-	\$4,652,400

Partner: Ducks Unlimited**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$100,000	\$24,000	DU, Private, NAWCA	\$124,000
Contracts	\$300,000	-	-	\$300,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$950,000	-	-	\$950,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$10,000	\$1,000	DU, Private, NAWCA	\$11,000
Professional Services	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000
Direct Support Services	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	\$5,000	-	-	\$5,000
DNR IDP	\$54,000	-	-	\$54,000
Grand Total	\$1,450,000	\$25,000	-	\$1,475,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
DU Biologist & Engineers	0.3	3.0	\$100,000	\$24,000	DU, Private, NAWCA	\$124,000

Partner: Pheasants Forever**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$7,400	-	-	\$7,400
Contracts	\$116,000	-	-	\$116,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$770,000	\$39,000	PF, Private, Federal	\$809,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$252,000	\$8,500	PF, Private, Federal	\$260,500
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$1,700	-	-	\$1,700
Professional Services	\$11,800	-	-	\$11,800
Direct Support Services	\$2,700	-	-	\$2,700
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$15,400	-	-	\$15,400
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	\$4,000	-	-	\$4,000
Grand Total	\$1,181,000	\$47,500	-	\$1,228,500

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF Grants Coordinator	0.01	3.0	\$2,900	-	-	\$2,900
PF State Coordinator	0.01	3.0	\$1,500	-	-	\$1,500
PF Field Staff	0.01	3.0	\$3,000	-	-	\$3,000

Partner: Heron Lake Watershed District**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$206,900	\$4,900	HLWD	\$211,800
Contracts	\$562,600	\$7,700	USFWS Private Lands Program	\$570,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$27,000	-	-	\$27,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$4,500	\$3,300	NHLGPA	\$7,800
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$801,000	\$15,900	-	\$816,900

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
HLWD Conservation Technician	1.0	4.0	\$206,900	\$4,900	HLWD	\$211,800

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$97,000	-	-	\$97,000
Contracts	\$30,000	-	-	\$30,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$710,000	\$71,000	Private Landowners	\$781,000
Easement Stewardship	\$120,000	-	-	\$120,000
Travel	\$7,000	-	-	\$7,000
Professional Services	\$69,000	-	-	\$69,000
Direct Support Services	\$27,000	-	-	\$27,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,061,000	\$71,000	-	\$1,132,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Protection Staff	0.75	3.0	\$97,000	-	-	\$97,000

Amount of Request: \$4,493,000**Amount of Leverage:** \$159,400**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 3.55%**DSS + Personnel:** \$451,000**As a % of the total request:** 10.04%**Easement Stewardship:** \$120,000**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 16.9%**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?**

All budget items were reduced proportionately except the Conservation Technician. That position is critical to the success of the partnership and was retained at the full original funding request.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

Leverage includes local organization contributions, partner staff time, DU and PF organizational and private funds, foundations, corporations, federal NAWCA grant funds and USFWS Private Lands technical assistance on restoration. MLT encourages partial or full landowner donation of conservation easement value. The leverage value is a conservative estimate of that value.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

Funds cover expenses for the implementation of Habitat Management and Restoration Plans via qualified vendors and contractor charges to restore wetlands and prairie on lands acquired and eased. Significant earth moving will be required to restore wetland hydrology and remove sediment. MLT: Contracts with vendors for writing habitat management plans.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?

The average cost per easement to perpetually fund the Minnesota Land Trust's long-term monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$24,000. This figure is derived from MLT's detailed stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates to this analysis with LSOHC staff.

Travel

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

Yes

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

Travel for the HLWD includes a three-year lease of a vehicle for Conservation Technician, travel in-state, mileage reimbursement based on the accepted IRS rate, vehicle insurance, maintenance, fuel, food, and lodging. MLT staff regularly rent-vehicles for grant-related purposes, which is a significant cost savings over use of personal vehicles. DU travel only includes in-state mileage, food, and lodging (primarily mileage and lodging for field biologists and engineering staff).

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?

In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of the direct support services.

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.

PF utilizes the Total Modified Direct Cost method. This methodology is annually approved by the U.S. Department of Interior's National Business Center as the basis for the organization's Indirect Cost Rate agreement. PF's allowable direct support services cost is 4.12%. In this proposal, PF has discounted its rate to 2% of the sum of personnel, contracts, professional services, and travel, and will donate the difference in-kind.

Federal Funds

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

Yes

Are the funds confirmed?

No

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds?

July 2022 via future NAWCA grants for restoration of land acquired via OHF.

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	47	167	0	0	214
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	6	26	0	0	32
Protect in Easement	56	100	0	0	156
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	109	293	0	0	402

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	\$280,400	\$520,600	-	-	\$801,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$513,100	\$1,792,100	-	-	\$2,305,200
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$61,100	\$264,700	-	-	\$325,800
Protect in Easement	\$380,000	\$681,000	-	-	\$1,061,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$1,234,600	\$3,258,400	-	-	\$4,493,000

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	214	0	214
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	32	0	32
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	156	0	156
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	402	0	402

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	\$801,000	-	\$801,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$2,305,200	-	\$2,305,200
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$325,800	-	\$325,800
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$1,061,000	-	\$1,061,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	\$4,493,000	-	\$4,493,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$10,917	\$10,731	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$10,183	\$10,180	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$6,785	\$6,810	-	-
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	-	-	-	\$10,771	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$10,181	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$6,801	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?

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

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

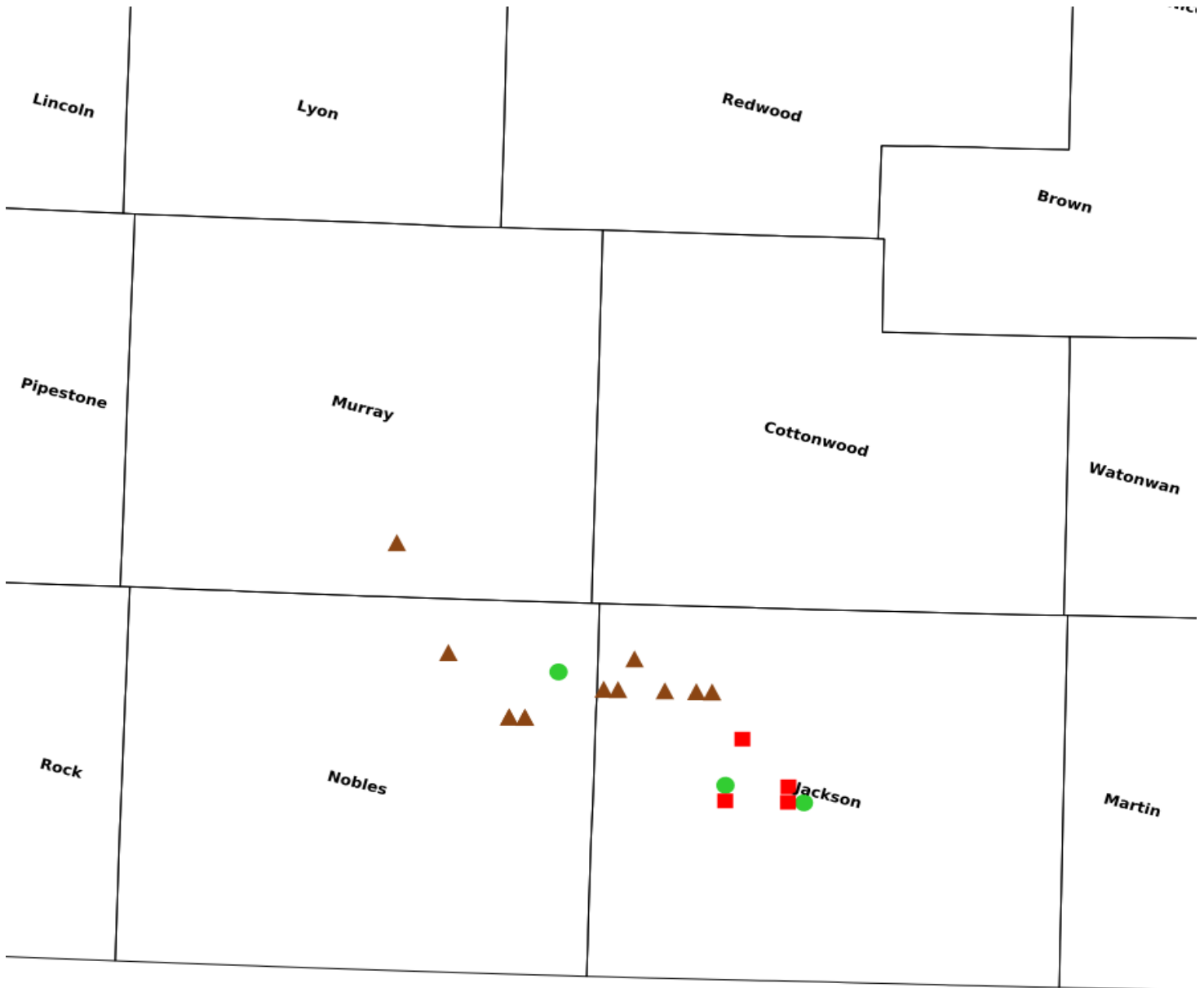
Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Libra WMA - Tract 2	Jackson	10438221	80	\$640,000	No
Heron Lake WMA West Unit	Jackson	10337215	133	\$865,000	No
Oxbow WMA	Jackson	10438235	174	\$1,300,000	No
Oxbow WMA Tract 12A	Jackson	10438231	150	\$1,200,000	No
Rost TWP WPA Tract	Jackson	10237204	230	\$1,840,000	No
Hunter TWP WPA Tract	Jackson	10236206	68	\$544,000	No
Heron Lake TWP WPA Tract	Jackson	10336231	80	\$640,000	No
Oxbow WMA Tract 27	Jackson	10438232	29	\$233,600	No
Heron Lake WMA Addition 16b	Jackson	10437231	160	\$1,200,000	No
Heron Lake WMA Addition 16a	Jackson	10437232	152	\$1,100,000	No
Wirock WMA Tract 6	Murray	10541213	66	\$528,000	No
Resurgence WMA Tract 4	Nobles	10339208	160	\$1,317,600	No
Resurgence WMA Tract 3	Nobles	10339207	160	\$1,065,900	No
Resurgence WMA Tract 1	Nobles	10339207	148	\$812,100	No
Lone Tree WMA Tracts 16 & 16A	Nobles	10440221	58	\$405,600	No
Resurgence WMA Tract 2	Nobles	10339208	160	\$1,379,500	No

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
South Heron Lake (Thompson)	Jackson	10337233	99	\$657,200	No
South Heron Lake 2	Jackson	10236205	80	\$80,000	No
East Graham Lake (VerSteeg)	Nobles	10439227	24	\$53,000	Yes

Parcel Map



0 3 6 9 mi

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