



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase 2  
Laws of Minnesota 2020 Accomplishment Plan

---

### General Information

**Date:** 02/27/2024

**Project Title:** Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase 2

**Funds Recommended:** \$3,926,000

**Legislative Citation:** ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 5(p)

**Appropriation Language:** \$3,926,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire lands in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat in the Sauk River watershed as follows: \$430,000 to the Sauk River Watershed District, \$2,073,000 to Pheasants Forever, and \$1,423,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to \$168,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Steve Zeece III

**Title:** Water Resource Manager

**Organization:** Sauk River Watershed District

**Address:** 642 Lincoln Road

**City:** Sauk Centre, MN 56378

**Email:** Steve@srwdmn.org

**Office Number:** 320.352.2231

**Mobile Number:** 320.527.1049

**Fax Number:**

**Website:** www.srwdmn.org

### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Stearns, Douglas and Pope.

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

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban

**Activity types:**

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

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

**Narrative****Abstract**

This project will permanently protect, restore and enhance critical habitat within the Sauk River Watershed, which has experienced considerable habitat loss and is at high risk for more land use conversion. Using conservation easements and fee land acquisition, we will protect 750 acres of high priority habitat in Minnesota's Prairie and Forest-Prairie Transition Area and will restore/enhance approximately 66 acres of wetlands and accompanying uplands to create vital habitat for important waterfowl and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) populations. Properties selected will be strategically targeted using an innovative site prioritization model that maximizes conservation benefit and financial leverage.

**Design and Scope of Work**

Sauk River Watershed District (SRWD), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), and Pheasants Forever (PF), along with technical assistance provided by Stearns, Todd, and Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), Ducks Unlimited (DU), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), will partner to implement habitat protection and restoration within the Sauk River Watershed (SRW). Site prioritization will focus on protecting and restoring habitat in key locations, such as existing high quality or easily restorable wetland complexes, upland forests, floodplain forests, and prairies. Prioritized sites will be protected to preserve and enhance critical habitat for waterfowl and other important wildlife species.

The SRW is in a rapidly growing region of the state that has also experienced some of the most intense conversion from perennial cover to cropland in the past decade. Furthermore, public access for recreation, including hunting and fishing, is lacking. Landowner interest in conservation land protection and restoration is strong in the SRW. The partnership currently has easement interest from 45 high-quality properties, totaling 2,764 acres, in addition to eight known properties interested in fee simple acquisition. Protecting and restoring these interested properties will far exceed funding available through the Partnership's first OHF grant that comes online July 1, 2019. We anticipate significantly more interested and qualified properties for this project as outreach efforts grow.

**Conservation Easements:**

SRWD, with assistance from local SWCD partners, will conduct outreach to landowners within targeted priority areas identified using TNC's Multiple Benefits Analysis that has been completed for protection prioritization in the SRW. Interested landowners will submit proposals to MLT using a competitive request for proposal (RFP) process. MLT, with project partners, will rank properties based on ecological value and cost, prioritizing projects that

provide the best ecological value and acquiring them at the lowest cost to the state. MLT will secure 420 acres of permanent conservation easements and develop restoration and habitat management plans for eased acres.

#### Fee Acquisition:

PF will coordinate with the MN DNR and USFWS on all potential fee simple acquisitions. PF will work with willing sellers to protect 330 acres of strategically identified parcels within the SRW and then donate the parcels to the MN DNR as a WMA, USFWS as a WPA or to the Stearns Co. Parks Department. Acquired tracts will be managed as wildlife habitat and provide public access in perpetuity within an area of our state where public land for recreational use is lacking.

#### Restoration and Enhancement:

SRWD will restore/enhance 257 acres of wetland, riparian and associated upland habitat in cooperation with county SWCDs, MLT, DU, USFWS, and TNC on permanently protected easement land. Specific activities and scope will vary based on quality of parcel but may include performing hydrologic restoration, invasive species management, and planting vegetation to increase site biodiversity. PF will manage all needed restoration activities on fee simple acquisitions.

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

This program will utilize a prioritization framework that uses SGCN and quality habitat as major weighting factors. The SRW region is an important migratory corridor for forest birds and waterfowl. It contains wetlands, upland forests, and shorelands, which are essential habitats to Minnesota's wildlife diversity and health, all of which will be targeted for protection and restoration/enhancement as part of this program.

A variety of SGCN will benefit from this program including Blanding's turtles, bobolinks, veerys, caddisflies, smooth green snakes, Poweshiek skippers, western harvest mice, and jumping spiders (*M. grata*). Other species that will benefit from improved habitat as part of this program include trumpeter swan, sandhill crane, bald eagle, Swainson's hawk, and dickcissel.

### **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:**

The program will utilize TNC's Multiple Benefits Analysis, a science-based process completed in 2017 for the Upper Mississippi River Basin, which prioritized protection sites for the SRW and other parts of this region. TNC's Multiple Benefits Analysis developed and scored priorities according to specific but multiple cross-cutting needs and looks for the "sweet spot" where multiple benefits overlap. It includes four modules: fish and wildlife habitat, drinking water/source water, flooding and erosion control, and groundwater benefits. Each module contains numerous data layers. Sites are prioritized in each module as well as holistically by combining scores from all modules. The size of parcels and proximity to other protected lands are also considered in this analysis.

97% of the SRW landscape is in private ownership. Therefore, once priority parcels are identified, working with private owners on land protection strategies is key to successful conservation in this region. We will also work closely with partners in the region to identify those habitat complexes where private land protection can make a

significant contribution to existing conservation investments. Specific parcels available for acquisition of easements will be further reviewed relative to each other to identify priorities among the pool of applicants. This relative ranking is based on: amount of habitat on the parcel (size), the quality or condition of habitat, the parcel's context relative to other natural habitats and protected areas, and cost. MBS data will be used to evaluate potential conservation easements and fee simple acquisitions. Field visits to further identify and assess condition of habitats prior to easement acquisition will also occur, as many private lands were not formally assessed through MBS.

The program will also work to build on initial conservation investments in the program area, expanding and buffering the footprint of existing protected areas, such as WMAs, WPAs, and AMAs facilitating the protection of habitat corridors and reducing the potential for fragmentation of existing habitats.

### **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?**

- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

### **Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?**

#### **Forest / Prairie Transition**

- Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

#### **Prairie**

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

## **Outcomes**

### **Programs in forest-prairie transition region:**

- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need ~ *Large corridors and complexes of biologically diverse wildlife habitat, providing nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and SGCN will be restored and protected. Partners will work together to identify priority lands using existing data and public plans, and then coordinate protection, restoration and enhancement activities in those priority areas. Success within each priority area will be determined based on the percentage of area protected, restored, and/or enhanced.*

### **Programs in prairie region:**

- Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for migratory and unique Minnesota species ~ *Large corridors and complexes of biologically diverse wildlife habitat, providing nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and Species in Greatest Conservation Need will be restored and protected. Partners will work*

together to identify priority lands using existing data and public plans, then coordinate protection, restoration and enhancement activities in those priority areas. Success within each priority area will be determined based on the percentage of area protected, restored and/or enhanced.

**Does this program include leveraged funding?**

Yes

**Explain the leverage:**

MLT encourages private landowners to fully or partially donate the appraised value of their conservation easement, thereby receiving less than the appraised value might otherwise allow. This donated value is shown as leveraged funds in the proposal and is expected to be approximately 20% of the acquisition cost, or \$189,000. MLT has a long track record in incentivizing landowners to participate in this fashion.

**Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.**

This proposal does not substitute or supplant previous funding that was not from a Legacy fund.

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

MLT will sustain the land protected through conservation easements using state-of-the-art easement stewardship standards and practices. MLT is a 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 ecological management of their properties, provides them with habitat management plans, and works with them to secure resources (expertise and funding) to undertake these activities over time.

Acquisition projects will abut or be within close proximity to existing protected lands, including state-owned lands and lands under conservation easement. This will allow for the expansion of maintenance and restoration activities currently taking place on those protected lands and adjacent private lands. Habitats cleared of invasive species will be maintained with prescribed fire and other practices.

**Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes**

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2025 and in perpetuity	MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of conservation easements in perpetuity	Enforcement as necessary	-
Every 4-6 years	MN DNR, USFWS, Landowners	Prescribed fire, tree control, invasive species control	-	-

## 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:**

At minimum we will notify local government in writing of the intent to acquire and donate lands to the MNDNR/USFWS and follow up with questions prior to acquisition. In cases where there is interest, we will also indicate our willingness to attend or ask to attend county or township meetings to communicate our interest in the projects and seek support.

**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 limited number of the parcels may have a federal or state easement on a portion of the tract which provides permanent protection for wetlands or grasslands. If a parcel has one of these encumbrances and is still deemed a high priority by our agency partners, we will follow guidance established by the LSOHC to proceed or use non-state funding to acquire the residual value of the protected portion of the property.

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

No

**Describe the expected public use:**

A limited number of the parcels may have a federal or state easement on a portion of the tract which provides permanent protection for wetlands or grasslands. If a parcel has one of these encumbrances and is still deemed a high priority by our agency partners, we will follow guidance established by the LSOHC to proceed or use non-state funding to acquire the residual value of the protected portion of the property.

**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?**

4-8 depending on easement size and cost

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

Yes

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

Yes

**Where does the activity take place?**

- WMA
- WPA
- Other : Private lands
- County/Municipal

**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:**

For fee acquisitions, the primary purposes of WMAs are to develop and manage for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife. This proposal may include initial development plans or restoration plans to utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest to prepare the seedbed for native seed planting. In restorations, non-neonicotinoid treated seed and no herbicides other than glyphosate will be used. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources. There are no immediate plans to use farming for winter food on any of the parcels in this proposal.

On conservation easements, MLT may incorporate the short-term use of agricultural crops, which is an accepted best practice in some instances for preparing a site for restoration. For example, short-term use of soybeans could be used for restorations to control weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases, this necessitates the use of GMO-treated products to facilitate herbicide use to control weeds present in the seedbank. However, neonicotinoids will not be used.

The purpose of MLT's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. As such, we restrict any agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases where there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either carve the agricultural area out of the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to carve those areas out. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement.

**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 hunting and fishing. A parcel to be acquired and donated to Stearns County may be closed to firearms deer hunting due to its proximity to the city of Cold Spring.

**Who will eventually own the fee title land?**

- County

**Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:**

- Other

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

we anticipate 1-3 acquisitions

**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. The property that is to be donated to Stearns Co. has an existing access road/trail that will be maintained for use by the county in maintenance. Additionally, there will be a few mowed (not paved) hunter walking trails. These trails will allow hunters and hikers to move around the property more easily and may also be used to facilitate handicap accessible hunting. The 1-27-23 Council approved amendment on was contingent that NO new roads be developed on the Kinzer Creek parcel.

**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 MLT'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



Yes. Restoration and enhancement may be completed on some parcels, depending on the need and condition of each parcel. We have incorporated into the accomplishment plan budget funding for approximately 257 acres of restoration.

### Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Site prioritization and targeted outreach	December 2021
Conservation easement and fee-title acquisition completed	June 2023
Restoration	June 2025

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 10/31/2025

**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**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personnel	\$165,900	-	-	\$165,900
Contracts	\$676,200	-	-	\$676,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$140,200	\$34,500	-, PF, Private, Federal	\$174,700
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,572,800	\$25,700	-, PF, Private, Federal	\$1,598,500
Easement Acquisition	\$982,600	\$189,000	Landowner Donation	\$1,171,600
Easement Stewardship	\$120,000	-	-	\$120,000
Travel	\$4,600	-	-	\$4,600
Professional Services	\$148,700	-	-	\$148,700
Direct Support Services	\$42,000	-	-	\$42,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$22,000	-	-	\$22,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
DNR IDP	\$26,000	-	-	\$26,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,926,000</b>	<b>\$249,200</b>	-	<b>\$4,175,200</b>

**Partner: MLT - Minnesota Land Trust****Totals**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personnel	\$133,000	-	-	\$133,000
Contracts	\$44,100	-	-	\$44,100
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$982,600	\$189,000	Landowner Donation	\$1,171,600
Easement Stewardship	\$120,000	-	-	\$120,000
Travel	\$2,700	-	-	\$2,700
Professional Services	\$104,700	-	-	\$104,700
Direct Support Services	\$35,900	-	-	\$35,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,423,000</b>	<b>\$189,000</b>	-	<b>\$1,612,000</b>

**Personnel**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Annual FTE</b>	<b>Years Working</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
MLT: MLT Protection Staff	0.37	3.0	\$133,000	-	-	\$133,000

**Partner: Sauk River Watershed District****Totals**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personnel	\$12,900	-	-	\$12,900
Contracts	\$382,100	-	-	\$382,100
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$430,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$430,000</b>

**Personnel**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Annual FTE</b>	<b>Years Working</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sauk River Watershed District	0.048	3.0	\$12,900	-	-	\$12,900

**Partner: Pheasants Forever****Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Contracts	\$250,000	-	-	\$250,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$140,200	\$34,500	PF, Private, Federal	\$174,700
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,572,800	\$25,700	PF, Private, Federal	\$1,598,500
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$1,900	-	-	\$1,900
Professional Services	\$34,000	-	-	\$34,000
Direct Support Services	\$6,100	-	-	\$6,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$22,000	-	-	\$22,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	\$26,000	-	-	\$26,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,073,000</b>	<b>\$60,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,133,200</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF: Protection Staff	0.07	9.0	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000

**Amount of Request:** \$3,926,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$249,200

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 6.35%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$207,900

**As a % of the total request:** 5.3%

**Easement Stewardship:** \$120,000

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 12.21%

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

The partnership adjusted allocations, for the most part, based on the percentage received of the total request. To ensure that we are still performing quality work, we scaled down the number of projects accordingly. We also plan to leverage other funds sources, such as grants, when we are able to.

**Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:**

MLT - The Land Trust encourages landowners to donate the value of conservation easements. The leverage portion of easement acquisition line is a conservative estimate of value we expect to see donated to MLT.

PF - Expected from multiple sources such as federal, land value donations, contractor donations and PF.

## Contracts

### What is included in the contracts line?

MLT - Contracts with vendors for writing of habitat management plans.

SRWD - Contracts for R/E services.

PF - All of the contract funding will be used for restoration, enhancement and initial development of the protected acres which may include signs, building removal, wetland/grassland restoration, prescribed fire, etc.

## 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 fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual 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 cost 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

Land Trust staff regularly rent vehicles for grant-related purposes, which is a significant cost savings over use of personal vehicles.

### 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 17th, 2017, the Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures

## Federal Funds

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

No

Output Tables**Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	257	257
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	43	171	0	0	214
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	23	93	0	0	116
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	420	420
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>1,007</b>

**Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	\$430,000	\$430,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$270,000	\$1,074,300	-	-	\$1,344,300
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$144,500	\$584,200	-	-	\$728,700
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$1,423,000	\$1,423,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$414,500</b>	<b>\$1,658,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,853,000</b>	<b>\$3,926,000</b>

**Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	128	0	129	0	257
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	107	0	107	0	214
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	116	0	116
Protect in Easement	0	210	0	210	0	420
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,007</b>

**Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$215,000	-	\$215,000	-	\$430,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	\$672,000	-	\$672,300	-	\$1,344,300
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$728,700	-	\$728,700
Protect in Easement	-	\$711,500	-	\$711,500	-	\$1,423,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,598,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,327,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$3,926,000</b>

**Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	\$1,673
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$6,279	\$6,282	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$6,282	\$6,281	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$3,388
Enhance	-	-	-	-

**Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	\$1,679	-	\$1,666	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	\$6,280	-	\$6,283	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$6,281	-
Protect in Easement	-	\$3,388	-	\$3,388	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**



## Parcels

*For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.*

### Parcel Information

#### Sign-up Criteria?

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

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

### Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Ellis Wetland S5	Douglas	12736205	9	\$50,000	Yes
Crooked Lake Site 3	Douglas	12836209	19	\$144,636	Yes
Ellis Wetland S4	Douglas	12736204	9	\$50,000	Yes
Wild Rice 6 (Dodge)	Stearns	12331210	3	\$200	Yes
Wild Rice 5 (Mud Lake)	Stearns	12231214	1	\$0	Yes
Wild Rice 3 (Maile Trust)	Stearns	12432234	4	\$800	Yes
Wild Rice 4 (Rausch)	Stearns	12331220	6	\$800	Yes
Wild Rice 2 (Kotschevar)	Stearns	12432224	4	\$800	Yes
Wild Rice 1 (Klehr)	Stearns	12331209	6	\$800	Yes
Cold Spring Creek	Stearns	12330208	10	\$10,000	Yes
Munson SJS	Stearns	12331219	10	\$40,000	Yes
Sauk River (Heurung)	Stearns	12331209	70	\$176,000	Yes
Ashley Creek Restoration	Stearns	12635216	220	\$99,000	Yes
Byer Lake (Gresser-Reiter)	Stearns	12330225	30	\$25,000	Yes
Byer Lake (Gresser-Reiter)	Stearns	12330225	30	\$5,000	Yes
Cold Spring Creek	Stearns	12330208	20	\$3,000	Yes
Rockville County Park	Stearns	12329208	39	\$50,000	Yes
Grand Lake Jo	Stearns	12329229	108	\$50,000	Yes
Kirschner WMA	Stearns	12230207	14	\$50,000	Yes

### Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
West Port WMA Addition	Pope	12536202	160	\$675,000	No
WPA/Zion	Stearns	12332215	160	\$800,000	No
Partners WMA	Stearns	12232203	40	\$180,000	No

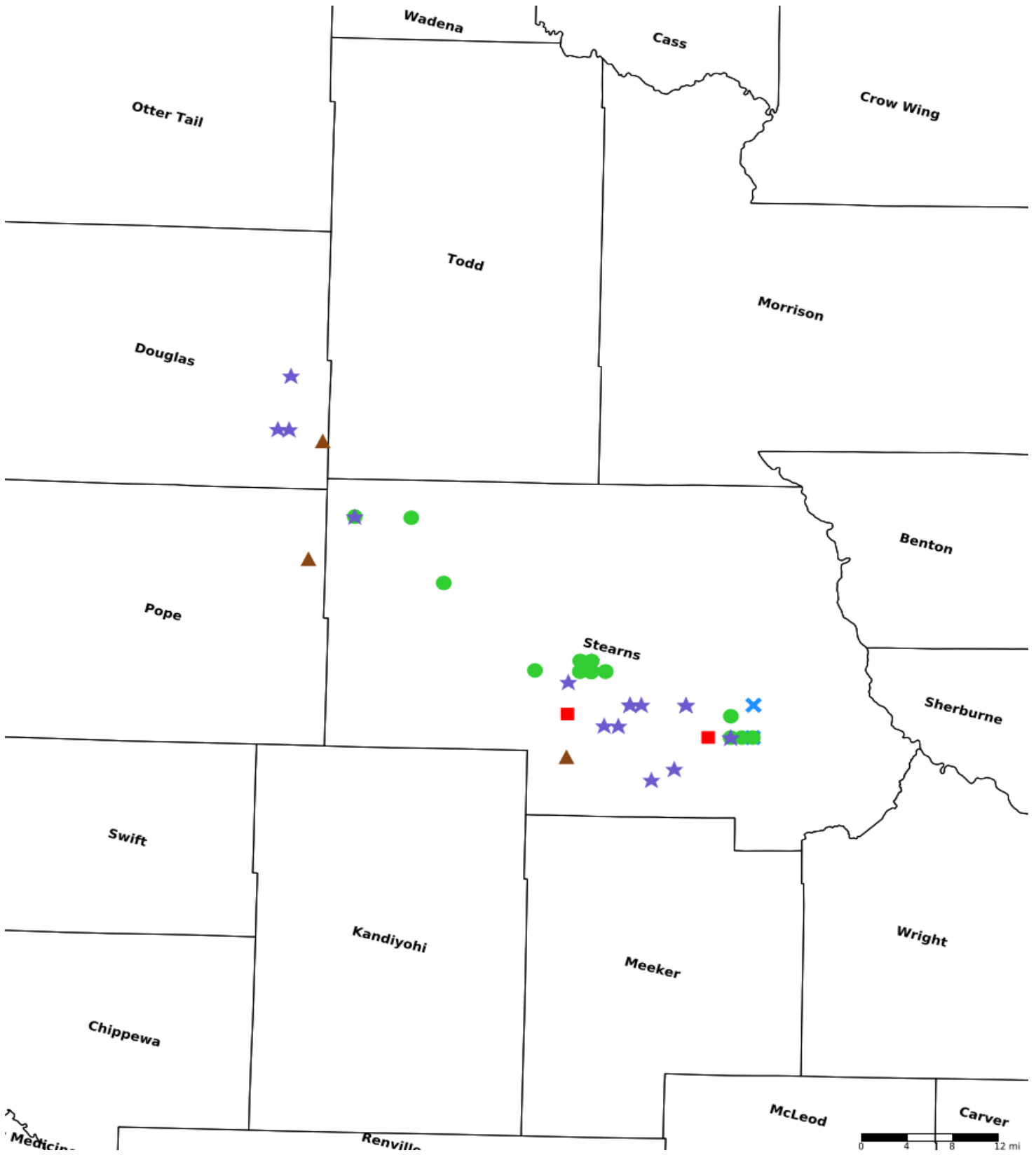
### Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Herberger Lake WMA Addition	Douglas	12736212	300	\$950,000	Yes	1	\$0
Kinzer Creek	Stearns	12330227	298	\$4,200,000	No	1	\$50,000

**Easement Parcels**

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>TRDS</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Est Cost</b>	<b>Existing Protection</b>
Sauk River 14 (Loecken Farms)	Stearns	12432224	108	\$348,000	No
Sauk River 15 (Orbeck)	Stearns	12431230	13	\$63,000	No
Sauk River 16 (Schmitt)	Stearns	12432226	39	\$141,000	No
Ashley Creek 2	Stearns	12635216	48	\$115,200	No
Byer Lake 3	Stearns	12330225	62	\$241,000	No
Sauk River 7 (Bauer)	Stearns	12330213	18	\$60,000	No
Sauk River (Kotschevar A & J)	Stearns	12432225	65	\$145,000	No
Hoboken Creek (Anderson Family Trust)	Stearns	12634217	80	\$221,500	No
Grand Lake (Brink)	Stearns	12329230	134	\$443,200	No
Grand Lake (Jo)	Stearns	12329229	108	\$140,400	No
Sauk River 18 (Wehseler)	Stearns	12431230	13	\$63,000	No
Sauk River 17 (Schmitt2)	Stearns	12432226	160	\$504,000	No
Sauk River 11 (Heurung)	Stearns	12432225	70	\$176,000	No
Sauk River 10 (Gertken)	Stearns	12432224	71	\$237,000	No
Sauk River 9 (G&R Dairy)	Stearns	12432223	20	\$84,000	No
Sauk River 8 (DMD Farm)	Stearns	12432230	100	\$324,000	No
Spirit Marsh (Loxtercamp)	Stearns	12534214	15	\$16,600	No
Sauk River 13 (Kotschevar2)	Stearns	12432225	25	\$99,000	No

Parcel Map



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