



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

### St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 2 Laws of Minnesota 2021 Accomplishment Plan

#### General Information

**Date:** 11/04/2024

**Project Title:** St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 2

**Funds Recommended:** \$3,112,000

**Legislative Citation:** ML 2021, First Sp. Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(a)

**Appropriation Language:** \$3,112,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: (1) \$1,494,000 to The Trust for Public Land to acquire land in fee; (2) \$1,493,000 to Minnesota Land Trust to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems in the St. Croix River watershed. Of this amount, up to \$144,000 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; and (3) \$125,000 to the St. Croix River Association to coordinate and administer the program under this paragraph. A list of proposed land acquisitions and permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

#### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Marc White

**Title:** Natural Resources Manager

**Organization:** Wild Rivers Conservancy of the St. Croix and Namekagon

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#### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Pine, Washington, Chisago and Kanabec.

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

- Northern Forest
- Metro / Urban

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Forest
- Habitat

**Narrative****Abstract**

The St. Croix River Association, Minnesota Land Trust, and The Trust for Public Land will work in partnership to permanently protect approximately 544 acres of critical wildlife habitat on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix River watershed through fee-title acquisition and conservation easements. The goals of the program are to protect high quality wildlife habitat, improve conservation connectivity, and provide public access for outdoor recreation opportunities.

**Design and Scope of Work**

The St. Croix River is one of the nation's first federally designated "Wild and Scenic" rivers and is home to a diverse abundance of native flora and fauna, rivaling any other location within the greater Upper Mississippi River basin. It contains large swaths of unspoiled brushland and forest habitat, critical for the survival of game species, non-game species, and threatened populations of wildlife including populations of sharp-tailed grouse and endangered Karner blue butterflies. To the north, pineries provide an abundance of forest products that sustain rural communities, along with seasonal economic boosts from visitors who come for an array of outdoor activities – from hunting and fishing, to hiking, biking and boating.

Despite its federal protections as a "Wild and Scenic" river, the watershed beyond the Riverway boundary is quite vulnerable. With more than 75% of the watershed's brushland and forest habitat in private holdings, the threat of development, fragmentation, and conversion to agriculture is substantial.

Building upon years of woodland owner outreach and increased interest in private forest stewardship, we seek to increase permanent protection options for landowners that result in the conservation of well connected, functional forests and rivers that sustain and enhance wildlife habitat. In partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) and The Trust for Public Land (TPL), we seek to protect large intact forest patches that are managed for complexity; sustain riparian forests that are managed for connectivity; and restore lands that are important to the 128 listed Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that are known to occur within this landscape.

Funding allocated through Phase I of the St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration program has largely been committed to projects that will be completed within the next year. The partnership is requesting ML 2021 funding for Phase II of the program to continue the important work of permanently protecting some of Minnesota's highest quality habitat.

TPL will protect approximately 244 acres in fee focusing on lands that have been identified as high priority in statewide and regional plans as immediate opportunities for protection. TPL will convey lands to the DNR, except when LGU ownership is appropriate, for permanent ownership, management, and stewardship.

MLT will acquire approximately 300 acres of conservation easements and develop habitat management plans for eased acres. Projects within targeted priority areas will be identified through a competitive RFP process and subsequently ranked based on ecological value and cost, prioritizing the best projects and securing them at the lowest cost to the state. MLT will negotiate and close all conservation easements.

The St. Croix River Association will provide overall program administration and landowner outreach and engagement.

**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 areas targeted by this proposal have been identified and prioritized through state, regional, and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity, connectivity, and ability to preserve habitat for species of greatest conservation need.

The project area has a mixed representation of extensive forestland, brushland, and riparian habitats that are home to approximately 128 SGCN including: Lake Sturgeon, wood turtle, gray wolf, bald eagle, osprey, sandhill crane, trumpeter swan, yellow rail, and sharp-tailed grouse. The St. Croix River watershed is also globally-recognized for its mussel diversity with over 40 known mussels, including 5 federally endangered, and 20 state-listed species, such as the winged mapleleaf and snuffbox. The project area also contains a significant amount of high quality brushland and regenerating forestland habitat critical to the breeding success of the Golden-winged Warbler.

Within this region we have an unparalleled opportunity. The St. Croix River watershed has been classified as containing the best-preserved remnant of pre-settlement natural communities in the Upper Mississippi drainage. But we must protect the rich natural and cultural heritage of the St. Croix River watershed before they too are altered by ever encroaching agricultural and development pressure.

**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 proposal uses a science-based multiple benefits approach for prioritizing and targeting areas of greatest conservation value. We will utilize The Nature Conservancy's St. Croix Basin GIS-based Priority Protection Analysis which incorporates Minnesota Biological Survey Sites of Biodiversity Significance, Lakes of Biological Significance, habitat complexes and connectivity, along with other data sets to spatially prioritize the most important sites for protection. The intent of this model was to develop and score priorities where multiple benefits overlap – habitat, biodiversity, water quality, water quantity, and resiliency. Evaluation criteria include: 1) aquatic and terrestrial habitat protection priorities, 2) lands important to drinking water quality and groundwater recharge, and 3) resilience of lands and waters to climate change and other anticipated future changes and disturbance.

More specifically, this approach includes data on habitat quality, target species communities, and habitat complexes for terrestrial species with emphasis on expanding corridors adjacent to public lands. The most heavily

weighted component of this approach uses data from the Minnesota Biological Survey focused on fish and wildlife that includes data on biodiversity, wetlands, native plant communities, Lakes of Biological Significance, wild rice catchments, coldwater refuge for trout, proximity to protected lands, and ecological connections. Added benefits for water quality are assessed using data on wellhead protected areas, groundwater contamination susceptibility, private well density, and groundwater recharge.

Using results of this Multiple Benefits approach, areas will be targeted down to the parcel level for landowner engagement and outreach for implementing permanent protection activities. For MLT easements, a competitive request for proposals (RFP) process by which landowners will apply for consideration of a conservation easement will be used. Proposed projects will be scored along ecological grounds, and will also consider donative value from the landowner.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- LU8 Protect large blocks of forest land

### **Which two other plans are addressed in this program?**

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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

#### **Metro / Urban**

- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

#### **Northern Forest**

- Provide access to manage habitat on landlocked public properties or protect forest land from parcelization and fragmentation through fee acquisition, conservation or access easement

## **Outcomes**

### **Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:**

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *This project will be measured by the acres of wildlife corridors protected and evaluated based on the observed use by wildlife populations and evidence of SGCN.*

### **Programs in the northern forest region:**

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *This project will be measured by the acres of high quality forestlands that are permanently protected from development and fragmentation. Protected land will also be evaluated by its proximity to existing public lands as well as connectivity to other protected forestlands.*

## Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

### Explain the leverage:

Through its market-based RFP process, MLT expects private landowners to donate at least \$200,000 in easement value toward the program, which is shown as leverage.

One-half of TPL's DSS costs and all of TPL's travel costs are provided as privately sourced leverage for this proposal. TPL will attempt to bring various state, local and private funds to acquire additional property and leverage the OHF grant, and will attempt to leverage fee acquisition with partial donations of the appraised value of protected parcels.

### 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.

Funding requested by the Partnership will not supplant or substitute for any previous non-legacy funding used for the same purpose.

### Non-OHF Appropriations

| Year | Source                                                  | Amount    |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | TPL:ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors                | \$423,000 |
| 2013 | TPL:ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors                | \$395,000 |
| 2009 | MLT:ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors 5              | \$67,700  |
| 2010 | MLT:ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors 5 Supplemental | \$20,300  |
| 2011 | MLT:ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors 6              | \$27,400  |

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

The land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through state-of-the-art standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. MLT is a nationally-accredited land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. MLT will assist landowners in the development of habitat management plans to help ensure that the land will be managed for its wildlife and water quality benefits. MLT (as easement holders on respective properties) will work with landowners in an ongoing basis to provide habitat restoration plans, resources and technical expertise to undertake ongoing management of these properties.

TPL will convey all fee title land to the DNR or LGUs for permanent stewardship. Once land has been conveyed, initial site development and restoration of these lands will begin. Estimated costs for initial restoration work are included in this proposal. TPL will work with DNR or LGUs to complete a restoration and management plan, and implementation of that plan will be completed in the following years. These properties will be managed and maintained by the respective government entities according to OHF standards.

**Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes**

| Year                   | Source of Funds                                | Step 1                                                         | Step 2                                                         | Step 3 |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 2026 and in perpetuity | MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Enforcement Fund | Annual monitoring of easements in perpetuity                   | Enforcement as necessary                                       | -      |
| 2022                   | TPL - OHF and DNR                              | Post property                                                  | Develop restoration/management plan for property               | -      |
| 2023                   | TPL - DNR                                      | Develop restoration/management plan for property               | Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation | -      |
| 2024                   | TPL - DNR                                      | Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation | -                                                              | -      |

**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:**

Pursuant to state statute, County Board Notification will occur prior to 30 days of closing and project managers will be made available for questions if requested.

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

Yes

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

Yes

**Who will manage the easement?**

Easements will be managed by MLT.

**Who will be the easement holder?**

Easements will be held by MLT.

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

MLT expects to close on 1-5 easement acquisitions through this grant. The number of easement acquisitions proposed can vary significantly due to the size and cost of targeted parcels. The maximum number of easements is capped at 5 based on the amount of stewardship funding requested.

**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:**

TPL - For lands acquired that are conveyed as WMAs to the DNR, the DNR has indicated the following: 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. Lands proposed to be acquired as WMAs may utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest. 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.

**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:**

Yes, all fee-title land acquired will be open to public hunting and fishing.

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

- State of MN
- Local Unit of Government
- County

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

- WMA
- AMA
- SNA
- State Forest

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

The Trust for Public Land anticipates closing on two to three 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:**

MLT - 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.

TPL is not aware of any trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list nor are any new trails planned.

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

Yes

**How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?**

MLT - 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.

TPL - N/A

**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

TPL - Some initial restoration will be conducted through release of IDP funds or through contracts.

**Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?**

Yes

**Timeline**

| <b>Activity Name</b>                                        | <b>Estimated Completion Date</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| MLT - Conservation easements completed or options secured   | June 30, 2025                    |
| TPL - Landowner negotiations, agreements, and due diligence | June 30, 2024                    |
| TPL - Land acquired                                         | June 30, 2024                    |
| TPL - Initial site development/restoration                  | Fall 2024                        |

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 11/01/2025

**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. For acquiring real property, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2025. Money for restoration or enhancement is available until June 30, 2026. Money for restoration and enhancement of land acquired with an appropriation in this article is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2029. 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. Money appropriated for acquiring land in fee title 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                     | \$295,000              | -                | -                      | \$295,000          |
| Contracts                     | \$90,000               | -                | -                      | \$90,000           |
| Fee Acquisition w/<br>PILT    | \$1,253,500            | -                | -                      | \$1,253,500        |
| Fee Acquisition w/o<br>PILT   | -                      | -                | -                      | -                  |
| Easement Acquisition          | \$1,178,000            | \$200,000        | Private Landowner      | \$1,378,000        |
| Easement<br>Stewardship       | \$63,000               | -                | -                      | \$63,000           |
| Travel                        | \$5,000                | \$2,000          | -, Private             | \$7,000            |
| Professional Services         | \$115,000              | -                | -                      | \$115,000          |
| Direct Support<br>Services    | \$56,500               | \$30,500         | -, Private             | \$87,000           |
| DNR Land Acquisition<br>Costs | \$25,000               | -                | -                      | \$25,000           |
| Capital Equipment             | -                      | -                | -                      | -                  |
| Other<br>Equipment/Tools      | \$1,000                | -                | -                      | \$1,000            |
| Supplies/Materials            | \$5,000                | -                | -                      | \$5,000            |
| DNR IDP                       | \$25,000               | -                | -                      | \$25,000           |
| <b>Grand Total</b>            | <b>\$3,112,000</b>     | <b>\$232,500</b> | -                      | <b>\$3,344,500</b> |

**Partner: SCRA**

**Totals**

| Item                       | Funding Request  | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total            |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| Personnel                  | \$105,000        | -        | -               | \$105,000        |
| Contracts                  | \$15,000         | -        | -               | \$15,000         |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT    | -                | -        | -               | -                |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT   | -                | -        | -               | -                |
| Easement Acquisition       | -                | -        | -               | -                |
| Easement Stewardship       | -                | -        | -               | -                |
| Travel                     | -                | -        | -               | -                |
| Professional Services      | -                | -        | -               | -                |
| Direct Support Services    | -                | -        | -               | -                |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | -                | -        | -               | -                |
| Capital Equipment          | -                | -        | -               | -                |
| Other Equipment/Tools      | -                | -        | -               | -                |
| Supplies/Materials         | \$5,000          | -        | -               | \$5,000          |
| DNR IDP                    | -                | -        | -               | -                |
| <b>Grand Total</b>         | <b>\$125,000</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b>        | <b>\$125,000</b> |

**Personnel**

| Position   | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total     |
|------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| SCRA Staff | 0.4        | 3.0           | \$105,000       | -        | -               | \$105,000 |

**Partner: MLT****Totals**

| <b>Item</b>                   | <b>Funding Request</b> | <b>Leverage</b>  | <b>Leverage Source</b> | <b>Total</b>       |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel                     | \$95,000               | -                | -                      | \$95,000           |
| Contracts                     | \$45,000               | -                | -                      | \$45,000           |
| Fee Acquisition w/<br>PILT    | -                      | -                | -                      | -                  |
| Fee Acquisition w/o<br>PILT   | -                      | -                | -                      | -                  |
| Easement Acquisition          | \$1,178,000            | \$200,000        | Private Landowner      | \$1,378,000        |
| Easement<br>Stewardship       | \$63,000               | -                | -                      | \$63,000           |
| Travel                        | \$5,000                | -                | -                      | \$5,000            |
| Professional Services         | \$70,000               | -                | -                      | \$70,000           |
| Direct Support<br>Services    | \$26,000               | -                | -                      | \$26,000           |
| DNR Land Acquisition<br>Costs | \$10,000               | -                | -                      | \$10,000           |
| Capital Equipment             | -                      | -                | -                      | -                  |
| Other<br>Equipment/Tools      | \$1,000                | -                | -                      | \$1,000            |
| Supplies/Materials            | -                      | -                | -                      | -                  |
| DNR IDP                       | -                      | -                | -                      | -                  |
| <b>Grand Total</b>            | <b>\$1,493,000</b>     | <b>\$200,000</b> | <b>-</b>               | <b>\$1,693,000</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 Staff       | 0.25              | 4.0                  | \$95,000               | -               | -                      | \$95,000     |

**Partner: TPL****Totals**

| Item                          | Funding Request    | Leverage        | Leverage Source | Total              |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Personnel                     | \$95,000           | -               | -               | \$95,000           |
| Contracts                     | \$30,000           | -               | -               | \$30,000           |
| Fee Acquisition w/<br>PILT    | \$1,253,500        | -               | -               | \$1,253,500        |
| Fee Acquisition w/o<br>PILT   | -                  | -               | -               | -                  |
| Easement Acquisition          | -                  | -               | -               | -                  |
| Easement<br>Stewardship       | -                  | -               | -               | -                  |
| Travel                        | -                  | \$2,000         | Private         | \$2,000            |
| Professional Services         | \$45,000           | -               | -               | \$45,000           |
| Direct Support<br>Services    | \$30,500           | \$30,500        | Private         | \$61,000           |
| DNR Land Acquisition<br>Costs | \$15,000           | -               | -               | \$15,000           |
| Capital Equipment             | -                  | -               | -               | -                  |
| Other<br>Equipment/Tools      | -                  | -               | -               | -                  |
| Supplies/Materials            | -                  | -               | -               | -                  |
| DNR IDP                       | \$25,000           | -               | -               | \$25,000           |
| <b>Grand Total</b>            | <b>\$1,494,000</b> | <b>\$32,500</b> | -               | <b>\$1,526,500</b> |

**Personnel**

| Position  | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total    |
|-----------|------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| TPL Staff | 0.2        | 3.0           | \$95,000        | -        | -               | \$95,000 |

**Amount of Request:** \$3,112,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$232,500

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 7.47%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$351,500

**As a % of the total request:** 11.29%

**Easement Stewardship:** \$63,000

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 5.35%

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

Outputs, to a large degree, were reduced proportionately to the funding that was allocated.

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

MLT - \$200,000 in the form of full or partial donations of the appraised value for landowner conservation easements.

TPL - \$32,500 of privately sourced funds for travel costs and half of direct support services costs.

**Personnel**

**Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?**

Yes

## Contracts

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

MLT – For contracts related to the writing of habitat management plans and for project management through an MOU with BWSR.

TPL - Potential site clean-up and initial restoration activities.

SCRA - Contract funding will support local education and outreach activities performed by county SWCDs.

## Fee Acquisition

### **What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?**

Two to three.

## Easement Stewardship

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

MLT expects to close 1-5 conservation easements depending on size/cost of the prioritized easements and the level of donative value provided by landowners. 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**

Minnesota 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:**

Yes

## Direct Support Services

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

MLT - 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 applied this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services requested through this grant.

TPL - Our DSS request is based upon our federal rate which has been approved by the DNR. 50% of these costs are requested from the grant, 50% is contributed as leverage. The request does not include costs that are covered in other budget lines items.

**Other Equipment/Tools**

**Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?**

**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                                  | -       | -       | -          | -          | -           |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -       | -       | 122        | 122        | 244         |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -       | -       | -          | -          | -           |
| Protect in Easement                      | -       | -       | -          | 300        | 300         |
| Enhance                                  | -       | -       | -          | -          | -           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | -       | -       | <b>122</b> | <b>422</b> | <b>544</b>  |

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

| Type                                     | Wetland | Prairie | Forest           | Habitat            | Total Funding      |
|------------------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Restore                                  | -       | -       | -                | -                  | -                  |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -       | -       | \$778,000        | \$778,000          | \$1,556,000        |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -       | -       | -                | -                  | -                  |
| Protect in Easement                      | -       | -       | -                | \$1,556,000        | \$1,556,000        |
| Enhance                                  | -       | -       | -                | -                  | -                  |
| <b>Total</b>                             | -       | -       | <b>\$778,000</b> | <b>\$2,334,000</b> | <b>\$3,112,000</b> |

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

| Type                                     | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest  | Total Acres |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------|------------|-------------|
| Restore                                  | -           | -              | -         | -       | -          | -           |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 40          | -              | -         | -       | 204        | 244         |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -           | -              | -         | -       | -          | -           |
| Protect in Easement                      | 150         | -              | -         | -       | 150        | 300         |
| Enhance                                  | -           | -              | -         | -       | -          | -           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>190</b>  | -              | -         | -       | <b>354</b> | <b>544</b>  |

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

| Type                                     | Metro/Urban        | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest          | Total Funding      |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Restore                                  | -                  | -              | -         | -       | -                  | -                  |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$259,500          | -              | -         | -       | \$1,296,500        | \$1,556,000        |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -                  | -              | -         | -       | -                  | -                  |
| Protect in Easement                      | \$778,000          | -              | -         | -       | \$778,000          | \$1,556,000        |
| Enhance                                  | -                  | -              | -         | -       | -                  | -                  |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$1,037,500</b> | -              | -         | -       | <b>\$2,074,500</b> | <b>\$3,112,000</b> |

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

| Type                                     | Wetland | Prairie | Forest  | Habitat |
|------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Restore                                  | -       | -       | -       | -       |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -       | -       | \$6,377 | \$6,377 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -       | -       | -       | -       |
| Protect in Easement                      | -       | -       | -       | \$5,186 |
| Enhance                                  | -       | -       | -       | -       |



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

| <b>Type</b>                              | <b>Metro/Urban</b> | <b>Forest/Prairie</b> | <b>SE Forest</b> | <b>Prairie</b> | <b>N. Forest</b> |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Restore                                  | -                  | -                     | -                | -              | -                |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$6,487            | -                     | -                | -              | \$6,355          |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -                  | -                     | -                | -              | -                |
| Protect in Easement                      | \$5,186            | -                     | -                | -              | \$5,186          |
| Enhance                                  | -                  | -                     | -                | -              | -                |

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

0.5

## 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:

Minnesota Land Trust uses a competitive, market-based approach through an RFP process to identify interested landowners and prioritize parcels for conservation easement acquisition. All proposals submitted by landowners are evaluated and ranked relative to their ecological significance based on three primary factors: 1) size of habitat on the parcel; 2) condition of habitat on the parcel; and 3) the context (both in terms of amount/quality of remaining habitat and protected areas) within which the parcel lies. We also ask the landowner to consider contributing all or a portion of fair market value to enable our funds to make a larger conservation impact (see attached sign-up criteria). SCRA works to provide outreach services and contracting with county SWCDs as a way to connect effectively with local landowners.

The Trust for Public Land works with its public partners to identify and prioritize projects that meet their objectives and are on their priority lists. Criteria includes whether the land provides critical habitat for game and non-game species, quality public recreational opportunities, presence of unique plants and animal species (including SGCN), goals of conservation plans, adjacency to other public land or habitat complexes, existence of local support, immediacy of threats, land owner willingness and time frame.

### Fee Parcels

| Name                                  | County     | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost  | Existing Protection |
|---------------------------------------|------------|----------|-------|-----------|---------------------|
| Carlos Avery WMA Addition             | Chisago    | 03321205 | 62    | \$150,000 | No                  |
| Chengwatana State Forest Addition II  | Chisago    | 03720219 | 241   | \$480,000 | No                  |
| Franconia SNA Addition                | Chisago    | 03319216 | 85    | \$400,000 | No                  |
| Chengwatana State Forest Addition III | Pine       | 03820212 | 160   | \$300,000 | No                  |
| Nemadji State Forest Addition V       | Pine       | 04517232 | 120   | \$240,000 | No                  |
| Rock Marsh WMA Addition               | Pine       | 03820221 | 556   | \$700,000 | No                  |
| Keystone Woods WMA (Kelly Farm)       | Washington | 03120207 | 33    | \$460,733 | No                  |

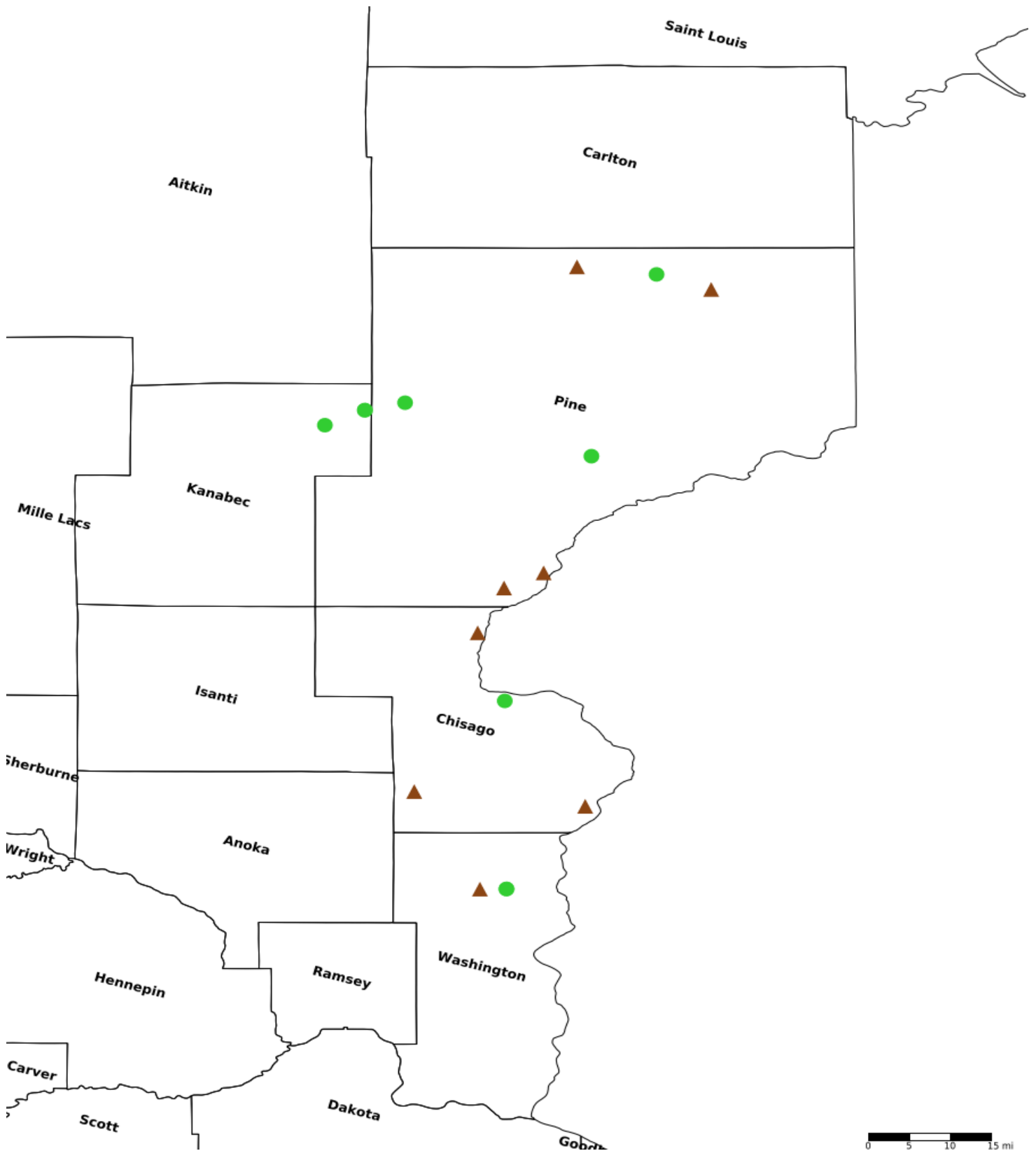
### Fee Parcels with Buildings







| Name          | County | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost    | Existing Protection | Buildings | Value of Buildings |
|---------------|--------|----------|-------|-------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Sturgeon Lake | Pine   | 04519215 | 143   | \$1,450,000 | No                  | 1         | \$0                |

### Easement Parcels

| Name                                          | County     | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost    | Existing Protection |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|----------|-------|-------------|---------------------|
| Sunrise River - Wild River State Park (SRPLP) | Chisago    | 03520204 | 75    | \$227,500   | No                  |
| Grindstone River 3                            | Kanabec    | 04222233 | 200   | \$250,000   | No                  |
| MLT - Grindstone River 1                      | Kanabec    | 04222224 | 140   | \$56,400    | No                  |
| MLT - Grindstone River 2                      | Kanabec    | 04222224 | 180   | \$99,000    | No                  |
| MLT - Grindstone Lake (Osprey Wilds South)    | Pine       | 04221216 | 322   | \$606,000   | No                  |
| MLT - Sand Creek                              | Pine       | 04119223 | 46    | \$103,000   | No                  |
| MLT - Willow River (Lourey)                   | Pine       | 04518222 | 577   | \$344,000   | No                  |
| MLT - Long Lake 1                             | Washington | 03120209 | 40    | \$700,000   | No                  |
| MLT - Long Lake 2                             | Washington | 03120209 | 80    | \$1,300,000 | No                  |

### Parcel Map



-  Protect in Easement
-  Protect in Fee with PILT
-  Protect in Fee W/O PILT
-  Restore
-  Enhance
-  Other