

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Fiscal Year 2022 / ML 2021 Request for Funding



**Date:** May 27, 2020

**Program or Project Title:** Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Phase 13: Statewide and Metro Habitat (CPL)

**Funds Requested:** \$10,450,000

**Manager's Name:** CPL Grants Program

**Organization:** MN DNR

**Address:** 500 Lafayette Road

**Address 2:** Box 20

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

**Office Number:** 651-259-5238

**Email:** lscplgrants.dnr@state.mn.us

**County Locations:** Not Listed

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

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

**Activity types:**

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

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat

### Abstract:

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program is managed by the Department of Natural Resources to provide competitive matching grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional, state, and national non-profit organizations and government entities. In its first 10 years of funding, the CPL program provided 760 grants, totaling \$74.5 million to over 200 different grantee organizations, enhancing, restoring, or protecting over 350,000 acres of habitat. Project site monitoring has confirmed that grantees are achieving project goals, and demand continues to grow as word spreads to new applicants and successful applicants return for additional grants for local habitat improvement.

### Design and scope of work:

The CPL Program fulfills MS 97a.056 Subd. 3a, directing LSOHC to establish a conservation partner's grant program encouraging/supporting local conservation efforts. \$10,000,000 of the requested \$10,450,000 will be available for grants. Of this amount, at least \$3,000,000 will be used for projects in the 7-county metro area and in cities with a population of 50,000 people or greater. If funds remain from this \$3,000,000 after two grant rounds, they may be used for projects statewide. Statewide funds may be used in the metro area. This is a stand-alone program, but depends on support/technical advice from public land managers and habitat and acquisition specialists.

Grant activities include enhancement, restoration, and protection of forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. A 10% match from non-state sources is required for all grants and may be in-kind or cash. Applicants must describe the project goals, methods, location, activity, habitat, urgency, and overall benefit. For acquisition projects, applicants describe the parcel selection process. CPL staff develops an RFP incorporating LSOHC priorities. Staff works with applicants to submit applications, oversee grant selection, prepare/execute grant documents, review expenditures, approves payments/reports, monitor work, and assist recipients with close-out. Staff complies with Office of Grants Management policies. Grantees are required to submit annual and final accomplishment reports.

The CPL program has 3 annual grant cycles- Traditional, Metro, and Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP) The Traditional and Metro cycles will have one grant round beginning August 2021 and a second round if funds remain. Projects under \$25,000 will have a simplified application. The ECP grant cycle will be open continuously for eligible projects under \$50,000 beginning August 2021, and applications will be awarded up to 5 times through May 2022, depending on available funds. DNR may choose to make additional awards, consistent with DNR and OHF policy and guidance, if additional funding becomes available.

CPL staff provides an administrative review of all applications. Technical Review Committees, comprised of habitat experts across the state, then review and score Traditional and Metro applications based on evaluation criteria (see attached). The DNR Directors of Fish and Wildlife, Eco Waters, and Forestry review the committee's recommendations and provide a ranking to the Commissioner. Final funding decisions are made by the Commissioner's office. ECP grants are reviewed by CPL staff and DNR habitat experts using established criteria. The Director of Fish and Wildlife makes final funding decisions for ECP. CPL staff conducts site visits for most projects over \$50,000 and smaller projects if needed. For projects over \$250,000, staff may conduct site visits annually for the duration of the grant to ensure that project objectives are being met.

Administration costs of \$450,000 include salary/fringe, direct support services, travel, outreach, ongoing application system/database maintenance, and other professional services. 2 FTEs are needed to manage and promote the program, monitor grants, and meet state requirements.

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

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

### **What is the degree of timing/opportunistic urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:**

The CPL program will prioritize habitat projects of which applicants have demonstrated a conservation urgency. This may include protecting lands of high conservation value that are at immediate risk of development, preventing the spread of invasive species on public lands or waters, etc. Urgency is one of the six evaluation criterion used in the review process. CPL involvement continues to grow every year and supporting this appropriation will keep the momentum going with the local conservation culture.

### **Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:**

The CPL program has a Technical Review Committee that reviews and scores projects based on evaluation criteria. One of the evaluation criterion addresses the overall project value, and includes the habitat quality and quantity of the site, whether or not it is part of a habitat corridor, and the use of currently accepted practices based on sound conservation science. A second evaluation criterion addresses the habitat benefits of the proposal, such as protecting areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey. A third evaluation criterion addresses public use and access, and the project's proximity to other protected lands. The technical experts ensure that CPL proposals recommended for funding are using current conservation science and best management practices.

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

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

## Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda

## Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

In general, the CPL program's advancement of these plans' indicators will depend upon the applications received and funded. However, because an effort is made to fund projects in each ecological planning section of the state, any or all key indicators could potentially advance through the CPL program. Most of the above plans are addressed through the CPL program, with nearly 100 projects funded throughout the state of Minnesota every year.

## Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

### Prairie:

- Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

### 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

### Northern Forest:

- Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

### Metro / Urban:

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity

### Southeast Forest:

- Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

## Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

The CPL program encourages a culture of conservation and habitat protection at a local level. By providing grants to local organizations throughout the entire state and encouraging partnerships, habitat is improved and protected for nearly all of Minnesota's fish, game, and wildlife. Over time involvement in the CPL program has grown exponentially, helping to increase conservation awareness in local communities, which demonstrates, promotes, and produces a significant and permanent conservation legacy for the state of Minnesota.

## Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

### Describe the relationship of the funds:

Not Listed

## Does this program include leverage in funds:

Yes

Leverage will be provided through local match of a minimum of 10%

## Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose:

This request is for the continuation of a program that did not exist prior to the legacy fund and would not continue to exist without an OHF appropriation.

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

Not Listed

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

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

### Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Not Listed

### Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

Species and associated quantities will depend upon the applications received and funded. However, because an effort is made to fund projects across the entire state and in all habitat types, theoretically any or all relevant indicator species could potentially benefit from the CPL program., including but not limited to prairie chickens, pheasants, monarch butterfly, rusty patched bumble bee, golden-winged warblers, white-tailed deer, mallards, trumpeter swans, brook trout, and topeka shiner

## Activity Details

### Requirements:

If funded, this proposal 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) - **Yes**

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**

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 - **Yes (WMA, WPA, SNA, AMA, Permanently Protected Conservation Easements County/Municipal, Refuge Lands, Public Waters, State Wilderness Areas, State Recreation Areas, State Forests)**

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

### Land Use:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **No**

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing - **Yes**

The land may be open for hunting and fishing, depending on individual project applications. For acquisitions, the land will be open to hunting and fishing unless otherwise provided by law

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

All lands acquired with CPL funds will be open for hunting and fishing unless otherwise required by law.

Will the eased land be open for public use - **Yes**

Public use will depend on the conditions of the easement. Most but not all CPL projects are on public lands/waters open for public use.

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **No**

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition - **No**

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this proposals funding and availability? - **Yes**

**Land Use:**

Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC? - **Yes**

**Past appropriations and spending to date:**

Apprp Year	Approp Amount Received	Approp Amount Spent to Date	Leverage as Reported in AP/th>	Leverage Realized to Date	Total Acres Affected in AP	Total Acres Affected to Date	Program Complete and Final Report Approved?
2009	4000000	3739300	0	1266386		10243	yes
2010	4386000	4150100	0	1082946		8750	yes
2011	5629000	4776300	531000	1180143		43525	yes
2012	4990000	4571600	462400	1153818		50395	yes
2013	3860000	3324500	349400	921457		19732	yes
2014	8550000	7454500	803500	2076604		57534	yes
2015	8440000	6690000	784000	1786832		27200	yes
2016	7438000	5017714	685000	964792		29535	no, will be complete 6/30/20
2017	9294000	4060073	866000	565624		23432	no, will be complete 6/30/21
2018	11589000	1968768	1100000	202922		1616	no, will be complete 6/30/22
2019	10760000	77904	994000	11500			no, will be complete 6/30/23
2020	10424000	0	1000000	0			no, will be complete 6/30/24

**Accomplishment Timeline**

Activity	Approximate Date Co mpleted
Solicit Applications: RFP posted online	August 2021
First round applications due (ECP applications accepted continuously)	September 2021
First round grantees announced	December 2021
First round grants encumbered, grantees begin work	January 2022
Solicit round 2 applications, if needed	January 2022
Round 2 applications due	April 2022
Round 2 applications encumbered, grantees begin work	May 2022
Ongoing monitoring, per OGM policy	June 2022, 2023, 2024
Annual reports to the Council	August 2022, 2023, 2024
Grantees complete projects and submit final reports	June 2025
Final reports to the council	October 2025

# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$10,450,000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$345,000	\$0		\$345,000
Contracts	\$10,000,000	\$1,000,000	grantee match	\$11,000,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Professional Services	\$50,000	\$0		\$50,000
Direct Support Services	\$32,000	\$0		\$32,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$3,000	\$0		\$3,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,450,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	-	<b>\$11,450,000</b>

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
CPL Coordinator	1.00	2.00	\$180,000	\$0		\$180,000
Grants Specialist	0.50	2.00	\$75,000	\$0		\$75,000
Natural Resources Specialist	0.50	2.00	\$90,000	\$0		\$90,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>\$345,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	-	<b>\$345,000</b>

Amount of Request: \$10,450,000

Amount of Leverage: \$1,000,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 9.57%

DSS + Personnel: \$377,000

As a % of the total request: 3.61%

Easement Stewardship: \$0

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -%

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

DNR Direct and Necessary Calculator

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

All partner grants.

**Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental? - No**

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

Not Listed

**I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan: - Yes**

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

Each grantee must contribute at least 10% of the total grant amount from local sources. Often the local match exceeds 10%, and the historical average is near 20%.

**Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes**

**Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the “economy of scale” and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:**

The funding amount will determine how many grants will be awarded. The number of grants awarded will be increased or reduced depending on the amount of funding.

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

**Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?**

Each appropriation typically funds one year of staffing for the CPL program. Two years of staffing are always requested as a contingency plan, but thus far only one year is necessary for each appropriation.

## Output Tables

**Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0



**Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers*

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

0

I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

# Outcomes

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

- All of the above program outcomes in the northern forest region have been achieved through the CPL program, and are expected to continue to be achieved through CPL restoration, enhancement and protection projects.

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

- All of the above program outcomes in the forest-prairie transition region have been achieved through the CPL program, and are expected to continue to be achieved through CPL restoration, enhancement and protection projects.

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

- All of the above program outcomes in the metropolitan urbanizing region have been achieved through the CPL program, and are expected to continue to be achieved through CPL restoration, enhancement and protection projects.

## **Programs in southeast forest region:**

- All of the above program outcomes in the southeast forest region have been achieved through the CPL program, and are expected to continue to be achieved through CPL restoration, enhancement and protection projects.

## **Programs in prairie region:**

- All of the above program outcomes in the prairie region have been achieved through the CPL program, and are expected to continue to be achieved through CPL restoration, enhancement and protection projects.

## Parcel List

**Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:**

Acquisition applications will be ranked using the CPL evaluation criteria.

### Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

### Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

### Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

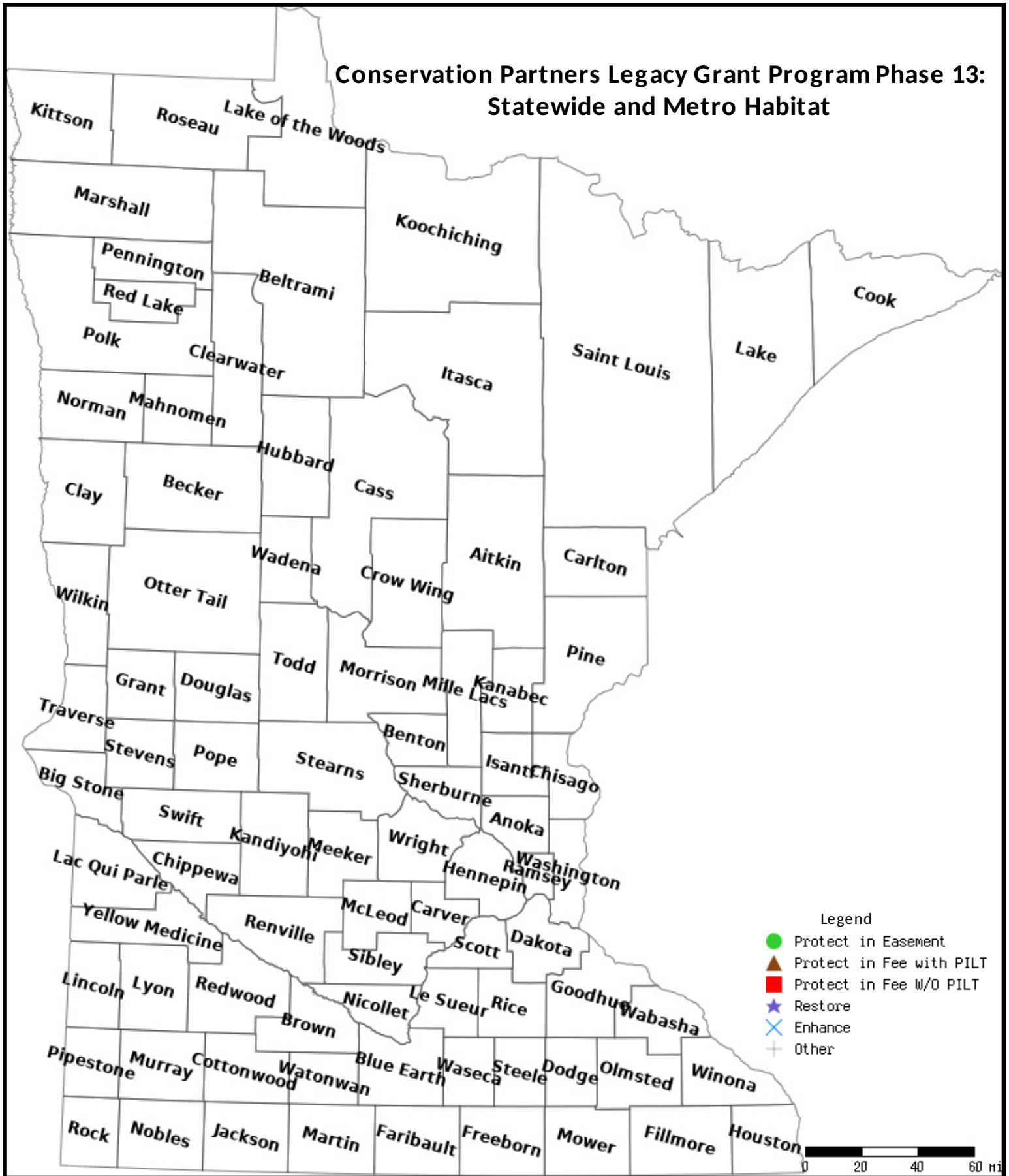
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

### Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

# Parcel Map

## Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Phase 13: Statewide and Metro Habitat

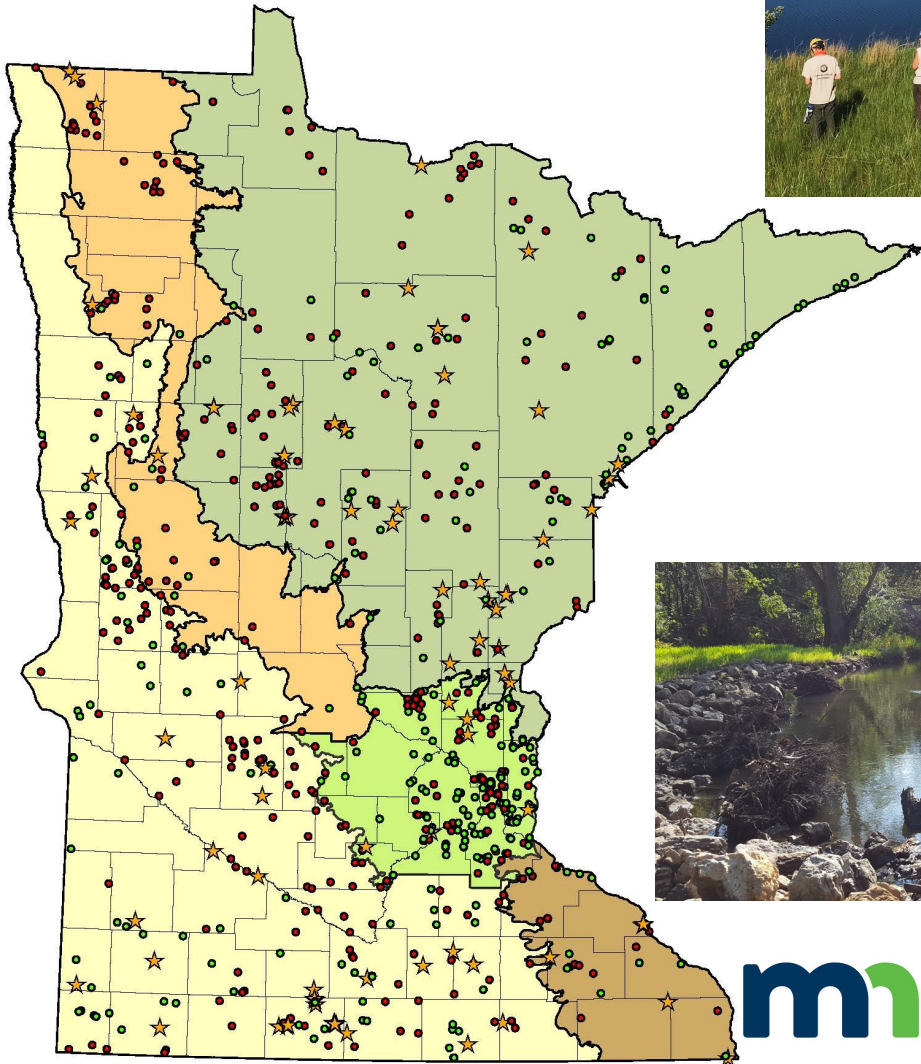


Data Generated From Parcel List



# CPL XIII

Conservation Partners Legacy  
Grant Program  
Phase 13



# Small Grants, Big Results

**273,813 acres** Of prairies, forests, wetlands, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat restored, enhanced, or acquired

**96% of counties** Have been impacted by a CPL project

**768 grants** Have been awarded

**214 organizations** Have been awarded CPL grants

**\$43.5 million** Of CPL funding has been spent on projects

**\$11.2 million** Has been leveraged by partners to complete CPL projects

## Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

### Evaluation Criteria Table

Applications are scored based on the 6 criteria listed below, using only the information provided within the application. Applicants should be sure their applications contain enough information for reviewers to consider all 6 criteria. Information may be provided on the Project Summary page of the application, or specifically requested on the Project Information page.

<b>1</b>	<b>Overall Project Value</b>	
	Critical habitat corridor; habitat quality/quantity	Amount, quality, and/or connectivity of habitat restored, protected and/or enhanced
	Consistent with current conservation science	Project use of currently accepted science and methods, increased efficiency and life expectancy of work completed
	Sustainability	Overall life expectancy of project
	Use of native plants	Use of local ecotype, native vegetation in form of seed, seedlings, root stock, etc.
<b>2</b>	<b>Applicant Performance</b>	
	Encouragement of local conservation culture	Applicant's past activities with local community in regards to conservation
	Collaboration and local support	Applicant's current interaction with other groups or agencies; current application support by multiple entities
	Capacity to successfully complete work	Applicant's history of receiving and successfully completing conservation work and grants
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Benefits</b>	
	Multiple benefits	Multiple or diverse species benefits; project directly improves intended species, indirect benefit to others
	Habitat benefits	Multiple or diverse habitat benefits; project directly improves intended habitat, indirect benefit to others
<b>4</b>	<b>Public Benefits</b>	
	Adjacent to protected lands	Project site(s) proximity to current protected land (public or private)
	Public access	Project site(s) availability for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-based recreation
<b>5</b>	<b>Financial Assessment</b>	
	Full funding of project	All costs are identified and accounted for; all partners have submitted letters committing funds
	Supplements existing funding	Project would not be completed without CPL funding; CPL does not replace traditional sources of funding
	Budget and cost effectiveness	Project is succinct- no unnecessary costs or work has been added; costs are relative to location of project
<b>6</b>	<b>Urgency</b>	
	Urgency	Funding importance at this time: species or opportunity potentially lost