

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Fiscal Year 2022 / ML 2021 Request for Funding



Date: May 26, 2020

Program or Project Title: DNR Roving Crews (O1)

Funds Requested: \$9,064,000

**Manager's Name:** Greg Hoch  
**Title:** Prairie Habitat Supervisor  
**Organization:** DNR  
**Address:** 500 Lafayette Rd  
**City:** St Paul, MN 55055  
**Office Number:** 651-259-5230  
**Mobile Number:** 218-443-0476  
**Email:** greg.hoch@state.mn.us  
**Website:** www.dnr.state.mn.us

**County Locations:** Aitkin, Benton, Carlton, Cass, Chippewa, Cook, Cottonwood, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Kandiyohi, Lake of the Woods, Lincoln, Lyon, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pennington, Pipestone, Polk, Redwood, Roseau, Stearns, and Washington.

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

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

### Activity types:

- Restore
- Enhance

### Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat

### Abstract:

Grasslands and wetlands in western Minnesota continues to be the most threatened habitat in the state. At the same time, the DNR continues to work to make the state's forests more productive for wildlife, timber, and other compatible uses. This request will realign and streamline previous funding requests by placing all DNR Roving Crews under a single proposal and appropriation.

This proposal will enhance wildlife habitat on permanently protected lands, most of which are open to public hunting. These include DNR WMAs, SNAs, AMAs, NPB easements, State and National Forests, as well as WPAs and NWRs

### Design and scope of work:

Roving Crews are fully equipped to conduct a range of habitat projects. The staff on these crews are solely dedicated to habitat enhancement and restoration. They do not work on infrastructure or non-habitat projects. In the prairies and western prairie pothole wetlands, they focus on prescribed burns, tree removal, grassland restorations, removal of old fencing, installing fenceposts for conservation grazing. In wetlands the focus is on wild rice collection and seeding, water control structure repair, wetland restorations with earth moving equipment, invasive species control, cattail spraying, and sediment removal. Forest projects include prescribed burns

in fire-dependent forests and brushlands; tree seeding, planting, protection, and/or release of species such as oak and winter cover such as conifer; mowing and shearing of brushlands; maintenance of wildlife openings; and control of invasive species.

While forest harvest is a valuable tool for many types of forest habitat enhancement, there are some habitat enhancements that harvests don't do or enhancements that can be done post-harvest to quickly improve habitat quality for wildlife. This can be especially true for practices such as shearing brushlands, where there isn't a strong economic incentive but numerous species of wildlife require these habitats for all or some stages of life. Prescribed fire can be used more to stimulate oak/acorn production for wildlife and improve pine forests as well as set back invasives.

Making these habitat productive and diverse benefits wildlife as well as benefits native pollinators and commercial beekeepers. Enhancing all of these habitats maximizes the ecosystem services these habitats provide such as nitrate filtration, floodwater capture, and groundwater recharge, all in addition to the wildlife benefits.

In the farmland region, we continue to lose ground on wetlands and grasslands. Therefore, it's critical that the remaining public and protected habitats are in as high a quality as possible to both produce resident wildlife, such as pheasants, and be attractive to migratory wildlife, waterfowl that breed to our north.

This proposal will fund the three existing 8 person grassland/wetland Roving Crews located east of Crookston (DNR Region 1), Lac Qui Parle (Region 4), and Rosemount (Region 3). This will also fund the newly established (ML19/FY20 appropriation) 6 person crew south of Fergus Falls and northeast forest crew (ML20/FY21 appropriation).

We estimate that on a good to average year the crews will enhance over 28,000 acres of habitat annually, or 56,000 acres over two years, across the state. We are requesting two years of funding in this proposal to match the state's biennium.

## **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:**

Because these crews are working in grasslands, wetlands, forests, as well as brushland and savanna, they will be able to benefit wildlife that depend on a wide range of habitat types. In the forests, habitats that are critical for many species are brushlands and early successional forests. These often require mechanical treatment. Similarly, many of our pine and oak forests are dependent on prescribed fire. While some of this work can be done with forest harvest, much of it cannot. In other areas, seeds or seedlings can be planted to enhance forest succession and benefit wildlife. The Roving Crews will work synergistically with timber harvests to benefit and enhance wildlife habitat at both local and regional levels.

With few exceptions, grassland habitats for game species, nongame species, SGCN, and T&E species are similar. All these species need habitat composed of a diversity of native grasses and forbs. While the work proposed here will benefit many wildlife species, it will also go beyond these objectives to provide numerous ecosystem services such as water filtration, floodwater retention and reduced flood damage, and create pollinator habitat to help sustain segments of the agricultural economy. Pheasant and waterfowl numbers are well below historic levels. This is bad for their populations, but also limits the recreational opportunities these birds provide.

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

Traditionally, grasslands and wetlands have been seen primarily as wildlife habitat. We have Plans that tell us how to best do this work on the landscape. In recent years researchers in Minnesota and surrounding states have been demonstrating how strategic landscape planning for grassland/wetland work can improve water quality for wildlife and people. Water quality issues continue to be an economic and health problem in rural Minnesota. Combining wildlife habitat and water plans shows how strategic planning can benefit wildlife and people at the same time.

In the same way, healthy forests provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife, protect surface and groundwater, and are a strong part of the state's economy.

Providing diverse and healthy habitats produces more wildlife making hunting more attractive to both experienced and new hunters. They will also provide opportunities for birdwatching, nature photography, and related activities.

## **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 grassland and wetland projects in this proposal will be guided primarily by the Prairie Conservation Plan, and Pheasant and Duck

Action Plans. First and foremost, these Plans outline focal areas (Core Areas and Habitat Complexes) where we can build on an existing base of conservation lands and improve the habitat there. The Prairie Plan identifies specific corridors and complexes that connect larger core areas. The latest science is telling us that it isn't the size of an individual habitat parcel that matters as much as the amount of habitat in the larger surrounding landscape. These Plans, and the work proposed here, build on these concepts of landscape level habitat planning. We will not restrict ourselves to these focal areas. There are critical habitats outside these areas. However, we will use these Plans to focus our efforts in areas where they can have the greatest wildlife benefits.

The DNR has a number of plans for forests in different parts of the states including the DNR's Conservation Agenda, Deer Plan, Wildlife Action Plan, Forest Action Plan, SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan, and Section Forest Resource Management Plans. These plans coordinate the management of types and ages of forests across the landscape, as well as the local management of each unit and regional management of the larger landscape to assure there are multiple forest habitat types that benefit all forest wildlife species.

The DNR will set up a cross-Divisional team to coordinate and develop the best strategies to use these funds across WMAs, SNAs, AMAs, and State Forest lands to make sure that the projects are the most effective use of these funds for wildlife.

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

- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- LU10 Support and expand sustainable practices on working forested lands

## Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan

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

The Prairie, Duck, and Pheasant Plans identify target acreages for enhancement and help guide where on the landscape those activities should occur. The Forest Action Plan and Section Forest Resource Management Plans include wildlife habitat goals.

Each of these Plans will be incorporated into the decisions made with these funds on what projects to prioritize in what management units.

Program managers will continue to work with DNR scientific staff and continue to build relationships with universities to conduct research and monitoring of both habitat and wildlife populations.

## 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:

- Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

### 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:

- Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

## 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 work conducted under this proposal will be done on land under permanent conservation protection. However, by the very nature of habitat management, these enhancements will not be permanent. Grasslands, wetlands, and many forest types rely on periodic disturbances. To maintain the health and diversity of grasslands, they need burning, grazing, or other ecological disturbances, every 4 to 6 years. Early successional forests and brushland need frequent management to maintain their structural characteristics, short, young, and dense, to benefit wildlife that depend on these habitats. Prescribed fire is even necessary in mature forests, especially those dominated by oak and pine.

With our grassland and wetlands restorations, we are leaving a lasting and permanent legacy. In recent years the use of 40-80 species seed mixes and local ecotype seed is dramatically improving the quality of our restorations for wildlife and pollinators. The diversity and structure of our newer restorations looks much better than restorations from even a few years ago. Improved timber stand management will produce wildlife benefits for several decades.

**Relationship to other funds:**

- Not Listed

**Describe the relationship of the funds:**

Not Listed

**Does this program include leverage in funds:**

No

**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:**

These funds are for additional enhance/restoration work beyond what the DNR is already conducting. These funds are not supplanting or substituting any funds.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2019	Game and Fish Fund	24196000
2019	Dedicated Account	3919000
2019	Heritage Enhancement	3466000

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

We select projects with these funds that strategically enhance priority habitats. We will continue management of these sites with agency staff. The OHF provides Minnesota’s conservation community with a large amount of non-Federal dollars as match that other Midwestern states don’t have. In recent years, the conservation partners have been coordinating to maximize our efforts with funding sources such as the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) as well as the American Bird Conservancy’s RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) for young forests, to name just a couple.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2023 and beyond	OHF, DNR funds, partner funds	conduct enhancements	monitor vegetation and wildlife responses	

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

Pheasant

By looking at the ratios of CRP acres in Minnesota to pheasant harvest over recent years, we can estimate that every three acres of grassland habitat has the potential to produce one harvested pheasant rooster.

Mallards

The models estimate habitat needs to support mallard population growth uses a simple but accepted rate of 1 mallard pair per 2.5 acres of wetland habitat Trumpeter swans could also be used as an indicator species relative to assessing wetland habitat work.

Trumpeter swans

Though reported territories can range in size from 1.5 - >100 hectares, a reasonable expectation is that one additional trumpeter swan pair would be supported by each 50 acres of wetlands protected, restored, or enhanced.

Monarch Butterfly

Research from the University of Minnesota has shown that it takes approximately 30 milkweed result in one monarch butterfly contributing to the overwintering Mexican population. Grasslands can have between 100-250 milkweed stems per acre. An acre of restored or enhanced grassland could potentially contribute 3 to 8 monarchs to the population.

Golden-winged warbler and American woodcock

These are species who both require a mix of regenerating young forest as well as some older forest on the landscape. Healthy stands of both forest types on the landscape will benefit both of these species and many others.

## Activity Details

### Requirements:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **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 Forests, Con-con, national forests)**

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **Not Listed**

### Land Use:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **Yes**

Explain

Corn or soybeans plantings for a year or two may be used to prepare soil for restoration.

### Land Use:

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

### Past appropriations and spending to date:

Not Listed

## Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Enhance and restore habitats across Minnesota	FY22-23 - completion June 20 23

# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$9,064,000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$5,549,000	\$0		\$5,549,000
Contracts	\$0	\$0		\$0
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	\$2,257,100	\$0		\$2,257,100
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$480,000	\$0		\$480,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$80,700	\$0		\$80,700
Supplies/Materials	\$697,200	\$0		\$697,200
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$9,064,000	\$0	-	\$9,064,000

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Roving Crew Supervisors and Staff	34.0	2.00	\$5,549,000	\$0		\$5,549,000
Total	34.0	2.00	\$5,549,000	\$0	-	\$5,549,000

Amount of Request: \$9,064,000  
 Amount of Leverage: \$0  
 Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%  
 DSS + Personnel: \$6,029,000  
 As a % of the total request: 66.52%  
 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:**

We used the DNR's standard Direct and Necessary calculator designed for OHF and ENRTF proposals.

**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:**

All activities related to travel for the Roving Crews we place in the travel line. This includes basic mileage and lodging as well as equipment/vehicle rentals and leases, etc.

**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:**

Not Listed

**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:**

We are asking for two years of funding. It could potentially be scaled back to one year 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?**

This is a redesign of how the DNR has requested Roving Crew proposals in the past. We have asked for Roving Crew funds on different grassland, wetland, and forest enhancement proposals in the past. This proposal combines all of these requests into a single, simpler, more streamlined request.

## Output Tables

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

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	4,000	0	0	4,000
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	9,000	39,600	3,500	0	52,100
Total	9,000	43,600	3,500	0	56,100

**Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?**

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	0
Total	0

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

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$634,900	\$0	\$0	\$634,900
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	\$1,587,400	\$6,286,100	\$555,600	\$0	\$8,429,100
Total	\$1,587,400	\$6,921,000	\$555,600	\$0	\$9,064,000

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	4,000	0	4,000
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	1,000	18,000	1,000	29,600	2,500	52,100
Total	1,000	18,000	1,000	33,600	2,500	56,100

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$634,900	\$0	\$634,900
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	\$158,700	\$3,016,000	\$158,800	\$4,698,800	\$396,800	\$8,429,100
Total	\$158,700	\$3,016,000	\$158,800	\$5,333,700	\$396,800	\$9,064,000



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

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$159	\$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	\$176	\$159	\$159	\$0

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$159	\$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	\$159	\$168	\$159	\$159	\$159

*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:

- Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species *Monitoring will take place with the base level monitoring conducted by DNR staff and staff from other agencies/NGOs. This includes surveys such as moose, sharp-tailed and ruffed grouse, and woodcock, which are all dependent on open areas.*

## Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need *Migratory game and non-game birds will be some of the primary beneficiaries of this work. We hope to continue to strengthen partnerships with the University of Minnesota to incorporate graduate students into research and monitoring work.*

## Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna *Monitoring will take place with the base level monitoring conducted by DNR staff and staff from other agencies/NGOs.*

## Programs in southeast forest region:

- Not Listed

## Programs in prairie region:

- Restored and enhanced upland habitats *The multi-agency/NGO Grassland Monitoring Team (GMT) has developed standardized protocols for sampling grassland vegetation and a number of the sites on this request will be sampled over the 5 year period. They recently published the first results of this project.*

# Parcel List

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

Parcels are identified by Area Wildlife Managers and approved by Regional Managers. Priorities are set by the Plans identified earlier in this proposal. The parcels listed below are representative of the types of projects Roving Crews would work on.

## 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

### Aitkin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Aitkin WMA: Main Unit	04423202	300	\$118,500	Yes	Full	Full

### Benton

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Graham WMA: Main Unit	03830201	24	\$19,500	Yes	Full	Full

### Carlton

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Blackho of River WMA	04220226	550	\$750	Yes	Full	Full

### Cass

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Birchdale WMA	13430208	200	\$92,000	Yes	Full	Full
Farnham Lake WMA	13532218	100	\$50,000	Yes	Full	Full

### Chippewa

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Lac qui Parle WMA: Controlled Hunting Zone	11841206	276	\$150,000	Yes	Full	Full
Lac qui Parle WMA: Controlled Hunting Zone	11842201	5	\$12,000	Yes	Full	Full

### Cook

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Caribou Falls WMA: West Unit	05806236	103	\$16,860	Yes	Full	Full

**Cottonwood**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Four Corners WMA	10 332231	33	\$23,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Faribault**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Rice Lake WMA	10 427221	27	\$27,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Fillmore**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Choice WMA	10 20 8214	70	\$56,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Freeborn**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Boyd Sartell WMA: Main Unit	10 11 420 5	1,500	\$250,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Goodhue**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Izaak Walton League WMA	10 5 11 212	80	\$120,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Kandiyohi**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Gopher Ridge WMA	12 2 3 3 2 3 1	15	\$80,000	Yes	Full	Full
RIM Memorial WMA	120 3 6 2 2 6	11	\$45,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Lake of the Woods**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Red Lake WMA: Main Unit	15 7 3 5 2 2 9	400	\$60,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Lincoln**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Chain-O-Sloughs WMA	10 9 4 6 2 2 2	95	\$75,600	Yes	Full	Full
Prairie Dell WMA	11 3 4 5 2 1 6	38	\$15,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Lyon**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Gabriel Anderson WMA	11 3 4 0 2 0 6	10	\$7,500	Yes	Full	Full

**Marshall**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Eckvoll WMA	15 5 3 9 2 1 1	500	\$125,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Mille Lacs**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Mille Lacs WMA	0 4 1 2 5 2 2 9	100	\$115,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Morrison**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Ereaux WMA	0 4 1 3 1 2 3 0	86	\$68,800	Yes	Full	Full

**Pennington**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Pembina WMA: Pennington County Unit	15345217	20	\$50,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Pipestone**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Eden WMA	10546224	135	\$96,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Polk**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Liberty WMA	14745216	75	\$30,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Redwood**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Cedar Rock WMA: South East Unit	11336210	87	\$90,000	Yes	Full	Full

**Roseau**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Roseau River WMA	16342209	904	\$45,555	Yes	Full	Full

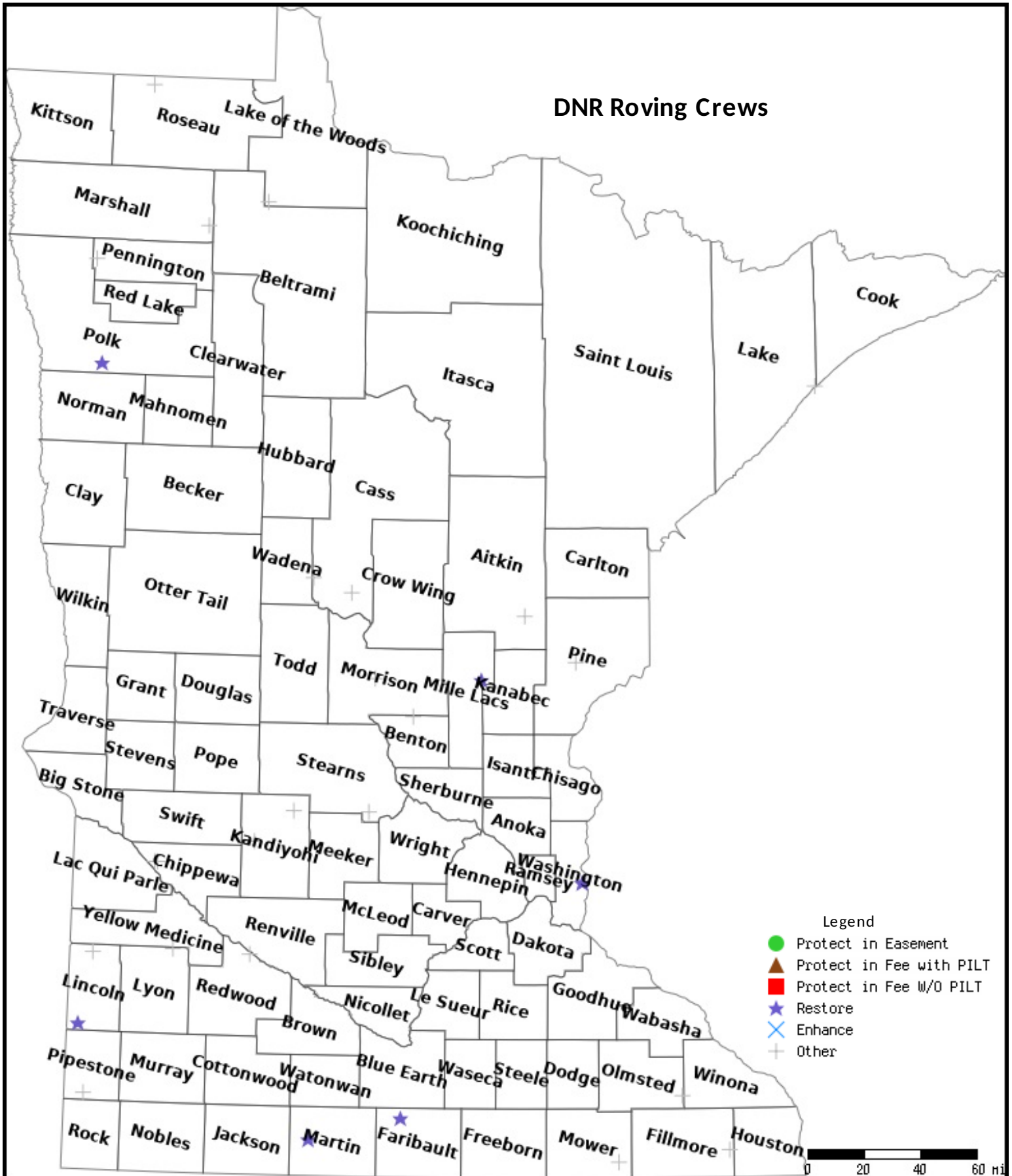
**Stearns**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Alice Hamm WMA	12229233	425	\$72,100	Yes	Full	Full

**Washington**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Bayport WMA	02920222	16	\$45,600	Yes	Full	Full
Bayport WMA	02920222	75	\$270,125	Yes	Full	Full

# Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List

# DNR Roving Crews – ML21

\$9,064,000 for 57,100 acres  
over two years



Seeding Wild Rice



Snowseeding Prairie



Tree Removal and Brush Shearing



Harvesting Seed

Tools of the Trade





## Memo

**Date:** 6/22/20

**To:** Mark Johnson, Executive Director, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

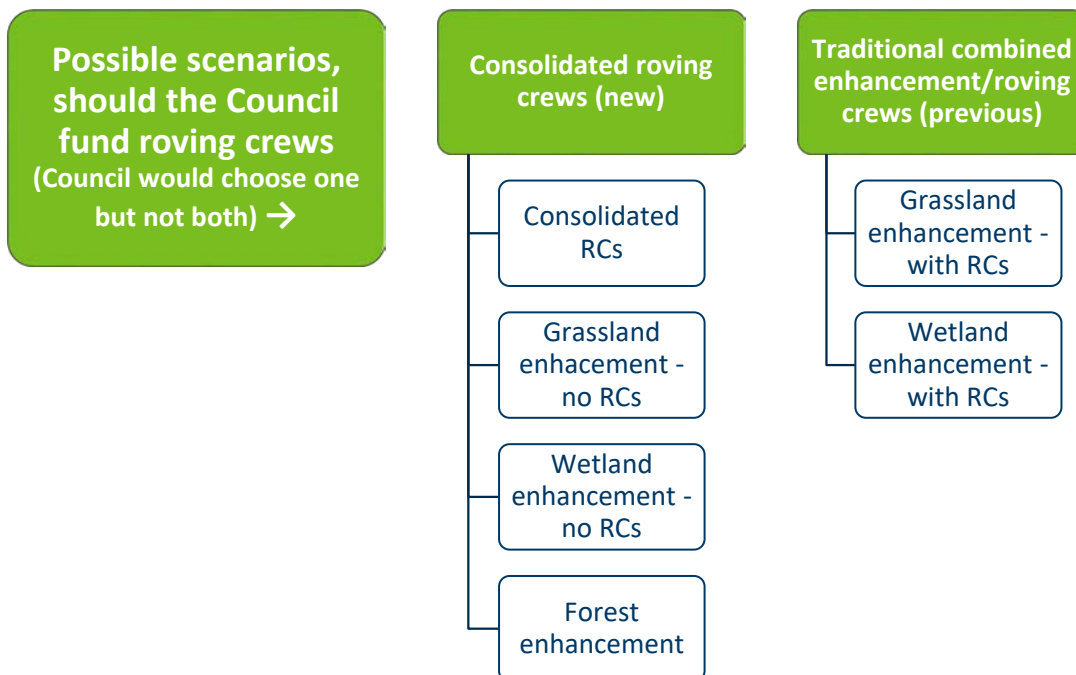
**From:** Kelly Wilder, LSOHC/DNR Liaison

**Re:** DNR's ML 21/FY 22 OHF Roving Crews Proposals

This memo details adjustments in DNR's ML 21/FY 22 OHF roving crews proposals. DNR anticipates that additional details will likely need to be discussed between the agency, Council staff and Council members, should the Council choose to fund the roving crews. This document, however, aims to provide an overview of the topic.

### Proposal structure

The DNR has five OHF-funded roving crews, each partially funded from different appropriations. This has historically included three eight-person crews funded 75% grassland and 25% wetland. More recently, the Council funded an ML 19 six-person grassland crew and an ML 20 four-person forest crew. With the exception of the new forest crew, roving crews funding has been one component of a larger enhancement request and appropriation. This year, DNR submitted a simplified proposal that consolidates all roving crews, alongside our traditional complement of combined enhancement/roving crew proposals, to give the full Council the chance to evaluate the new approach. The following visual displays two scenarios for the Council's consideration.



For further background, DNR presented on roving crews at the January 2020 Council meeting and participated in discussion with the Council. Subsequently, the Council Chair and Vice-Chair held two call with the DNR/LSOHC liaison and leadership from the Fish and Wildlife Division. Based on this consultation, the new proposal is intended to increase the crews’ effectiveness by:

- Providing stability to the roving crews through more consistent and predictable funding.
- Reducing the complexity of developing, managing and reporting on multiple, staggered proposals.
- Allowing each crew flexibility to work on multiple habitat types.

DNR requested further input on how to structure a revised set of roving crew proposals. Council leadership advised that DNR submit the new “consolidated” proposal as well as the “traditional” proposals laid out in the visual scenarios above. The Council as a whole could then consider the merit of the two approaches, should they wish to fund DNR roving crews.

## Proposal phasing

The DNR’s revised proposal allocates funds one year in advance. This approach provide staffing and budgetary stability and mirrors the state’s biennial budget process (i.e., the FY 20-21 biennial budget was established during the 2019 Legislative session). This would involve an initial year of transition where existing funds can be amended to cover the revised proposal for FY 22, and new funds would be used to fund subsequent years, aligned with the biennial budget schedule.

Two-year long proposals would offer more staffing and funding stability; flexibility in habitat work over multiple years; and a lower administrative burden for proposal development, management and reporting.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Calendar year when we submit (May) and defend (Aug/Sept) proposals	2020	2021	No proposal	2023	No proposal	2025
Minnesota laws	2021	2022		2024		2026
Fiscal year funding received	2022	2023		2025		2027
Fiscal year crews supported	2022	2024		2026		2028
	2023	2025		2027		2029
Biennium		FY22/23 biennium		FY24/25 biennium		

DNR’s five current open roving crew appropriations are staggered on three year cycles, as illustrated below. We can foresee at least two scenarios for future/unspent roving crew funding on existing appropriations. The DNR could return funds to the Council or we could transition these dollars to contracts and supplies, within each respective enhancement proposal.

Appropriation source	Crew size	Region	HQ	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
				Spent			Current fiscal yr	Could return/amend	
¾ grassland, ¼ wetland	8	Region 4 (SW)	Lac Qui Parle						
¾ grassland, ¼ wetland	8	Region 1 (NW)	Mentor						
Grassland	6	Region 1a (WC)	Elbow Lake						
¾ grass, ¼ wetland	8	Region 3 (SE)	Vermillion						
Forest	4	Region 2 (NE)	TBD						

## Proposal hearing order

If presentations are organized by habitat as usual, the following order might be most advantageous for the Council to hear DNR’s proposals.

- Prairie R/E:
  - DNR Roving Crews (O1)
  - DNR Grassland Phase XIII (PRE01b)
  - DNR Grassland Phase XIII – with Roving Crew (PRE01a)
- Wetland R/E:
  - Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements Phase 13 (w/o Roving Habitat Crew) (WRE01b)
  - Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements Phase 13 (with Roving Habitat Crew) (WRE01a)