

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Fiscal Year 2022 / ML 2021 Request for Funding



Date: May 27, 2020

Program or Project Title: Restoration Evaluations - ML 2021 (O3)

Funds Requested: \$150,000

Manager's Name: Wade Johnson  
Organization: MN DNR  
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County Locations: Not Listed

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Not Listed

Activity types:

- Not Listed

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Not Listed

### Abstract:

This program annually evaluates a sample of up to twenty-five Outdoor Heritage Fund habitat restoration and enhancement projects, provides a report on the evaluations in accordance with state law and delivers communications on project outcomes and lessons learned in restoration practice.

### Design and scope of work:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) are jointly responsible for convening a Restoration Evaluation Panel (Panel) of technical experts to annually evaluate a sample of habitat restoration projects completed with Outdoor Heritage funding, as provided in M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10. Primary goals of the restoration evaluation program are to provide on the ground accountability for the use of Legacy funds and to improve future habitat restorations in the State. Per statute, the Panel will evaluate the selected habitat restoration projects relative to the law, current science, and the stated goals in the restoration plan. Program staff will identify projects to be evaluated, coordinate field assessments and provide a report to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and the legislature determining if the restorations are meeting planned goals, any problems with implementation, and, if necessary, recommendations on improving restorations.

The anticipated long-term outcomes of this program are increased success of habitat restorations, increased awareness among practitioners and decision-makers of common challenges associated with restorations and recommended management options to improve future projects.

Up to twenty-five initial Outdoor Heritage Fund project evaluations will be reported in the 2022 annual report, an additional three to five follow up evaluations of previously assessed sites will also be reported. Follow up assessments will provide valuable insight in tracking progress and estimating trajectory towards planned goals.

This request supports a portion of the inter-agency Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluations Program, which provides for the evaluation of habitat restoration projects completed with funds from the Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53 Subd. 5), Outdoor Heritage Fund (M.S.97A.056 Subd.10), and Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50 Subd. 6) as required by state law.

Current Restoration Evaluation Reports, appendix of project evaluations and selected project stories are available on the MN DNR website <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/legacy/restoration-evaluation.html>

**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:**

Not Listed

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

Not Listed

**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:**

Not Listed

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

- Not Listed

**Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:**

- Not Listed

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

Not Listed

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

Not Listed

**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:**

Not Listed

**Relationship to other funds:**

- Clean Water Fund
- Parks and Trails Fund

**Describe the relationship of the funds:**

The Restoration Evaluation Program for Legacy Projects concurrently fulfills requirements to conduct restoration evaluations (M.L. 2013, Ch. 137) for projects completed with funds from the Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50) and Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53).

**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:**

This program is entirely dedicated to legacy fund work and does not supplant or substitute for previous funding.

## 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:

It is anticipated that the evaluation program outputs will help to create a framework for continuous improvement in restoration practice. Direct work of the Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation Program will be sustained for the period of funding.

## 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:

Not Listed

## Activity Details

### Requirements:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

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**

### 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?
2011	42000	42000	0	0	0	0	
2012	45000	45000	0	0	0	0	
2013	45000	45000	0	0	0	0	
2014	100000	100000	0	0	0	0	
2015	100000	100000	0	0	0	0	
2016	125000	125000	0	0	0	0	
2017	150000	150000	0	0	0	0	
2018	150000	150000	0	0	0	0	
2019	150000	2000	0	0	0	0	
2020	150000	0	0	0	0	0	

## Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Evaluation Panel establishes annual priorities	July 1, 2021
Program Coordinator selects up to twenty-five project sites for evaluation	July 1, 2021
Site assessors (State staff and contractors) conduct field surveys of selected sites	August 30, 2022
2020 Restoration Evaluation report submitted to Legislature and LSOHC	April 28, 2023



# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$150,000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$122,000	\$0		\$122,000
Contracts	\$15,000	\$0		\$15,000
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	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	\$0		\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$150,000	\$0	-	\$150,000

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Coordinator	0.60	1.00	\$64,000	\$0		\$64,000
Evaluation Specialist	0.60	1.00	\$56,000	\$0		\$56,000
Site Assessors (State Agency Staff)	0.02	1.00	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Total	1.22	3.00	\$122,000	\$0	-	\$122,000

Amount of Request: \$150,000  
 Amount of Leverage: \$0  
 Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%  
 DSS + Personnel: \$132,000  
 As a % of the total request: 88.00%  
 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?**

Technical evaluation of completed restorations and enhancements.

**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: - No**

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

Not Listed

**Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - No**

**Please explain why this project can NOT be scaled:**

Not Listed

**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?**

The Coordinator and Specialist positions have remained the same for the past 3 appropriations.

## 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

# Parcel List

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

Not Listed

## 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.

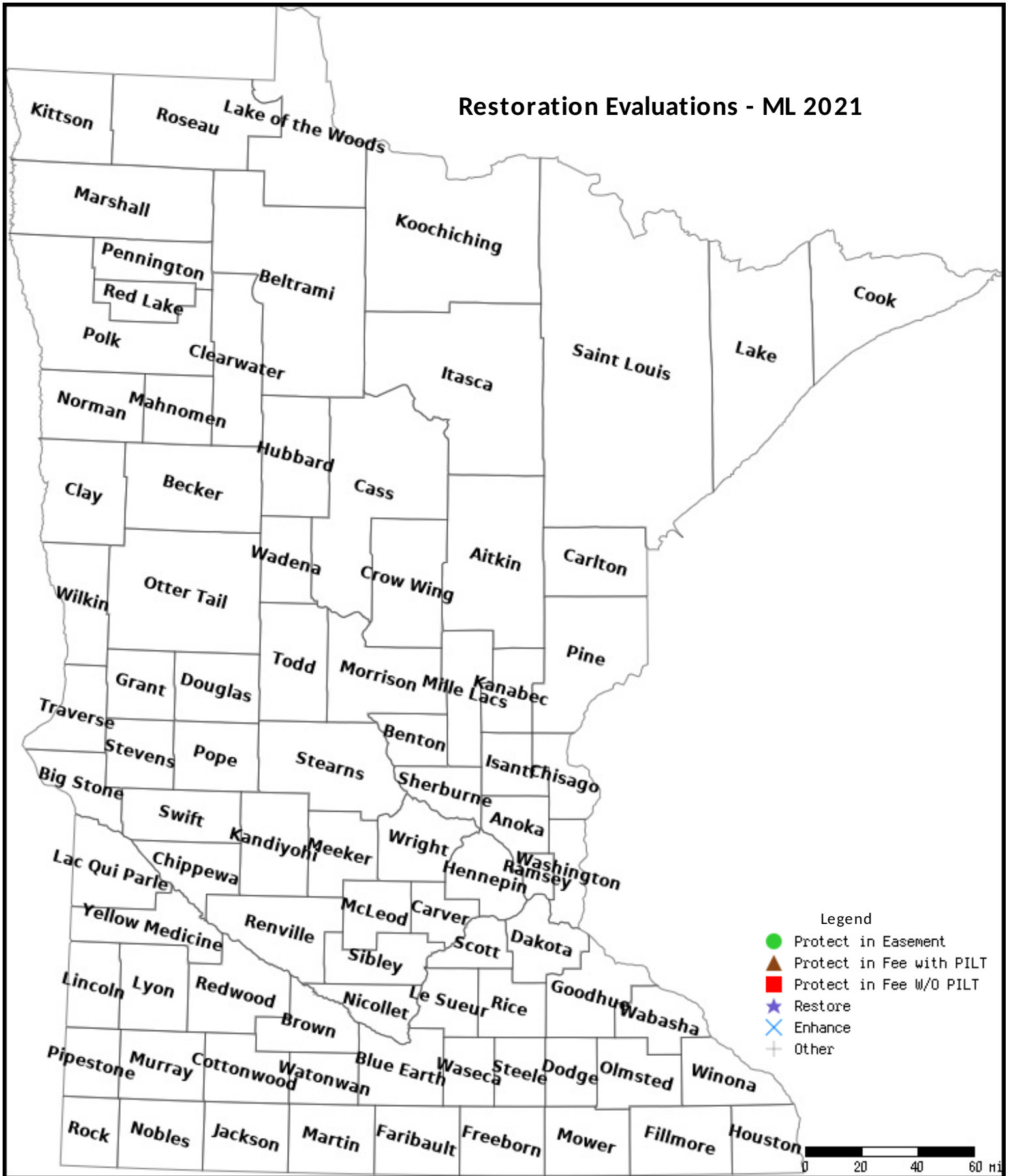
## Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

## Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

# Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List

# Evaluating Restorations - Promoting Success - Improving Minnesota's Legacy

## *Lessons from the Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation Program*

We work with site assessors and project managers to evaluate restorations.

We collaborate with teams of experts in different habitat types.

We identify what's working and ongoing challenges.

### What We Have Seen

Restorations are largely using good science, and on track to meet their goals. But, ***we can do better for Minnesotans!*** After reviewing more than 160 Parks and Trails, Clean Water and Outdoor Heritage Fund projects, we have identified opportunities for improvement.

### Recommendations for Future Projects

- ***Prioritize documentation*** of project planning and implementation.
- ***Multidisciplinary project teams*** can improve ecological outcomes.
- Practitioners need ***comprehensive science based training***.
- ***Minimum design criteria*** can ensure projects benefit habitat.
- ***Consistent planning*** and ***native vegetation*** are critical for stream projects.

### 2020 Focus

Annually we update our project pool to include all completed OHF restoration and enhancement projects. A subset of projects are identified for field evaluations.

2020 project evaluations will include prairie, wetland and forest projects throughout the state. We will be working with new project managers in new counties.

### Our Charge to Improve Restorations

Between ***2012-2019, 81 OHF projects have been evaluated*** and reviewed by the Restoration Evaluation Panel. We communicate recommendations from the Panel and summaries of what is working to help maximize the habitat benefits of future restorations. We reach stakeholders in a variety of ways such as ***field trainings like the one pictured below.***





# Factors of Success

There are common characteristics that successful stream restoration projects share. Incorporating these characteristics into future projects will improve restorations.

## A Focus on Streams

In 2019, the Restoration Evaluation Program was asked to take a closer look at stream projects. In **2020, we are communicating what's working** with practitioners.

### 1 Making a Plan

Knowing the root causes of problems

Having clear, common goals among stakeholders

Having community support

### 2 Designing the Project

hydrologists

Collaborating and getting feedback

Getting the details down on paper

geomorphologists

ecologists

engineers

Bringing diverse, professional perspectives to the table

### 3 Doing the Work

Hiring trained, experienced professionals



Having construction oversight guiding installation



Collaborating with a team if the plan changes



### 4 Maintaining the Benefits

Having someone in charge of monitoring

Having resources to respond if needed

Having time to do the monitoring



### 5 Moving Forward

Evaluate what's working

Share stories of success and challenges

Adjust as we learn

