

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2022 / ML 2021 Request for Funding



Date: May 27, 2020

Program or Project Title: Wild Rice Shoreland Protection - Phase VII (WA05)

Funds Requested: \$2,000,000

Manager's Name: Dan Steward
Title: Watershed/Private Forest Management Program Coordinator
Organization: BWSR
Address: 1601 Minnesota Drive
City: Brainerd, MN 56401
Office Number: 218-828-2598
Mobile Number: 218-820-1679
Email: dan.steward@state.mn.us
Website: BWSR.state.mn.us

County Locations: Not Listed

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest

Abstract:

This Phase 7 continuation of the Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program will utilize permanent conservation easements to protect 1,000 acres and approximately 6.5 miles of wild rice shoreland habitat. Development trends pose a serious threat to wild rice habitat, and sites are selected through an integrative ranking process that considers development risk, surrounding land use, habitat value, and numerous other criteria. BWSR will utilize the RIM Easement process in partnership with 14 local SWCDs within the Northern Forest and Forest Prairie Transition. Previous phases of this project have protected 4,831 acres and exceeded goals by 27%.

Design and scope of work:

Historically, wild rice occurred throughout Minnesota and extended into northern Iowa. Wild rice has since been extirpated from most of its southern range due to human impacts including changes to water quality and chemistry, sedimentation, drainage, flow alteration, boat traffic and competition from introduced aquatic invasive species. Today, the heart of the state's wild rice acreage falls within this project work area comprised of 14 counties -- Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Otter Tail, St. Louis, Stearns, Todd, and Wadena.

Recent well-documented population and development trends pose a serious threat to wild rice habitat. This population and development boom has reduced the availability of developable shoreline on recreational lakes, resulting in shallow lakes, rivers, and shallow bays containing wild rice being increasingly targeted for shoreline development. Many of these wild rice shoreland complexes currently remain intact with good water quality, but are subject to development pressure that, if allowed, will degrade the resource.

Voluntary, incentive-based conservation protection options for shoreland landowners are few. Unlike the prairie portion of the state where state funded easement options exist for conservation-minded landowners, private land protection options are limited for wild

rice shoreland in the forest due to funding constraints. Further, many easement programs are targeted for restoration and not protection. In the northern forest, lower land values allow conservation dollars to stretch further while also leveraging existing public lands. Most wild rice lakes are public waters and offer some form of public access. This proposal will continue to fill a need for shoreland protection on key water bodies supporting wild rice in the Northern Forest and Forest Prairie Transition Sections.

Utilizing permanent conservation easements the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) and the fourteen local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) will continue to offer permanent shoreland protection on shallow lakes, rivers and shallow bays producing wild rice. The BWSR's Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program will acquire 1,000 acres through permanent conservation easements.

Through the local SWCD offices, BWSR will purchase RIM easements using rates set by the BWSR Board. Tracts will be selected based on the degree to which they help permanently protect all the land around a given wild rice water body. RIM easements will be acquired through a sign-up process similar to BWSR's other easement programs. SWCD generated landowner applications will be reviewed and parcels ranked by the project committee with guidance provided by the "Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Criteria Sheet" (attached).

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:

Wild rice shoreland encompasses a complex of shallow lakes, rivers, and shallow bays of deeper lakes that support rice and provide some of the most important habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife species in Minnesota. Wild rice habitat is especially important to Minnesota's migrating and breeding waterfowl. More than 17 species of wildlife listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) use wild rice areas as habitat for breeding, migration, and/or foraging.

Targeted SGCN are as follows: Common Loon, Trumpeter Swan, Bald Eagle, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Red-necked Grebe, Sora Rail, Virginia Rail, Yellow Rail, Black Tern, Rusty Blackbird, Sedge Wren, Lesser Scaup, Northern Pintail, and American Black Duck.

Wild rice is some of the most important habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife species in Minnesota as noted in the MNDNR's Natural Wild Rice in Minnesota report to the legislature (2008). Important game species supported by wild rice include the Ring-necked Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Scaup, and Bufflehead.

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

Recent well-documented population and development trends pose a serious threat to wild rice habitat. This population and development boom has reduced the availability of developable shoreline on recreational lakes, resulting in shallow lakes, rivers, and shallow bays containing wild rice being increasingly targeted for shoreline development. Many of these wild rice shoreland complexes currently remain intact with good water quality, but are subject to development pressure that, if allowed, will degrade the resource.

Easement acquisition is critical at this time to head off development and habitat fragmentation along these sensitive lakes. Beyond public ownership, current shoreline protection on wild rice shoreland is limited to county shoreland ordinances, and limited conservation efforts by non-governmental organizations. Shoreland ordinances do not prevent wild rice habitat fragmentation and degradation. Further, even the most stringent ordinances still allow for some subdivision and development, which is detrimental to the wild rice shoreland complex.

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:

To target sites, aerial photos of wild rice lakes are reviewed during a preliminary screening to find those that are the most intact, provide the most wild rice, with the most waterfowl use, and can be protected for the least cost. Lakes are sorted into Low, Medium and High categories. Once the lakes have been ranked the SWCD then contacts landowners on the high and some of the medium priority lakes.

Easement selection occurs with a goal of maximum wild rice habitat complex protection along all shoreland of a lake. Easement parcels are further targeted and prioritized by adjacency to current protected lands/public lands and a low level of current lake development. The following additional factors are considered to ensure site selection reflects current science-based measures for wild rice habitat protection: DNR wildricelakedesignation, feet of shoreline protected, development potential of site, acquisition urgency, depth from shore, watershed considerations, easement size relative to the parcel, and an analysis of stakeholder support. Sites that contain a wild rice lake outlet are also prioritized for potential DNR management of water levels to ensure protection.

SWCD generated landowner applications will be reviewed and parcels ranked by the project committee with guidance provided by the "Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Criteria Sheet" attached to this proposal. Shoreland protection for wild rice lakes and rivers enjoys

widespread support from tribal interests, SWCDs, and other habitat conservation partners.

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

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H6 Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

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

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

The 25 Year Framework states that healthy wild rice wetlands and shallow lakes that provide important habitat for a wide range of game and nongame wildlife are front and center in the LSOHC's vision. Protection of priority wild rice lakes from development impacts will support the current index of biotic integrity and other aquatic habitat indicators on critical wild rice lakes.

This Program seeks to permanently protect these existing natural wild rice lakes, supporting the declaration that natural wild rice in Minnesota provides public value by its contributions to fish and wildlife habitat, ecological diversity, environmental quality, and recreational opportunities.

The Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program will protect 1,000 acres of habitat surrounding targeted wild rice lakes ensuring a healthy and plentiful supply of habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, including Species in Greatest Need.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

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

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 Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program will permanently protect wild rice wetlands and adjacent critical habitat facing development pressure, helping to keep Minnesota's wild rice legacy intact. This proposal is reflective of the Northern Forest and Forest Prairie Transition priorities to protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes. Securing easements on these sites will ensure detrimental land use will not occur in the future that would otherwise negatively affect wild rice populations and the wildlife that depend on this resource.

Wild rice is officially the "State Grain" of Minnesota (MN Statute - 1.148). Minnesota remains the epicenter of this plant's natural range supporting more habitat than any other state in the U.S. No other native Minnesota plant approaches the level of cultural, ecological, and economic values embodied by this species. Natural wild rice has been hand harvested as a source of food in the Great Lakes region for thousands of years, and these lakes provide important habitat for a wide range of game and nongame wildlife. The Forest Prairie Transition priority to protect wild rice wetlands and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife demonstrates the importance of shoreland and surrounding uplands to the health of wild rice resources.

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

The Farm Bill Assistance Partnership (FBAP) with BWSR, DNR, PF, NRCS, MASWCD, and SWCDs as primary partners, provides funding to SWCDs to utilize technicians to promote the conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill and other conservation program opportunities to private landowners. The Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) via LCCMR recommendations provided \$1.0M in FY10-11, \$625,000 in FY12-13, \$3.0M in FY 14-15 and \$1.0M in FY 16-17. Currently there is no ENRTF money available to

support this work at the local level. BWSR and SWCDs have been pursuing new mechanisms to keep staff in place for easement work.

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 funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any 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:

Once a RIM easement is acquired, BWSR is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring into perpetuity. The BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry-out oversight, monitoring and inspection of its conservation easements. Easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted and partners' staff document findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Perpetual monitoring and stewardship costs have been calculated at \$6,500 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship covers costs of the SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and enforcement.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2025-Ongoing	Stewardship Account	Compliance Checks first 5 years then every 3rd year.	Corrective actions of any violations	Enforcement action by MN Attorney General Office
2025-Ongoing	Landowner Responsibility	Maintain compliance with easement terms		

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

DNR staff, in consultation with a variety of experts in NGOs and other agencies, have compiled a select group of indicator species and associated quantities to be used by any applicant to answer the question above.

Ovenbirds

Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) are found in upland forests statewide; typically in relatively mature forest but can also be found in younger forests. While territories vary in size and may overlap, an average of 10 pairs for every 10 hectares may be translated to roughly 16 pairs for every 40 acres.

Golden-winged Warblers

Often associated with shrubland habitat and regenerating forests, more current research indicates a variety of forest habitats are required by Golden-winged Warblers (a matrix of shrubby wetlands and uplands, regenerating forests, and mature forests). While territories vary in size, an average of 4 pairs for every 10 hectares, may be translated to roughly 6 pairs for every 40 acres.

Mallards

The biological model used in the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture and the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture (UMRGLRV) to estimate habitat needs to support mallard population growth uses a simple but accepted rate of 1 mallard pair per hectare (1 mallard pair per 2.47 acres) of wetland habitat (noting that upland habitat for nesting is also obviously needed).

Trumpeter Swans

Though reported territories can range in size from 1.5 - >100 hectares, a reasonable expectation is that 1 trumpeter swan pair would be supported by each 150 acres of wetlands.

Activity Details

Requirements:

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

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

Will the eased land be open for public use - **No**

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Though uncommon, there could be a potential for new trails to be developed, if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (e.g. firebreaks, berm maintenance, etc). Unauthorized trails identified during the monitoring process are in violation of the easement.

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

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program that has nearly 7,000 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms. Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement Program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Though uncommon, there could be a potential for new trails to be developed, if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (e.g. firebreaks, berm maintenance, etc). Unauthorized trails identified during the monitoring process are in violation of the easement.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program that has over 7,000 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms. Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement Program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

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?
2011	1891000	1652600	20000	11800	700	1210	yes
2013	1630000	1355100			1015	1173	yes
2014	1060000	1041800			680	698	yes
2015	1600000	1515100			913	1127	wrapping up
2017	750000	559700			500	623	not done
2019	937000						multiple in process

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
RIM easements secured on 1000 acres	June 30, 2025
Final Report Submitted	November 1, 2025

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$2,000,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$208,000	\$0		\$208,000
Contracts	\$35,700	\$0		\$35,700
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$1,615,700	\$0		\$1,615,700
Easement Stewardship	\$110,500	\$0		\$110,500
Travel	\$3,500	\$0		\$3,500
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$20,100	\$0		\$20,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
Supplies/Materials	\$1,500	\$0		\$1,500
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$2,000,000	\$0	-	\$2,000,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.20	4.00	\$96,000	\$0		\$96,000
Easement Processing	0.40	4.00	\$112,000	\$0		\$112,000
Total	0.60	8.00	\$208,000	\$0	-	\$208,000

Amount of Request: \$2,000,000
 Amount of Leverage: \$0
 Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%
 DSS + Personnel: \$228,100
 As a % of the total request: 11.41%
 Easement Stewardship: \$110,500
 As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 6.84%

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

BWSR calculates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done.

What is included in the contracts line?

The amount listed in the contract line will be used to reimburse SWCDs for work associated with easement acquisition, boundary posting, etc.

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:

The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs.

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:

N/A

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:

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally for the most part. Program management costs would be the exception, due to program development & oversight remaining somewhat consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

What is the cost per easement for stewardship and explain how that amount is calculated?

BWSR stewardship costs are \$6,500/easement. This is based upon Land Trust Alliance standards that have been modified to fit the RIM programs needs.

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 Phase 7 of an ongoing program these funds will pay for staff time spent on new easements associated with this phase.

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	1,000	0	1,000
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1,000	0	1,000

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	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000

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	100	0	0	900	1,000
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	100	0	0	900	1,000

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	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,800,000	\$2,000,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,800,000	\$2,000,000

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	\$2,000	\$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	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

6.5

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:

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation *Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species. A summary of the total number of wetland acres and associated forest land secured under easement through this appropriation will be reported. We expect sustained populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these easements are secured. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes.*

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need *Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species. A summary of the total number of wetland acres and associated forest land secured under easement through this appropriation will be reported. We expect sustained populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these easements are secured. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes.*

Parcel List

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

The Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program utilizes a two tiered screening process to find the wild rice parcels with the highest quality habitat. First we meet on a county by county basis with DNR Wildlife staff to rank wild rice lakes. At this preliminary screening we use aerial photos to sort through rice lakes to find those that are the most intact, provide the most wild rice, with the most waterfowl use, and can be protected for the least cost. Lakes are sorted into Low, Medium and High categories. We also drop or add lakes to the lake list as better information becomes available. Once the lakes have been ranked, the SWCD then contacts landowners on the high and some of the medium priority lakes.

Once the SWCD has an interested landowner, they bring the parcel to the project committee for comments and recommendations. This committee reviews proposals and sorts through them for the parcels that provide the greatest public benefit possible. We always look for areas with high quality wild rice habitat, where a limited public investment can leverage a larger area of public land. The result is an increase in resiliency to the habitat base. The parcels that rank the highest tend to be adjacent to public lands, in a river corridor, or both.

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.

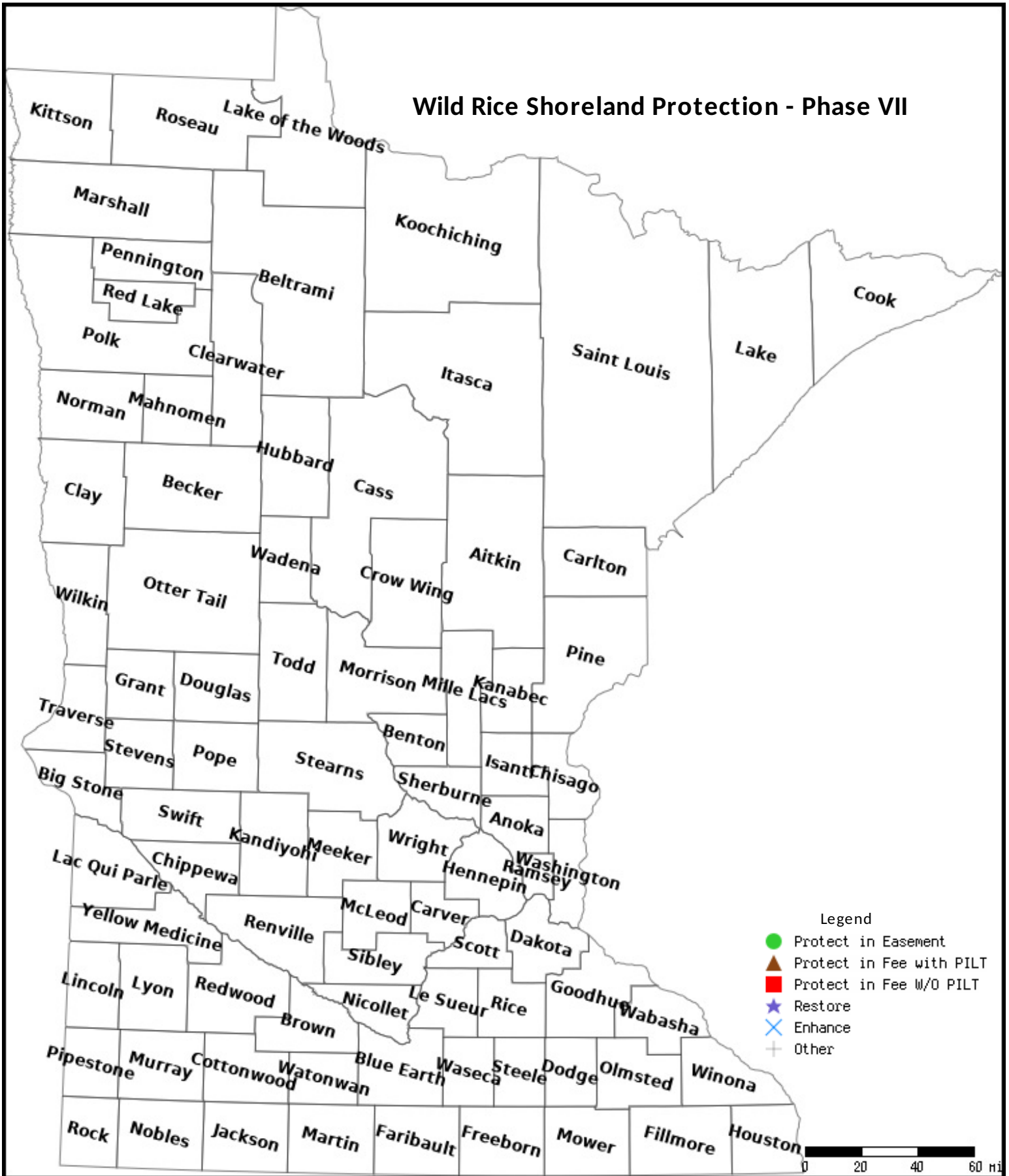
Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

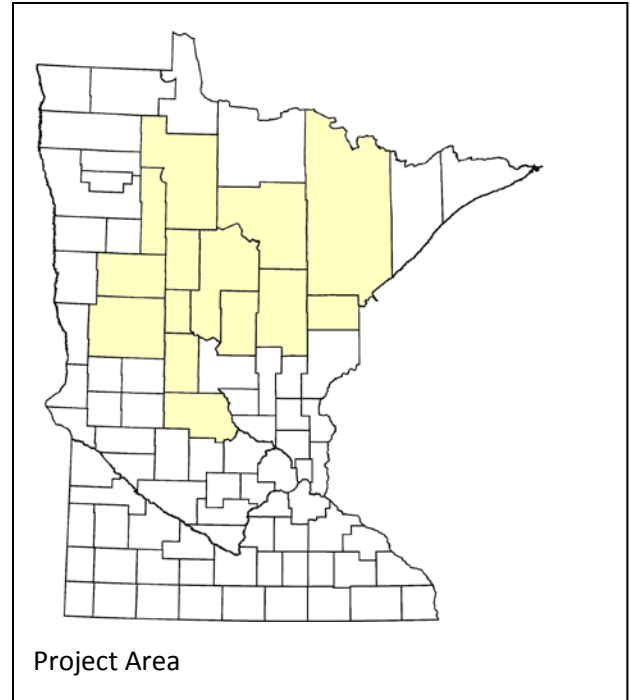


Data Generated From Parcel List

Wild Rice Shoreland Protection – Phase VII

Phase 7 Request

- \$2,000,000 request
- Secures approximately 1,000 acres, 6.5 miles of shoreland habitat
- As less developable land remains on recreational lakes, shallow lakes are targeted for shoreline development
- Habitat-focused RIM Easements that prevent development and preserve natural habitat.
- Permanently protects resources while private ownership continues
- 14 SWCDs participating
- Outcomes – Benefits to Minnesotans:
 - Protects wildlife habitat that supports healthy populations
 - Improves hunting and fishing by protecting wildlife complexes
 - Safeguards important wild rice resources



Outcomes from Prior Phases

Combining Phases I-VI (ML11, ML13, ML14, ML15, ML17 and ML19), BWSR, DNR, and SWCDs together will complete approximately 75 easement projects on over 30 lakes and rivers. Four parcels have had DNR fee title acquisition completed and all have public access.

Results include:

- Nearly 5,000 acres (4,831 acres recorded to date) of permanent easements.
- Protection of over 25 miles of high priority wild rice shoreland.
- Public access on over 400 acres.
- Forestlands protected from development and fragmentation, keeping habitat corridors intact.



About Wild Rice

Minnesota is the epicenter of the nation's natural wild rice. Protected, undeveloped shoreland is important to preserving sensitive wild rice lakes for current and future generations of wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts. Although once found throughout most of the state, today, the heart of the state's wild rice acreage falls within fourteen counties: Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Otter Tail, St Louis, Stearns, Todd, and Wadena.

Wild rice shoreland encompasses a complex of shallow lakes, rivers, and shallow bays of deeper lakes that support rice and provide some of the most important habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife species in Minnesota, especially migrating and breeding waterfowl. It also provides unique recreation opportunities including hunting waterfowl and harvesting for food. Wild rice is the state grain of Minnesota and part of the state's rich natural and cultural heritage. The grain remains spiritually important to Native Americans.



For more information, contact:

Dan Steward

Watershed/Private Forest Management

Program Coordinator (218) 203-4474

Phase 7 RIM Ranking Sheet

Shallow Lake Shoreland Protection Easements: Wild Rice Lakes

Ranking Process

This score sheet has been used for phases two through six, and will also be used for phase seven.

Max Score Criteria Guidelines:

30 # Feet of Shoreline 5 points for minimal shoreland on wild rice lake (<500ft)

10 points for at least 500 - 999 feet of shoreland on a wild rice lake

15 points for 1,000 - 2,000 feet of shoreland on a wild rice lake

20 points for 2,000 - 3,000 feet of shoreline on a wild rice lake

30 points for more than 3,000 feet of shoreland on a wild rice lake

15 % of Tract Developable 1-15 points base on the proportion of the tract that is developable (10%=1.5pts)

10 Wetland fringe width 1-10 points based on the distance between upland & the bank/water (0'=10pts, 300'=0pts, -1pt/30' wet)

20 Urgency Property opportunity is likely to be lost if we do not act quickly

20 Depth from shore 5 points for easments > 300 feet deep along wild rice lake shore

10 points for easments > 500 feet deep along wild rice lake shore

20 points for easments > 900 feet deep along wild rice lake shore

15 Adjoining Applications 15 points for land adjoining another application

15 Adjoining Public Land 15 points for land adjoining public land on the wild rice lake, or adjoining land permanently protected by other easement program

10 Habitat Value 1-10 points based on the habitat value of the property, uniqueness, and



lack of existing development and shoreline alterations

10 % of Parcel/Tract 1-10 points based on the proportion of the parcel enrolled (10% = 1 pt)

10 % of Lake Undeveloped 1-10 points based on the proportion of lake currently undeveloped (10% = 1 pt)

15 Lake Outlet 15 points for tracts containing land on the outlet of a wild rice lake & access granted for water level mngmt

15 Watershed 15 points for tracts with majority acres draining into the wild rice lake

15 Stakeholder Support Up to 15 points for level of landowner support for shoreland protection and wild rice management (e.g. lake mgt plan that prioritizes wild rice protection in lake)

200 TOTAL GROSS SCORE *Other factors may raise or lower the priority of a parcel

100 Final Score (Total / 2)

Identified Wild Rice Lakes

Project Area

The map below portrays all identified wild rice lakes in the project area. Lakes are further prioritized on a scale of high to low in consultation with DNR staff. Marketing and easement acquisition is targeted on high and some medium priority lakes. A project committee reviews easement applications and selects those that provide the greatest public benefit.

