



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 10 Laws of Minnesota 2022 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 04/29/2025

Project Title: Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 10

Funds Recommended: \$5,358,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2022, Ch. 77, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(d)

Appropriation Language: \$5,358,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: (1) \$1,817,000 to The Nature Conservancy to acquire lands in fee for wildlife management under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8; for scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 5; for state forests under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 7; and for aquatic management areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 14, and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat; (2) \$1,430,000 to The Trust for Public Land to acquire lands in fee for wildlife management under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8; for scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 5; for state forests under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 7; and for aquatic management areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 14; and (3) \$2,111,000 to Minnesota Land Trust to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat, of which \$216,000 is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Robert McGillivray

Title: Land Protection Director

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Location Information

County Location(s): Fillmore, Winona, Olmsted, Houston, Goodhue, Wabasha and Dodge.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Protect in Fee

Enhance

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Prairie

Wetlands

Habitat

Narrative**Abstract**

This project will protect approximately 1,535 acres using conservation easement and fee title acquisition, and restore and enhance approximately 195 acres of declining habitat for important wildlife species. Actions will occur in strategically targeted areas of biodiversity significance within the Blufflands of Southeast Minnesota, resulting in increased public access and improved wildlife habitat.

Design and Scope of Work

The Southeast Blufflands is Minnesota's most biodiverse region. Some 86 different native plant communities have been mapped by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) in the program area, covering nearly 150,000 acres. These communities provide habitat for 183 rare state-listed plants and animals and more Species in Greatest Conservation Need than anywhere else in the state. These imperiled species are concentrated within 749 Sites of Biodiversity Significance.

Despite this biological richness only 5% of the region has been protected to date. The Trust for Public Land (TPL), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), in partnership, are working to change this. Through our Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Program, we are working to expand and connect larger contiguous blocks of protected lands, allowing land managers to restore, enhance and maintain high-quality habitats at a scale difficult to accomplish with fragmented ownership. Protecting and managing these lands is not only important for ecological reasons, but also benefits public enjoyment of these lands and the resources they provide. This program is increasing access to public lands to meet the continued high demand for outdoor recreation within the region.

This Program has a long, proven track record of protecting, restoring and enhancing lands that meet both state and local priorities for biodiversity, land access and watershed health. To date, the Partnership has protected 8,137 acres of priority lands and 30 miles of stream, and has restored/enhanced 1,893 acres of habitat.

The 10th Phase of our Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Program continues this:

1. **Conservation Easements.** MLT will protect 1,099 acres of high-quality private land through conservation easements and develop restoration and habitat management plans for eased lands. MLT will identify potential projects within targeted priority areas through an RFP process coupled with local outreach via SWCD offices. This competitive landowner bid process will rank projects based on ecological value and cost, prioritizing the best projects and securing them at the lowest cost to the state.
2. **Fee Acquisition.** TNC and TPL will coordinate with MN DNR on potential fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. TNC and TPL will assist the participating DNR Divisions by conducting all or some of the following activities: initial site reviews, negotiations with the willing seller, appraisals, environmental reviews and acquisition of fee title. TNC and TPL will transfer lands to the DNR except when TNC ownership is appropriate. Fee acquisition of 436 acres of forest/prairie/habitat, and 2 miles of coldwater trout stream is planned.
3. **Restoration and Enhancement.** TNC will use a stewardship crew and contractors to restore/enhance approximately 145 acres of bluff prairie, floodplain, riparian and forest habitat within priority complexes of protected lands. MLT will restore and enhance 50 acres of habitat on existing easements and identify restoration/enhancement priorities on its other existing easement lands in the Southeast. Ecological restoration enhancement management plans will be developed in coordination with the DNR staff, landowners and/or hired subcontractors.

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

Projects selected for this proposal target complexes of biodiversity significance, as identified by MBS. Many are also in close proximity to current state land. Building and expanding contiguous blocks of natural vegetation protects habitat continuity in a fragmented landscape. It also prioritizes areas identified in The Nature Conservancy's recently released Resilient and Connected Network, which maps complexes and corridors of habitat that provide species with the best chance to move and adapt to future conditions. By protecting diverse habitat in resilient landscapes, we help species thrive long into the future.

Sedimentation and erosion are major threats to fish in the region. Protecting and enhancing upland natural communities, especially on the steep bluffs that flank most trout streams, will help prevent additional erosion. Aquatic habitat also benefits from protection of trout stream banks and floodplains. The water quality benefit that comes with the protection of forested upland areas is significant and contributes to improved trout and non-game fish and mussel habitat.

To date, this program has impacted 228 populations of rare, declining and SGCN species, and the natural habitats on which they depend. Specific habitats include bluff prairie, oak savanna, barrens prairie, oak-hickory woodland, jack pine-oak woodland, white pine - oak/maple forest and maple basswood hardwood forest. These habitats support species including: tri-colored and northern long-eared bats, timber rattlesnake, Blanding's turtle, Blanchard's cricket frog, North American racer, American ginseng, great Indian plantain, plains wild indigo, western prairie fringed orchid and red-shouldered hawk. By targeting biodiverse complexes of resilient habitat, this proposal builds upon and expands that impact.

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

Southeast Minnesota has several conservation plans, biological indices and analyses. Our partnership uses watershed-based Landscape Stewardship Plans, DNR's Wildlife Action Network, Conservation Focus Areas in the Root River and Whitewater watersheds, and TNC's Resilient and Connected Network to identify priority areas to focus our efforts and resources (see proposal illustration). Individual projects are assessed based on their significance to biodiversity (according to data from the MN Biological Survey), along with several other important criteria such as:

- location within a priority area
- health and extent of existing natural communities
- areas of significant biodiversity and native plant communities
- proximity to existing conservation lands
- parcel size
- importance for stream quality
- risk of conversion

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

H1 Protect priority land habitats

H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Southeast Forest

Protect forest habitat through acquisition in fee or easement to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties

Outcomes

Programs in southeast forest region:

Large corridors and complexes of biologically diverse wildlife habitat typical of the unglaciated region are restored and protected ~ *We will track the acres of priority parcels protected within the Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) identified as priorities in regional planning. Success within each COA will be determined based on the percentage of area protected, restored and/or enhanced.*

Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

The Minnesota Land Trust encourages landowners to fully or partially donate the value of conservation easements as part of its landowner bid protocol. An estimated \$220,000 of donated easement value is expected from landowners as leverage.

Partners are also leveraging private funds to cover a portion of travel and direct support services cost totaling \$32,200.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

This proposal does not substitute or supplant previous funding that was not from a Legacy fund.

Non-OHF Appropriations

| Year | Source | Amount |
|------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 2018 | The Trust for Public Land | \$21,250 |
| 2017 | RIM Critical Habitat Match | \$500,000 |
| 2017 | The Trust for Public Land | \$55,000 |
| 2017 | The Nature Conservancy | \$63,600 |
| 2016 | The Nature Conservancy | \$25,656 |
| 2016 | The Trust for Public Land | \$250,000 |
| 2015 | The Nature Conservancy | \$14,200 |
| 2014 | The Nature Conservancy | \$2,173,459 |
| 2013 | The Nature Conservancy | \$67,661 |

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

Tracts acquired in fee title will be transferred to the State for ongoing management except when TNC ownership is appropriate. Acquisition projects will be near or adjacent to existing protected lands, including state-owned lands and lands under conservation easement, allowing for the expansion of management activities that are already taking place. Habitats cleared of invasive species will be maintained with prescribed fire and other practices depending on funding. Protection and restoration projects will improve future prescribed fire and maintenance activities through economies of scale. The tracts protected and enhanced as part of this proposal also meet the prioritization for Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan. MN DNR has been successful in securing federal habitat enhancement funding.

Land protected through conservation easements will be sustained by MLT through a state-of-the art easement stewardship standards and practices. MLT is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a successful easement stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring and defending the easements as necessary. In addition, MLT encourages landowners to undertake active ecological management of their properties, provides them with habitat management plans and works with them to secure resources (expertise and funding) to undertake these activities over time.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

| Year | Source of Funds | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| 2023 and perpetually | MLT Easement Stewardship and Enforcement Fund | Annual monitoring in perpetuity | Enforcement as necessary | - |
| Every 4-6 years | Game and Fish Fund | Prescribed fire | - | - |
| Every 4-6 years | US Fish and Wildlife Service | Prescribed fire | - | - |

Provide an assessment of how your program celebrates cultural diversity or reaches diverse communities in Minnesota, including reaching low- and moderate-income households:

The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, and Minnesota Land Trust all hold a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice as a core value. Examples of that commitment include, but are not limited to, working with diverse communities to put a park, trail, or natural area within a 10-minute walk of every Twin Cities resident; programs to protect camps and nature centers that serve a diversity of Minnesota Youth; partnerships with indigenous communities to protect culturally important resources like wild rice; and to undertake shared learning around cultural practices like prescribed fire. Like many in the conservation community, and our country as a whole, the past year has moved us to deeper self-reflection on how we fulfil that commitment, and in what ways we fall short.

Protecting, restoring, and enhancing diverse and resilient habitat benefits all Minnesotans. It keeps our air and water clean, mitigates the impacts of climate change, conserves the biological diversity that is every Minnesotan's natural heritage, and provides the public with opportunities for recreation and spiritual fulfilment. In Southeast Minnesota, where the majority of land is privately owned, public lands provide opportunities for hunting and fishing to people without access to private lands, including members of indigenous communities who were displaced from the land and immigrant communities who have had fewer opportunities to acquire it. Moving forward, we look forward to continuing this important work in a way that more directly, and authentically, engages diverse communities and partners in an equitable and just manner.

As each organization in this partnership grows in its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, we will continue to strive to use these values as a lens in project, partner, and contractor selection. We recognize this as an area where we could do more.

Activity Details

Requirements

If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?

Yes

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**

No

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:

We will follow the county/township board notification processes as directed by current statutory language.

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

Yes

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

Yes

Who will manage the easement?

The Minnesota Land Trust.

Who will be the easement holder?

The Minnesota Land Trust.

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

MLT expects to close 5-9 projects depending on size and cost.

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 or on lands to be acquired in this program?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

WMA

SNA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Public Waters

County/Municipal

AMA

State Forests

Other : OHF Acquired TNC Preserve

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?

Yes

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:

Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted best practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example, short-term use of soybeans could be used for restorations in order to control weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases, this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank, however neonicotinoids will not be used.

MLT - The purpose of the Minnesota Land Trust's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality

natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. As such, we restrict any agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases in which there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either carve the agricultural area out of the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to carve those areas out. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement.

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?

No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?

Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:

N.A.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

NGO

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

SNA

State Forest

Other

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

2 - 4

Will the eased land be open for public use?

No

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?

Yes

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

MLT - Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, these established trails and roads are permitted in the terms of the easement and can be maintained for personal use if their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed.

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

Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

MLT - Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the MLT's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in line with the terms of the easement will be the responsibility of the landowner.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?

No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?

Yes

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

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

Yes

Timeline

| Activity Name | Estimated Completion Date |
|--|---------------------------|
| MLT easement acquisition | June 30, 2026 |
| Restoration/Enhancement on parcels protected without grant | June 30, 2027 |
| Restoration/Enhancement on parcels protected with grant | June 30, 2030 |
| Acquisition of fee land | June 30, 2026 |

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2030

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated to acquire land in fee may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:

(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2026;

(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this act is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2030;

(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2027;

(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and

(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

| Item | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$539,000 | - | - | \$539,000 |
| Contracts | \$612,700 | - | - | \$612,700 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | \$2,181,700 | - | - | \$2,181,700 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | \$1,132,000 | \$220,000 | -, Landowner Donations | \$1,352,000 |
| Easement Stewardship | \$216,000 | - | - | \$216,000 |
| Travel | \$30,000 | \$3,000 | -, Private | \$33,000 |
| Professional Services | \$338,500 | - | - | \$338,500 |
| Direct Support Services | \$147,400 | \$29,200 | -, Private | \$176,600 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$43,500 | - | - | \$43,500 |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | \$8,100 | - | - | \$8,100 |
| Supplies/Materials | \$66,000 | - | - | \$66,000 |
| DNR IDP | \$43,100 | - | - | \$43,100 |
| Grand Total | \$5,358,000 | \$252,200 | - | \$5,610,200 |

Partner: The Nature Conservancy**Totals**

| Item | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$220,000 | - | - | \$220,000 |
| Contracts | \$385,700 | - | - | \$385,700 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | \$985,000 | - | - | \$985,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Stewardship | - | - | - | - |
| Travel | \$15,000 | - | - | \$15,000 |
| Professional Services | \$45,000 | - | - | \$45,000 |
| Direct Support Services | \$51,700 | - | - | \$51,700 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$30,000 | - | - | \$30,000 |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | \$5,600 | - | - | \$5,600 |
| Supplies/Materials | \$64,000 | - | - | \$64,000 |
| DNR IDP | \$15,000 | - | - | \$15,000 |
| Grand Total | \$1,817,000 | - | - | \$1,817,000 |

Personnel

| Position | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|--|------------|------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|
| TNC Protection Management, Protection, Restoration/Enhancement Crew and Grant Admin | 1.25 | 3.0 | \$220,000 | - | - | \$220,000 |

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust**Totals**

| Item | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$246,000 | - | - | \$246,000 |
| Contracts | \$188,000 | - | - | \$188,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | \$1,132,000 | \$220,000 | Landowner Donations | \$1,352,000 |
| Easement Stewardship | \$216,000 | - | - | \$216,000 |
| Travel | \$15,000 | - | - | \$15,000 |
| Professional Services | \$243,000 | - | - | \$243,000 |
| Direct Support Services | \$66,500 | - | - | \$66,500 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | \$2,500 | - | - | \$2,500 |
| Supplies/Materials | \$2,000 | - | - | \$2,000 |
| DNR IDP | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Total | \$2,111,000 | \$220,000 | - | \$2,331,000 |

Personnel

| Position | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|--------------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Land Protection Staff | 0.44 | 4.0 | \$170,000 | - | - | \$170,000 |
| Restoration Staff | 0.25 | 4.0 | \$76,000 | - | - | \$76,000 |

Partner: The Trust for Public Land**Totals**

| Item | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$73,000 | - | - | \$73,000 |
| Contracts | \$39,000 | - | - | \$39,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | \$1,196,700 | - | - | \$1,196,700 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Stewardship | - | - | - | - |
| Travel | - | \$3,000 | Private | \$3,000 |
| Professional Services | \$50,500 | - | - | \$50,500 |
| Direct Support Services | \$29,200 | \$29,200 | Private | \$58,400 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$13,500 | - | - | \$13,500 |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | - | - | - | - |
| Supplies/Materials | - | - | - | - |
| DNR IDP | \$28,100 | - | - | \$28,100 |
| Grand Total | \$1,430,000 | \$32,200 | - | \$1,462,200 |

Personnel

| Position | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|---------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Land Protection and Legal Staff | 0.14 | 3.0 | \$73,000 | - | - | \$73,000 |

Amount of Request: \$5,358,000**Amount of Leverage:** \$252,200**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 4.71%**DSS + Personnel:** \$686,400**As a % of the total request:** 12.81%**Easement Stewardship:** \$216,000**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 19.08%**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?**

The outputs (acres and activities) and budgets have been reduced proportionately to the funding recommendation reduction.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

TPL will leverage privately sourced funds to cover direct support services (DSS) costs not reimbursed.

TPL has leveraged private funds for travel.

The Land Trust encourages landowners to donate value as a participant in the program. This leverage (\$220,000) is a conservative estimate of expected landowner contribution.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?

Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well. However, not exactly proportionately as program development and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

Yes

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

TPL/TN contract line item are dedicated to enhancement/restoration work. Typical contractors include private vendors and Conservation Corps of MN/IA.

MLT will use the contract budget line to complete habitat management plans, write habitat management and restoration plans, and post easement boundaries.

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?

2-4

Easement Stewardship

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

This budget is based on closing up to 9 conservation easements. The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$24,000, although in extraordinary circumstances additional funds may be warranted. This figure is derived from MLT's detailed stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates to this cost analysis with LSOHC staff.

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?

Yes

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

Vehicle rental is also included.

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

Yes

Direct Support Services

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

TNC: DSS is based on The Nature Conservancy's Federal Negotiated Rate (FNR) as proposed and approved by the US Dept. of Interior on an annual basis. In this proposal we are requesting reimbursement of 7.5% of eligible base costs as determined by our annual FNR and based on suggestions from the Council in prior years' hearings. The amount requested for reimbursement represents less than one-third of the total reimbursable costs allowed under the FNR. Examples of expenses included in the FNR include services from in-house legal counsel; finance, human resources; and information technology support, all of which contribute directly to the implementation of the project. The FNR is not applied to capital equipment over \$50,000 or land acquisition.

MLT: In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of the direct support services.

TPL: The Trust for Public Land's DSS request is based upon our federally approved rate, which has been approved by the DNR. 50% of these costs are requested from the grant and 50% is contributed as leverage.

Other Equipment/Tools

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

Equipment and tools to be purchased will be those necessary for restoration and management activities, such as Personal Protective Equipment, backpack sprayers for herbicide application, bladder bags, and assorted hand tools for prescribed fire.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

| Type | Wetland | Prairie | Forest | Habitat | Total Acres |
|--|---------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Restore | - | 20 | 25 | 50 | 95 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | 190 | 190 | 20 | 400 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | 1,099 | 1,099 |
| Enhance | - | 65 | 80 | 0 | 145 |
| Total | - | 275 | 295 | 1,169 | 1,739 |

How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie? (Table 1b)

| Type | Native Prairie (acres) |
|--|------------------------|
| Restore | - |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - |
| Protect in Easement | - |
| Enhance | 5 |
| Total | 5 |

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

| Type | Wetland | Prairie | Forest | Habitat | Total Funding |
|--|---------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Restore | - | \$85,000 | \$65,300 | \$229,000 | \$379,300 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | \$450,000 | \$1,165,000 | \$865,000 | \$2,480,000 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | \$1,882,000 | \$1,882,000 |
| Enhance | - | \$295,000 | \$321,700 | - | \$616,700 |
| Total | - | \$830,000 | \$1,552,000 | \$2,976,000 | \$5,358,000 |

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest | Total Acres |
|--|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| Restore | - | - | 95 | - | - | 95 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | - | 400 | - | - | 400 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | 1,099 | - | - | 1,099 |
| Enhance | - | - | 145 | - | - | 145 |
| Total | - | - | 1,739 | - | - | 1,739 |

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest | Total Funding |
|--|-------------|----------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|--------------------|
| Restore | - | - | \$379,300 | - | - | \$379,300 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | - | \$2,480,000 | - | - | \$2,480,000 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | \$1,882,000 | - | - | \$1,882,000 |
| Enhance | - | - | \$616,700 | - | - | \$616,700 |
| Total | - | - | \$5,358,000 | - | - | \$5,358,000 |

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

| Type | Wetland | Prairie | Forest | Habitat |
|--|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| Restore | - | \$4,250 | \$2,612 | \$4,580 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | \$2,368 | \$6,131 | \$43,250 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | \$1,712 |
| Enhance | - | \$4,538 | \$4,021 | - |

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Restore | - | - | \$3,992 | - | - |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | - | \$6,200 | - | - |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | \$1,712 | - | - |
| Enhance | - | - | \$4,253 | - | - |

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](#)

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

The fee-acquisition parcel list selection weighs the following criteria:

- Parcel is within Conservation Opportunity Area or Area of Significant Native Biodiversity (allows for large landscape management and management efficiencies, i.e. large scale Rx fire)
- Parcel contains an Minnesota Biological Survey mapped native plant community
- Parcel was equal to or greater than 80 acres in size
- Parcel property line began within ¼ mile of a state-owned parcel
- A Conservation Partner is willing to accept the property/meets partner objectives (SNA, WMA, Forestry)
- Immediacy of threat
- Landowner willingness and timeframe

Please see Parcel Prioritization attachment for more detailed explanation.

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

Restore / Enhance Parcels

| Name | County | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection | Description |
|----------------------|----------|----------|-------|----------|---------------------|--|
| 7 Springs | Fillmore | 10212216 | 116 | \$40,000 | Yes | Invasive species control and forest stand improvement in 7 Springs WMA |
| Bear Creek E | Fillmore | 10312205 | 15 | \$30,000 | Yes | Forest |
| Brightsdale Bluff | Fillmore | 10310202 | 31 | \$30,000 | Yes | Enhance prairie, savanna, and hardwood forest habitat, invasive species removal, TSI, seeding, burn unit prep |
| Choice WMA | Fillmore | 10208214 | 27 | \$25,000 | Yes | Conversion of low-diversity cool-season grass area to high-diversity prairie |
| Rush Creek Woods WMA | Fillmore | 10408212 | 32 | \$20,000 | Yes | Control of brush and invasive species through prescribed goat grazing on a south facing bluff prairie and oak savanna habitat complex. |

| | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----|-----------|-----|---|
| Rushford SF Brush | Fillmore | 10408224 | 10 | \$10,000 | Yes | Brush control in degraded forest area |
| Rushford SF Planting | Fillmore | 10408226 | 10 | \$10,000 | Yes | Old field in state forest unit to be planted with hardwood trees |
| Rushford Sand Barrens | Fillmore | 10408228 | 40 | \$50,000 | Yes | Treatment of encroaching brush on a diverse sand prairie |
| Schueler WMA | Fillmore | 10408203 | 73 | \$120,000 | Yes | Brush removal and invasives control on the large, central south-facing bluff to enhance prairie, oak savanna, and oak forest communities. |
| Vesta Bluff South | Fillmore | 10208214 | 55 | \$120,000 | Yes | Oak forest and savanna enhancement on west facing bluff |
| Root River H | Houston | 10406203 | 40 | \$80,000 | Yes | Forest |
| Vinegar Ridge Bluffs | Houston | 10407215 | 50 | \$30,000 | Yes | Removal of encroaching red-cedar and invasive brush from bluff prairies |
| Wetbark Grazing | Houston | 10307214 | 50 | \$60,000 | Yes | Control of invasive brush on bluff prairies using prescribed goat grazing for 3 years |
| Yucatan Bluffs | Houston | 10307230 | 77 | \$37,100 | Yes | Control of invasive brush using prescribed goat grazing |
| Evergreen Acres | Olmsted | 10814223 | 40 | \$80,000 | Yes | Forest |
| South Branch Middle Fork Zumbro | Olmsted | 10715204 | 27 | \$60,000 | Yes | Restore hardwood forest and prairie habitat |
| Indian Creek G | Wabasha | 10910226 | 40 | \$80,000 | Yes | Prairie |
| McCarthy Lake | Wabasha | 10910218 | 30 | \$60,000 | Yes | Enhancement of low-quality prairie to improve turtle nesting habitat |
| Snake Creek Corridor | Wabasha | 10910216 | 50 | \$50,000 | Yes | Invasive species removal along riparian area and floodplain of Snake Creek |
| Trout Brook H | Wabasha | 11111233 | 10 | \$20,000 | Yes | Habitat |
| Billy Goat - Whitewater WMA | Winona | 10710208 | 45 | \$60,000 | Yes | Oak woodland enhancement |
| Burns Valley G | Winona | 10607202 | 12 | \$24,000 | Yes | Prairie |
| Looney Creek F | Winona | 10506233 | 25 | \$50,000 | Yes | Prairie |
| North Branch Whitewater River - Whitewater WMA - MLT | Winona | 10710208 | 66 | \$68,000 | Yes | Oak woodland enhancement |
| Seibanaler Ridge | Winona | 10810211 | 26 | \$60,000 | Yes | Removal of encroaching red-cedar and invasive brush from bluff prairies |
| Whitewater - Siebenaler Ridge | Winona | 10810223 | 66 | \$30,000 | Yes | Control of brush and invasive species through prescribed goat grazing on a south facing bluff prairie and oak savanna habitat complex. |
| Wiscoy Valley M | Winona | 10507233 | 30 | \$60,000 | Yes | Forest |

Fee Parcels

| Name | County | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection |
|--|----------|----------|-------|-------------|---------------------|
| Middle Fork Zumbro River SNA | Dodge | 10817224 | 175 | \$787,500 | No |
| Bear Creek | Fillmore | 10313209 | 600 | \$1,800,000 | No |
| Choice WMA NE | Fillmore | 10208201 | 140 | \$560,000 | No |
| Choice WMA North 5 | Fillmore | 10208202 | 410 | \$1,700,000 | No |
| Fillmore #1 | Fillmore | 10408203 | 37 | \$170,000 | No |
| Rushford Village Dorer State Forest Addition | Fillmore | 10408217 | 62 | \$347,314 | No |
| Wacouta Bay | Goodhue | 11314236 | 449 | \$6,400,000 | No |
| Dorer State Forest Addition #2 | Houston | 10204214 | 76 | \$381,850 | No |
| Root River WMA | Houston | 10405236 | 37 | \$135,000 | No |
| Crow Springs AMA/WMA | Olmsted | 10611210 | 80 | \$320,000 | No |
| Gordon Yaeger WMA Addition | Olmsted | 10713232 | 40 | \$475,000 | No |
| South Br Middle Fork Zumbro | Olmsted | 10715204 | 240 | \$1,500,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA Main | Wabasha | 10909230 | 50 | \$252,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA Main II | Wabasha | 10909232 | 210 | \$486,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA East | Winona | 10710215 | 136 | \$699,800 | No |
| Whitewater WMA Main III | Winona | 10710209 | 54 | \$277,900 | No |
| Whitewater WMA North I | Winona | 10710207 | 41 | \$259,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA North II | Winona | 10710208 | 86 | \$624,900 | No |
| Whitewater WMA South | Winona | 10709231 | 430 | \$2,300,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA South II | Winona | 10710226 | 543 | \$1,884,000 | No |

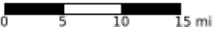
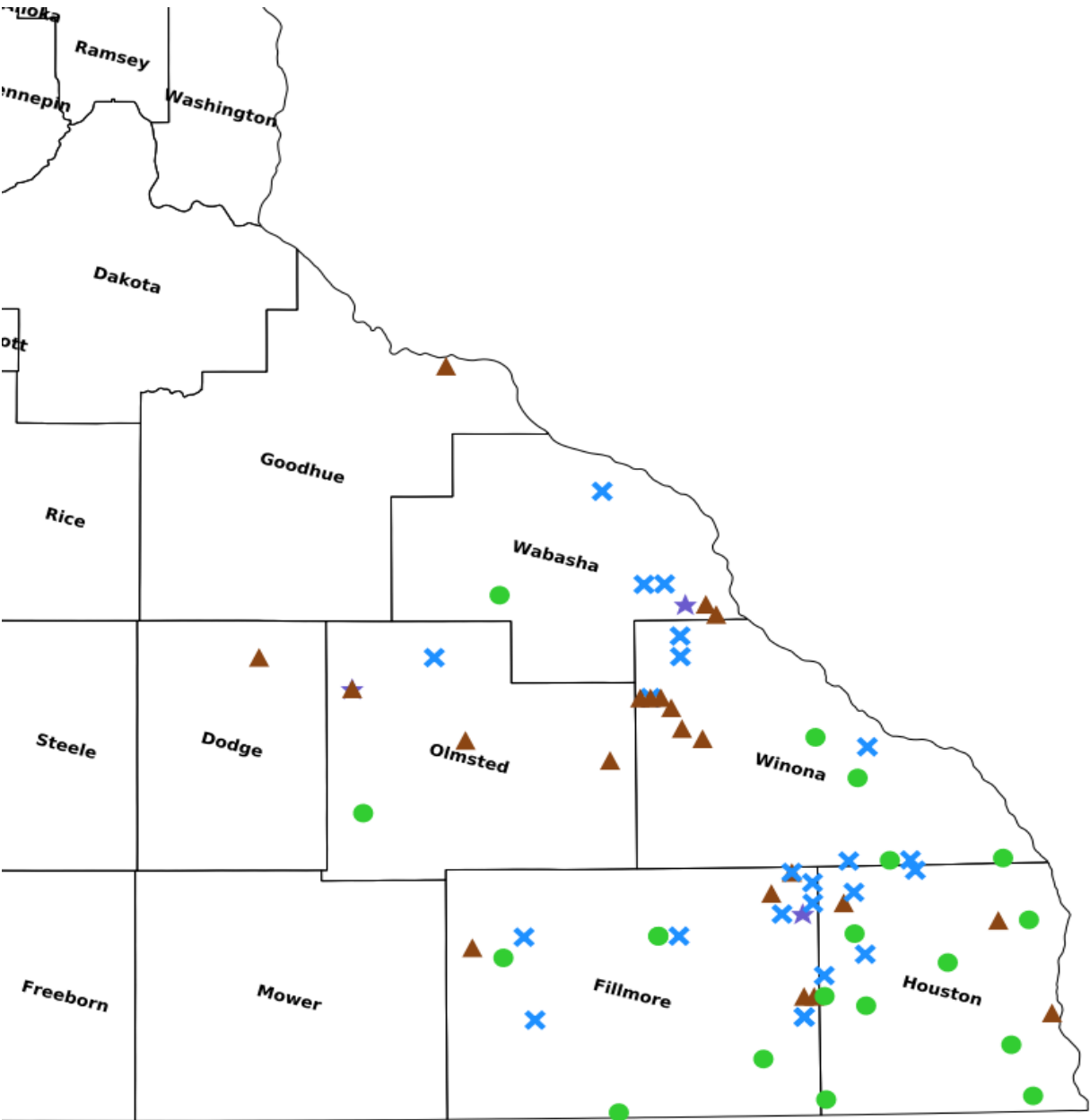
Fee Parcels with Buildings

| Name | County | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection | Buildings | Value of Buildings |
|---|---------|----------|-------|-------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Dorer State Forest - Vinegar Ridge Addition | Houston | 10407221 | 363 | \$2,500,000 | No | 5 | \$0 |

Easement Parcels

| Name | County | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|-------|-----------|---------------------|
| Deer Creek | Fillmore | 10313213 | 158 | \$200,000 | No |
| Mahoney Creek - MLT | Fillmore | 10310204 | 21 | \$0 | No |
| Mahoney Creek 2 - MLT | Fillmore | 10310204 | 122 | \$0 | No |
| Upper Iowa River - MLT | Fillmore | 10111235 | 162 | \$243,000 | No |
| Wisel Creek - MLT | Fillmore | 10108206 | 70 | \$105,000 | No |
| Beaver Creek - MLT | Houston | 10207211 | 40 | \$40,000 | No |
| Crooked Creek 2 - MLT | Houston | 10204231 | 441 | \$441,000 | No |
| Crystal Creek | Houston | 10305219 | 68 | \$75,000 | No |
| Root River 1 | Houston | 10404233 | 142 | \$200,000 | No |
| Root River 2 - MLT | Houston | 10307203 | 200 | \$100,000 | No |
| South Fork Root River - MLT | Houston | 10207206 | 109 | \$163,500 | No |
| Winnebago Creek - MLT | Houston | 10104228 | 70 | \$105,000 | No |
| Wisel Creek 2 - MLT | Houston | 10107230 | 360 | \$540,000 | No |
| Zumbro River - MLT | Olmsted | 10515203 | 158 | \$316,000 | No |
| Silver Spring Creek - MLT | Wabasha | 10913223 | 76 | \$114,000 | No |
| Burns Valley - MLT | Winona | 10607222 | 137 | \$205,500 | No |
| Campbell Creek - MLT | Winona | 10506231 | 600 | \$900,000 | No |
| Lane Valley Creek - MLT | Winona | 10505236 | 330 | \$0 | No |
| Stockton Valley - MLT | Winona | 10708236 | 46 | \$0 | No |

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ⊕ Other