



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 3
Laws of Minnesota 2022 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 03/25/2024

Project Title: St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 3

Funds Recommended: \$3,704,000

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

Appropriation Language: \$3,704,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: (1) \$1,449,000 to The Trust for Public Land to acquire land in fee; (2) \$2,160,000 to Minnesota Land Trust to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems in the St. Croix River watershed. Of this amount, up to \$192,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17; and (3) \$95,000 to the Wild Rivers Conservancy to coordinate and administer the program under this paragraph. A list of proposed land acquisitions and permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Katie Sickmann

Title: Natural Resources Manager

Organization: Wild Rivers Conservancy

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Location Information

County Location(s): Pine, Aitkin, Kanabec, Chisago and Washington.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Habitat

Narrative**Abstract**

Wild Rivers Conservancy, Minnesota Land Trust, and The Trust for Public Land will work in partnership to permanently protect approximately 668 acres of critical wildlife habitat on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix River watershed through fee-title acquisition and conservation easements. The goals of the program are to protect high quality wildlife habitat, improve conservation connectivity, and provide public access for outdoor recreation opportunities.

Design and Scope of Work

As one of the nation's first "Wild and Scenic" rivers, the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and surrounding watershed is home to a diverse abundance of native flora and fauna, rivaling any other location within the upper Mississippi River Basin. Boasting of high-quality fishing and hunting, as well as hiking, biking, and boating, the Riverway is also a recreation "hot-spot" for the nearby Twin Cities Metro area and upwards of 750,000 of visitors each year.

Despite its "Wild and Scenic" designation, land just outside the thin Riverway boundary remains highly vulnerable. With upwards of 75% of the watershed's brushland and forest habitat in private holdings, the threat of development, fragmentation, and conversion to agriculture is substantial.

The ML19 St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 1 appropriation marked the beginning of the first ever permanent protection program dedicated solely to the St. Croix River watershed. Since then, partners have quickly learned just how ready landowners are for permanent protection options in such a pristine watershed.

Strategic outreach to landowners within the highest priority areas for habitat, water quality, and recreational opportunities has led to a line-up of people wanting conservation easements, as well as increased interest in selling private land via fee-title for conservation.

To date, the St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration program partnership has four active easement projects totaling over 1,150 acres and one active fee-acquisition project totaling approximately 730 acres. The ML19 funds are largely allocated; moreover, ML21 funds – which will become available in July 2021 – are already largely obligated. The partnership needs additional funding support to continue the program.

Building upon the growing momentum and interest in permanent land protection, we seek to increase the amount of land permanently protected in the St. Croix, resulting in the conservation of well connected, functional forests and rivers that sustain and enhance wildlife habitat. In this partnership consisting of Wild Rivers Conservancy (Conservancy), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), and The Trust for Public Land (TPL), we seek to protect large intact

forest patches that are managed for complexity; sustain riparian forests that are managed for connectivity; and restore lands that are important to the 128 listed Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that are known within landscape.

TPL will protect approximately 234 acres through fee-title acquisition focusing on lands that have been identified as high priority in statewide and regional plans as immediate opportunities for protection. TPL will convey lands to the DNR, except when LGU ownership is appropriate, for permanent ownership, management, and stewardship.

MLT will acquire approximately 434 acres of conservation easements and develop habitat management plans for eased acres. Projects within targeted priority areas will be identified through a competitive RFP process and subsequently ranked based on ecological value and cost, prioritizing the best projects and securing them at the lowest cost to the state. MLT will negotiate and close all conservation easements.

The Conservancy will provide overall program administration and landowner outreach and engagement.

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?

The areas targeted by this proposal have been identified and prioritized through state, regional, and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity, connectivity, and ability to preserve habitat for species of greatest conservation need.

The project area has a mixed representation of extensive forestland, brushland, and riparian habitats that are home to approximately 128 SGCN including: lake sturgeon, wood turtle, gray wolf, bald eagle, osprey, sandhill crane, trumpeter swan, yellow rail, and sharp-tailed grouse. The St. Croix River watershed is also globally-recognized for its mussel diversity with over 40 known mussels, including 5 federally endangered, and 20 state-listed species, such as the winged mapleleaf and snuffbox. The project area also contains a significant amount of high quality brushland and regenerating forestland habitat critical to the breeding success of the Golden-winged Warbler.

Within this region we have an unparalleled opportunity. The St. Croix River watershed has been classified as containing the best-preserved remnant of pre-settlement natural communities in the Upper Mississippi drainage. But we must protect the rich natural and cultural heritage of the St. Croix River watershed before they too are altered by ever encroaching agricultural and development pressure.

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:

This proposal uses a science-based multiple benefits approach for prioritizing and targeting areas of greatest conservation value. We will utilize The Nature Conservancy's St. Croix Basin GIS-based Priority Protection Analysis which incorporates Minnesota Biological Survey Sites of Biodiversity Significance, Lakes of Biological Significance, habitat complexes and connectivity, along with other data sets to spatially prioritize the most important sites for protection. The intent of this model was to develop and score priorities where multiple benefits overlap – habitat, biodiversity, water quality, water quantity, and resiliency. Evaluation criteria include: 1) aquatic and terrestrial habitat protection priorities, 2) lands important to drinking water quality and groundwater recharge, and 3) resilience of lands and waters to climate change and other anticipated future changes and disturbance.

More specifically, this approach includes data on habitat quality, target species communities, and habitat complexes for terrestrial species with emphasis on expanding corridors adjacent to public lands. The most heavily weighted component of this approach uses data from the Minnesota Biological Survey focused on fish and wildlife that includes data on biodiversity, wetlands, native plant communities, Lakes of Biological Significance, wild rice catchments, coldwater refuge for trout, proximity to protected lands, and ecological connections. Added benefits for water quality are assessed using data on wellhead protected areas, groundwater contamination susceptibility, private well density, and groundwater recharge.

Using results of this Multiple Benefits approach, areas will be targeted down to the parcel level for landowner engagement and outreach for implementing permanent protection activities. For MLT easements, a competitive request for proposals (RFP) process by which landowners will apply for consideration of a conservation easement will be used. Proposed projects will be scored along ecological grounds, and will also consider donative value from the landowner.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- LU8 Protect large blocks of forest land

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?

Metro / Urban

- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

Northern Forest

- Provide access to manage habitat on landlocked public properties or protect forest land from parcelization and fragmentation through fee acquisition, conservation or access easement

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *This project will be measured by the acres of wildlife corridors protected and evaluated based on the observed use by wildlife populations and evidence of SGCN.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *This project will be measured by the acres of high quality forestlands that are permanently protected from development and fragmentation. Protected*

land will also be evaluated by its proximity to existing public lands as well as connectivity to other protected forestlands.

Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

Through its market-based RFP process, MLT expects private landowners to donate at least \$290,000 in easement value toward the program, which is shown as leverage.

One-half of TPL's DSS costs and all of TPL's travel costs are provided as privately sourced leverage for this proposal. TPL will attempt to bring various state, local and private funds to acquire additional property and leverage the OHF grant, and will attempt to leverage fee acquisition with partial donations of the appraised value of protected parcels.

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.

Funding requested by the Partnership will not supplant or substitute for any previous non-legacy funding used for the same purpose.

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2011	MLT:ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors 6	\$27,400
2010	MLT:ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors 5 Supplemental	\$20,300
2009	MLT:ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors 5	\$67,700
2013	TPL:ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors	\$395,000
2011	TPL:ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors	\$423,000

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

The land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through state-of-the-art standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. MLT is a nationally-accredited land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. MLT will assist landowners in the development of habitat management plans to help ensure that the land will be managed for its wildlife and water quality benefits. MLT (as easement holders on respective properties) will work with landowners in an ongoing basis to provide habitat restoration plans, resources and technical expertise to undertake ongoing management of these properties.

TPL will convey all fee title land to the DNR or LGUs for permanent stewardship. Once land has been conveyed, initial site development and restoration of these lands will begin. Estimated costs for initial restoration work are included in this proposal. TPL will work with DNR or LGUs to complete a restoration and management plan, and implementation of that plan will be completed in the following years. These properties will be managed and maintained by the respective government entities according to OHF standards.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2025	TPL - DNR	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	-	-
2024	TPL - DNR	Develop restoration/management plan for property	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	-
2023	TPL - OHF and DNR	Post property	Develop restoration/management plan for property	-
2026 and in perpetuity	MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of easements in perpetuity	Enforcement as necessary	-

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

Wild Rivers Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and Minnesota Land Trust all hold a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion as core values. Examples of that commitment include, but are not limited to: the Conservancy's partnership with BIPOC communities to improve access to public land through a variety of outdoor experiences; TPL's work with diverse communities to put a park, trail, or natural area within a 10-minute walk of every Twin Cities resident; and MLT's protection of camps and nature centers that serve a diversity of Minnesota youth, as well as coordinating the connections between landowners and diverse community groups leading to increased access to land for cultural or ceremonial use, conservation employment training, and youth mentor hunts.

More specific to this program, there are significant benefits for all Minnesotans, including BIPOC and diverse communities, when land is protected through fee-title acquisition and conservation easements, and otherwise restored (e.g., clean air and water, abatement of climate change, and other ecosystem services). Beyond that, public land provides an opportunity for all people, but particularly for those who do not have access or resources to connect with private natural lands, to directly connect with the outdoors through hunting, fishing, hiking, or other outdoor recreational pursuits. 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. This would primarily involve partnering with locally led BIPOC groups focused on outdoor and habitat-based activities. In addition, we could explore partnering with tribal nations to be the permanent steward of the land protected where appropriate.

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 the 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?

Easements will be managed by MLT.

Who will be the easement holder?

Easements will be held by MLT.

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

MLT expects to close on 3-7 easement acquisitions through this grant. The number of easement acquisitions proposed can vary significantly due to the size and cost of targeted parcels. The maximum number of easements is capped at 5 based on the amount of stewardship funding requested.

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:

TPL - For lands acquired that are conveyed as WMAs to the DNR, the DNR has indicated the following: The primary purposes of WMAs are to develop and manage for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife. Lands proposed to be acquired as WMAs may utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources.

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
- Local Unit of Government
- County

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

- WMA
- AMA
- SNA
- State Forest

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

The Trust for Public Land anticipates closing on one to three acquisitions.

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.

TPL is not aware of any trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list nor are any new trails planned.

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.

TPL - N/A

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

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

MLT - No. Lands protected via easement will be assessed as to their need for R/E work by the Land Trust's Restoration Program. If R/E needs are identified, they will be built into future funding proposals.

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
TPL - Initial site development/restoration	Fall 2028
TPL - Land acquired	June 30, 2026
TPL - Landowner negotiations, agreements, and due diligence	June 30, 2026
MLT - Conservation easements completed or options secured	June 30, 2026

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2026

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	\$362,000	-	-	\$362,000
Contracts	\$93,000	-	-	\$93,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,162,600	-	-	\$1,162,600
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,496,000	\$290,000	Landowners	\$1,786,000
Easement Stewardship	\$192,000	-	-	\$192,000
Travel	\$10,000	\$3,000	-, Private	\$13,000
Professional Services	\$240,000	-	-	\$240,000
Direct Support Services	\$80,400	\$34,400	Private	\$114,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	\$6,000	-	-	\$6,000
DNR IDP	\$40,000	-	-	\$40,000
Grand Total	\$3,704,000	\$327,400	-	\$4,031,400

Partner: Wild Rivers Conservancy

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$90,000	-	-	\$90,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$5,000	-	-	\$5,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$95,000	-	-	\$95,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservancy Staff	0.3	3.0	\$90,000	-	-	\$90,000

Partner: The Trust for Public Land

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$102,000	-	-	\$102,000
Contracts	\$45,000	-	-	\$45,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,162,600	-	-	\$1,162,600
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	\$3,000	Private	\$3,000
Professional Services	\$45,000	-	-	\$45,000
Direct Support Services	\$34,400	\$34,400	Private	\$68,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	\$40,000	-	-	\$40,000
Grand Total	\$1,449,000	\$37,400	-	\$1,486,400

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TPL Staff	0.2	3.0	\$102,000	-	-	\$102,000

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$170,000	-	-	\$170,000
Contracts	\$48,000	-	-	\$48,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,496,000	\$290,000	Landowners	\$1,786,000
Easement Stewardship	\$192,000	-	-	\$192,000
Travel	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000
Professional Services	\$195,000	-	-	\$195,000
Direct Support Services	\$46,000	-	-	\$46,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$2,160,000	\$290,000	-	\$2,450,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Staff	0.44	4.0	\$170,000	-	-	\$170,000

Amount of Request: \$3,704,000

Amount of Leverage: \$327,400

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 8.84%

DSS + Personnel: \$442,400

As a % of the total request: 11.94%

Easement Stewardship: \$192,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 12.83%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?

Outputs, to a large degree, were reduced proportionately to the funding that was allocated.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

MLT - \$290,000 in the form of full or partial donations of the appraised value for landowner conservation easements.

TPL - \$37,400 of privately sourced funds for travel costs and half of direct support services costs.

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 project activities and acres protected 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. These are gross estimates of personnel time.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

Yes

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

MLT – For contracts related to the writing of habitat management plans and for project management through an MOU with BWSR.

TPL - Potential site clean-up and initial restoration activities.

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?

One to three.

Easement Stewardship

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

MLT expects to close 3-7 conservation easements depending on size/cost of the prioritized easements and the level of donative value provided by landowners. The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$24,000, but under extraordinary circumstances higher amounts 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

Minnesota Land Trust staff regularly rent vehicles for grant-related purposes, which is a significant cost savings over use of personal vehicles.

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?

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 applied this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services requested through this grant.

TPL - Our DSS request is based upon our federal rate which has been approved by the DNR. 50% of these costs are requested from the grant, 50% is contributed as leverage. The request does not include costs that are covered in other budget lines items.

Other Equipment/Tools

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

GPS systems, satellite communicators and other safety equipment.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	117	117	234
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	434	434
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	117	551	668

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$743,000	\$743,000	\$1,486,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$2,218,000	\$2,218,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	\$743,000	\$2,961,000	\$3,704,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	59	-	-	-	175	234
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-	-	0	0
Protect in Easement	217	-	-	-	217	434
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	276	-	-	-	392	668

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$743,000	-	-	-	\$743,000	\$1,486,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$1,109,000	-	-	-	\$1,109,000	\$2,218,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$1,852,000	-	-	-	\$1,852,000	\$3,704,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$6,350	\$6,350
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$5,110
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$12,593	-	-	-	\$4,245
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$5,110	-	-	-	\$5,110
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

1

Parcels

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

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:

Minnesota Land Trust 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). The Conservancy works to provide outreach services and contracting with county SWCDs as a way to connect effectively with local landowners.

The Trust for Public Land works with its public partners to identify and prioritize projects that meet their objectives and are on their priority lists. Criteria includes whether the land provides critical habitat for game and non-game species, quality public recreational opportunities, presence of unique plants and animal species (including SGCN), goals of conservation plans, adjacency to other public land or habitat complexes, existence of local support, immediacy of threats, land owner willingness and time frame.

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Franconia SNA Addition	Chisago	03319216	85	\$400,000	No
Carlos Avery WMA Addition	Chisago	03321205	62	\$150,000	No
Chengwatana State Forest Addition II	Chisago	03720230	160	\$480,000	No
Nemadji State Forest Addition	Pine	04417227	480	\$400,000	No
Chengwatana State Forest Addition III	Pine	03820212	160	\$300,000	No
Rock Marsh WMA Addition	Pine	03820221	556	\$700,000	No
Nemadji State Forest Addition V	Pine	04517232	120	\$240,000	No

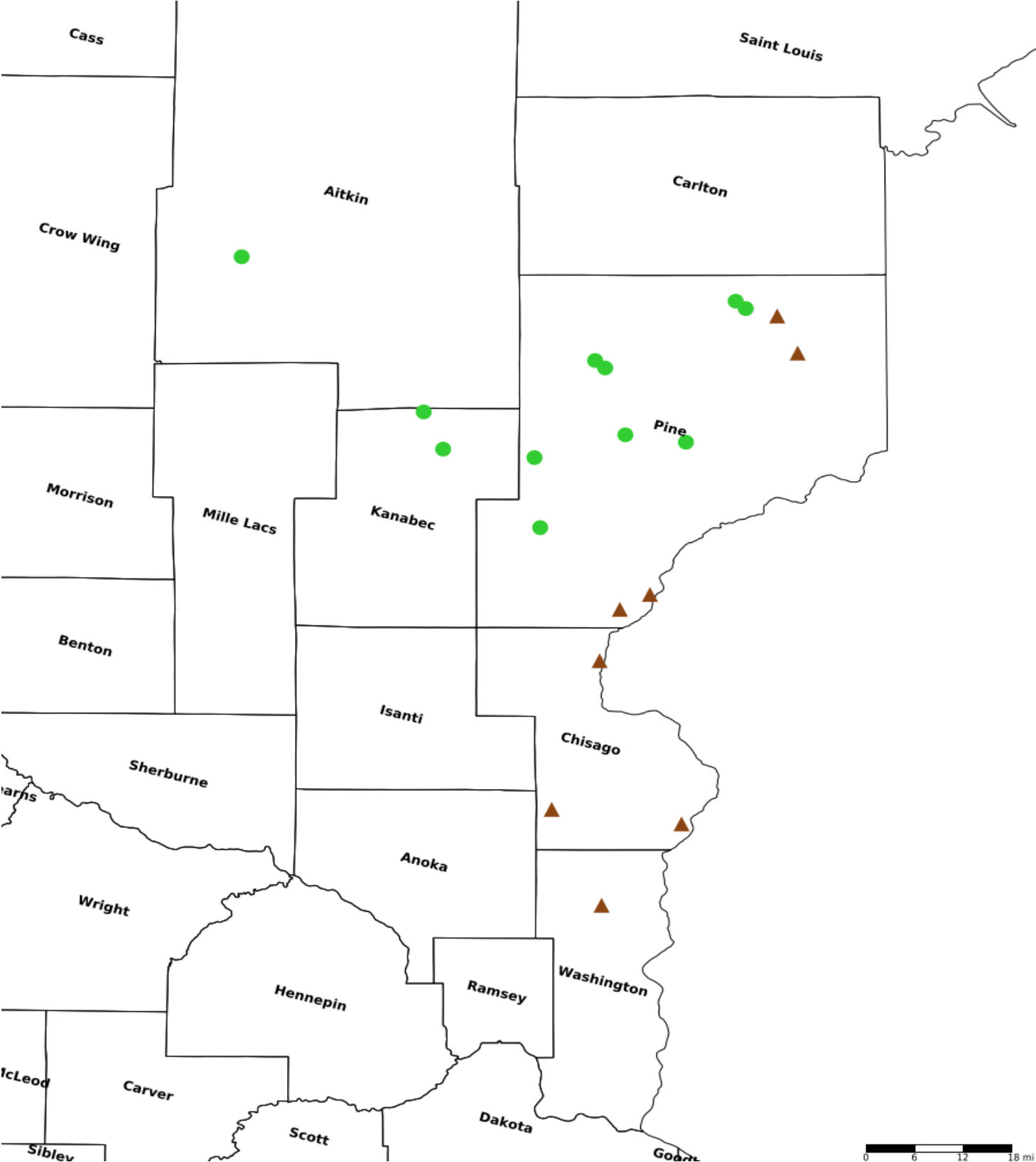
Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Keystone Woods (part 2)	Washington	03120207	77	\$1,154,170	No	5	\$0

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Snake River 3 - MLT	Aitkin	04626221	53	\$78,000	No
Snake River 2 - MLT	Kanabec	04223235	100	\$126,000	No
Snake River 1 - MLT	Kanabec	04223204	168	\$235,000	No
Pokegama Creek - MLT	Pine	04021230	61	\$70,000	No
Medicine Creek - MLT	Pine	04320204	548	\$375,000	No
Pine River - MLT	Pine	04420232	100	\$136,000	No
Clapp's Stream - MLT	Pine	04220223	77	\$850,000	No
Sand Creek - MLT	Pine	04219226	960	\$580,000	No
Willow River 2 - MLT	Pine	04518226	170	\$0	No
Willow River - MLT	Pine	04518222	1,740	\$1,000,000	No
Grindstone River - MLT	Pine	04121205	335	\$365,000	No

Parcel Map



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

