

# **Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council**

# Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 8

Laws of Minnesota 2023 Accomplishment Plan

# **General Information**

Date: 04/25/2025

Project Title: Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 8

Funds Recommended: \$3,012,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2023, Ch. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 4(c)

**Appropriation Language:** \$3,012,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore and enhance prairie, wetland, and other habitat on permanently protected conservation easements in high-priority wetland habitat complexes in the prairie, forest/prairie transition, and forest regions. Of this amount, up to \$168,000 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 conservation easement acquisitions and restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

# **Manager Information**

Manager's Name: Wayne Ostlie Title: Director of Land Protection Organization: Minnesota Land Trust Address: 2356 University Avenue W Suite 240 City: St. Paul, MN 55114 Email: wostlie@mnland.org Office Number: 651-917-6292 Mobile Number: 651-894-3870 Fax Number: Website: www.mnland.org

# **Location Information**

County Location(s): Becker, Otter Tail, Kandiyohi, Douglas, Wadena, Todd, Clearwater, Swift and Big Stone.

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

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Northern Forest

#### Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Restore

Enhance

#### Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

# **Narrative**

#### Abstract

Phase 8 of the Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program will result in the protection of 745 acres of high priority wetland habitat complexes in Minnesota's Prairie, Forest-Prairie Transition and Northern Forest areas by securing permanent conservation easements within scientifically prioritized habitat complexes. The Minnesota Land Trust will use its innovative market-based landowner bid model to maximize conservation benefit and financial leverage in protection project selection. In addition, a partnership between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Land Trust will restore/enhance 910 acres of wetlands and associated prairies to benefit important waterfowl and SGCN populations.

### **Design and Scope of Work**

Wetlands and shallow lakes provide the essential backbone for the survival of waterfowl and other important wildlife species. In fact, more than 50% of Minnesota's Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) use wetlands during their life cycle. Most of the plans developed to protect Minnesota's wildlife—including Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, and the Long Range Duck Recovery Plan—cite the protection and restoration of the state's remaining wetlands as one of the top priorities to achieve the State's conservation goals. Moreover, these plans cite the use of conservation easements on private lands as one of the primary strategies to protect important wetland and shallow lake habitat.

Minnesota Land Trust's Wetlands Habitat Protection Program area extends from Meeker County northwest to Becker County, located along a vast glacial moraine system in western Minnesota. This prairie pothole country is the core of Minnesota's "duck factory" and is central to one of North America's most important flyways for migratory waterfowl. Through Phase 6 of this program to date, the Land Trust has procured 31 conservation easements protecting 4,119 acres of habitat and 50.5 miles of shoreline. The Program has 2,131 acres of restoration/enhancement complete or underway.

Phase 8 will continue these accomplishments by restoring or enhancing 910 acres of important prairie and wetland habitats on permanently protected private lands within the Program area in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The Land Trust will also work with FWS and landowners to develop additional shovel ready R/E projects. In addition, the Land Trust will protect 770 acres of new priority wetland and associated upland habitat through conservation easements. The Program will be

Project #: WA04 closely coordinated with other public agencies, non-profit organizations and other stakeholders to ensure this Program meets multi-agency conservation goals.

The Land Trust will continue to implement a criteria-based ranking system and market-based approach for purchasing conservation easements. The Program will continue to target projects that help complete gaps in existing public ownership, are of the highest ecological value, and provide the greatest leverage to the state. The Land Trust will seek donated easements in these areas whenever possible but also may purchase the full or partial value of an easement to complete key complexes as necessary.

To focus our easement protection work, the Prairie Plan and other data sets/plans were used to shape our Wetlands Program plan and identify important wetland complexes in this landscape based on the nexus of highquality habitat, existing protected areas and restorable agricultural lands. These complexes include a mosaic of wetland, prairie/grassland, and forest habitats, and agricultural land. Outcomes from this project include: 1) healthy wetland habitat complexes and associated populations of waterfowl, upland birds, and SGCN; 2) improved water quality; 3) increased participation of private landowners in habitat conservation projects; and 4) enhancement of prior public investments in wetland and upland habitat

# 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?

This program addresses LSOHC priorities by protecting shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for Minnesota's wildlife, especially its migratory waterfowl and associated species.

Minnesota's wetlands are essential to our wildlife health and diversity. This project directly benefits SGCN and other important game and non-game wildlife species by minimizing the potential threats to their habitat caused by detrimental agricultural practices, residential or commercial development or imprudent land management. The wetland habitat complexes that will be targeted through the ranking system will include a mosaic of wetlands, grasslands and woodlands. Priority projects will include high or outstanding habitat as identified in Minnesota Biological Survey data. Projects will also be located near other protected lands to help build larger habitat complexes comprised of both public and private lands. The vast majority of this landscape is in private ownership. For that reason, working with private owners on land protection strategies is key to successful conservation in this region. Finally, we will work closely with partners in the region to identify those habitat complexes where private land protection can make a significant contribution to existing conservation investments.

# 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 program is focused on procuring easements and restoring prairie and wetland habitats on easement lands within priority complexes of wetlands and associated upland habitats, as guided by the State Wildlife Action Plan, Duck Plan and Prairie Plan. Specific parcels available for easement acquisition are evaluated relative to each other to identify priorities among the pool of applicants. This relative ranking is based on three primary ecological factors (1. amount of habitat on the parcel (size) and abundance of SGCN; 2. the quality or condition of habitat; and 3. the parcel's context relative to other natural habitats and protected areas) and cost. The program serves to build upon past conservation investments in the program area, expand the footprint of existing protected areas (WMAs, WPAs, etc.), facilitate the protection of habitat corridors and reduce the potential for fragmentation of existing habitats. In addition, our partnership with USFWS will enable the Land Trust to further reduce effects of fragmentation through restoration of prairie, wetlands and other habitats. Minnesota Biological Survey data is

cornerstone to our assessment of potential conservation easement acquisitions; we also conduct field visits to further identify and assess condition of habitats prior to easement acquisition, because many private lands were not formally assessed through MBS.

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

H1 Protect priority land habitats

H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

# Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

# Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

#### 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**

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

### Prairie

Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

# **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 ~ *This program will permanently protect 348 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes and restore/enhance 315 acres of wetlands and prairies in the forest-prairie transition region. Measure: Acres protected; acres restored; acres enhanced.* 

### Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *This program will permanently protect 50* acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes in the northern forest region. Measure: Acres protected; acres restored; acres enhanced.

### Programs in prairie region:

Remnant native prairies and wetlands are perpetually protected and adequately buffered ~ *This program will permanently protect 372 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes and restore/enhance 630 acres of wetlands and prairies in the prairie region. Measure: Acres protected; acres restored; acres enhanced.* 

#### Yes

# **Explain the leverage:**

Through its market-based RFP process, the Land Trust expects private landowners to donate at least \$233,000 in easement value toward the program, which is shown as leverage. In addition, the USFWS will contribute \$21,000 in cash and in-kind contributions toward restoration and enhancement projects on protected lands.

# 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 procured by MLT through the Outdoor Heritage Fund through this proposal will not supplant or substitute any previous funding from a non-Legacy fund used for the same purpose.

# 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. The Minnesota Land Trust 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 cases of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

In addition, MLT will assist landowners in the development of comprehensive habitat management plans to help ensure that the land will be managed for its wildlife and water quality benefits. USFWS and MLT (as easement holders on respective properties) will work with landowners on an ongoing basis to provide habitat restoration plans, resources and technical expertise to undertake restoration, enhancement and ongoing management of these properties.

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Every 4-6 years	USFWS, Landowners,	Prescribed fire, tree -		-
	MLT	control, invasive		
		species control		
2026 and in	MLT Long-Term	Annual monitoring of	Enforcement as	-
perpetuity	Stewardship and	easements in	necessary	
	Enforcement Fund	perpetuity		

# **Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes**

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

One of the Minnesota Land Trust's core public values is a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have been engaged in a year-long process to assess how the conservation community—and the Minnesota Land Trust in particular—can better address these issues. To date, we have demonstrated this commitment when possible given the funding parameters and our unique role in working with private landowners, including numerous projects to protect the camps and nature centers that serve a diversity of Minnesota youth and a long-term partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa on wild rice restoration. Going forward, we intend to build on this engagement by using diversity, equity, and inclusion as a lens in project, partner, and contractor selection.

In each of our program areas, we intend to listen and seek out potential, authentic partnerships that can advance

our goals of conserving the best of Minnesota's remaining habitats and, at the same time, being a more inclusive organization. One related program we are exploring is a new "Ambassador Lands Program" which would connect willing conservation landowners to diverse community groups that need access to land for a variety of programming purposes, such as youth mentor hunts, cultural or ceremonial use, conservation employment training, bird banding, and much more. This would add greatly to the more universal public benefits of conserved lands such as wildlife habitat, clean water, and climate mitigation. Finally, we welcome more conversations with the LSOHC and conservation community about how these values can be better manifest in all our shared work going forward.

# **Activity Details**

# **Requirements**

**If funded, this program 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

**Who will manage the easement?** Minnesota Land Trust will manage the conservation easements.

#### Who will be the easement holder?

Minnesota Land Trust will be the holder of the conservation easements.

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

The Land Trust expects to close between 4 and 7 conservation easements 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?

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

### 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:

Easement Acquisition:

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. We restrict agricultural lands and use

on the properties. In cases where there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either exclude the agricultural area from the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to exclude those areas. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement.

## Restoration/Enhancement:

Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted best practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example, 1-2 rotations 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.

# 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:

Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, the conservation easement permits the continued usage of established trails and roads so long as 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?

Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the Land Trust's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in accordance 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? $\ensuremath{\operatorname{No}}$

The Land Trust will assess the R/E needs of each parcel protected through this appropriation. Should R/E needs exist, funding for those projects will be built into a forthcoming proposal.

# 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
Restoration and enhancement projects completed	June 30, 2027
Conservation easements completed or options secured	June 30, 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2027

# 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, 2027;

(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, 2031;

(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2028;

(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.

## **Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$420,300	\$19,000	USFWS	\$439,300
Contracts	\$1,005,700	\$2,000	USFWS	\$1,007,700
Fee Acquisition w/	-	-	-	-
PILT				
Fee Acquisition w/o	-	-	-	-
PILT				
Easement Acquisition	\$1,118,000	\$233,000	Landowners	\$1,351,000
Easement	\$168,000	-	-	\$168,000
Stewardship				
Travel	\$19,000	-	-	\$19,000
Professional Services	\$163,000	-	-	\$163,000
Direct Support	\$114,000	-	-	\$114,000
Services				
DNR Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Costs				
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other	\$2,500	-	-	\$2,500
Equipment/Tools				
Supplies/Materials	\$1,500	-	-	\$1,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$3,012,000	\$254,000	-	\$3,266,000

## Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years	Funding	Leverage	Leverage	Total
		Working	Request		Source	
MLT	0.54	4.0	\$218,300	\$19,000	USFWS	\$237,300
Restoration						
Staff						
MLT	0.51	4.0	\$202,000	-	-	\$202,000
Protection Staff						

Amount of Request: \$3,012,000 Amount of Leverage: \$254,000 Leverage as a percent of the Request: 8.43% DSS + Personnel: \$534,300 As a % of the total request: 17.74% Easement Stewardship: \$168,000 As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 15.03%

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

Recommended funds were allocated proportionally between Protect in Easement and Restoration/Enhancement, each at 33% of request. Personnel/DSS were reduced by 57%; easement acquisition by 69%; easement stewardship by 65%; professional services by 67% and contracts by 59%.

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

The Land Trust encourages landowners to fully or partially donate the value of conservation easements to the

program. The \$233,000 leverage amount is a conservative estimate of value we expect to see donated by landowners.

#### 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?** Acre scaling will be moderately less than proportional due to fixed costs and other factors. R/E project selection will be based on priorities; scaling may not be proportional. Activities will be curtailed, but less than proportional, as some activities are fixed and necessary for program success.

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

Personnel and DSS will be scaled, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

### Personnel

#### Has funding for these positions been requested in the past? Yes

### Contracts

### What is included in the contracts line?

Restoration and enhancement accounts for \$867,700 of the contract line amount. Additional funds in the contract line are for the writing of habitat management plans via qualified vendors, and engaging respective County Soil and Water Conservation Districts for landowner outreach purposes to facilitate communication of the protection program.

### **Easement Stewardship**

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

The Land Trust expects to close 4-7 conservation easements through this proposal. The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$24,000. 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

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?

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 direct support services.

# **Other Equipment/Tools**

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

GPS units, field safety gear, etc.

# **Federal Funds**

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

> **Are the funds confirmed?** Yes

Is Confirmation Document attached? Yes

Cash: \$2,000

In Kind : \$19,000

# **Output Tables**

# Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Туре	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	140	-	-	140
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	745	745
Enhance	169	636	-	-	805
Total	169	776	-	745	1,690

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

Туре	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	8
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	48
Total	56

# Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Туре	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$183,100	-	-	\$183,100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$1,776,000	\$1,776,000
Enhance	\$221,000	\$831,900	-	-	\$1,052,900
Total	\$221,000	\$1,015,000	-	\$1,776,000	\$3,012,000

# Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Туре	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	140	0	140
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	348	-	347	50	745
Enhance	-	315	-	490	-	805
Total	-	663	-	977	50	1,690

# **Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)**

Туре	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	\$183,100	-	\$183,100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	\$838,000	-	\$838,000	\$100,000	\$1,776,000
Enhance	-	\$412,000	-	\$640,900	-	\$1,052,900
Total	-	\$1,250,000	-	\$1,662,000	\$100,000	\$3,012,000

# Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Туре	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	\$1,307	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$2,383
Enhance	\$1,307	\$1,308	-	-

# Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Туре	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	\$1,307	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	\$2,408	-	\$2,414	\$2,000
Enhance	-	\$1,307	-	\$1,307	-

# Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

# **Parcels**

# **Parcel Information**

#### Sign-up Criteria? No

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

The 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). We contract with local SWCD offices to provide outreach services as a way to connect effectively with local landowners.

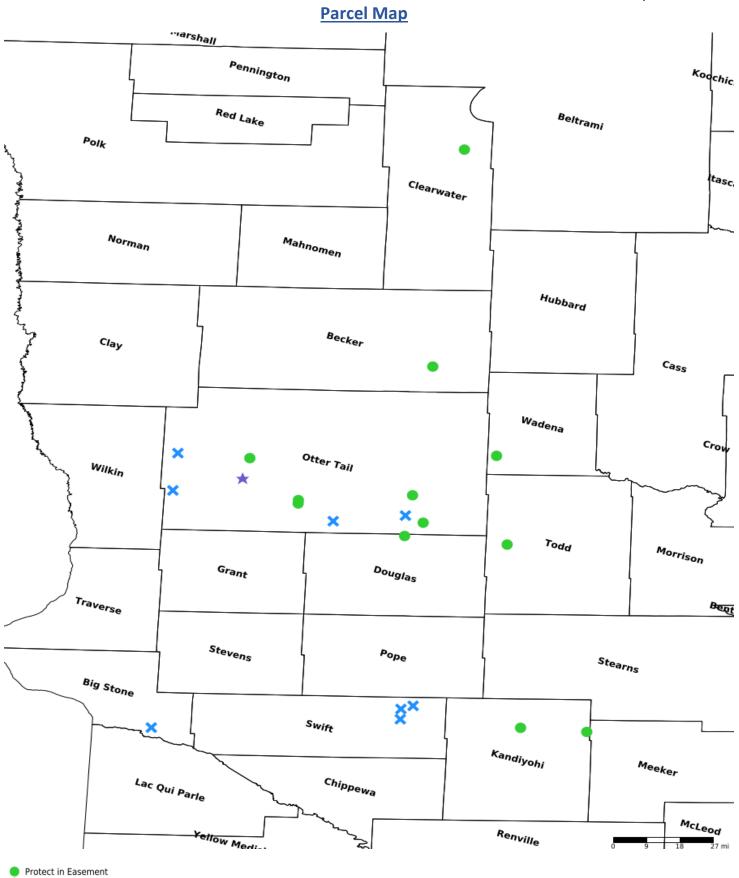
Restoration and enhancement work will take place on private lands over which MLT and USFWS have secured permanent conservation easements to protect wetlands and associated upland habitat. The projects included in the parcel list were identified as priorities for restoration/enhancement by USFWS staff in their Morris and Fergus Falls offices and MLT staff.

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing	Description
					Protection	
Stoc HE	<b>Big Stone</b>	12145225	143	\$37,000	Yes	Prairie
Ayec	Otter Tail	13140214	35	\$57,000	Yes	Prairie
FFFGC Orwell	Otter Tail	13244205	60	\$60,000	Yes	Prairie
IPoint BC	Otter Tail	13138202	280	\$400,000	Yes	Prairie
LBar Phase 3	Otter Tail	13342217	140	\$180,000	Yes	Prairie
Rdre	Otter Tail	13444209	118	\$90,000	Yes	Prairie
Criv	Swift	12238223	86	\$29,000	Yes	Wetland
Gron HE	Swift	12237218	62	\$62,500	Yes	Wetland
Went HE	Swift	12138202	21	\$32,500	Yes	Wetland

# **Restore / Enhance Parcels**

# **Easement Parcels**

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing
					Protection
Wolf Lake	Becker	13937228	148	\$199,400	No
Clearwater River	Clearwater	14936205	160	\$300,000	No
Leaf Valley	Douglas	13038202	150	\$218,000	No
Green Lake 1	Kandiyohi	12133224	38	\$100,000	No
Green Lake 2	Kandiyohi	12134218	229	\$691,000	No
Big Stone Lake	Otter Tail	13442216	137	\$288,000	No
Parkers Prairie	Otter Tail	13137217	60	\$0	No
Stony Lake	Otter Tail	13238201	80	\$160,000	No
Tamarack Lake	Otter Tail	13241214	215	\$400,000	No
Tamarack Lake 2	Otter Tail	13241223	140	\$300,000	No
Dismal Creek2	Todd	13035215	170	\$400,000	No
Union Creek	Wadena	13435205	55	\$0	No



#### Protect in Fee with PILT ▲ Protect in Restore Enhance Other Protect in Fee W/O PILT

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