



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 11 Laws of Minnesota 2023 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 03/12/2024

Project Title: Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 11

Funds Recommended: \$3,675,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2023, Ch. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(e)

Appropriation Language: \$3,675,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire lands in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on public lands and permanent conservation easements in southeast Minnesota as follows: \$1,311,000 to The Nature Conservancy; \$942,000 to Trust for Public Land; and \$1,422,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. \$168,000 of the amount 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. A list of proposed land acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: David Ruff

Title: Conservation Project Manager

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Address: 60042 CR 84

City: Kellogg, MN 55945

Email: david.ruff@tnc.org

Office Number: (507) 261-4954

Mobile Number: (507) 261-4954

Fax Number:

Website: nature.org/

Location Information

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

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Southeast Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee
- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

Narrative**Abstract**

This project will protect approximately 852 acres using conservation easement and fee land acquisition, and restore and enhance approximately 240 acres of declining habitat for important wildlife species. Actions will occur in strategically targeted, resilient corridors 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 Nature Conservancy (TNC), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) and The Trust for Public Land (TPL), in partnership, are working to change this circumstance. 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 conservation, land access and watershed health. To date, the Partnership has protected 8,797 acres of priority lands and 39 stream and river miles, and has restored/enhanced 2,611 acres of habitat.

This 11th Phase of our Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Program continues this body of work:

1. Conservation Easements. MLT will protect 600 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 all potential fee title acquisitions. 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 forest (113 acres), prairie (133 acres) and 0.9 miles of coldwater trout stream is planned.

3. **Restoration and Enhancement.** TNC will use a stewardship crew and contractors to restore/enhance approximately 240 acres of bluff prairie, floodplain, riparian habitat and forest within priority complexes of protected lands. 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?

Most of the projects selected for this proposal are located in 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.

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.

Proposed projects contain over 311 documented occurrences of some 110 Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified by the Natural Heritage Inventory. This proposal will continue with high impact projects that protect, restore, and enhance habitat for Minnesota's rarest and most vulnerable species. 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, western foxsnake, North American racer, American ginseng, great Indian plantain, plains wild indigo and red-shouldered hawk.

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 benefits from a wealth of conservation planning and biological indices and analyses. Our partnership has defined our priorities based on these existing plans, like the watershed-based Landscape Stewardship Plans and DNR's Wildlife Action Network along with the Conservation Focus Areas in the Root River and Whitewater watersheds to identify priority areas to focus our efforts and resources (see proposal handout). 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
- expected resilience to climate change

- 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

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 leverage of \$113,000 of donated value from landowners from easement acquisition is a conservative estimate.

Partners are also leveraging private funds to cover a portion of travel and direct support services cost totaling \$19,000.

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 |
|------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2019 | The Nature Conservancy | \$51,592 |
| 2018 | The Nature Conservancy | \$27,251 |
| 2018 | Trust for Public Land - Private | \$21,250 |
| 2017 | RIM Critical Habitat Match | \$500,000 |
| 2017 | Trust for Public Land - Land Donation | \$55,000 |
| 2017 | The Nature Conservancy | \$82,539 |
| 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 |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| 2027 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. Recognizing the conservation community's historical

failings, we are committed 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 fulfillment. 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?

Minnesota Land Trust will manage the easements.

Who will be the easement holder?

Minnesota Land Trust will hold the easements.

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

The Land Trust expects to close 4-7 conservation easements through this appropriation.

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
- AMA
- Permanently Protected Conservation Easements
- County/Municipal
- Public Waters
- State Forests
- Other : TNC Preserve aquired with Outdoor Heritage Funds

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:

None

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?

We anticipate acquiring 2-4 properties in fee simple and 4-7 conservation easements using funds from this appropriation .

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:

Lands protected with conservation easements often include private roads or trails used by the landowners on their property.

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 on easement lands 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?

No

On Fee Acquisition projects, some initial restoration will be conducted through release of IDP funds or through contracts. High priority restoration and enhancement projects for some parcels will be completed within this appropriation as budget allows. Further restoration and enhancement may be completed with future OHF appropriations or other funds.

On easements acquired in this appropriation, restoration and enhancement will not be completed within this appropriation. Restoration needs on easement properties will be assessed by MLT staff working with

the landowners, and restoration or enhancement opportunities may be completed with future OHF appropriations.

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

No

Explain how, when, and source of the R/E work:

The Nature Conservancy works in partnership with MN DNR to determine the highest priority restoration and enhancement projects. High priority projects on properties acquired with this appropriation will continue to be addressed with future program funding.

The Minnesota Land Trust will work with landowners to meet restoration and enhancement opportunities depending on future funding and landowner willingness and ability to partner on those restorations.

Timeline

| Activity Name | Estimated Completion Date |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Easement acquisition | June 30, 2027 |
| Restoration/Enhancement on parcels protected without grant | June 30, 2028 |
| Restoration/Enhancement on parcels protected with grant | June 30, 2031 |
| Acquisition of fee land | June 30, 2027 |
| Purchase agreements or options on acquisition of fee land | June 30, 2027 |

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2028

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.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

| Item | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$524,100 | - | - | \$524,100 |
| Contracts | \$396,400 | - | - | \$396,400 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | \$1,310,300 | - | - | \$1,310,300 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | \$781,000 | \$119,000 | Landowners | \$900,000 |
| Easement Stewardship | \$168,000 | - | - | \$168,000 |
| Travel | \$48,000 | \$1,500 | -, Private | \$49,500 |
| Professional Services | \$249,000 | - | - | \$249,000 |
| Direct Support Services | \$121,000 | \$18,000 | -, Private | \$139,000 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | \$2,000 | - | - | \$2,000 |
| Supplies/Materials | \$75,200 | - | - | \$75,200 |
| DNR IDP | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Total | \$3,675,000 | \$138,500 | - | \$3,813,500 |

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust

Totals

| Item | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$175,000 | - | - | \$175,000 |
| Contracts | \$55,000 | - | - | \$55,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | \$781,000 | \$119,000 | Landowners | \$900,000 |
| Easement Stewardship | \$168,000 | - | - | \$168,000 |
| Travel | \$12,000 | - | - | \$12,000 |
| Professional Services | \$181,000 | - | - | \$181,000 |
| Direct Support Services | \$48,000 | - | - | \$48,000 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | \$2,000 | - | - | \$2,000 |
| Supplies/Materials | - | - | - | - |
| DNR IDP | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Total | \$1,422,000 | \$119,000 | - | \$1,541,000 |

Personnel

| Position | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| MLT Land Protection Staff | 0.43 | 4.0 | \$175,000 | - | - | \$175,000 |

Partner: Trust for Public Land

Totals

| Item | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Personnel | \$55,000 | - | - | \$55,000 |
| Contracts | \$20,000 | - | - | \$20,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | \$821,000 | - | - | \$821,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Stewardship | - | - | - | - |
| Travel | - | \$1,500 | Private | \$1,500 |
| Professional Services | \$28,000 | - | - | \$28,000 |
| Direct Support Services | \$18,000 | \$18,000 | Private | \$36,000 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | - | - | - | - |
| Supplies/Materials | - | - | - | - |
| DNR IDP | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Total | \$942,000 | \$19,500 | - | \$961,500 |

Personnel

| Position | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| Protection and Legal Staff | 0.1 | 3.0 | \$55,000 | - | - | \$55,000 |

Partner: The Nature Conservancy**Totals**

| Item | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$294,100 | - | - | \$294,100 |
| Contracts | \$321,400 | - | - | \$321,400 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | \$489,300 | - | - | \$489,300 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Stewardship | - | - | - | - |
| Travel | \$36,000 | - | - | \$36,000 |
| Professional Services | \$40,000 | - | - | \$40,000 |
| Direct Support Services | \$55,000 | - | - | \$55,000 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | - | - | - | - |
| Supplies/Materials | \$75,200 | - | - | \$75,200 |
| DNR IDP | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Total | \$1,311,000 | - | - | \$1,311,000 |

Personnel

| Position | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|---|------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| TNC Restoration/Enhancement Crew | 0.9 | 4.0 | \$99,600 | - | - | \$99,600 |
| TNC Project Management, Protection and Grants Admin | 0.9 | 3.0 | \$194,500 | - | - | \$194,500 |

Amount of Request: \$3,675,000**Amount of Leverage:** \$138,500**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 3.77%**DSS + Personnel:** \$645,100**As a % of the total request:** 17.55%**Easement Stewardship:** \$168,000**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 21.51%**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?**

Reductions to Fee and Easement Acquisition budgets will be accommodated by completing fewer and/or smaller projects. Large acquisition projects may be completed by combining funds over multiple appropriations. The expected Restoration and Enhancement outputs have also been reduced to reflect a reduced contracts budget.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

TPL will leverage private funds to cover direct support services costs not reimbursed and travel. MLT encourages

landowners to fully/partially donate the value of conservation easements. The leverage portion of the easement acquisition line (\$119,000) is an estimate of value expected to be donated to the Land Trust.

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) slightly more than proportionately. Some costs related to program development and oversight remain constant regardless of appropriation amount. The costs of many professional services related to land protection also do not scale proportionately, forcing a larger reduction in acres/activities.

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?

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

MLT will use contract funds for two purposes: to complete habitat management plans on new easement acquisitions; and partnering with SWCDs on outreach.

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?

The Land Trust expects to close 4-7 projects. The average cost per easement to perpetually fund the Minnesota Land Trust's long-term monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$24,000; in extreme circumstances, a larger amount may be sought. This figure has been determined by using a detailed stewardship funding calculator or "cost analysis" which is the industry standard according to the Land Trust Accreditation process. This cost analysis is on file with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council staff and the Land Trust shares a new version with the Council whenever updates are made.

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 indirect 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 protection, restoration and management activities. Examples include Personal Protective Equipment, other field safety equipment, GPS units, 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 | 40 | - | 60 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | 136 | 116 | - | 252 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | 600 | 600 |
| Enhance | - | 120 | 60 | - | 180 |
| Total | - | 276 | 216 | 600 | 1,092 |

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 | 20 |
| Total | 20 |

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

| Type | Wetland | Prairie | Forest | Habitat | Total Funding |
|--|---------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Restore | - | \$50,000 | \$100,000 | - | \$150,000 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | \$918,000 | \$764,000 | - | \$1,682,000 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | \$1,422,000 | \$1,422,000 |
| Enhance | - | \$296,000 | \$125,000 | - | \$421,000 |
| Total | - | \$1,264,000 | \$989,000 | \$1,422,000 | \$3,675,000 |

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest | Total Acres |
|--|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| Restore | - | - | 60 | - | - | 60 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | - | 252 | - | - | 252 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | 0 | - | - | 0 |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | 600 | - | - | 600 |
| Enhance | - | - | 180 | - | - | 180 |
| Total | - | - | 1,092 | - | - | 1,092 |

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest | Total Funding |
|--|-------------|----------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|--------------------|
| Restore | - | - | \$150,000 | - | - | \$150,000 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | - | \$1,682,000 | - | - | \$1,682,000 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | \$1,422,000 | - | - | \$1,422,000 |
| Enhance | - | - | \$421,000 | - | - | \$421,000 |
| Total | - | - | \$3,675,000 | - | - | \$3,675,000 |

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

| Type | Wetland | Prairie | Forest | Habitat |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Restore | - | \$2,500 | \$2,500 | - |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | \$6,750 | \$6,586 | - |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | \$2,370 |
| Enhance | - | \$2,466 | \$2,083 | - |

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Restore | - | - | \$2,500 | - | - |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | - | \$6,674 | - | - |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | \$2,370 | - | - |
| Enhance | - | - | \$2,338 | - | - |

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0.9

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?

No

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

For Protection in Fee Simple, parcels are prioritized based on:

- Location within a Conservation Opportunity Area or Area of Significant Native Biodiversity (allows for large landscape management and management efficiencies, i.e. large scale Rx fire)
- Presence of Minnesota Biological Survey mapped native plant communities
- Parcels equal to or greater than 80 acres in size are strongly preferred
- Proximity to a state-owned parcel
- A Conservation Partner willing to accept the property/meets partner objectives (SNA, WMA, Forestry)
- Must have a willing seller

Additionally, the Land Trust uses the attached criteria to prioritize parcels not currently on the parcel list. All protection parcels will be added to the parcel list before incurring any expenses in accordance with LSOHC guidance.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

| Name | County | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|-------|-----------|---------------------|
| 7 Springs pasture | Fillmore | 10212221 | 10 | \$15,000 | Yes |
| 7 Springs Woods | Fillmore | 10212216 | 60 | \$35,000 | Yes |
| Eagle Bluff Forest | Fillmore | 10310202 | 50 | \$30,000 | Yes |
| Rush Creek Woods bluffs | Fillmore | 10408212 | 20 | \$15,000 | Yes |
| Schueler WMA pasture resto | Fillmore | 10408203 | 30 | \$30,000 | Yes |
| Schueler WMA bluffs | Fillmore | 10408203 | 25 | \$15,000 | Yes |
| Wetbark Direct Seeding | Houston | 10407213 | 40 | \$40,000 | Yes |
| Vinegar Ridge Blufs | Houston | 10407227 | 100 | \$70,000 | Yes |
| Wet Bark Bluffs | Houston | 10307214 | 65 | \$70,000 | Yes |
| Moon Valey Prairie | Olmsted | 10715204 | 100 | \$100,000 | Yes |
| McCarthy Lake Prairie | Wabasha | 10910201 | 35 | \$20,000 | Yes |
| Zumbro Woods | Wabasha | 11011221 | 60 | \$35,000 | Yes |
| Snake Creek Seeding | Wabasha | 10912215 | 70 | \$70,000 | Yes |
| Whitewater Forest | Winona | 10810214 | 80 | \$50,000 | Yes |
| Whitewater Bluffs | Winona | 10810223 | 60 | \$80,000 | Yes |
| Drainage District Bluff | Winona | 10808233 | 20 | \$30,000 | Yes |

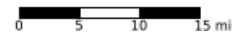
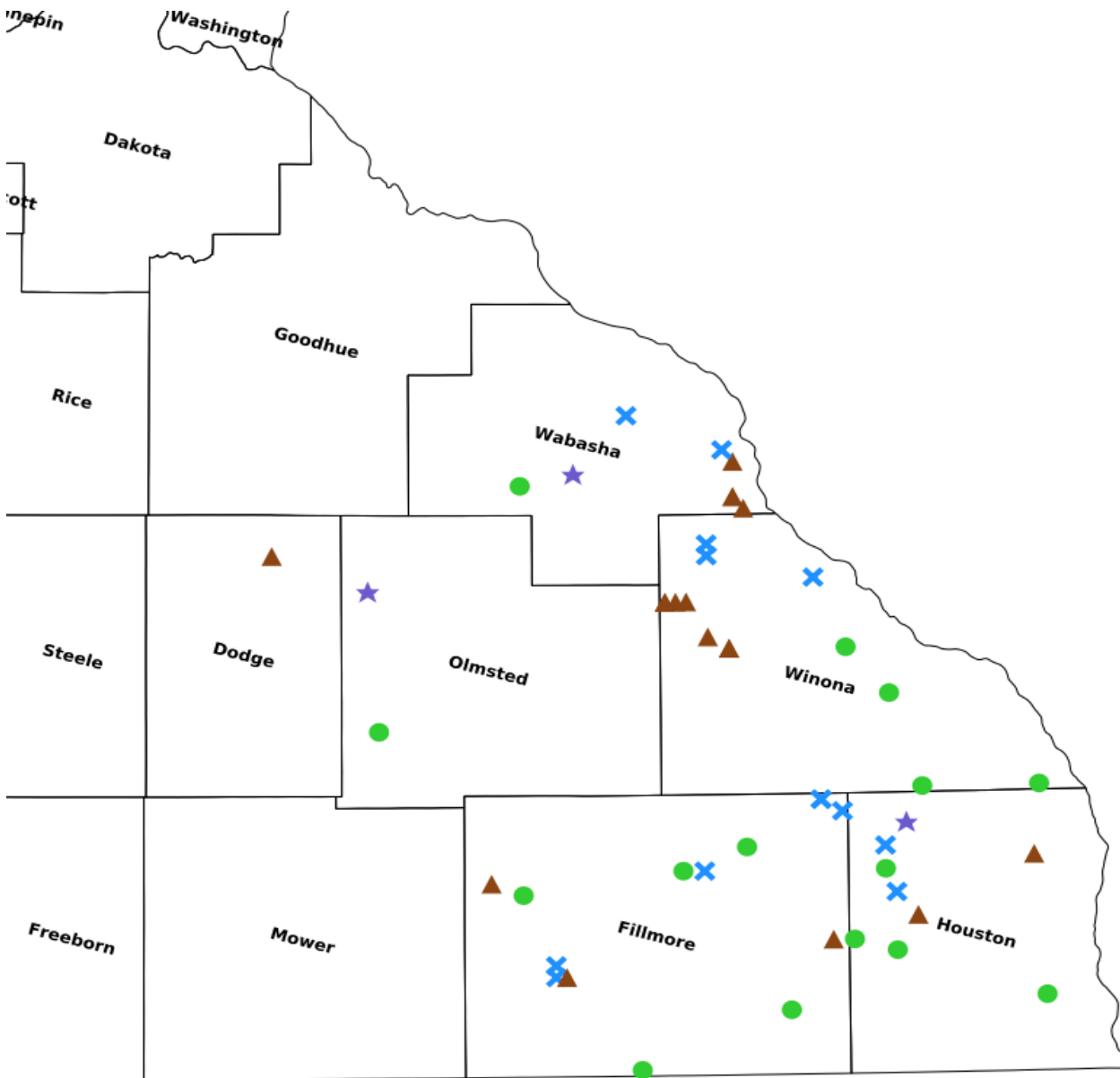
Fee Parcels

| Name | County | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|-------|-------------|---------------------|
| Middle Fort Zumbro River SNA | Dodge | 10817224 | 175 | \$787,500 | No |
| Batcave (Bear Creek) | Fillmore | 10313209 | 600 | \$1,800,000 | No |
| Choice WMA 7 | Fillmore | 10208202 | 570 | \$2,000,000 | No |
| Forestville 2 | Fillmore | 10212222 | 130 | \$455,000 | No |
| Wet Bark 3 | Houston | 10306230 | 325 | \$1,137,500 | No |
| Root River WMA | Houston | 10405236 | 37 | \$135,000 | No |
| McCarthy Lake 2 | Wabasha | 10909207 | 100 | \$450,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA Main | Wabasha | 10909230 | 50 | \$252,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA Main II | Wabasha | 10909232 | 210 | \$486,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA Main | Wabasha | 10909230 | 50 | \$252,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA North I | Winona | 10710207 | 41 | \$259,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA South | Winona | 10709231 | 430 | \$2,300,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA South II | Winona | 10710226 | 543 | \$1,884,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA South | Winona | 10709231 | 430 | \$2,300,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA North II | Winona | 10710208 | 86 | \$624,900 | No |
| Whitewater WMA North I | Winona | 10710207 | 41 | \$259,000 | No |
| Whitewater WMA Main III | Winona | 10710209 | 54 | \$277,900 | No |

Easement Parcels

| Name | County | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|-------|-----------|---------------------|
| Deer Creek - MLT | Fillmore | 10313213 | 158 | \$225,000 | No |
| Mahoney Creek - MLT | Fillmore | 10310204 | 21 | \$0 | No |
| Raaen Creek - MLT | Fillmore | 10409228 | 308 | \$462,000 | No |
| Wisel Creek - MLT | Fillmore | 10108206 | 70 | \$105,000 | Yes |
| Upper Iowa River - MLT | Fillmore | 10111235 | 162 | \$243,000 | No |
| Crooked Creek 2 - MLT | Houston | 10204231 | 441 | \$441,000 | No |
| Root River 2 - MLT | Houston | 10307203 | 200 | \$100,000 | No |
| Beaver Creek - MLT | Houston | 10207211 | 40 | \$40,000 | No |
| South Fork Root River - MLT | Houston | 10207206 | 109 | \$163,500 | No |
| Zumbro River - MLT | Olmsted | 10515203 | 158 | \$316,000 | No |
| Silver Spring Creek - MLT | Wabasha | 10913223 | 76 | \$114,000 | No |
| Stockton Valley - MLT | Winona | 10708236 | 46 | \$0 | Yes |
| Lane Valley Creek - MLT | Winona | 10505236 | 330 | \$0 | No |
| Burns Valley - MLT | Winona | 10607222 | 137 | \$205,500 | No |
| Campbell Creek - MLT | Winona | 10506231 | 1,000 | \$900,000 | No |

Parcel Map



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