



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

### St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 4 Laws of Minnesota 2023 Accomplishment Plan

#### General Information

**Date:** 03/25/2024

**Project Title:** St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 4

**Funds Recommended:** \$13,306,000

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

**Appropriation Language:** \$13,306,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems in the St. Croix River watershed as follows: \$11,171,000 to Trust for Public Land; \$105,000 to Wild Rivers Conservancy; and \$2,030,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to \$168,000 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. 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:**

- Metro / Urban
- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Northern Forest

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Forest
- Habitat
- Prairie

**Narrative****Abstract**

Wild Rivers Conservancy of the St. Croix and Namekagon, Minnesota Land Trust, and The Trust for Public Land will work in partnership to permanently protect approximately 1000 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**

The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is the country's first "Wild and Scenic" National Park, designated by congress in 1968. It's nearly 8,000 square mile watershed is home to a diverse abundance of native flora and fauna, including 128 listed Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). It is a regional attraction for upwards of 1 million visitors annually due to its many recreation opportunities such as high-quality fishing and hunting, and boating. Beyond the protection of the Riverway's boundary the threat of development, fragmentation, and conversion to agriculture is substantial.

The partnership, consisting of Wild Rivers Conservancy (Conservancy), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), and The Trust for Public Land (TPL), will work to increase the amount of land permanently protected on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix River watershed.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 (ML19 and ML21) of the St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration program have shown just how ready landowners are for permanent protection in such a pristine watershed. To date, the program partnership has led to five active easements totaling over 1,300 acres and nearly 6.5 miles of protected streams, and nearly 730 acres of land acquired in fee.

ML19 funds have largely been spent and a significant amount of ML21 funds committed. In addition, a portion of ML22 funds, available in July of 2022, are already obligated. Additional funding is needed to continue to the program.

TPL will protect approximately 700 acres through fee-title acquisition. TPL proposes the creation of a new WMA in Washington County, Keystone Woods. This 2,600+ acre property has high biodiversity significance, connects a number of conservation areas serving as a corridor to the St. Croix River, contains a number of lakes, and is excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife, waterfowl, and fish. It is one of the County's Top 10 Priority Conservation Areas and is one of the largest blocks of private land in single ownership in the Metro. It would provide quality, close to home hunting and fishing opportunities for Metro residents who may be new to WMAs. TPL proposes to protect a portion of the WMA land through this proposal and another through its Metro Big Rivers proposal. This is

a very rare opportunity to protect such a large block of high-quality habitat so close to the Metro.

MLT will acquire approximately 300 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 \$225,000 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. It is anticipated that Washington County will provide an estimated \$5,000,000 in leverage towards the Keystone Woods project.

### 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
2010	MLT:ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors 5 Supplemental	\$20,300
2011	MLT:ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors 6	\$27,400
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
2026	TPL - DNR	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	-	-
2027 and in perpetuity	MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of easements in perpetuity	Enforcement as necessary	-
2025	TPL - DNR	Develop restoration/management plan for property	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	-
2024	TPL - OHF and DNR	Post property	Develop restoration/management plan for property	-

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

The Conservancy, TPL, and MLT 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 3-6 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 7 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?**

- County
- Local Unit of Government
- State of MN

**Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:**

- SNA
- State Forest
- WMA
- AMA

**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 other than several two tracks on the Keystone Woods WMA property. These, and any others that are discovered, will be managed per DNR policy.

**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-If any trails or roads remain on lands to be managed by the DNR, they will be managed per DNR policy for WMAs, AMAs, SNAs or State Forests. If they are on lands to be managed by local units of government, they will be managed per a maintenance and monitoring plan developed in consultation with LSOHC staff.

**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 - Land acquired	June 30, 2027
TPL - Initial site development/restoration	Fall 2029
TPL - Landowner negotiations, agreements, and due diligence	June 30, 2027
MLT - Conservation easements completed	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.*

**Grand Totals Across All Partnerships**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personnel	\$406,000	-	-	\$406,000
Contracts	\$426,000	-	-	\$426,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$10,500,000	\$5,000,000	-, Washington County	\$15,500,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,354,000	\$260,000	Landowners	\$1,614,000
Easement Stewardship	\$168,000	-	-	\$168,000
Travel	\$12,000	\$1,000	-, Private	\$13,000
Professional Services	\$310,000	-	-	\$310,000
Direct Support Services	\$123,000	\$67,000	Private	\$190,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	\$6,000	-	-	\$6,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$13,306,000</b>	<b>\$5,328,000</b>	-	<b>\$18,634,000</b>

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

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$110,000	-	-	\$110,000
Contracts	\$374,000	-	-	\$374,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$10,500,000	\$5,000,000	Washington County	\$15,500,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	\$1,000	Private	\$1,000
Professional Services	\$120,000	-	-	\$120,000
Direct Support Services	\$67,000	\$67,000	Private	\$134,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$11,171,000</b>	<b>\$5,068,000</b>	-	<b>\$16,239,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TPL Protection and Legal Staff	0.18	3.0	\$110,000	-	-	\$110,000

## Partner: Minnesota Land Trust

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$206,000	-	-	\$206,000
Contracts	\$42,000	-	-	\$42,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,354,000	\$260,000	Landowners	\$1,614,000
Easement Stewardship	\$168,000	-	-	\$168,000
Travel	\$12,000	-	-	\$12,000
Professional Services	\$190,000	-	-	\$190,000
Direct Support Services	\$56,000	-	-	\$56,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,030,000</b>	<b>\$260,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,290,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Land Protection Staff	0.52	4.0	\$206,000	-	-	\$206,000

**Partner: Wild Rivers Conservancy****Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$90,000	-	-	\$90,000
Contracts	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000
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	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>	-	-	<b>\$105,000</b>

**Personnel**

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

**Amount of Request:** \$13,306,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$5,328,000

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 40.04%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$529,000

**As a % of the total request:** 3.98%

**Easement Stewardship:** \$168,000

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 12.41%

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

Outputs, to a large degree, were reduced. The Conservancy received full amount with grant administration, support & outreach. MLT's outputs are less to accommodate TPL's partial Keystone Woods acquisition.

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

TPL will leverage privately sourced funds to cover DSS costs not reimbursed. TPL has leveraged private funds for travel. A significant portion includes anticipated fee acquisition by Washington County of part of the Keystone Woods property. The Land Trust encourages landowners to donate value as a participant in the program.

**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?**

Since some costs are fixed, a somewhat greater than proportionate reduction in activities and acres would occur.

**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.

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

**Fee Acquisition**

**What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?**

One fee title acquisition through TPL - Part of Keystone Woods

**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 3-6 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	-	-	-	700	700
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	300	300
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>

**Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$11,244,000	\$11,244,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$2,062,000	\$2,062,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>\$13,306,000</b>	<b>\$13,306,000</b>

**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	700	-	-	-	-	700
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	150	-	-	-	150	300
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>850</b>	-	-	-	<b>150</b>	<b>1,000</b>

**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	\$11,244,000	-	-	-	-	\$11,244,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$1,031,000	-	-	-	\$1,031,000	\$2,062,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,275,000</b>	-	-	-	<b>\$1,031,000</b>	<b>\$13,306,000</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$16,062
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$6,873
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	\$16,062	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$6,873	-	-	-	\$6,873
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

1.3 Miles

## 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:

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
Snake River State Forest	Kanabec	04223216	120	\$400,000	No
Chengwatana State Forest Addition III	Pine	03820212	160	\$300,000	No
Nemadji State Forest Addition	Pine	04417227	480	\$400,000	No
Rock Marsh WMA Addition	Pine	03820221	556	\$700,000	No
Nemadji State Forest Addition V	Pine	04517232	120	\$240,000	No

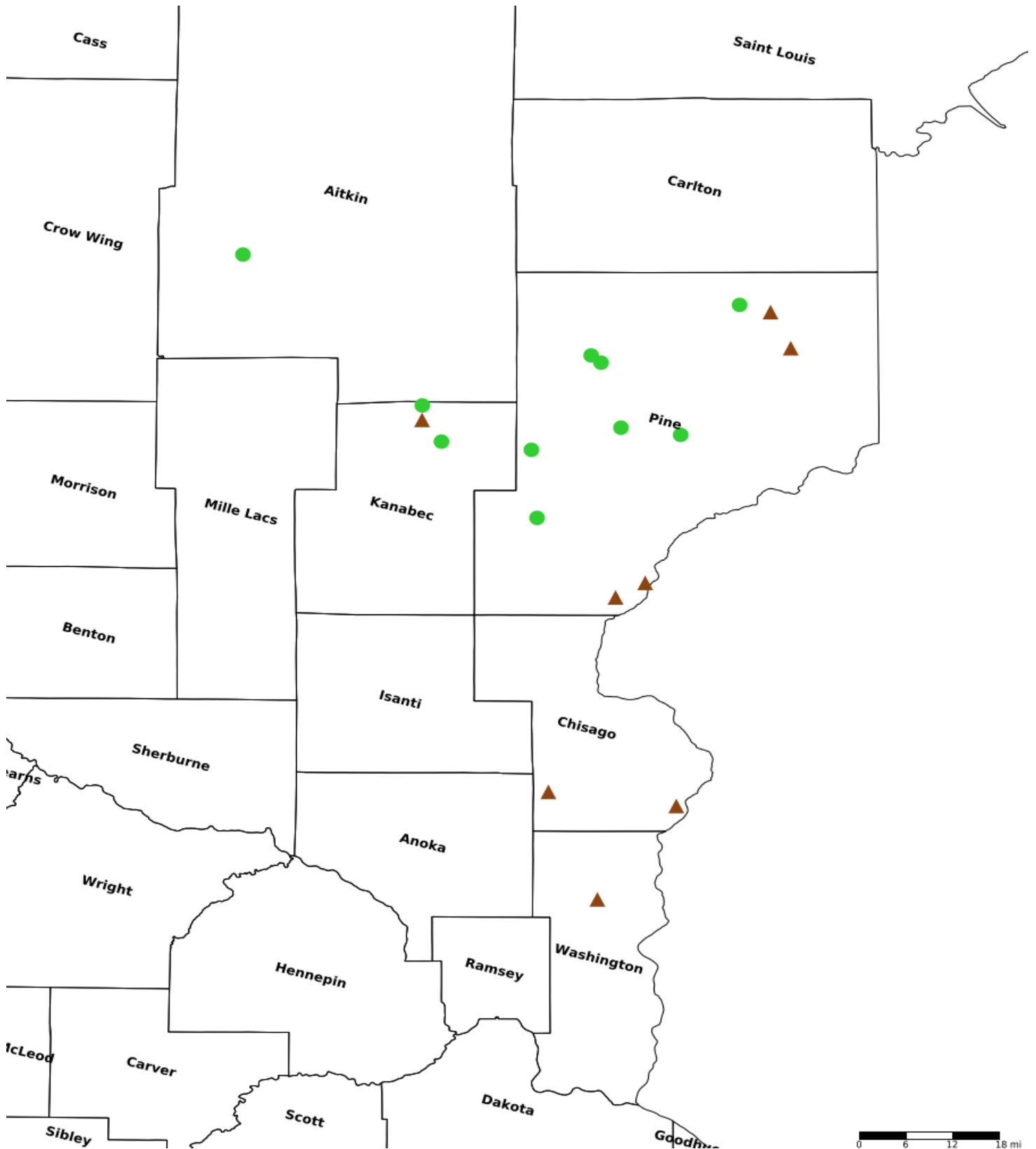
### Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Keystone Woods WMA III (part 2)	Washington	03120219	588	\$8,813,345	No	2	\$0

**Easement Parcels**

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>TRDS</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Est Cost</b>	<b>Existing Protection</b>
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
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
Grindstone River - MLT	Pine	04121205	335	\$365,000	No
Pokegama Creek - MLT	Pine	04021230	61	\$70,000	No

### Parcel Map



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