



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

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

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### General Information

**Date:** 12/21/2022

**Project Title:** Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 11

**Funds Recommended:** \$3,576,000

**Legislative Citation:** ML 2023, Ch. X, Article 2, Section 2, subd

**Appropriation Language:**

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** David Ruff

**Title:** Conservation Project Manager

**Organization:** The Nature Conservancy

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### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Fillmore, Wabasha, Houston, Winona, Olmsted 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 846 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

**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	-	-

**How will the program directly involve, engage, and benefit BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and diverse communities:**

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?**

Yes

**Explain what will be planted:**

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**

<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
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**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Antic. Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personnel	\$477,100	-	-	\$477,100
Contracts	\$363,400	-	-	\$363,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,291,300	-	-	\$1,291,300
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$793,000	\$119,000	-, Landowners	\$912,000
Easement Stewardship	\$168,000	-	-	\$168,000
Travel	\$48,000	\$1,500	-, Private	\$49,500
Professional Services	\$249,000	-	-	\$249,000
Direct Support Services	\$109,000	\$16,000	-, Private	\$125,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	\$75,200	-	-	\$75,200
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,576,000</b>	<b>\$136,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$3,712,500</b>

## Partner: Minnesota Land Trust

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$140,000	-	-	\$140,000
Contracts	\$55,000	-	-	\$55,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$793,000	\$119,000	Landowners	\$912,000
Easement Stewardship	\$168,000	-	-	\$168,000
Travel	\$12,000	-	-	\$12,000
Professional Services	\$181,000	-	-	\$181,000
Direct Support Services	\$38,000	-	-	\$38,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,389,000</b>	<b>\$119,000</b>	-	<b>\$1,508,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Land Protection Staff	0.35	4.0	\$140,000	-	-	\$140,000

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Antic. Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personnel	\$43,000	-	-	\$43,000
Contracts	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$802,000	-	-	\$802,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	\$1,500	Private	\$1,500
Professional Services	\$28,000	-	-	\$28,000
Direct Support Services	\$16,000	\$16,000	Private	\$32,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$909,000</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>	-	<b>\$926,500</b>

**Personnel**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Annual FTE</b>	<b>Years Working</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Antic. Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
Protection and Legal Staff	0.06	3.0	\$43,000	-	-	\$43,000

**Partner: The Nature Conservancy****Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$294,100	-	-	\$294,100
Contracts	\$288,400	-	-	\$288,400
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	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,278,000</b>	-	-	<b>\$1,278,000</b>

**Personnel**

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

**Amount of Request:** \$3,576,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$136,500

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 3.82%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$586,100

**As a % of the total request:** 16.39%

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

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 21.19%

**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.

## Personnel

**Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?**

Yes

**Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?**

Phase 11 is a component of the larger Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Program. Continuity of funding across multiple phases allows us flexibility when prioritizing parcels for protection or enhancement. Further, it ensures stability in our staffing model and provides the ability to plan and prioritize projects over multiple years. The flexibility provided by stable funding is critically important to achieving conservation goals given the uncertainty and variability of field season weather conditions.

## 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	-	133	113	-	246
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	0	0	-	0
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	600	600
Enhance	-	120	60	-	180
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>273</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1,086</b>

**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
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

**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	-	\$901,500	\$747,500	-	\$1,649,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$1,389,000	\$1,389,000
Enhance	-	\$263,000	\$125,000	-	\$388,000
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>\$1,214,500</b>	<b>\$972,500</b>	<b>\$1,389,000</b>	<b>\$3,576,000</b>

**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	-	-	246	-	-	246
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	0	-	-	0
Protect in Easement	-	-	600	-	-	600
Enhance	-	-	180	-	-	180
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>1,086</b>	-	-	<b>1,086</b>

**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	-	-	\$1,649,000	-	-	\$1,649,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$1,389,000	-	-	\$1,389,000
Enhance	-	-	\$388,000	-	-	\$388,000
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>\$3,576,000</b>	-	-	<b>\$3,576,000</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
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Restore	-	\$2,500	\$2,500	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	\$6,778	\$6,615	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$2,315
Enhance	-	\$2,191	\$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	-	-	\$6,703	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$2,315	-	-
Enhance	-	-	\$2,155	-	-

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

.9

## 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.*

## 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

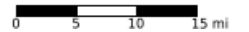
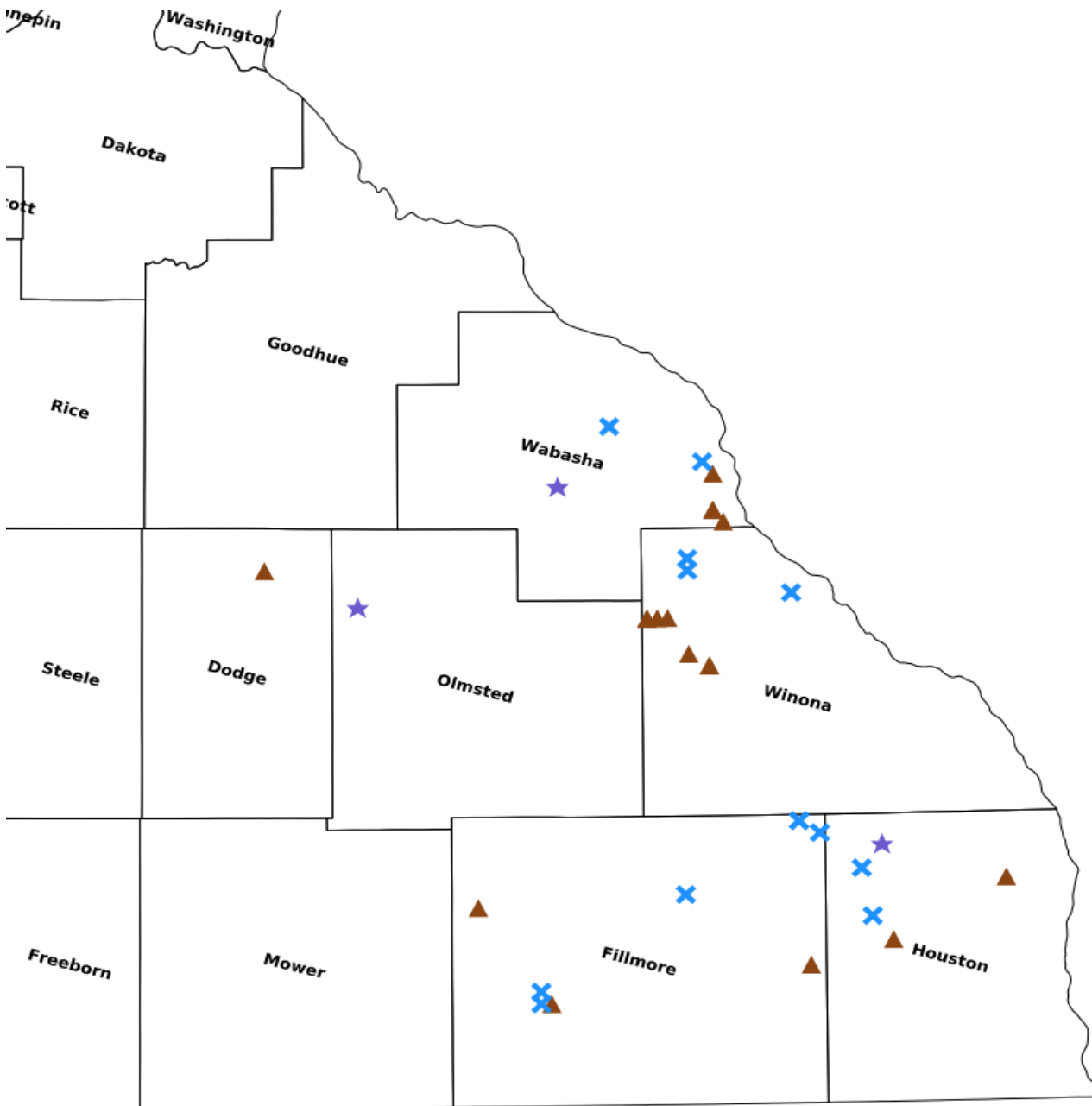
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Eagle Bluff Forest	Fillmore	10310202	50	\$30,000	Yes
7 Springs Woods	Fillmore	10212216	60	\$35,000	Yes
7 Springs pasture	Fillmore	10212221	10	\$15,000	Yes
Schueler WMA pasture resto	Fillmore	10408203	30	\$30,000	Yes
Schueler WMA bluffs	Fillmore	10408203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

### Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Middle Fort Zumbro River SNA	Dodge	10817224	175	\$787,500	No
Forestville 2	Fillmore	10212222	130	\$455,000	No
Choice WMA 7	Fillmore	10208202	570	\$2,000,000	No
Batcave (Bear Creek)	Fillmore	10313209	600	\$1,800,000	No

Wet Bark 3	Houston	10306230	325	\$1,137,500	No
Root River WMA	Houston	10405236	37	\$135,000	No
Whitewater WMA Main II	Wabasha	10909232	210	\$486,000	No
Whitewater WMA Main	Wabasha	10909230	50	\$252,000	No
Whitewater WMA Main	Wabasha	10909230	50	\$252,000	No
McCarthy Lake 2	Wabasha	10909207	100	\$450,000	No
Whitewater WMA South	Winona	10709231	430	\$2,300,000	No
Whitewater WMA South II	Winona	10710226	543	\$1,884,000	No
Whitewater WMA North II	Winona	10710208	86	\$624,900	No
Whitewater WMA Main III	Winona	10710209	54	\$277,900	No
Whitewater WMA North I	Winona	10710207	41	\$259,000	No
Whitewater WMA North I	Winona	10710207	41	\$259,000	No
Whitewater WMA South	Winona	10709231	430	\$2,300,000	No

### Parcel Map



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



# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 11

### Comparison Report

**Program Title:** ML 2023 - Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 11

**Organization:** The Nature Conservancy

**Manager:** David Ruff

### Budget

**Requested Amount:** \$8,181,700

**Appropriated Amount:** \$3,576,000

**Percentage:** 43.71%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	\$674,100	-	\$477,100	-	70.78%	-
Contracts	\$1,183,000	-	\$363,400	-	30.72%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,950,000	-	\$1,291,300	-	43.77%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,800,000	\$270,000	\$793,000	\$119,000	44.06%	44.07%
Easement Stewardship	\$384,000	-	\$168,000	-	43.75%	-
Travel	\$61,000	\$3,000	\$48,000	\$1,500	78.69%	50.0%
Professional Services	\$684,000	-	\$249,000	-	36.4%	-
Direct Support Services	\$230,600	\$39,500	\$109,000	\$16,000	47.27%	40.51%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$35,000	-	-	-	0.0%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$5,000	-	\$2,000	-	40.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	\$105,000	-	\$75,200	-	71.62%	-
DNR IDP	\$70,000	-	-	-	0.0%	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$8,181,700</b>	<b>\$312,500</b>	<b>\$3,576,000</b>	<b>\$136,500</b>	<b>43.71%</b>	<b>43.68%</b>

### **If the project received 70% 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.

### **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) 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.

## Output

### Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	350	60	17.14%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	580	246	42.41%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	1,380	600	43.48%
Enhance	700	180	25.71%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	\$500,000	\$150,000	30.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$3,619,600	\$1,649,000	45.56%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$3,217,000	\$1,389,000	43.18%
Enhance	\$845,100	\$388,000	45.91%

### Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	350	60	17.14%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	580	246	42.41%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	1,380	600	43.48%
Enhance	700	180	25.71%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	\$500,000	\$150,000	30.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$3,619,600	\$1,649,000	45.56%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$3,217,000	\$1,389,000	43.18%
Enhance	\$845,100	\$388,000	45.91%