Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 5

Laws of Minnesota 2024 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 06/26/2026

Project Title: St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 5

Funds Recommended: $4,711,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2024, Ch. 106, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(a)

Appropriation Language: $4,711,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems in the St. Croix River watershed as follows: $1,905,000 to Trust for Public Land; $110,000 to Wild Rivers Conservancy; and $2,696,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to $224,000 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.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Marc White
Title: Natural Resources Manager
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Location Information

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

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Metro / Urban

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 & Namekagon, Minnesota Land Trust, and The Trust for Public Land will work in partnership to permanently protect approximately 813 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 River watershed spans 7,760 square miles between Minnesota and Wisconsin with the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway flowing through its heart. The St. Croix River was the first designated wild and scenic riverway in 1968. The landscape of the watershed contains large swaths of unique ecosystems, wildlife habitat and is home to rare and endangered species. The Riverway is a regional attraction for upwards of 1 million visitors annually due to its many recreation opportunities, such as high-quality fishing, hunting, birding, hiking, and boating. Although the status of the St. Croix as a Wild and Scenic River comes with federal protections, it applies only to a thin ribbon of land adjacent to the Riverway. Beyond the Riverway boundary, more than 75% of the watershed's forest habitat remains unprotected and the threat of development, fragmentation and conversion to agriculture is substantial.

The partnership, consisting of the Wild Rivers Conservancy (Conservancy), the 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. The overall goals of the partnership are to protect large intact forest patches, sustain riparian forests, and restore and protect lands that are important to the 128 listed Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that are known within the landscape.

The program has shown how ready landowners are for permanent protection options in the watershed, in portions of which had few, if any, options prior to its establishment. Strategic landowner outreach has led to a line-up of people wanting to protect their land for generations to come. The partnership is requesting ML24 funding for Phase 5 of the program to continue the important work of permanently protecting some of Minnesota's highest quality habitat.

To date, the St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration program partnership has led to 1,318 acres of active easements, 6.5 miles of protected shoreline, and 970 acres of land acquired in fee.

Funding support for Phase 5 (ML24) of the St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration program will go towards:

TPL will protect approximately 350 acres through fee-title acquisition. TPL has had success in the upper portion of the watershed with previous funds, including a 729 acre and 241 addition to the Chengwatana State Forest, and with ML23 funds allocated to a newly proposed WMA, Keystone Woods resulting in 670 acres protected through this program. TPL will convey lands to the DNR, except when LGU ownership is appropriate, for permanent ownership, management, and stewardship.

MLT will acquire approximately 463 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.

Explain how the plan addresses habitat protection, restoration, and/or enhancement for fish, game & wildlife, including threatened or endangered species conservation

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 for conservation. 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.

What are the elements of this plan that are critical from a timing perspective?

The watershed faces ongoing development pressures in riparian areas from population growth and recreational tourism. From 2000-2016 central MN counties within the St. Croix watershed experienced a 23% increase in population, nearly double the state average. Based on current projections, these trends are expected to continue and accelerate. Increases in housing density and associated development on rural forest lands can be linked to changes to private forest services across watersheds, including decreases in native wildlife; changes in forest health; and reduced water quality, forest carbon storage, timber production, and recreational benefits. Additionally, data released in 2019 shows that Washington County, covering the southern part of the watershed, is one of the top five fastest growing counties in the state.

Protecting healthy watersheds with permanent conservation options, such as conservation easements and fee

acquisitions, is an effective strategy to ensure that the ecosystem and economic services provided by healthy watersheds remain.

Describe how the plan expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:

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 top 2 Conservation Plans referenced in MS97A.056, subd. 3a are most applicable to this project?

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Explain how this plan will uniquely address habitat resilience to climate change and its anticipated effects on game, fish & wildlife species utilizing the protected or restored/enhanced habitat this proposal targets.

Using TNC's climate resiliency data set (Anderson et al., 2023), our Partnership targets those lands for protection and restoration that provide the best opportunities for maintaining biodiversity in the face of climate change. Increasing connectivity and targeting climate-resilient sites sets the stage for a resilient landscape. Permanently protected and well-managed forests are at lower risk to stressors such as invasive species, pests, and pathogens due to their managed status and improved overall health. Limiting stressors will further promote the ability of biota associated with these protected lands to persist in a changing climate.

Protecting complexes of large and connected habitat blocks reduces fragmentation and allows for species movement as climate changes. Keeping forested lands forested improves water retention, which promotes

resilience to drought both in upland systems and associated streams and rivers. Forests are crucial in mitigating against effects caused by excessive rainfall events given their water retention ability.

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.*

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.

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 on 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
2027	TPL - DNR	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	-	-
2028 and in perpetuity	MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of easements in perpetuity	Enforcement as necessary	-
2026	TPL - DNR	Develop restoration/management plan for property	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	-
2025	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 Minnesotan living within a city; 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 is an area where we need to 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 4-7 easement acquisitions through this grant. The number of easement acquisitions proposed can vary significantly due to the size and cost of targeted parcels.

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 plan 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.

Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this program either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?
No

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
N/A

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

County

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

SNA

State Forest

County Forest

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
The Trust for Public Land anticipates closing on one to two acquisitions.

Will the eased land be open for public use?
No

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?
Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:
MLT - Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, these established trails and roads are permitted in the terms of the easement and can be maintained for personal use if their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed.

TPL is not aware of any trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list. If any trails are discovered TPL will consult with LSOHC to determine appropriate actions and resolution.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition?
Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?
MLT - Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the MLT's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in line with the terms of the easement will be the responsibility of the landowner.

TPL - N/A

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

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

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

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
TPL - Land acquired	June 30, 2028
TPL - Initial site development/restoration	Fall 2030
TPL - Landowner negotiations, agreements, and due diligence	June 30, 2028
MLT - Conservation easements completed	June 30, 2028

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 for fee title acquisition of land 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, 2028;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2032;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2029;
(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	$391,000	-	-	$391,000
Contracts	$89,000	-	-	$89,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,705,000	-	-	$1,705,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,932,000	$386,000	Landowners	$2,318,000
Easement Stewardship	$224,000	-	-	$224,000
Travel	$11,000	$2,000	Private	$13,000
Professional Services	$265,000	-	-	$265,000
Direct Support Services	$85,000	$30,000	-, Private	$115,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
Supplies/Materials	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,711,000**	**$418,000**	**-**	**$5,129,000**

Partner: MLT

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$201,000	-	-	$201,000
Contracts	$54,000	-	-	$54,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,932,000	$386,000	Landowners	$2,318,000
Easement Stewardship	$224,000	-	-	$224,000
Travel	$11,000	-	-	$11,000
Professional Services	$215,000	-	-	$215,000
Direct Support Services	$55,000	-	-	$55,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
Supplies/Materials	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,696,000**	**$386,000**	**-**	**$3,082,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Land Protection Staff	0.5	4.0	$201,000	-	-	$201,000

Partner: TPL

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$100,000	-	-	$100,000
Contracts	$20,000	-	-	$20,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,705,000	-	-	$1,705,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$2,000	Private	$2,000
Professional Services	$50,000	-	-	$50,000
Direct Support Services	$30,000	$30,000	Private	$60,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,905,000**	**$32,000**	**-**	**$1,937,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection & Legal Staff	0.19	3.0	$100,000	-	-	$100,000

Partner: WRC

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$90,000	-	-	$90,000
Contracts	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
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	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$110,000**	**-**	**-**	**$110,000**

Personnel

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

Amount of Request: $4,711,000
Amount of Leverage: $418,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 8.87%
DSS + Personnel: $476,000
As a % of the total request: 10.1%
Easement Stewardship: $224,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 11.59%

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 and TPL proportionately split the remaining funds that were allocated.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
TPL - $32,000 of privately sourced funds for travel costs and half of direct support services costs.
MLT - $386,000, MLT encourages landowners to fully or partially donate the value of conservation easements to 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 - Writing of habitat management plans for easement lands
TPL - Potential site clean-up and initial restoration activities
Wild Rivers Conservancy - Landowner outreach

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Design/Engineering

Other : Environmental Assessments and Mineral Assessments

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
TPL anticipates 1-3 fee title acquisition transactions.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
MLT anticipates 5-8 conservation easements will be closed depending on size and cost. The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is $28,000, but may be greater in extraordinary circumstances. This figure is derived from MLT's assessment of long-term stewardship costs which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates 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
MLT 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 MLT's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR approved rate only to personnel expense to determine the total amount of the direct support services.

TPL: 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.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
GPS systems, field safety gear, etc.

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	-	-	175	175	350
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	463	463
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**175**	**638**	**813**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	$952,500	$1,027,500	$1,980,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$2,731,000	$2,731,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**$952,500**	**$3,758,500**	**$4,711,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	40	-	-	-	310	350
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	163	-	-	-	300	463
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**203**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**610**	**813**

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	$255,200	-	-	-	$1,724,800	$1,980,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$1,180,000	-	-	-	$1,551,000	$2,731,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$1,435,200**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,275,800**	**$4,711,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	$5,442	$5,871
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$5,898
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	$6,380	-	-	-	$5,563
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$7,239	-	-	-	$5,170
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

1

Parcels

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
Kettle River State Forest Addition	Carlton	04620221	241	$966,000	No
Franconia SNA Addition	Chisago	03319216	85	$400,000	No
Franconia SNA Addition	Chisago	03319216	85	$400,000	No
Janet Johnson Memorial WMA Addition II	Chisago	03521234	55	$550,000	No
Dalbo WMA Addition	Kanabec	03825233	520	$1,400,000	No
Kroschel WMA Addition	Kanabec	04222232	320	$1,050,000	No
Chengwatana State Forest Addition III	Pine	03820212	160	$300,000	No
Chengwatana State Forest Addition III	Pine	03820212	160	$300,000	No
Chengwatana State Forest Addition IV	Pine	03820212	80	$260,000	No
Chengwatana State Forest Addition IV	Pine	03820212	80	$260,000	No
Nemadji State Forest Addition	Pine	04417227	480	$400,000	No
Nemadji State Forest Addition	Pine	04417227	480	$400,000	No
Nemadji State Forest Addition III	Pine	04417212	40	$75,000	No
Nemadji State Forest Addition III	Pine	04417212	40	$75,000	No
Pine County Forest	Pine	04217203	324	$850,000	No

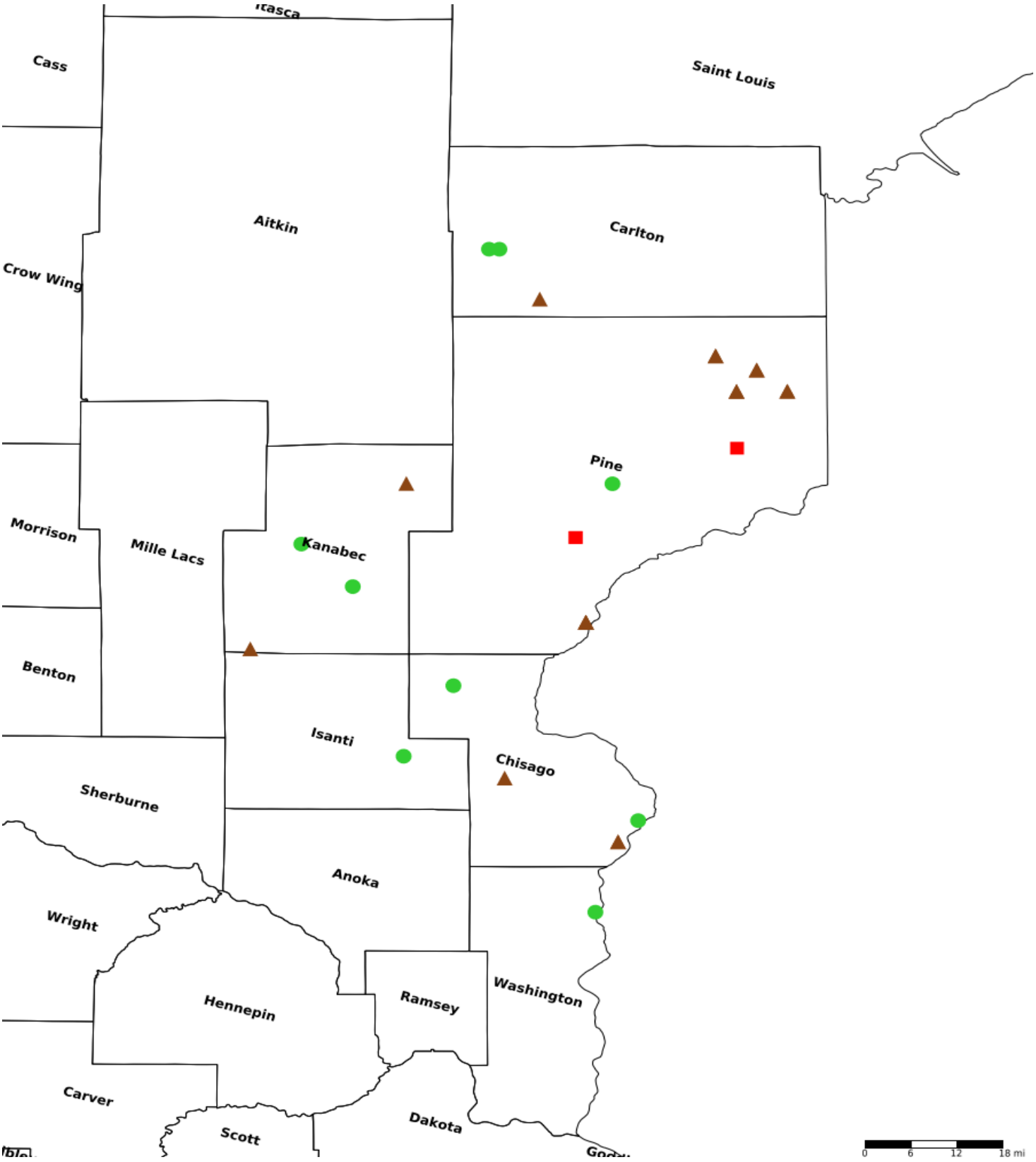
Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Nemadji State Forest Addition IV	Pine	04416228	80	$250,000	No	2	$20,000
Nemadji State Forest Addition IV	Pine	04416228	80	$250,000	No	2	$20,000
Nemadji State Forest Addition V	Pine	04517232	120	$440,000	No	2	$91,000
Nemadji State Forest Addition V	Pine	04517232	120	$440,000	No	2	$91,000
Pine County Memorial Forest	Pine	04020211	120	$300,000	No	2	$20,000
Pine County Memorial Forest	Pine	04020211	120	$300,000	No	2	$20,000

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Kettle River 1	Carlton	04721215	100	$70,000	No
Kettle River 2	Carlton	04721214	560	$400,000	No
MLT - Rush Lake	Chisago	03722226	80	$400,000	No
MLT - St. Croix River	Chisago	03419235	32	$200,000	No
MLT - North Branch Sunrise River	Isanti	03523213	275	$415,000	No
MLT - Knife Lake	Kanabec	04024217	80	$125,000	No
MLT - Spring Brook	Kanabec	03923218	135	$234,000	No
MLT - Bear Creek	Pine	04219234	790	$0	No
MLT - Saint Croix River 2 (PN)	Washington	03119206	26	$1,030,000	No

Parcel Map


Itasca
Cass
Saint Louis
Aitkin
Carlton
Crow Wing
Pine
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Benton
Isanti
Chisago
Sherburne
Anoka
Wright
Hennepin
Ramsey
Washington
Carver
Scott
Dakota
0
6
12
18 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other