Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Resilient Habitat for Heritage Brook Trout - Phase 2

Laws of Minnesota 2024 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 06/24/2026

Project Title: Resilient Habitat for Heritage Brook Trout - Phase 2

Funds Recommended: $2,486,000

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

Appropriation Language: $2,486,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance habitat in targeted watersheds of southeast Minnesota to improve heritage brook trout and coldwater aquatic communities. Of this amount, $400,000 is to The Nature Conservancy, $612,000 is to Trout Unlimited, and $1,474,000 is 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.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: John Lenczewski
Title:
Organization: Minnesota Trout Unlimited
Address: Southeast Trout Partnership PO Box 845
City: Chanhassen, MN 55317
Email: john.lenczewski@mntu.org
Office Number: 612-670-1629
Mobile Number: 612-670-1629
Fax Number:
Website: www.mntu.org

Location Information

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

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Minnesota Trout Unlimited, the Minnesota Land Trust, and The Nature Conservancy will combine their expertise within 12 targeted watersheds to increase the resilience of remnant populations of brook trout unique to Southeast Minnesota. We will protect 535 acres and restore/enhance 95 acres of instream and adjacent upland habitats to address stream degradation (floodplains, gullies, slopes, and bluffs), slow runoff, increase infiltration, and keep aquatic habitat productive. This holistic watershed approach, combined with in-stream enhancements designed for Heritage Brook Trout, will protect the long-term health of these unique coldwater communities.

Design and Scope of Work

Word has spread that Southeast Minnesota's streams support a robust trout fishery and trout fishing now generates $800 Million annually to local communities. Less well known is that a small number of these streams hold remnant populations of native brook trout unique to Southeast Minnesota. They have persisted for thousands of years and through the time of European settlement. These "Heritage Brook Trout" populations are indigenous to this unique area and a Species in Greatest Conservation Need. Yet their long-term persistence is far from secured.

Small populations of Heritage Brook Trout persist in perhaps 20% of Southeast trout streams, and are abundant in just 17 streams. These face growing challenges from land conversion, parcelization, intensified agricultural practices, poor land management and an increasingly wet and warm climate. Recent DNR research suggests that consistent baseflow from groundwater springs can provide a level of resilience to these coldwater systems. Coldwater streams with ample spring baseflow may provide a climate refugia for brook trout and other coldwater species.

Minnesota Trout Unlimited and DNR Fisheries have made significant investments in restoration and enhancement of in-stream habitat in Southeast Minnesota. Protecting the health of the surrounding watersheds will be critical to maintaining these coldwater streams and gaining the maximum benefit from in-stream improvements. Improved riparian habitat and connectivity are key factors in stream quality; they also provide important corridors for terrestrial wildlife, connecting large habitat cores.

Program partners Minnesota Trout Unlimited, Minnesota Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and Trust for Public Land used several resilience factors to identify 12 watersheds where conservation of robust populations of Heritage Brook Trout is most achievable. Partners will harness their collective expertise in land protection and terrestrial and in-stream habitat restoration/enhancement to increase the resiliency of these coldwater systems and their Heritage Brook Trout. Partner Trust for Public Land will not be participating in this proposal.

While restoring in-stream habitat has improved stream bank and aquatic habitat in many coldwater reaches, little work has been done restoring broader floodplain areas surrounding DNR easement corridors. Restoring floodplain forests, wet prairies and wetlands provides significant benefits to stream health and corridors provide habitat connectivity.

Because of the Driftless Area's rugged terrain, the vast majority of its natural communities occupy steep slopes that play an important role in the region's hydrology. Protecting through targeted fee and easement acquisition and improving the condition of these forests and prairies through restoration and enhancement will improve their ability to slow runoff and increase infiltration. This will reduce sediment and nutrient delivery to streams and improve the hydrology of the watershed by reducing peak flows and increasing baseflows, while also improving plant diversity and habitat for wildlife in one of the most biologically diverse parts of Minnesota. Restoring habitat along the upper edges of steep forested slopes will help buffer the natural communities, while significantly slowing the formation and spread of gullies that deliver large amounts of sediment and nutrient runoff directly to streams.

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

This proposal focuses principally on the protection and restoration/enhancement of priority coldwater stream systems through a watershed approach. Though with a focus on Heritage Brook Trout populations, this work will also benefit a large number of associated coldwater stream species.

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. In-stream restoration of coldwater streams will amplify the conditions necessary to support Heritage Brook Trout and other coldwater species.

Watersheds selected as priorities for this work contain significant high-quality examples of native plant communities ranging from oak savanna and bluff prairie to maple-basswood and white pine-oak/maple forests, and oak-hickory woodlands. 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. Protection and restoration efforts will create and build off of existing complexes of protected lands and habitat blocks.

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

After being nearly wiped out by catastrophic flooding and sedimentation in the early 20th century, Southeast Minnesota's coldwater stream communities have made an impressive recovery. This recovery, made possible in large part by widespread conservation practices following the dust bowl era, demonstrates that ecological restoration is possible, but also a long and slow process. It is also threatened by new challenges facing Driftless Area streams. Warmer climates will place increased importance on groundwater sources of cool water during summer. Agricultural intensification and expansion are growing stressors of watershed health. Fragmentation and parcelization of upland habitat reduce the ability to manage natural communities. From 2008 to 2012, Southeast MN experienced significant loss of perennial cover. Protecting key habitat, and the ecosystem services it provides, is essential to preserving the success of Southeast Minnesota's trout fishery and coldwater communities.

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

Minnesota DNR's Watershed Health Assessment Framework (WHAF) provides health scores for watersheds across the state at a catchment level based on multiple metrics. We used a subset of those metrics to identify watersheds containing coldwater trout streams that will be most resilient to changing conditions. Features we considered most important for coldwater stream resilience include aquatic and riparian connectivity, density of known springs, high proportions of perennial cover, hydrological factors (such as high perennial cover and minimal wetland loss and impervious cover), and the quality of the current aquatic biotic community (IBI scores). We also emphasized watersheds of streams that support "Heritage Brook Trout" populations - genetic strains that are native to the region and pre-date modern stocking efforts.

Based on those criteria, we selected watersheds that contained the highest scoring catchments. Expanding the project areas to the larger watersheds includes upstream catchments that may not score as highly, but where conservation will benefit resilient areas downstream. Within these priority watersheds, individual projects will focus on landscape features that have maximum impact on water quality and hydrology. These include riparian areas, floodplains, wetlands, steep slopes and highly erodible areas, and transition zones from upland agricultural areas to the steeper, often forested, slopes of bluffs. This focus will direct our work towards the land most critical for watershed health while minimizing impact on the most productive cropland.

Streams and floodplains are natural corridors for wildlife and plant movement or dispersal. The selected watersheds contain areas of biodiversity significance identified by the MN County Biological Survey and corridors that score highly on the Wildlife Action Network. Protection, restoration, and enhancement in these watersheds will expand and connect existing public land areas and stream easements held by MN DNR Department of Fisheries to develop and strengthen corridors and complexes of habitat. This will provide multiple benefits for the game and non-game wildlife of these areas while protecting watershed health.

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

Driftless Area Restoration Effort

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.

The existence of heritage populations of brook trout, a species once thought extirpated from Southeast MN before restocking efforts, shows the inherent resilience in these systems. Protecting and restoring habitat in the streams and connected watersheds will protect that resilience by maintaining the ecological processes that moderate flooding, trap sediment, and most critically, maintain the cold water temperatures optimal for brook trout.

The watershed approach this proposal adopts also promotes resilience by focusing management efforts on connected habitat complexes and corridors withing those watersheds. Streams and riparian habitat are natural corridors for plants and wildlife as well as aquatic organisms, and improving the ecological condition of stream corridors also improves the overall connectivity, and therefore resilience, of the landscape.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Southeast Forest

Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

Outcomes

Programs in southeast forest region:

Stream to bluff habitat restoration and enhancement will keep water on the land to slow runoff and degradation of aquatic habitat ~ *Conservation easement (MLT) - acres and shoreline protected. Restoration and enhancement (TNC and MNTU) - acres restored/enhanced; instream feet restored.*

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

Funding procured by MLT, MNTU, or TNC through the Outdoor Heritage Fund via this proposal will not supplant or substitute any previous funding from a non-Legacy fund used for the same purpose associated with any of the recipient organizations.

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

TNC – Restoration and enhancement work will occur primarily on state land. Activities will be closely coordinated with DNR partners to ensure the projects completed will fit within their overall management plans and strategies. The goal of all restoration and enhancement projects will be to return a community to a condition where typical maintenance-level management will be sufficient to keep it healthy.

MLT - The land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through the state-of-the-art 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.

MNTU - Construction contracts will include maintenance/warranty provisions to ensure habitat work is well established. Afterwards no significant maintenance is usually required to sustain the habitat outcomes for decades.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
One year after grant ends	MNTU volunteers or part of regular agency visits	In-stream enhancements: inspect structural elements and vegetation	In-stream enhancements: If needed, alert DNR and develop actions needed.	In-stream enhancements: Conduct maintenance with volunteers and/or contractors if DNR does not.
2029 and annually in perpetuity	MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of easements	Enforcement as necessary	-
Every 3 years thereafter	MNTU volunteers and/or agency.	In-stream enhancements: Inpsect structural elements and vegetation.	In-stream enhancements: If needed, develop action plan with DNR.	In-stream enhancements: Perform or assist DNR with maintenance if needed.

Every 4-6 Years	Game and Fish Fund	Prescribed Fire where appropriate	-	-
Every 4-6 Years	Game and Fish Fund; TNC staff as available	Survey for invasive species and overall plan community development	Control invasive species as necessary	-

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

Fish have long been important food sources for cultures and communities around the globe, and that is reflected in the diversity of Minnesotans that enjoy fishing for both food and recreation today. Fishing the small brook trout streams of Southeast Minnesota is especially accessible to beginners, as well as Minnesotans from low- and moderate-income households because it doesn't require a boat or expensive waders. Most streams can be fished from shore or with mud boots. Since southeast MN has no natural lakes, anglers of all economic and cultural backgrounds focus angling on the region's productive trout streams. This program will help those streams remain healthy and productive with populations of the original trout native to this region.

Minnesota Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and Minnesota Land Trust all hold a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice as a core organizational value. Examples of that commitment include, but are not limited to, 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. We are committed to seeking more ways to support diverse human communities as we continue preserving the biological diversity of Minnesota.

Activity Details

Requirements

If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?
Yes

Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) free of any other permanent protection?
Yes

Who will manage the easement?
MLT will manage the easements.

Who will be the easement holder?
MLT will be the easement holder.

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
MLT expects to complete 3-5 easements with 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

Public Waters

State Forests

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
Yes

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted best practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example, short-term use of soybeans could be used for restorations in order to control weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank; however, neonicotinoids will not be used.

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

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.

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 Land Trust'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.

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 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:
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.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Complete restoration and enhancement projects	June 2028
Complete easement protection projects	June 2028
Initiate protection and restoration projects	July 2024

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	$320,000	-	-	$320,000
Contracts	$451,000	$39,000	-, USFWS	$490,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$930,000	$140,000	-, Landowners	$1,070,000
Easement Stewardship	$168,000	-	-	$168,000
Travel	$46,000	-	-	$46,000
Professional Services	$340,000	-	-	$340,000
Direct Support Services	$108,000	-	-	$108,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
Supplies/Materials	$122,000	$39,000	-, USFWS	$161,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,486,000**	**$218,000**	**-**	**$2,704,000**

Partner: MLT

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$160,000	-	-	$160,000
Contracts	$35,000	-	-	$35,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$930,000	$140,000	Landowners	$1,070,000
Easement Stewardship	$168,000	-	-	$168,000
Travel	$10,000	-	-	$10,000
Professional Services	$125,000	-	-	$125,000
Direct Support Services	$44,000	-	-	$44,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
Supplies/Materials	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,474,000**	**$140,000**	**-**	**$1,614,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Land Protection Staff	0.44	4.0	$160,000	-	-	$160,000

Partner: MTU

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Contracts	$244,000	$39,000	USFWS	$283,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
Professional Services	$215,000	-	-	$215,000
Direct Support Services	$36,000	-	-	$36,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$51,000	$39,000	USFWS	$90,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$612,000**	**$78,000**	**-**	**$690,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MNTU/TU Enhancement Staff	0.3	5.0	$60,000	-	-	$60,000

Partner: TNC

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$100,000	-	-	$100,000
Contracts	$172,000	-	-	$172,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$28,000	-	-	$28,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$70,000	-	-	$70,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$400,000**	**-**	**-**	**$400,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TNC Project Management Staff	0.4	3.0	$100,000	-	-	$100,000

Amount of Request: $2,486,000
Amount of Leverage: $218,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 8.77%
DSS + Personnel: $428,000
As a % of the total request: 17.22%
Easement Stewardship: $168,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 18.06%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The Partnership received 46% of funding proposed. Funding was allocated disproportionately among the partners based on need: MNTU (38%), TNC (67%), MLT (46%). Outputs for land protection and restoration/enhancement were each reduced 46% across the Partnership.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
MLT - Expected landowner donation of easement value
MNTU - Internal DSS contributions (confirmed); We hope to secure EQIP and USFWS funds.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) more than proportionately. Some costs related to program development and oversight remain constant regardless of appropriation amount. The costs of many professional services related to land protection also do not scale proportionately, forcing a larger reduction in acres/activities.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well. However, not exactly proportionately as program development and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
MLT: Habitat management plans, landowner outreach, and project management.
TNC: Dedicated to enhancement and restoration work. Typical contractors include private vendors and Conservation Corps of MN/IA.
MNTU: Enhancement services, including construction services and small-scale contracted field work (e.g., vegetation management) by private vendors and Conservation Corps MN/IA.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Design/Engineering

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

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 3-5 conservation easement projects. The average cost per easement to perpetually fund the Minnesota Land Trust's long-term monitoring and enforcement obligations is $28,000; in extreme circumstances, a larger amount may be sought. This figure has been determined by using a detailed stewardship funding cost analysis which is the industry standard according to the Land Trust Accreditation process. The Land Trust shares periodic updates with the Council whenever adjustments are warranted.

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 often rents vehicles for grant-related work in Southeast Minnesota.

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 will apply this DNR approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of the direct support services.
TNC - DSS is based on TNC's Federally Negotiated Rate (FNR) as proposed and subsequently 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 last year's hearings. The portion of the approved rate unrecovered through the life of the grant is offered as leverage.
MNTU - The DSS requested represents a portion of TU's federal rate, which is approved annually. The requested amount likely represents one-half of what we would be eligible to claim based upon past DNR approval. TU is donating the other portion.

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	-	5	5	5	15
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	535	535
Enhance	-	-	-	80	80
Total	**-**	**5**	**5**	**620**	**630**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	$10,000	$10,000	$200,000	$220,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$1,474,000	$1,474,000
Enhance	-	-	-	$792,000	$792,000
Total	**-**	**$10,000**	**$10,000**	**$2,466,000**	**$2,486,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	15	-	-	15
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	535	-	-	535
Enhance	-	-	80	-	-	80
Total	**-**	**-**	**630**	**-**	**-**	**630**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	$220,000	-	-	$220,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	$1,474,000	-	-	$1,474,000
Enhance	-	-	$792,000	-	-	$792,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**$2,486,000**	**-**	**-**	**$2,486,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	$2,000	$2,000	$40,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$2,755
Enhance	-	-	-	$9,900

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	$14,666	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	$2,755	-	-
Enhance	-	-	$9,900	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

3

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
Yes - Sign up criteria is attached

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
MLT - The Land Trust uses a competitive, market-based approach via RFP to identify and prioritize parcels for easement acquisition. All proposals are evaluated and ranked relative to their ecological significance on three primary factors: 1) size of habitat; 2) condition of habitat; and 3) the context (amount/quality of remaining habitat and protected areas) within which the parcel lies. We encourage landowners to contribute easement value to the program (see attached sign-up criteria). Restoration and enhancement work will take place on private lands over which MLT has secured permanent conservation easements.

TNC - Restoration and Enhancement parcels will be selected based on expected benefit to watershed health and hydrology. Riparian and floodplain areas and gullies will be the top priority, followed by projects that slow water at the top of bluffs, preventing gully formation and encouraging infiltration of runoff.

MNTU - MNTU focuses habitat enhancement efforts in watersheds likely to support viable, fishable populations of Heritage Brook Trout for decades into the future. Work is done only where degraded habitat is a limiting factor for the fishery. Priority locations are determined through consultations with MNDNR professionals, surveys, and conservation planning efforts. Specific segments are selected based on the greatest sustained benefits to the overall fishery.

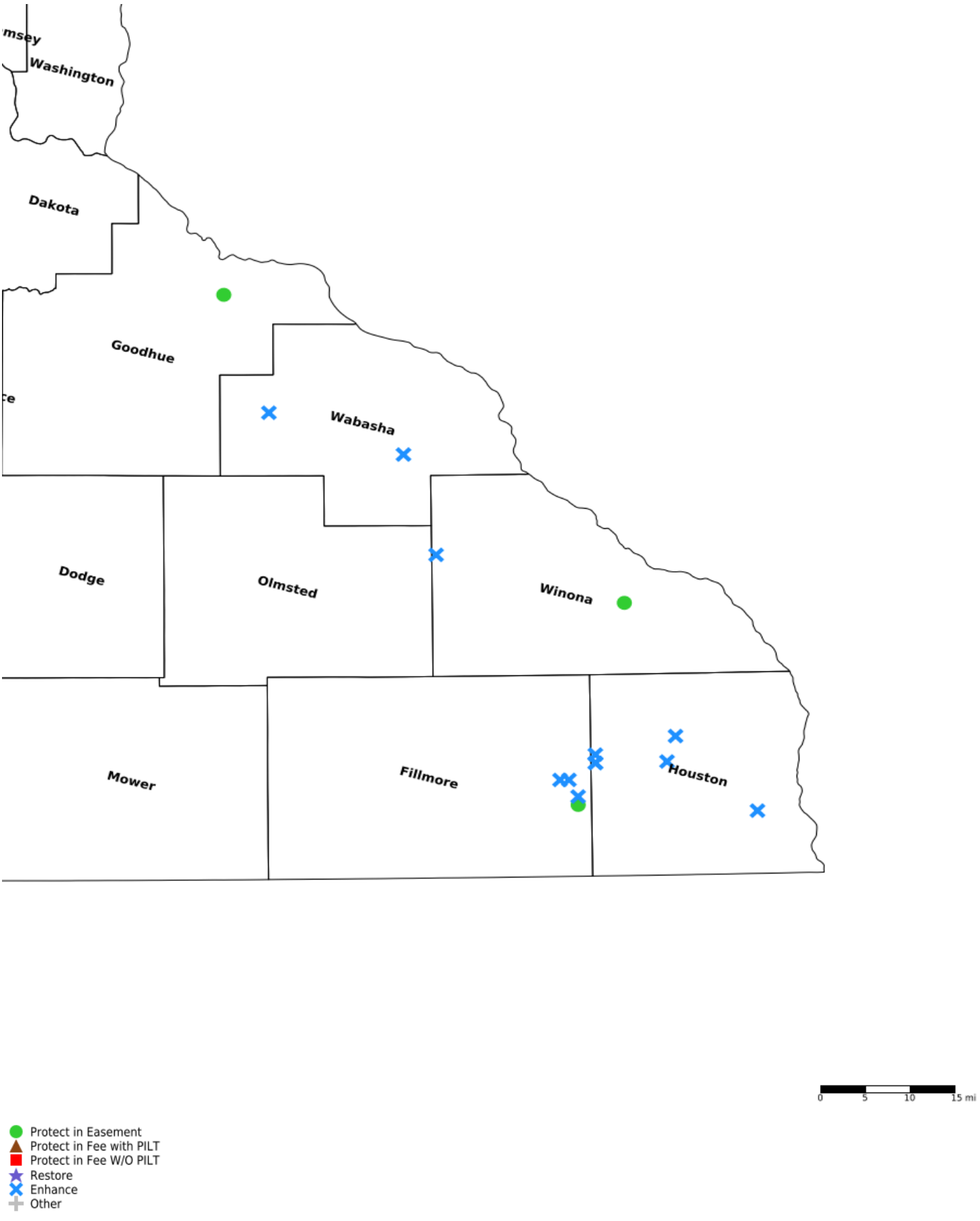
Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
MNTU - Maple Creek	Fillmore	10208204	0	$0	Yes	Enhance habitat for heritage brook trout
MNTU - Maple Creek	Fillmore	10208203	0	$0	Yes	Enhance habitat for heritage brook trout
TNC - Vesta Creek	Fillmore	10208214	20	$20,000	Yes	Enhancement of floodplain and bluff habitat
MNTU - Crooked Creek watershed in-stream habitat (multiple sites)	Houston	10204230	5	$400,000	Yes	Enhance habitat for heritage brook trout
MNTU - Girl Scout Camp Creek	Houston	10307219	0	$0	Yes	Enhance habitat for heritage brook trout
MNTU - Swede Bottom Creek	Houston	10306210	5	$384,000	Yes	Enhance habitat for Heritage Brook Trout along section fed by springs.
MNTU Girl Scout Camp Creek	Houston	10307230	0	$0	Yes	Enhance habitat for heritage brook trout
TNC - Badger Creek	Houston	10306228	20	$20,000	Yes	Enhancement of floodplain and bluff habitat
TNC - Yucatan WMA	Houston	10307230	30	$25,000	Yes	Enhancement of floodplain and bluff habitat
MNTU - Cold Spring Brook	Wabasha	11014225	0	$0	Yes	Enhance habitat for heritage brook trout
TNC - West Indian Creek	Wabasha	10911221	20	$25,000	Yes	Enhancement of floodplain habitat
TNC - Middle Fork Whitewater	Winona	10710219	15	$20,000	Yes	Enhancement of floodplain and bluff habitat

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
MLT - Vesta Creek	Fillmore	10208223	45	$0	No
MLT - Hay Creek	Goodhue	11214218	100	$150,000	No
Burns Valley	Winona	10607222	137	$205,500	No

Parcel Map


msey
Washington
Dakota
Goodhue
Wabasha
Dodge
Olmsted
Winona
Mower
Fillmore
Houston
0
5
10
15 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other