



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 12 Laws of Minnesota 2024 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 04/03/2025

Project Title: Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 12

Funds Recommended: \$3,052,000

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

Appropriation Language: \$3,052,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire lands in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on public lands and permanent conservation easements in southeast Minnesota as follows: \$970,000 to The Nature Conservancy, \$964,000 to Trust for Public Land, and \$1,118,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to \$112,000 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

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Title: Conservation Program Manager

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

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Location Information

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

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 434 acres using conservation easement and fee land acquisition, and restore and enhance approximately 455 acres of declining habitat for important wildlife species. Work 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 (SGCN) 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 9,245 acres of priority lands and 42 stream and river miles, and has restored/enhanced 5,875 acres of habitat.

This 12th Phase of our Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Program continues this body of work:

1. Conservation Easements. MLT will protect 269 acres of high-quality private land through conservation easements. 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 165 acres of forest, prairie, and other habitat and 1.5 miles of coldwater trout stream is planned.

3. **Restoration and Enhancement.** TNC will use a stewardship crew and contractors to restore/enhance approximately 400 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. MLT will enhance 55 acres of high-quality habitat, both on public lands as well as on private lands protected through conservation easements in prior phases of this program.

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

Working in the biodiversity hotspot of Minnesota, our goal is to expand and improve connected complexes of habitat that support the full diversity of plants, wildlife, and fish in Minnesota's Driftless Area. We target areas of biodiversity significance identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), and protect and restore connected habitat to give SGCN species new opportunities to expand, migrate, and adapt to changing conditions.

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.

This program has benefited habitat for over 311 documented occurrences of some 110 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.

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

Habitat fragmentation caused by the continued growth from Rochester and demand for rural residential housing and cropland continues to be a threat. This program has generated several large protection and restoration projects that are increasingly rare in the region. When larger landholdings come available, it's crucial to move fast to protect them. Protecting large parcels while expanding existing protected areas helps improve the efficiency and effectiveness of ecological management and ensures the long-term viability of the ecosystem.

Invasive species threaten many of the high-quality habitat complexes in the region. Active management is needed to maintain native plant communities. Likewise, the lack of fire on bluff prairies and oak savannas within larger fire dependent habitat threatens the long-term ecosystem viability. Delaying action in those habitats by even a couple years can make future management more difficult and costly.

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

A number of conservation plans covering Southeast MN have identified habitat corridors and complexes with high biodiversity significance and potential to expand areas of protected land. These include watershed-based Landscape Stewardship Plans and DNR's Wildlife Action Network along with the Conservation Focus Areas in the Root River and Whitewater watersheds. Our work will focus on these areas, working towards a long-term vision of high-quality protected habitat complexes within larger connected corridors. Protection projects will prioritize parcels that are either 1) connected to existing protected lands, or 2) are of significant standalone size and have potential for future expansion. These two criteria directly address expanding habitat complexes and protecting large parcels from parcellization and fragmentation. Restoration projects return habitat to fill in gaps within these corridors, increasing landscape connectivity. Enhancement work will focus on improving habitat within the core complexes to the highest quality.

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.

As described in a recent paper by Anderson, et. al. (2023), TNC has mapped a nationwide network of habitat corridors and complexes with increased resilience to climate change. The priority areas for this proposal are all within resilient and connected complexes identified in this analysis. Our partnership targets those lands for protection and restoration that provide the best opportunities for maintaining biodiversity and increasing connectivity which are the foundation of a resilient landscape. Protection of larger, connected habitat blocks support the ability of wildlife to move and adapt to stressors, including those accelerated by a changing climate. Enhancement projects maintain that resilience by controlling ecosystem stressors like invasive species and supporting the variety of habitats that drive the biodiversity of the region.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Southeast Forest

Protect forest habitat through acquisition in fee or easement to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties

Outcomes

Programs in southeast forest region:

Large corridors and complexes of biologically diverse wildlife habitat typical of the unglaciated region are restored and protected ~ *We will track the acres of priority parcels protected within the Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) identified as priorities in regional planning. Success within each COA will be determined based on the percentage of area protected, restored and/or enhanced.*

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.

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
2023 and perpetually	MLT Easement Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring in perpetuity	Enforcement as necessary	-
Every 4-6 years	Game and Fish Fund	prescribed fire	-	-
Every 4-6 years	US Fish and Wildlife Service	prescribed fire	-	-

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

This program focuses on protecting and restoring habitat critical to biodiversity in the most biologically diverse region of Minnesota. While that primary goal does not directly engage specific human communities, 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.

Our program also works to increase public access to opportunities for recreation. Outdoor recreation provides benefits to all people, from the physical, mental, and spiritual health rewards of being in nature to the social benefits of family and group recreation. In Southeast Minnesota, the rising price of land is quickly turning access to natural spaces into a luxury good. With less than 5 percent of the land protected, opening new opportunities for public access to the outdoors helps make sure economic status never becomes a barrier to enjoying the wealth of nature available in the Driftless Area. The opportunities public land provides are especially important to members of indigenous communities who were displaced from the land and other historically marginalized or disadvantaged communities who have had fewer opportunities to access or acquire it. Indeed, public land in Southeast Minnesota is used heavily by members of BIPOC communities who lack places to hunt, fish, or hike closer to home.

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 Minnesotan living within a city; 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 close the outdoor access gap and 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

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

Who will be the easement holder?

Minnesota Land Trust

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

Minnesota Land Trust anticipates accomplishing approximately 2-3 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

County/Municipal

Public Waters

State Forests

Other : TNC Preserve acquired with Outdoor Heritage Funds

Land Use

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

Yes

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:

Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted best practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example, short-term use of soybeans could be used for restorations in order to control weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank, however neonicotinoids will not be used.

MLT - The purpose of the Minnesota Land Trust's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. As such, we restrict any agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases in which there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either carve the agricultural area out of the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to carve those areas out. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement.

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:

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?

The Nature Conservancy expects to use this appropriation to supplement other phases of the program in accomplishing one to two acquisitions. Trust for Public Land expect to accomplish 1-2 acquisitions with 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?

Landowners with easements may continue to use private trails on their property.

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

Some restoration and enhancement work on fee acquisitions may continue beyond this proposal's funding and availability. In these cases, additional restoration will be funded by a combination of future OHF proposals, other grants, or DNR funding.

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:

Restoration expenses include program development activities in addition to restoration construction expenses. MLT restoration personnel will conduct outreach with easement landowners to evaluate, scope, design and schedule additional restoration projects. These activities will improve the project selection, cost-estimates and outcomes for future OHF funding requests. Some restoration and enhancement work on fee acquisitions may continue beyond this proposal's funding and availability. In these cases, additional restoration will be funded by a combination of future OHF proposals, other grants, or DNR funding.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Easement acquisition	June 30, 2028
Restoration/Enhancement on parcels protected without grant	June 30, 2029
Acquisition of fee land	June 30, 2028
Restoration/Enhancement on parcels protected with grant	June 30, 2033
Purchase agreements or options on acquisition of fee land	June 30, 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2029

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	\$618,000	-	-	\$618,000
Contracts	\$368,000	-	-	\$368,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,014,200	-	-	\$1,014,200
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$490,000	\$49,000	Landowners	\$539,000
Easement Stewardship	\$112,000	-	-	\$112,000
Travel	\$39,000	\$2,300	-, Private	\$41,300
Professional Services	\$158,000	-	-	\$158,000
Direct Support Services	\$130,800	\$22,800	Private	\$153,600
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	\$120,000	-	-	\$120,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$3,052,000	\$74,100	-	\$3,126,100

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$200,000	-	-	\$200,000
Contracts	\$148,000	-	-	\$148,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$490,000	\$49,000	Landowners	\$539,000
Easement Stewardship	\$112,000	-	-	\$112,000
Travel	\$14,000	-	-	\$14,000
Professional Services	\$78,000	-	-	\$78,000
Direct Support Services	\$54,000	-	-	\$54,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,118,000	\$49,000	-	\$1,167,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Land Protection Staff	0.25	4.0	\$100,000	-	-	\$100,000
MLT Restoration Staff	0.25	4.0	\$100,000	-	-	\$100,000

Partner: Trust for Public Land**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$77,000	-	-	\$77,000
Contracts	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$814,200	-	-	\$814,200
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	\$2,300	Private	\$2,300
Professional Services	\$30,000	-	-	\$30,000
Direct Support Services	\$22,800	\$22,800	Private	\$45,600
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$964,000	\$25,100	-	\$989,100

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection and Legal Staff	0.15	3.0	\$77,000	-	-	\$77,000

Partner: The Nature Conservancy**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$341,000	-	-	\$341,000
Contracts	\$200,000	-	-	\$200,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$200,000	-	-	\$200,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Professional Services	\$50,000	-	-	\$50,000
Direct Support Services	\$54,000	-	-	\$54,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$100,000	-	-	\$100,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$970,000	-	-	\$970,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TNC Project Management, Protection, and Grant Admin	0.6	3.0	\$133,000	-	-	\$133,000
TNC Restoration/Enhancement Crew	1.67	2.0	\$208,000	-	-	\$208,000

Amount of Request: \$3,052,000**Amount of Leverage:** \$74,100**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 2.43%**DSS + Personnel:** \$748,800**As a % of the total request:** 24.53%**Easement Stewardship:** \$112,000**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 22.86%**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?**

The Partnership received 26% of its proposed funding. Within the Partnership, funds were allocated accordingly: TNC (27%), TPL (28%), MLT (25%). Outputs were reduced as follows: Fee Protection (21%); Easement Protection (23%), R/E (22%). TNC reduced its Habitat Management crew from 3 to 2 years.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:

TPL will leverage privately sourced funds to cover direct support services (DSS) costs not reimbursed.

TPL has leveraged private funds for travel.

MLT encourages landowners to donate value as a participant in the program. This leverage (\$49,000) is a conservative estimate of expected landowner contribution.

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?

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 three purposes: to complete habitat management plans on new easement acquisitions; for restoration projects; and partnering with SWCDs on outreach.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Environmental Assessments

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?

Trust for Public Land expects to accomplish one to two acquisition with this appropriation. The Nature Conservancy expects to use the Fee Acquisition budget from this appropriation to supplement funding from other OHF appropriations on one to two fee title acquisitions.

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 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 stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is the industry standard according to the Land Trust Accreditation process. Periodic updates to this cost analysis are provided to 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

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 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	-	25	25	-	50
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	10	25	130	165
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	269	269
Enhance	-	200	150	55	405
Total	-	235	200	454	889

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	10
Total	10

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$50,000	\$50,000	-	\$100,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	\$129,000	\$140,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,269,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$840,000	\$840,000
Enhance	-	\$335,000	\$230,000	\$278,000	\$843,000
Total	-	\$514,000	\$420,000	\$2,118,000	\$3,052,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	50	-	-	50
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	165	-	-	165
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	269	-	-	269
Enhance	-	-	405	-	-	405
Total	-	-	889	-	-	889

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	\$100,000	-	-	\$100,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$1,269,000	-	-	\$1,269,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$840,000	-	-	\$840,000
Enhance	-	-	\$843,000	-	-	\$843,000
Total	-	-	\$3,052,000	-	-	\$3,052,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	\$2,000	\$2,000	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	\$12,900	\$5,600	\$7,692
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$3,122
Enhance	-	\$1,675	\$1,533	\$5,054

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	\$2,000	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$7,690	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$3,122	-	-
Enhance	-	-	\$2,081	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

1.5

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:

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 existing protected lands
- 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	Description
7 Springs Woods	Fillmore	10212216	60	\$35,000	Yes	Invasive species control in mesic hardwoods
7 Springs pasture	Fillmore	10212221	10	\$15,000	Yes	Tree planting and grass community enhancement in floodplain
Choice Root River Floodplain	Fillmore	10208201	35	\$15,000	Yes	Enhance floodplain forest riparian habitat, plant trees
Eagle Bluff Forest	Fillmore	10310202	50	\$30,000	Yes	Invasive species control and TSI in mesic and fire dependent forests
Gribben Creek	Fillmore	10309216	11	\$22,000	Yes	Enhance riparian and floodplain forest habitat, direct seeding, tree planting
Rush Creek Woods bluffs	Fillmore	10408212	20	\$15,000	Yes	Control of encroaching brush on bluff prairies and prescribed fire
Schueler WMA bluffs	Fillmore	10408203	25	\$15,000	Yes	Control of encroaching brush on bluff prairies and prescribed fire
Schueler WMA pasture resto	Fillmore	10408203	30	\$30,000	Yes	Restoration of native prairie in cool season grass dominated pastures
Ferndale Bluffs	Houston	10407232	40	\$50,000	Yes	Enhance prairie, savanna, and hardwood forest habitat, Rx grazing, invasive species removal, seeding
Storer Valley Creek	Houston	10406213	62	\$130,000	Yes	Conversion of degraded grazing lands to prairie
Vinegar Ridge Bluffs	Houston	10407227	100	\$70,000	Yes	Bluff prairie enhancement with prescribed goat grazing for 3 years

Wet Bark Bluffs	Houston	10307214	65	\$70,000	Yes	Bluff prairie enhancement with prescribed goat grazing for 3 years
Wetbark Direct Seeding	Houston	10407213	40	\$40,000	Yes	Direct seeding of hardwood forest nuts for reforestation
Yucatan Bluffs	Houston	10307230	77	\$46,200	Yes	Enhance prairie, savanna, and hardwood forest habitat, Rx grazing, invasive species removal, seeding
Lloyd's Prairie	Olmsted	10711204	80	\$102,200	Yes	Prairie restoration and oak woodland enhancement
Moon Valley Prairie	Olmsted	10715204	100	\$100,000	Yes	Prairie and wetland restoration
East Indian Creek (Schad)	Wabasha	10910231	28	\$35,000	Yes	Ag fields restored to prairie
McCarthy Lake Prairie	Wabasha	10910201	35	\$20,000	Yes	Brush and invasive species control in mesic prairies
Snake Creek Seeding	Wabasha	10912215	70	\$70,000	Yes	Direct seeding of hardwood forest nuts for reforestation
Zumbro Woods	Wabasha	11011221	60	\$35,000	Yes	Invasive species control and TSI in mesic and fire dependent forests
Billy Goat Extension	Winona	10710208	43	\$75,000	Yes	Oak woodland enhancement via woody removal
Drainage District Bluff	Winona	10808233	20	\$30,000	Yes	Removal of encroaching brush on bluff prairies
Whitewater Bluffs	Winona	10810223	60	\$80,000	Yes	Prescribed fire and brush treatment on bluff prairies
Whitewater Forest	Winona	10810214	80	\$50,000	Yes	Invasive species control in mesic hardwoods and fire dependent forests
Wiscoy Valley	Winona	10507232	67	\$270,000	Yes	Buckthorn removal in oak woodlands

Fee Parcels

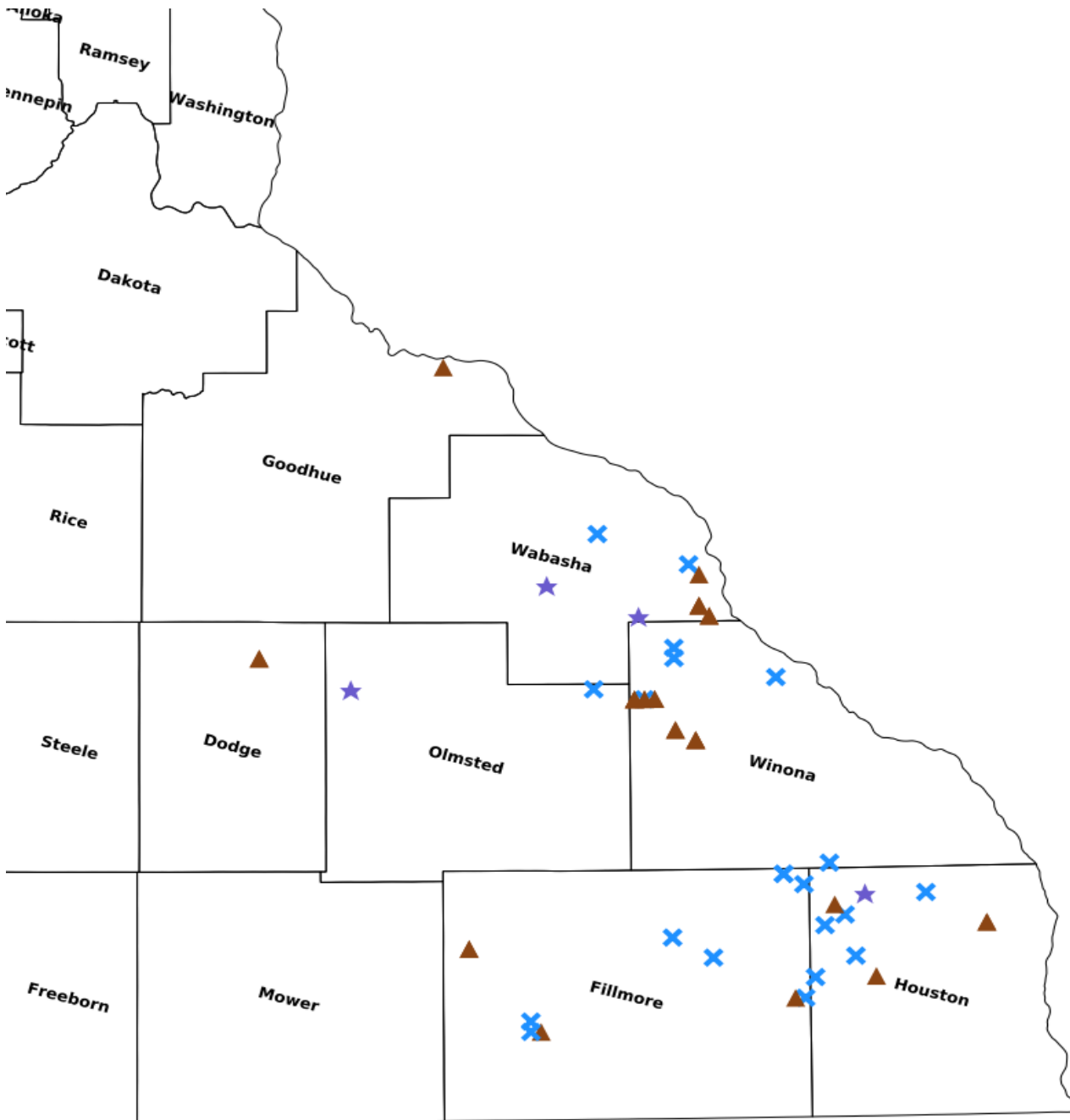
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Middle Fork Zumbro River SNA	Dodge	10817224	175	\$787,500	No
Middle Fort Zumbro River SNA	Dodge	10817224	175	\$787,500	No
Batcave (Bear Creek)	Fillmore	10313209	600	\$1,800,000	No
Batcave (Bear Creek)	Fillmore	10313209	600	\$1,800,000	No
Forestville 2	Fillmore	10212222	130	\$455,000	No
Wacouta Bay	Goodhue	11314236	449	\$6,400,000	No
Root River WMA	Houston	10405236	37	\$135,000	No
Root River WMA	Houston	10405236	37	\$135,000	No
Wet Bark 3	Houston	10306230	325	\$1,137,500	No
McCarthy Lake 2	Wabasha	10909207	100	\$450,000	No
Whitewater WMA Main	Wabasha	10909230	50	\$252,000	No
Whitewater WMA Main	Wabasha	10909230	50	\$252,000	No
Whitewater WMA Main	Wabasha	10909230	50	\$252,000	No
Whitewater WMA Main II	Wabasha	10909232	210	\$486,000	No
Whitewater WMA Main II	Wabasha	10909232	210	\$486,000	No
Whitewater WMA Main III	Winona	10710209	54	\$277,900	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 North I	Winona	10710207	41	\$259,000	No
Whitewater WMA North II	Winona	10710208	86	\$624,900	No

Whitewater WMA North II	Winona	10710208	86	\$624,900	No
Whitewater WMA South	Winona	10709231	430	\$2,300,000	No
Whitewater WMA South	Winona	10709231	430	\$2,300,000	No
Whitewater WMA South	Winona	10709231	430	\$2,300,000	No
Whitewater WMA South II	Winona	10710226	543	\$1,884,000	No
Whitewater WMA South II	Winona	10710226	543	\$1,884,000	No

Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Choice WMA 7	Fillmore	10208202	570	\$2,000,000	No	2	-
Dorer State Forest - Vinegar Ridge Addition	Houston	10407221	363	\$2,500,000	No	5	\$0

Parcel Map



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