Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Metro Big Rivers Phase 14

Laws of Minnesota 2024 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 09/28/2026

Project Title: Metro Big Rivers Phase 14

Funds Recommended: $8,123,000

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

Appropriation Language: $8,123,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries within the metropolitan area as follows: $1,250,000 to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; $420,000 to Friends of the Mississippi River; $803,000 to Great River Greening; $2,750,000 to Trust for Public Land; and $2,900,000 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: Neal Feeken
Title: Executive Director
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Partners Contact

FMR: *No Contact Added*

GRG: *No Contact Added*

MLT: *No Contact Added*

MVT: *No Contact Added*

TPL: *No Contact Added*

Location Information

County Location(s): Sherburne, Carver, Washington, Isanti, Sibley, Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Chisago, Scott and Dakota.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Protect in Fee

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Metro Big Rivers Phase 14 will protect 350 acres in fee title and 191 acres in permanent conservation easement, restore 807 acres and enhance 493 acres of priority habitat in the big rivers corridors in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (1,841 acres total). Partners will leverage OHF grants at least 10% with partner funds, private donations, local government contributions, and landowner donations of easement value. Significant volunteer engagement will be invested in habitat enhancement activities. MBR projects benefit wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation (SGCN) and provide increased public access and nature connections for metro residents.

Design and Scope of Work

Metro Big Rivers Phase 14 will protect, restore and enhance prioritized wildlife habitat in the MUA, with an emphasis on the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers and tributaries. Metro Big Rivers' work benefits wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation (SGCN), improves water quality and in-stream food availability, increases wildlife-based recreational opportunities, and connects metro residents with nature.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) will enhance 216 acres to increase native plant diversity, improve pollinator and wildlife habitat, bolster water quality, and improve public access to natural spaces. Projects include invasive plant removal, seeding and planting native prairie species, mowing, spot-spraying, and prescribed burning. 147 acres of enhancement occur on native prairie.

- Hastings Sand Coulee SNA: Enhance 160 acres prairie
- Camp Cozy Park: Enhance 16 acres prairie

- River Oaks Park: Enhance 1 acre prairie and 1 acre forest
- Bailey Point Nature Preserve: Enhance 17 acres prairie
- Vermillion River Linear Park: Enhance 21 acres prairie

Great River Greening (GRG) will restore and enhance 114 acres of forest habitat. Projects include invasive tree removal, tree stand thinning, onsite biochar processing, planting and seeding native grass and wildflowers, planting climate-resilient large stock and bareroot tree and shrubs, understory management, herbicide application and spot-spraying, and prescribed burning. GRG will be implementing use of a mobile biochar system to process biomass, reduce offsite disposal, minimize environmental impacts of pile burning, and incorporate biochar onsite to promote healthier soil.

- Lake Ann Park phase 2: Enhance 60 acres forest
- Medina Lake Nature Preserve: Restore 14 acres forest
- Wood Lake Nature Center: Enhance 21 acres forest
- Floral Park: Restore 13 acres oak woodland
- Wayzata Nature Center: Enhance 6 acres wetland forest

Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will protect 191 acres through perpetual conservation easement and restore 110 acres of priority habitat on permanently-protected lands, including riparian lands, forests, wetlands and grasslands. Protection projects will be selected through a process that ranks proposals based on ecological significance and cost (criteria attached).

Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will protect through fee acquisition 250 acres of river frontage, floodplain forest, wetland and upland habitat to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Prospective lands are prioritized by the USFWS and will be restored/enhanced, then open for wildlife-based recreation.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will protect through fee acquisition 100 acres of priority wildlife habitat and restore/enhance 860 acres of prairie and forest habitat on a recently-acquired WMA complex. Prospective acquisition sites are prioritized in state, regional, and local natural resource plans. Lands will be managed by public partners and open for wildlife-based recreation.

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

Metro Big Rivers projects protect and improve habitats needed by wildlife species in greatest conservation need (SGCN) and other targeted species. Many of Minnesota's forest and grassland SGCNs are migratory. Improving habitat along and near the central flyway (the three big rivers) provides great benefits to all wildlife species, especially during critical migration periods.

Friends of the Mississippi River will conduct habitat enhancement at 5 sites located on or near the Mississippi River, within the Important Bird Area. This corridor provides critical habitat for neotropical migrant birds and numerous SGCN. FMR has been tracking breeding bird species at these sites, recording 11 SGCNs. The sites are also vital for many other species, especially native pollinators, and provide connectivity to other natural areas.

Great River Greening will also conduct significant habitat work on public conservation lands to improve habitat values for wildlife and SGCN, including birds using the Mississippi River migratory corridor and pollinators. Work will restore and enhance forest, woodlands, prairie, riverine, lakeshore, and wetland habitat at 5 conservation sites.

Minnesota Land Trust will target its protection and restoration/enhancement action to build high-quality habitat complexes that support SGCN and T&E species in the Metro area. Permanently-protected privately-owned lands will be prioritized to build the size of and connections between existing protected lands, enhancing the ability of these species to persist over the long term. Restoration and enhancement of habitat is proposed for lands already protected through easement.

Minnesota Valley Trust will acquire lands identified through the USFWS Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This plan prioritizes lands for high biodiversity, connectivity, and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN.

The Trust for Public Land will acquire lands in fee identified and prioritized in state, regional, and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity significance, connectivity to existing public lands, and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN. Acquisitions and subsequent habitat work increase breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, neo-tropical migrants, and non-migratory resident species, protect the diversity of native ecosystems, and improve connectivity and resilience.

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

The three major rivers, which converge in the Metro Urbanizing Area (MUA), are of significant importance to a myriad of migrating species and SGCN. Four intersecting issues create urgency for Metro Big Rivers Partnerships' work in the MUA -- 1) continued decline of many wildlife species, most notably birds and pollinators, 2) declining habitat these species need to rebound and thrive, 3) rising land values and development and 4) metro residents' need for nature nearby.

Protecting and enhancing habitat in the MUA is especially critical now, as land values and developments are both rising, placing renewed demand on lands throughout the area. Metro Big Rivers projects defend against rising land values (especially along lakes and rivers), add needed and significant wildlife habitat, improve connectivity and habitat values (especially for wildlife and SGCN) and increase much-needed public access to wildlife-based outdoor opportunities throughout the MUA, including hunting, fishing and wildlife observation.

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

Protection partners prioritize work through science-based processes led by the public entities that own or will own interest in the properties (e.g., MN DNR, USFWS). Plans followed include MBS, RESA, Metropolitan Conservation Corridors, Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan, and the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Actions are targeted toward building conservation corridors and priority habitat complexes.

In addition, the easement partner's competitive RFP process includes a second analysis of all proposed projects submitted by landowners for protection. This assessment evaluates the ecological significance of the proposed parcel, which includes the following three factors:

- Quantity – the size of habitat and/or length of shoreline associated with a parcel, and abundance of Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species
- Quality – the condition of the associated habitat and populations of SGCN and T&E species
- Landscape Context – the extent and condition of natural habitat surrounding the parcel, and the degree to which adjacent property has been protected (building complexes and connections between existing protected lands).

Restoration and enhancement partners use science-based criteria to prioritize activities. This includes

consideration of the highest quality natural areas (as determined by MBS), as well as prioritization of work within important ecological corridors identified by a coalition of conservation partners and based on rare species and sensitive landscape features. This prioritization ensures that projects reduce fragmentation and link natural areas within already-established corridors. All of the restoration and enhancement sites are located along or near the three big rivers and important tributaries - some of the most important ecological corridors for migrating and sedentary plant and animal life.

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.

The Metropolitan Urbanizing Area is expected to be impacted by climate change at a disproportional rate over other areas of Minnesota due to impacts stemming from the "heat island effect" and other factors. Metro Big Rivers partners use The Nature Conservancy's climate resiliency data layer (Anderson, et. al. 2023), to inform land protection, restoration and enhancement. We work in climate-resilient areas, prioritize lands that increase connectivity and build habitat complexes, and select vegetation for plantings taking into account current climate adaptation models. This approach provides the best opportunities to reverse the decline in biodiversity caused by habitat loss and degradation, maintain biodiversity over the long-term and provide high-quality natural areas that support the ability of wildlife to move and adapt to stressors, including those accelerated by a changing climate.

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)

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 ~ *Partners work together to identify priority lands using existing data and public plans, then coordinate protection, restoration and enhancement activities in those priority areas. Work builds upon prior phases and is intended to continue into the future for maximum impact. Mapping shows progress in connecting corridors. Species collections and counts measure impact of activities over time on wildlife and Species in Greatest Conservation Need.*

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 request is not supplanting or substituting for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

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

All public partners have committed to maintaining the restoration / enhancement habitat improvements.

All MBR restore/enhance (FMR, GRG, MLT, TPL) partners will raise public and private sources and work cooperatively with partners to ensure the project benefits are maintained.

Lands protected through easement by MLT will be sustained following best standards and practices. MLT is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, records management, addressing inquiries, tracking ownership changes, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. MLT provides habitat management plans to landowners and helps them access resources and technical expertise to undertake restoration, enhancement and ongoing management.

Lands acquired in fee title by MVT for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be sustained and maintained over the long-term by the USFWS. Habitat restoration / enhancement will be completed by MVT prior to transfer to the USFWS.

Lands acquired in fee title by TPL will be conveyed to the DNR or local units of government for permanent stewardship. Initial site development and restoration costs are included in this proposal. TPL will work with the steward to develop habitat plans.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Post-Acquisition, Ongoing	MVT, TPL, Public Partners	Post acquired property	Develop & implement habitat restoration and enhancement plans	Transfer property to public partner, steward
Ongoing	MLT Stewardship & Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of completed easements	Enforcement actions as necessary	-
Ongoing	FMR, GRG, MLT, TPL, Local Partners, Private Landowners	Monitoring and assessment of restoration and enhancement projects	Target actions, engage local partners and landowners	Take restorative action to correct any damage

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

Metro Big Rivers partners have a shared objective of providing all metro residents with high-quality natural spaces nearby. We believe everyone should be able to easily connect with nature, enjoy high-quality wildlife habitat and engage in wildlife-dependent recreation, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socio-economic status. Our projects benefit a diversity of communities in the MUA, from lower-income, densely populated neighborhoods to less-populated but urbanizing suburban/rural areas.

Examples of how MBR engages and benefits diverse communities include:

Friends of the Mississippi River and Great River Greening actively engage residents in habitat work in and near their neighborhoods through targeted outreach for volunteer events. Their youth programming targets young people from diverse backgrounds for exploring environmental careers. FMR's Environmental Stewards Institute (ESI) increases the number of underrepresented youth participating in environmental career pathway programs; at least 60% of participants identify as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color (BIPOC).

Metro residents can step off the light rail and into the wilderness on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to connect with nature and wildlife at no cost. The Refuge and Minnesota Valley Trust provide free busing for schools with a high percentage of low-income students and have a free lending program (e.g. snowshoes, fishing poles, field backpacks, binoculars). Their robust internship and apprenticeship program recruits a diversity of youth to explore the outdoors and conservation careers.

Minnesota Land Trust's commitment includes numerous projects to protect camps. Recent protection of Camp Katherine Parsons enables the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center to expand programming for North Minneapolis residents at the camp, while protecting high-quality habitat. MLT's "Ambassador Lands Program" connects conservation landowners with community groups that desire access to private land for programming purposes, such as youth mentor hunts, cultural or ceremonial use, conservation training and nature-based education.

The Trust for Public Land directly works with and empowers diverse communities to put a park, trail or natural area within a 10-minute walk of every Twin Cities resident. TPL has helped create natural areas such as the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Frogtown Park and Farm, Midway Peace Park and Pilot Knob.

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:**
> Local units of government will be notified of pending fee title acquisitions, as required by law.

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?
4 - 8

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?

SNA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

County/Municipal

WMA

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:
Easement Acquisition:

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.

Restoration/Enhancement:

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.

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:
Lands acquired for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be open for public hunting and fishing according to the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act. The lands will be opened through a public process prescribed by the Act. We anticipate hunting and fishing opportunities will be like those already established for lands previously acquired for the Refuge. For specific information, refer to the Refuge's website - https://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota-valley/visit-us/activities/hunting

Lands acquired by The Trust for Public Land will be open for fishing and hunting.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Federal

Local Unit of Government

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

National Wildlife Refuge

SNA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
2-4

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:
We are not aware of any trails or roads at this time, although some parcels acquired in fee title may have existing field roads or low maintenance trails. Properties identified and prioritized for protection through conservation easements often have trails and roads on them; private landowners typically will be allowed to use those trails/roads 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?
Trails and roads on eased lands are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of MLT's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads or trails in line with the easement terms will be the responsibility of the landowner.

Any pre-existing low-maintenance roads and trails on properties acquired for the MN Valley

National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) may be continued under a plan developed for the purpose of property access for habitat maintenance and public use of the property for wildlife-dependent recreation (e.g., hunting and fishing).

TPL is not aware of any trails or roads on any of the acquisitions. If any are discovered on lands to be managed by the DNR, they will be managed per DNR policy for WMAs, AMAs, SNAs or State Forests. If they are discovered on lands to be managed by local units of government, they will be managed per a maintenance and monitoring plan developed in consultation with LSOHC staff.

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

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
No

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 and enhancement needs associated with fee title and easement projects completed under this grant will be assessed. Needs identified will be addressed through private sources, Conservation Partners Legacy Grant proposals and/or future funding proposals to LSOHC. If funds remain in this grant, an amendment may be submitted to allow those funds to be reallocated to restoration and enhancement on lands protected by this grant.

For the restoration / enhancement on eased lands, 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.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
TPL - Restore 670 acres and enhance 190 acres	June 2029
MLT - Restore 110 acres	June 2029
TPL - Protect 100 acres through fee title acquisition	June 2028
MVT - Protect 250 acres through fee title acquisition	June 2028
MLT - Protect 191 acres under conservation easement	June 2028
GRG - Restore 27 acres and enhance 87 acres	June 2029
FMR - Enhance 216 acres	June 2029

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	$786,400	$127,000	Cities, foundations, Cities, foundations	$913,400
Contracts	$2,593,000	$70,000	Private, Cities, foundations	$2,663,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,090,000	-	-	$1,090,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$1,242,500	$250,000	-, MVT	$1,492,500
Easement Acquisition	$1,500,000	$225,000	Private landowners	$1,725,000
Easement Stewardship	$224,000	-	-	$224,000
Travel	$27,500	$1,200	-, Private	$28,700
Professional Services	$265,000	-	-	$265,000
Direct Support Services	$244,700	$139,700	Foundations, Private, FMR	$384,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$7,500	-	-	$7,500
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$10,500	-	-	$10,500
Supplies/Materials	$131,900	-	-	$131,900
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$8,123,000**	**$812,900**	**-**	**$8,935,900**

Partner: FMR

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$72,800	$15,000	Cities, foundations	$87,800
Contracts	$290,900	$10,000	Cities, foundations	$300,900
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$4,300	-	-	$4,300
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$24,700	$24,700	FMR	$49,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$27,300	-	-	$27,300
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$420,000**	**$49,700**	**-**	**$469,700**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
FMR Staff (Ecologists, Conservation Director, Bookkeeper, Intern)	0.22	4.0	$72,800	$15,000	Cities, foundations	$87,800

Partner: GRG

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$158,600	$112,000	Cities, foundations	$270,600
Contracts	$478,100	-	-	$478,100
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$6,200	-	-	$6,200
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$54,000	$69,000	Foundations	$123,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$7,500	-	-	$7,500
Supplies/Materials	$98,600	-	-	$98,600
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$803,000**	**$181,000**	**-**	**$984,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Staff (Ecologist, technicians, etc.)	0.29	5.0	$158,600	$112,000	Cities, foundations	$270,600

Partner: MLT

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$435,000	-	-	$435,000
Contracts	$380,000	-	-	$380,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,500,000	$225,000	Private landowners	$1,725,000
Easement Stewardship	$224,000	-	-	$224,000
Travel	$17,000	-	-	$17,000
Professional Services	$217,000	-	-	$217,000
Direct Support Services	$118,000	-	-	$118,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
Supplies/Materials	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,900,000**	**$225,000**	**-**	**$3,125,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Restoration Staff	0.52	4.0	$210,000	-	-	$210,000
MLT Protection Staff	0.56	4.0	$225,000	-	-	$225,000

Partner: MVT

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$1,242,500	$250,000	MVT	$1,492,500
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$7,500	-	-	$7,500
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,250,000**	**$250,000**	**-**	**$1,500,000**

Partner: TPL

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$120,000	-	-	$120,000
Contracts	$1,444,000	$60,000	Private	$1,504,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,090,000	-	-	$1,090,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$1,200	Private	$1,200
Professional Services	$48,000	-	-	$48,000
Direct Support Services	$48,000	$46,000	Private	$94,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,750,000**	**$107,200**	**-**	**$2,857,200**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TPL Staff (Protection and Legal)	0.23	3.0	$120,000	-	-	$120,000

Amount of Request: $8,123,000
Amount of Leverage: $812,900
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 10.01%
DSS + Personnel: $1,031,100
As a % of the total request: 12.69%
Easement Stewardship: $224,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 14.93%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Metro Big Rivers reduced the number of projects it will complete and acres impacted to accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Leverage includes anticipated donated easement value by landowners (MLT), committed partner and other private funds (FMR, GRG, MVT, TPL), committed and anticipated city funds (FMR, GRG).

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). The reduction will not be exactly proportional, as partners have some fixed costs that do not change based on project size.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses are scalable, but not proportionately, due to grant management, landowner outreach and and other fixed costs. Some easement and fee acquisitions fail to close, but still have costs. Landowner donation of easement value allows grant funds to go further, increasing personnel and DSS costs.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
FMR, GRG, MLT, TPL - Restoration / enhancement contracts with service providers.
MLT - Habitat management plan preparation, landowner outreach by county SWCD offices.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Design/Engineering

Other : Phase 1 Environmental Review

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
2-4

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
Minnesota Land Trust's budget is based on the closing of 4-8 conservation easements based on size and cost. The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is $28,000. This figure is derived from MLT's detailed stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates to this cost analysis with LSOHC staff.

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?
Yes

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
N/A

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?
FMR – As of May 15, 2023, FMR's DSS rate is in the process of being approved by DNR staff. Our rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. A portion not exceeding 50% of these costs are requested from the grant and the balance is contributed as leverage.
GRG – As approved by the DNR in September 2019, GRG's DSS rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. A portion not exceeding 50% of these costs are requested from the grant and the balance is contributed as leverage.
MLT - In a process approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, MLT's DSS rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. This is similar to the MLT's proposed federal indirect rate. MLT will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses.
TPL - DSS rate 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?
Hand tools, saws, brush cutters, GPS devices, safety gear and other necessary equipment to complete restoration and enhancement activities.

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	-	680	127	-	807
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	100	100
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	250	250
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	191	191
Enhance	-	215	278	-	493
Total	**0**	**895**	**405**	**541**	**1,841**

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	147
Total	**147**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	$1,664,000	$576,400	-	$2,240,400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$1,306,000	$1,306,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$1,250,000	$1,250,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$2,299,000	$2,299,000
Enhance	-	$405,700	$621,900	-	$1,027,600
Total	**-**	**$2,069,700**	**$1,198,300**	**$4,855,000**	**$8,123,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	807	-	-	-	-	807
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	100	-	-	-	-	100
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	250	-	-	-	-	250
Protect in Easement	191	-	-	-	-	191
Enhance	493	-	-	-	-	493
Total	**1,841**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,841**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	$2,240,400	-	-	-	-	$2,240,400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$1,306,000	-	-	-	-	$1,306,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$1,250,000	-	-	-	-	$1,250,000
Protect in Easement	$2,299,000	-	-	-	-	$2,299,000
Enhance	$1,027,600	-	-	-	-	$1,027,600
Total	**$8,123,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$8,123,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	$2,447	$4,538	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$13,060
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$5,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$12,036
Enhance	-	$1,886	$2,237	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	$2,776	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$13,060	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$5,000	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$12,036	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$2,084	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

3.3

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
FMR and GRG work with their public partners and other interested stakeholders to identify priority projects and areas. Criteria includes ecological and habitat value and potential (biodiversity, size and location), congruence with existing plans and priority areas, adjacency and connectedness to other public and protected lands and complexes, willing and committed landowners and leveraged opportunities.

MLT's competitive RFP process for identifying, prioritizing and selecting parcels for the Metro Big Rivers easement program is attached. MLT prioritizes parcels for restoration and enhancement that are of high ecological significance, adjacent or close to public conservation investments and owned by landowners committed to conservation.

MVT seeks to acquire land within the boundaries established by the USFWS for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Within those boundaries, parcels are prioritized based on adjacency or proximity to lands already publicly-protected, the opportunity to protect lands from development and restore habitat to meet ecological and public use objectives, and the feasibility of completing large blocks of protected and publicly-managed lands over time.

TPL works with its public partners (Minnesota DNR and local units of government) to identify priority opportunities that expand on and create new public conservation investments that protect high-quality wetland, woodland, prairie and riparian habitat.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Carver Creek (Williams)	Carver	11524221	90	$180,000	Yes	Prairie enhancement in old, low-diversity prairie plantings
GRG - Lake Ann: Phase 2	Carver	11623210	60	$241,500	Yes	Enhance 60 acres forest through invasive species removal and tree thinning
MLT - Oak Lake	Carver	11725210	45	$80,000	Yes	Restore prairie from ag field
FMR - Hastings Sand Coulee SNA	Dakota	11417202	160	$151,300	Yes	Enhance 160 acres of prairie
FMR - Vermillion River Linear Park	Dakota	11517233	21	$85,400	Yes	Enhance 21 acres of prairie

GRG - Medina Lake Nature Preserve	Hennepin	11823202	14	$173,300	Yes	Restore 14 acres of big woods forest complex in preserve through tree thinning, invasive species removal and treatment, seeding, planting of native nursery plots and native climate-resilient trees and shrubs, watering. Removed vegetation will be processed through biochar kilns. Char will be dispersed on the site.
GRG - Wayzata Nature Center	Hennepin	11722205	6	$68,000	Yes	Enhance 6 acres wetland forest habitat
GRG - Woodlake Nature Center	Hennepin	02824233	21	$105,100	Yes	Enhance 21 acres forest through invasive species removal and planting of native shrubs, forbes and grasses
MLT - Twin Lakes (Johnson)	Isanti	03422217	18	$45,704	Yes	Prairie and wetland enhancement
GRG - Floral Park	Ramsey	03023222	13	$215,100	Yes	Restore 13 acres of oak woodland complex through tree thinning, invasive species removal and treatment, seeding, planting of native nursery plots and native climate-resilient trees and shrubs, watering. Removed vegetation will be processed through biochar kilns. Char will be dispersed on the site.
MLT - Sand Creek	Scott	11424235	21	$98,000	Yes	Restore prairie
FMR - Bailey Point Nature Preserve	Sherburne	03326233	17	$87,400	Yes	Enhance 17 acres of prairie
FMR - Camp Cozy	Sherburne	03326231	16	$62,500	Yes	Enhance 16 acres of prairie
MLT - Elk River (Niziolek)	Sherburne	03327213	5	$9,751	Yes	Wetland fringe tree removal
MLT - Tamarack Bog (Leone/Wallace)	Sherburne	03426230	23	$70,000	Yes	Enhance 23 acres of oak savanna and mesic hardwood
FMR - River Oaks Park	Washington	02721235	2	$33,400	Yes	Enhance 1 acre of prairie and 1 acre of forest
MLT - Carnelian Creek	Washington	03120228	14	$34,000	Yes	Restore prairie from ag field
MLT - St. Croix River	Washington	02720221	40	$76,000	Yes	Restore prairie from ag field
TPL - Keystone Woods WMA	Washington	03120218	720	$1,500,000	Yes	Restore 475 acres of prairie and 85 acres forest, and enhance 160 acres forest

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
TPL - Mud Lake	Anoka	03325212	488	$2,700,000	No
MVT - Rapids Lake Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Carver	11423206	118	$826,000	No
MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Carver	11424212	168	$546,000	No
MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Carver	11424215	353	$1,147,250	No
TPL - Patterson Lake WMA Addition	Carver	11625220	650	$4,500,000	No
TPL - Carlos Avery WMA Addition	Chisago	03321205	60	$80,000	No
TPL - Green Lake SNA	Isanti	03625226	53	$144,140	No
TPL - Stanchfield Creek	Isanti	03724235	710	$2,200,000	No
MVT - Blakeley Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Scott	11326236	194	$630,500	No
MVT - Louisville Swamp Unit Addition, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Scott	11423204	5	$650,000	No
MVT - Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Sibley	11326213	200	$650,000	No
MVT - Jessenland addition 26	Sibley	11326225	406	$1,800,000	No
TPL - Vale WMA Addition	Sibley	11326222	165	$550,000	No
TPL - Paul Hugo Farms WMA Addition	Washington	03121222	230	$1,000,000	No

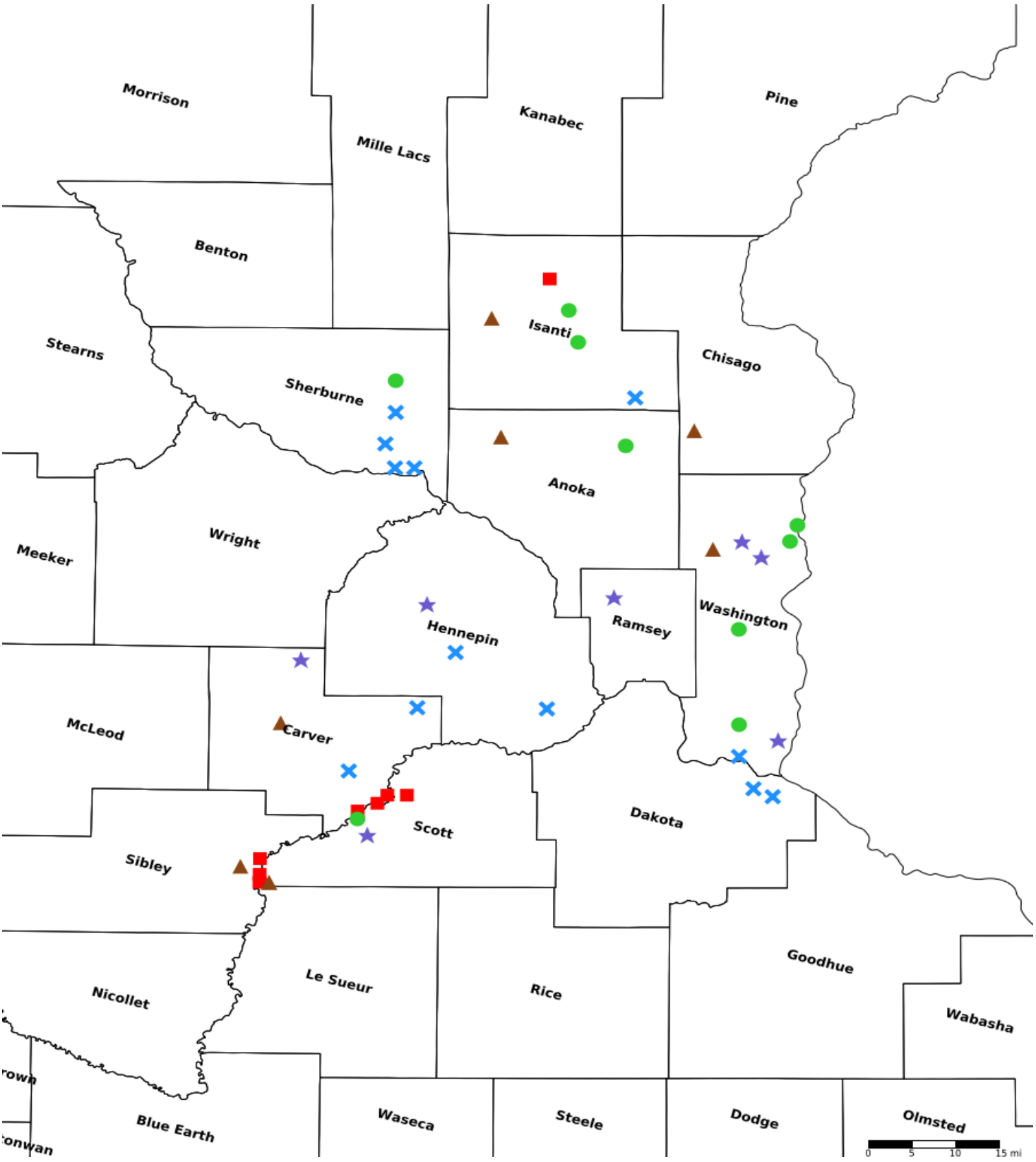
Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
TPL - Ney WMA Addition	Scott	11325231	50	$430,000	No	1	$0
TPL - Ney WMA Addition II	Scott	11325231	34	$500,000	No	1	$350,000

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
MLT - Rice Lake (B)	Anoka	03322218	150	$90,000	No
MLT - Rum River (E)	Isanti	03623219	29	$116,000	No
MLT - Rum River (S)	Isanti	03523208	127	$950,000	No
MLT - Minnesota River (B)	Scott	11424222	78	$350,000	No
MLT - Battle Creek (HAW)	Sherburne	03426206	112	$950,000	No
MLT - Clear Lake (K)	Washington	02921211	50	$0	No
MLT - Saint Croix River 4 (PN)	Washington	03119206	25	$1,500,000	No
MLT - Saint Croix River 5 (TW)	Washington	03120213	100	$1,750,000	No
MLT - Vandenberg Lake	Washington	02721211	83	$1,245,000	No

Parcel Map


Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Pine
Benton
Isanti
Stearns
Sherburne
Chisago
Anoka
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Wright
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Ramsey
Washington
McLeod
Carver
Scott
Dakota
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Rice
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