



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program - Phase I  
ML 2024 Request for Funding

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### General Information

**Date:** 06/23/2023

**Proposal Title:** Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program - Phase I

**Funds Requested:** \$15,233,500

**Confirmed Leverage Funds:** \$2,490,000

**Is this proposal Scalable?:** Yes

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Robert L. Sip

**Title:** Executive Director

**Organization:** Red River Watershed Management Board

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### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Marshall, Norman and Wilkin.

**Eco regions in which work will take place:**

- Prairie

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Easement

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Prairie
- Habitat

## Narrative

### **Abstract**

The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) will partner with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on this basin-wide initiative to establish 2,220 acres of riparian/upland habitat within the Red River Basin (RRB) in Northwest Minnesota. This initiative will use BWSR's Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program to target permanent conservation easements on agricultural lands to restore and protect stream and riparian habitat. The basin-wide scope of this effort will catalyze administrative efficiency, allow geographic flexibility and responsiveness to fluctuating markets, and help achieve multipurpose goals identified in local watershed plans.

### **Design and Scope of Work**

This basin-wide initiative will establish permanent riparian and upland habitat adjacent to priority rivers and streams in the RRB of Minnesota. The RRWMB will partner with BWSR to use the RIM Program to purchase conservation easements for agricultural lands adjacent to riparian areas. These easements will restore and protect important stream and riparian habitat and have collateral benefits of reducing flood damages and improving water quality. The RRWMB is a joint power board of watershed district formed in 1976. The organization is analogous to the Mississippi Headwaters Board in that it has full authority to act as a fiscal agent on behalf of its members and can raise revenue through taxation. The organization was originally focused on providing a basin-wide perspective on flood control but has made programmatic shifts in recent years to assist its member Watershed Districts (WD) as they focus on management activities that includes the permanent protection of riparian and upland habitat. The RRWMB and the watershed districts are uniquely positioned to lead efforts at the basin wide scale to restore and protect stream and riparian habitats, given their history and current interest in implementing multipurpose projects that include habitat.

This regional project will build on and streamline established RIM programming previously implemented by individual WDs within the RRB. This project will consolidate current applications from the region as it includes: (1) Lower Wild Rice Corridor Habitat Restoration Project, Wild Rice WD; (2) Doran Creek Stream Rehabilitation Project, Bois de Sioux WD; and (3) Swift Coulee Channel Restoration Project, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD. As proposed, the project will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and responsiveness to target habitat restoration and protection to priority watercourses.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between RRWMB and BWSR will establish the process for permanently protecting eligible lands in RIM while also allowing flexibility for future restoration of stream habitat when needed. The RRWMB will serve as the program manager and BWSR will act as the fiscal agent. The RIM program will be delivered targeted watercourses through local WDs and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Outcomes of this effort will make substantial progress towards the RRWMB's regional and local habitat goals including permanent protection of riparian corridors fish species like Lake sturgeons and other Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that directly rely upon these watercourse corridors for habitat ( e.g., Greater prairie chicken, Burrowing owl, Chestnut collared longspur, Dakota skipper, and Rusty patched bumble bee).

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

Strategic site selection will be consistent with the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan, Red River of the North Fisheries Management Plan, the Red River Basin Commission Natural Resources Framework Plan as well as priorities outlined in individual comprehensive watershed management plans developed through the One Watershed One Plan Program. This initiative will restore and protect riparian/upland

corridors along priority river and streams reaches. Water courses and their associated corridor habitats are critical for more than 150 SGCN that rely upon Minnesota's grasslands for migration, breeding, and/or foraging. Target species include Greater prairie chicken, Western meadowlark, Eastern meadowlark, Northern pintail, Northern black duck, Burrowing owl, Chestnut collared longspur, Dakota skipper, Poweshiek skipper, and Rusty patched bumble bee.

Restoring and protecting these habitats will help stabilize stream channels, reduce sediment/nutrient transportation, and ultimately improve water quality within the RRB. Increased stability of watercourses will contribute to improved habitat for more than 70 fish species within the RRB. The Red River of the North Fisheries Management Plan identifies Lake sturgeon and Channel catfish as primary management species. Walleye, Sauger, and Northern pike are listed as secondary management species. This initiative will thus support the Minnesota DNR's ongoing effort to reconnect rivers and streams and naturally producing population of RRB Lake sturgeon, an imperiled species of special concern in the state.

### **What are the elements of this proposal that are critical from a timing perspective?**

All elements of this proposal are critical from a timing perspective. Comprehensive watershed management plans will be complete for all watersheds in the Red River basin by July 1, 2024. These plans include prioritized stream reaches for habitat restoration and protection. Acquiring easements is critical to meeting plan goals. Funding for easements is needed to ensure restoration and protection occur strategically and efficiently. Once funding for easements is secured, this basin-wide initiative will provide broad administrative efficiency and streamline the RIM easement acquisition process throughout the RRB. The MOU between the RRWMB and BWSR will also facilitate immediate enrollment of eligible lands in specific project areas where landowner interest is high.

### **Describe how the proposal expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:**

This project will directly expand habitat corridors and stream habitat in key areas of the RRB. Many habitats in the RRB are fragmented and disconnected consisting mainly of field windbreaks, farmstead shelterbelts, and public ditches. Mature field windbreaks in the RRB were planted several decades ago and often included 1 to 3 rows of deciduous trees and shrubs. Generally, as these windbreaks move past maturity and become ineffective, they are removed from the landscape. The lands restored and protected by this project will provide direct habitat and habitat corridors in areas designated as important in local plans. Use of the RIM program will ensure that these habitats are permanently protected.

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

- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan
- Red River of the North Fisheries Management Plan

### **Explain how this proposal 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.**

This proposal directly relates to four priority actions in the MN Climate Action Framework: 1) accelerate forest, grassland and wetland restoration, 2) Store more carbon, 3) restore and expand habitat complexes and corridors, and 4). increase water storage and infiltration and manage drainage. Restoring and protecting habitat with RIM easements along priority watercourses in the Red River Basin is an important component of a comprehensive approach to better management of water resources. This project will provide permanent riparian protection for

restorable water resources, restore, and enhance priority habitat corridors and provide future floodplain protection to mitigate the increasing impacts of climate change.

**Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?**

**Prairie**

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

**Describe how this project/program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife, and if not permanent outcomes, why it is important to undertake at this time:**

This program will permanently protect and restore up to 2,220 acres along priority riparian resources identified within the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans adopted by WDs. The program will leverage locally led, state approved planning efforts throughout the RRB. This proposal identifies project areas mostly consisting of agricultural acres, which will be protected and restored to native prairie/riparian corridors, as part of larger shovel-ready capital improvement projects. All acres identified in this proposal will create new native habitat corridor along priority water resources which have limited to no permanent protection today. Approval of this initial proposal will create a basin-wide RIM Program, targeted to shovel-ready projects where landowner support, funding strategies, and maintenance plans have already been established. This effort is critical to the residents of the RRB, who often enjoy fishing, hunting, bird watching, and other outdoor activities in Northwest Minnesota. Many acres of land originally enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in the mid-1980s, mid-1990s, and early 2000s have now come back into production. While CRP has been critical to letting the land “rest for 10 to 15 years at a time, this RRB RIM Program will offer permanent protection for at risk lands.

**Outcomes**

**Programs in prairie region:**

- Agriculture lands are converted to grasslands to sustain functioning prairie systems ~ *The outcome of the program will be permanently protected acres adjacent to key resources within the RRB. The outcomes to measure and evaluate may include the acres permanently protected, the acres of habitat enhanced, and the completion of targeted projects as a result of this program. These outcomes are identified in the state-approved Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans for watersheds within the RRB. These Plans are required to provide goals, metrics and methods to evaluate overall outcomes associated with the planned activities. Individual watersheds will follow their Plan to document, evaluate and report outcomes and progress to the state.*

**What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this proposal?**

- Clean Water Fund
- Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund

**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 funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

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

Once a RIM easement is acquired, BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement of contract commitments in perpetuity. BWSR partners with local WDs to carry out oversight and monitoring of its conservation easements. All easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years, beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. WDs document findings from each site inspection and report findings to BWSR. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at \$10,000 per easement. This value is based on using local WD staff for monitoring and landowner relations. The amount also covers costs for BWSR oversight and any enforcement necessary.

**Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes**

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2025 - Ongoing	Stewardship Account	Annual Inspections: Years 1-5; Inspections every 3 years after	Violations and suggestions for corrective actions through annual monitoring efforts of the SWCDs.	Enforcement action taken through BWSR direction to the MN Attorney General Office
2025 - Ongoing	Landowner Responsibility	Maintain Compliance with easement terms and conditions	Modifications and Appeals of Decisions administered through the BWSR Board	-

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

This program will focus on acquiring easements through the BWSR RIM Program on parcels targeted towards shovel-ready projects. These project areas have undergone extensive public engagement of landowners, stakeholder groups, and permitting authorities through various public hearings for watershed projects and development of local watershed management plans. More specifically, WDs hold multiple public hearings, informational meetings, and opportunities for comment and engagement from partners and stakeholders. From project concept through project development/preliminary design and ultimately construction and implementation, these groups are included, and their input is sought after. These transparent processes allow for an inclusive process to provide comment and participate and allows for high partner and stakeholder involvement. In addition, the RIM Program is a state sponsored program coordinated through BWSR, a state agency responsive to BIPOC requirements.

At the time this application was submitted, the RRWMB was engaging the White Earth Nation to obtain their input on this application. We welcome more conversations with the LSOHC and conservation community about how our work in the RRB can further include cultural considerations and engage diverse communities.

**Activity Details**

**Requirements**

**If funded, this proposal 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

**Land Use**

**Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?**

Yes

**Explain what will be planted:**

Easements acquired through the RIM Program must meet all program eligibility requirements. Wildlife food plots for habitat purposes may be an acceptable practice in accordance with RIM program policies. Individual landowner agreements will define these terms and conditions.

**Will neonicotinoid pesticide products be used within any activities of this proposal?**

No

**Will the eased land be open for public use?**

No

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

No

**Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?**

No

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

Yes

**Other OHF Appropriation Awards**

**Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC that are current OPEN appropriations?**

No

**Timeline**

<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
Landowner Application Period Open	January 1, 2024
Landowner Contracts Obtained	December 31, 2026
Final Reports Submitted	6/30/2032

Budget

**Grand Totals Across All Partnerships**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Total Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personnel	\$1,388,000	-	-	\$1,388,000
Contracts	\$317,500	-	-	\$317,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$12,048,900	\$490,000	-, Watershed District funding	\$12,538,900
Easement Stewardship	\$1,270,000	-	-	\$1,270,000
Travel	\$25,400	-	-	\$25,400
Professional Services	-	\$2,000,000	-, Watershed District funding	\$2,000,000
Direct Support Services	\$136,500	-	-	\$136,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$36,300	-	-	\$36,300
Supplies/Materials	\$10,900	-	-	\$10,900
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$15,233,500</b>	<b>\$2,490,000</b>	-	<b>\$17,723,500</b>

**Partner: RRWMB**

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$500,000	-	-	\$500,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.2	6.0	\$500,000	-	-	\$500,000



**Partner: BWSR**

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$888,000	-	-	\$888,000
Contracts	\$317,500	-	-	\$317,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$12,048,900	\$490,000	Watershed District funding	\$12,538,900
Easement Stewardship	\$1,270,000	-	-	\$1,270,000
Travel	\$25,400	-	-	\$25,400
Professional Services	-	\$2,000,000	Watershed District funding	\$2,000,000
Direct Support Services	\$136,500	-	-	\$136,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$36,300	-	-	\$36,300
Supplies/Materials	\$10,900	-	-	\$10,900
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$14,733,500</b>	<b>\$2,490,000</b>	-	<b>\$17,223,500</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Eco Engineering	0.5	3.0	\$200,700	-	-	\$200,700
Easements Staff	1.37	6.0	\$687,300	-	-	\$687,300

**Amount of Request:** \$15,233,500

**Amount of Leverage:** \$2,490,000

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 16.35%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$1,524,500

**As a % of the total request:** 10.01%

**Easement Stewardship:** \$1,270,000

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 10.54%

Total Leverage (from above)	Amount Confirmed	% of Total Leverage	Amount Anticipated	% of Total Leverage
\$2,490,000	\$2,490,000	100.0%	-	0.0%

**Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:**

BWSR budgeted leverage provided by individual watershed districts within the RRB. Leverage contributed includes activities such as additional easement payments, survey and engineering services to establish easement agreements, and restoration costs. These sources come from a combination of local levy, regional funding and CWF.

**Does this proposal 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 will reduce the output, i.e. acres permanently protected through RIM easement payments. Approximately 84% of the proposed funding request is for direct RIM easement payment. Project management timeframes would remain consistent regardless of the appropriation amount with a reduced budget.

**Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

Personnel and DSS expenses are calculated based on the number of easements proposed. Reduction from the proposed funding request would directly reduce these funding items.

### **If the project received 30% of the requested funding**

**Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

A reduction in funding will reduce the output, i.e. acres permanently protected through RIM easement payments. Approximately 84% of the proposed funding request is for direct RIM easement payment. Project management timeframes would remain consistent regardless of the appropriation amount with a reduced budget.

**Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

Personnel and DSS expenses are calculated based on the number of easements proposed. Reduction from the proposed funding request would directly reduce these funding items.

### **Personnel**

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

No

### **Contracts**

**What is included in the contracts line?**

Payments to SWCD calculated at \$2500 per easement based on BWSR policy. Payments are to reimburse SWCD staff for administrative, project development and ongoing maintenance tasks.

### **Easement Stewardship**

**What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?**

This project proposes 126 easements over approximately 2220 acres, calculated at an average of \$6800 per easement. This includes staff time for preparation of conservation plans and title work by SWCD staff, BWSR stewardship fee for long-term inspection and maintenance, travel, tools and supplies as a % of total request and BWSR fiscal and administrative support, as well as staff support from the RRWMB for managing the program long-term. Approximately 84% of the requested funds are direct payments to landowners for acquisition of easements.

### **Travel**

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

No

**Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging**

The travel line consists of traditional travel costs of mileage, food and lodging.

**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?**

BWSR calculates and updates DSS annually calculated as a percentage of the total proposed request based on the number of easements and acres protected. Costs are directly related and necessary to program implementation.

**Other Equipment/Tools**

**Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?**

The requested amount for Equipment and Tools is based on percentage of the total proposal request. Examples of expenditures items necessary for conducting field work such as marking and identifying sites, hand tools, required legacy signage and other necessary project development items.

**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	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	2,220	0	0	2,220
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,220</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,220</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	\$15,233,500	-	-	\$15,233,500
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$15,233,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$15,233,500</b>

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	2,220	0	2,220
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,220</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,220</b>

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$15,233,500	-	\$15,233,500
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$15,233,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$15,233,500</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	\$6,861	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

### Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$6,861	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

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

## Parcels

### Sign-up Criteria?

No

### Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

This proposal intends to initiate an ongoing basin-wide RIM program in the RRB. Parcels selected in this first phase have been identified as critical for permanent protection as part of larger, shovel-ready projects that have been initiated through watershed districts within the RRB. The list also identifies parcels that will be priority for permanent protection on targeted resources identified in the local comprehensive watershed management plans for future restoration / enhancement projects.

### Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
45-0010-000	Marshall	15548202	26	\$105,313	No
45-0009-000	Marshall	15548202	10	\$41,227	No
45-0005-001	Marshall	15548202	3	\$13,470	No
45-0004-000	Marshall	15548201	1	\$1,225	No
45-0008-001	Marshall	15548202	2	\$6,531	No
45-0007-001	Marshall	15548202	1	\$1,225	No
45-0007-000	Marshall	15548203	8	\$31,839	No
45-0009-005	Marshall	15548203	11	\$42,860	No
45-0011-000	Marshall	15548203	47	\$192,666	No
45-0004-003	Marshall	15548201	37	\$148,990	No
45-0010-001	Marshall	15548202	1	\$4,082	No
45-0002-000	Marshall	15548201	7	\$30,206	No
45-0001-000	Marshall	15548201	3	\$12,654	No
45-0001-005	Marshall	15548201	5	\$20,001	No
45-0049-000	Marshall	15548212	1	\$2,857	No
25-0020-003	Marshall	15547206	10	\$40,003	No
25-0023-000	Marshall	15547207	15	\$59,596	No
25-0021-000	Marshall	15547206	20	\$80,822	No
25-0017-000	Marshall	15547205	18	\$73,474	No
25-0018-000	Marshall	15547205	4	\$16,736	No
25-0018-001	Marshall	15547205	6	\$23,267	No
25-0026-000	Marshall	15547208	14	\$56,739	No
25-0029-000	Marshall	15547209	2	\$8,572	No
25-0013-003	Marshall	15547204	7	\$29,798	No
25-0013-004	Marshall	15547204	12	\$48,575	No
25-0014-001	Marshall	15547204	8	\$33,880	No
25-0013-005	Marshall	15547204	3	\$11,021	No
25-0014-003	Marshall	15547204	5	\$20,001	No
25-0014-000	Marshall	15547204	2	\$8,164	No
25-0004-001	Marshall	15547202	27	\$109,395	No
25-0005-000	Marshall	15547202	4	\$15,919	No
25-0004-000	Marshall	15547202	17	\$69,392	No
02-0178-004	Marshall	15647236	14	\$57,963	No
02-0178-000	Marshall	15647236	1	\$4,082	No
02-0179-000	Marshall	15647236	8	\$30,614	No
02-0180-000	Marshall	15647236	1	\$408	No
45-0011-000	Marshall	15548203	47	\$192,666	No
45-0009-005	Marshall	15548203	11	\$42,860	No
45-0007-000	Marshall	15548203	8	\$31,839	No
45-0007-001	Marshall	15548202	1	\$1,225	No

45-0008-001	Marshall	15548202	2	\$6,531	No
45-0005-001	Marshall	15548202	3	\$13,470	No
45-0009-000	Marshall	15548202	10	\$41,227	No
45-0010-000	Marshall	15548202	26	\$105,313	No
45-0010-001	Marshall	15548202	1	\$4,082	No
45-0004-003	Marshall	15548201	37	\$148,990	No
45-0004-000	Marshall	15548201	1	\$1,225	No
45-0002-000	Marshall	15548201	7	\$30,206	No
45-0001-000	Marshall	15548201	3	\$12,654	No
45-0001-005	Marshall	15548201	5	\$20,001	No
45-0049-000	Marshall	15548212	1	\$2,857	No
25-0020-003	Marshall	15547206	10	\$40,003	No
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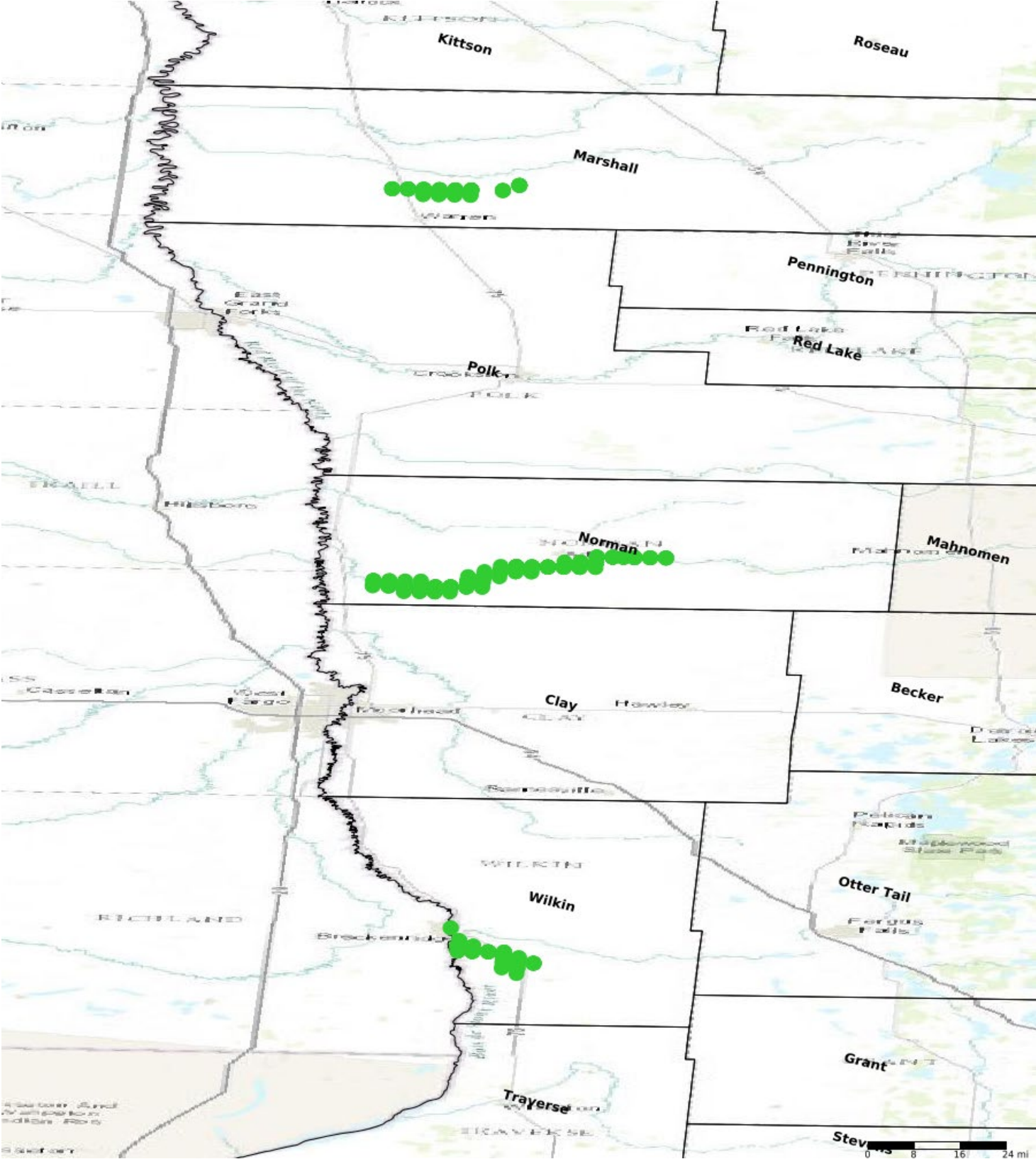
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Parcel Map



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

# Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program – Phase I

A Basin-Wide Approach to Habitat Protection Featuring:

- Doran Creek Restoration Project
- Lower Wild Rice Corridor Habitat Restoration Project
- Swift Coulee Channel Restoration

NORTH DAKOTA

Grand Forks

Red River

Fargo

Wahpeton

## Swift Coulee Channel Restoration Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD

- Restoration of meandering channel across 8 sections of Mcree Twp in Marshall County, MN.
- Permanent protection of > 400 acres.

## Lower Wild Rice Corridor Habitat Restoration Wild Rice WD

- Long-term restoration of natural corridor along lower reach of Wild Rice River
- Goal of permanent protection for 6,500 acres

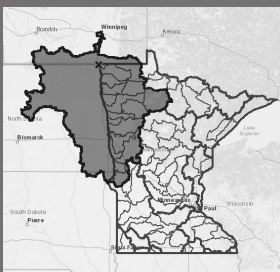
## Doran Creek Stream Rehabilitation Project Bois de Sioux WD

- Rehabilitation of 19 miles of stream channel in Wilkin County.
- Goal of permanent protection for 1,300 acres

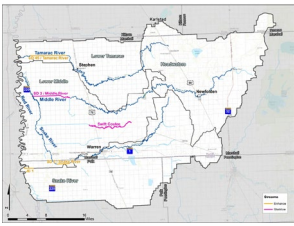
## A Basin-wide Approach

The RRWMB will partner with BWSR to permanently protect more than 2000 acres of habitat on priority streams / rivers in the Red River Basin. The priority acres for Phase I include priority project areas in three different watersheds.

The program will be available to watersheds throughout the basin.



*Extent of the Red River Basin in MN & ND.*



## Swift Coulee Channel Restoration Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD

This multi-purpose project will ultimately restore a meandering channel to improve floodplain function, water quality and enhance habitat across 8 sections in Marshall County. Approximately 400 acres of land will be permanently protected.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## Lower Wild Rice Corridor Habitat Restoration Wild Rice WD

This project has been successfully protecting lands to create the Lower Wild Rice Corridor Habitat Restoration Project. The District will continue building upon their success with new acres protected under this basin-wide approach. The goal of the project is to protect 6,500 acres along the entire lower reach of the Wild Rice River.



[LEARN MORE](#)

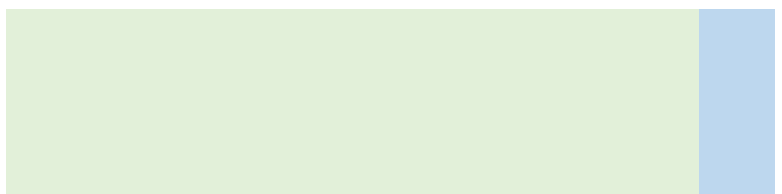


## Doran Creek Stream Rehabilitation Project Bois de Sioux WD

This project has been in developed since 2016 and is listed as a priority in the local watershed plan. The goal will be to permanently protect 1,300 acres over 19 miles of stream channel .



[LEARN MORE](#)





# WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

CHAIRMAN Michael Fairbanks SECRETARY-TREASURER Michael LaRoque  
DISTRICT I Henry Fox DISTRICT II Eugene Sommers DISTRICT III Cheryl "Annie" Jackson

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May 22, 2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The White Earth Nation supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. **Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1** is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and White Earth Nation to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

The Anishinaabe have long recognized that native ecological systems are the key to human survival. Restoring lost ecological functions on our lands and retrieving lost lands within the 1855 Treaty has been a primary objective of White Earth Nation's overall goal of maintaining our legally established Sovereignty. A Sovereignty violated by various tracts of reservation land established within our exterior boarder discovered stolen, co-opted, and vacated through treaties, acts of Congress, and the actions of corporations, Indian agents and other "entrepreneurs." Unfortunately, one result of this is that we also must take preventative measures to protect our remaining resources of clean water. For too long our land and our people have suffered from land uses not aligned with our Anishinaabe values. The LSOHC funding to the RRWMB will help to protect our water and create pathways for further improvements in protecting our watersheds.

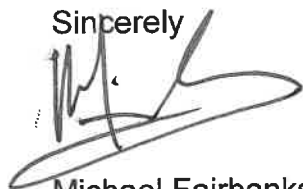
Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past



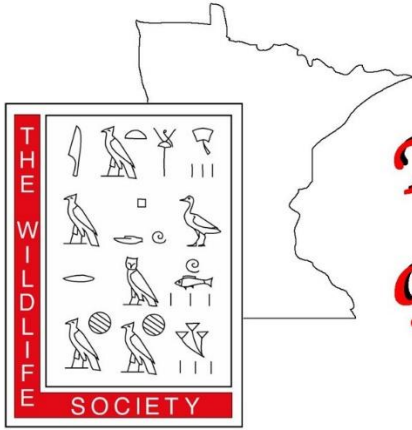
efforts within the Red River Basin to initiate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative proficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating needs as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

The White Earth Nation supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about more improved fish and wildlife habitat through this application to the LSOHC for restoring high functioning native ecosystems within the Red River Watershed. Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for funding.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fairbanks', with a large, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Michael Fairbanks



# *The Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society*

06/01/2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society (MNTWS) supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. **Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1** is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and other partners to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding. Our goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species within the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

The Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society (MNTWS) is a non-profit professional society of scientists, managers, educators, students, technicians, planners, consultants, and others who use science-based management and conservation to help sustain wildlife populations and habitats. Our guiding policies include 1. supporting and promoting conservation of biological diversity, not only for wildlife but because human quality of life and survival depend upon it, 2. opposing activities that jeopardize threatened and endangered species populations and 3. supporting restoration of critical habitats.

We believe the Red River Basin LSOHC application will particularly facilitate achievement of our guiding principles #1 and #3.”

We support and appreciate the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. Thank you for considering the RRWMB’s application for funding.

Sincerely

Nicole Bernd  
MNTWS President

The Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society President, Nicole Bernd, 218-280-8989

INTERNATIONAL  
RED RIVER  
WATERSHED BOARD



CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL  
DU BASSIN DE LA RIVIÈRE  
ROUGE

May 26, 2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Aquatic Ecosystem Committee and Co-Chairs of the IRRWB support the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. **Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1** is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin which is in alignment with the IRRWB Directive Objective “to support the Aquatic Ecosystem Integrity of the Red River Basin...”. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

Our organization supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. Thank you for considering the RRWMB’s application for funding.

On behalf of the IRRWB Directive and Aquatic Ecosystem Committee,

X

---

Patrick Cherneski CA Co-Chair IRRWB  
On behalf of the Co-Chairs of the IRRWB



Bois de Sioux  
Watershed District

704 Highway 75 South | Wheaton, MN 56296

Phone | 320.563.4185

Fax | 320.563.4987

www.bdswd.com

bdswd@runestone.net

May 23, 2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
State Office Building Room 55  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Director Johnson:

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1 is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Our organization supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide **basin-wide** administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for regional funding!

Sincerely

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Linda J. Vavra in blue ink.

Linda Vavra  
President

Handwritten signature of Jamie Beyer in black ink.

Jamie Beyer  
Administrator



1303 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Barnesville, MN 56514  
Phone: 218-789-3100

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*Manager*  
*Clay County*

May 23, 2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. **Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1** is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

Our organization supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for funding.

Sincerely

Kristine Altrichter  
Administrator

May 25, 2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

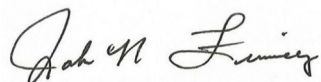
Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Joe River Watershed District supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. **Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1** is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

Our organization supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John M. Finney".

John Finney  
Treasurer, Joe River Watershed District



Marshall County  
Scott Peters, Auditor-Treasurer  
208 East Colvin Ave., Suite 11 & 12  
Warren, MN 56762  
218-745-4851  
Scott.peters@co.marshall.mn.us  
www.co.marshall.mn.us

5/23/23

To: Mark Johnson, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Executive Director

From: Scott Peters, Marshall County Auditor/Treasurer

Re: Letter of support for Red River Watershed Management Board application to LSOHC

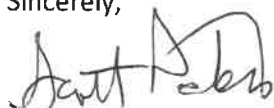
Dear Mr. Johnson,

Please be advised that Marshall County supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. **Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1** is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

Our County supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for funding.

Sincerely,



Scott Peters



MINNESOTA  
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

MARSHALL COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

105 S. Division  
P.O. Box 74  
Warren, Minnesota 56762  
Telephone (218) 745-5010

5/23/2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

OP-23-083

Re: Letter of support for Red River Watershed Management Board application to LSOHC

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Marshall Soil and water Conservation District (SWCD) supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. **Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1** is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

Our organization supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for funding.

Sincerely,

Darren Carlson  
Marshall SWCD District Manager  
(218) 745-5010



Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

OP-23-083  
May 22, 2023

Re: Letter of support for Red River Watershed Management Board application to LSOHC

Dear Johnson,

The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Watershed District supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. **Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1** is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

Our organization supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for funding.

Sincerely,

*Mori Maher*

Mori Maher  
Administrator



**Norman County SWCD**  
100 Main Avenue East – PO Box 60  
Twin Valley Minnesota 56584  
Phone (218) 584-5169 Fax (218) 584-5667

May 24, 2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Norman County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. **Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1** is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.


Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

Our organization supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Thorsrud".

Ron Thorsrud  
Chairman of the Board  
Norman County SWCD



# PHEASANTS FOREVER

---

Tanner Bruse  
Minnesota State Coordinator  
Phone: (507) 865-1163  
Email: [tbruse@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:tbruse@pheasantsforever.org)

May 24, 2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Pheasants Forever supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1 is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Pheasants Forever's mission is to conserve pheasants, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education, and conservation advocacy. Our mission is dependent on partnerships that exemplify collaboration that directly, collectively, and efficiently address natural resource concerns and increase wildlife habitat.

Pheasants Forever prides itself on working closely with partners, farmers, and other landowners to implement voluntary conservation programs. The delivery of this proposal provides this voluntary opportunity to provide habitat, water quality, water quantity, and other sustainability metrics in perpetuity. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

Our organization supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for funding.

Respectfully yours in conservation,

*Tanner Bruse*

Tanner Bruse  
Minnesota State Coordinator  
PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.



# Red River Basin Commission

Manitoba • Minnesota • North Dakota • South Dakota

Fargo Office: 1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Suite. C, Fargo ND 58102  
Phone 701-356-3183

Winnipeg Office: 205 – 1100 Concordia Ave. • Winnipeg, MB R2K 4B8  
Phone 204-982-7250 • [info@redriverbasincommission.org](mailto:info@redriverbasincommission.org)

[www.redriverbasincommission.org](http://www.redriverbasincommission.org)

2023- 2025

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May 22, 2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Red River Basin Commission supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1, is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

The outcomes of this project work directly toward the following goals of the Red River Basin Commissions Natural Resource Framework plan, Specifically Goals:

**GOAL # 2: INTEGRATION:** *This goal recognizes that the NRFP Goals cannot stand alone. They need to be linked and integrated into a basin approach that enables actions today that solve problems and create a viable future.*

**GOAL # 9: WATER QUALITY:** *This goal recognizes the importance of maintaining and improving the quality of all of our water.*

**GOAL # 11: CONSERVATION:** *This goal recognizes the importance of how we utilize the land in the Red River basin.*

**GOAL # 12: FISH AND WILDLIFE:** *This goal recognizes the importance of the fish and wildlife resources in the basin which rely on habitat and water to survive and thrive.*

Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for funding. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at 701-356-3183 [Ted@redriverbasincommission.org](mailto:Ted@redriverbasincommission.org).

Sincerely,

Ted Preister  
Executive Director



# RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

1120 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Suite C - Fargo, ND 58102 - Phone: 701-356-6644

May 22, 2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. **Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1** is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

The RRRA supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. This proposed project partnership will go far in advancing wise use of the Red River Basin natural resources. Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for funding.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith A. Weston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

*Keith A. Weston*

Executive Director  
Red River Retention Authority



**SAND HILL RIVER**  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

PO Box 584  
Fertile, MN 56540

Ph: 218-945-3204

Fax: 218-945-3213

shrwd@gvtel.com

www.sandhillwatershed.org

May 23, 2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Sand Hill River Watershed District supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. **Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1** is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

Our organization supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for funding.

Sincerely,

April Swenby  
Administrator



United States Department of Agriculture

---

May 24, 2023

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Minnesota State Office

375 Jackson Street  
Suite 600  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Ph: 651-602-7900  
Fax: 855-823-7656  
[www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov)

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mr. Johnson:

Please accept this letter of merit from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Minnesota for the Red River Watershed Management Board's (RRWMB) application to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. Red River Basin RIM Land Acquisition, Phase 1 is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Increasing and enhancing habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin is the goal of this application for funding. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

Minnesota NRCS looks forward to future potential collaboration with the RRWMB, BWSR, and other Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat in the Red River Basin area.

Sincerely

TROY DANIELL  
State Conservationist



1150 Highway 75 North, Breckenridge, MN 56520 218-643-2933

To Whom It May Concern,

The Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District's mission is to provide local leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources through programs and partnerships with individuals, businesses, organizations, and government. A big part of what we do involves working with landowners and collaborating with other agencies to accomplish our mission.

To assist the Wilkin SWCD meet our mission statement we have collaborated on many projects with our local watershed districts. The Buffalo Red River Watershed and the Bois de Sioux Watershed districts have joined us countless times to assist landowners.

The Wilkin SWCD is willing to support our watershed districts to complete further projects. It is easy for us to collaborate with our local watersheds because their goals align with ours. Therefor we would like to support their application for the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund request.

We look forward to partnering with the watersheds in the future and are hopeful we can continue to assist landowners with any of their resource concerns.

Craig Lingen  
District Manager  
Wilkin SWCD



# Wild Rice Watershed District

11 5th Ave East · Ada MN 56510 · Phone (218) 784-5501 · Fax (218) 784-2459 · [www.wildricewatershed.org](http://www.wildricewatershed.org)

May 24, 2023

Mark Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
State Office Building, Room 55  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Wild Rice Watershed District supports the application of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for a regional Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program in conjunction with several key partners in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. **Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 1** is a coordinated approach by the RRWMB, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and others to focus on riparian and upland habitat adjacent to rivers and streams throughout the Red River Basin.

Habitat is the key focus of this application for funding and the goal is to increase and enhance habitat for several fish and wildlife species in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB, BWSR, and local partners will draw upon the successes of past efforts within the Red River Basin to inaugurate a long-term and sustainable RIM Program for Northwest Minnesota. This effort will provide basin-wide administrative efficiency, geographic flexibility, and will allow for responsiveness to fluctuating markets as the partners work to enroll priority lands into the RIM Program as identified in various state agency plans and local comprehensive plans.

Our organization supports the efforts of the RRWMB, BWSR, and all the Red River Basin partners to bring about greater habitat through this application to the LSOHC. Thank you for considering the RRWMB's application for funding.

Sincerely,



Greg Holmvik  
Chairman