



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 13 Laws of Minnesota 2025 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 01/02/2025

Project Title: Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 13

Funds Recommended: \$2,387,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2025, Ch. XXX, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(g)

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Wayne Ostlie

Title: Director of Land Protection

Organization: Minnesota Land Trust

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Location Information

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

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Southeast Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands

- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Phase 13 of the Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration program will protect approximately 382 acres using conservation easements, and restore and enhance approximately 120 acres of declining habitat for important wildlife species. Work will build upon existing state investments in conservation lands and within strategically targeted, resilient corridors of biodiversity significance within the Blufflands of Southeast Minnesota, Minnesota's Biodiversity Hotspot. Outcomes will include improved, better connected wildlife habitat for the benefit of Minnesota's SGCN.

Design and Scope of Work

The Southeast Blufflands is Minnesota's most biodiverse region. Some 86 different native plant communities have been mapped by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) in the program area, covering nearly 150,000 acres. These communities provide habitat for 183 rare state-listed plants and animals and more Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) than anywhere else in the state. These imperiled species are concentrated within 749 Sites of Biodiversity Significance.

Despite this biological richness, only 5% of the region has been protected to date.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) and The Trust for Public Land (TPL), in partnership, are working to change this circumstance. Through our Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Program, we are working to expand and connect larger contiguous blocks of protected lands, allowing land managers to restore, enhance and maintain high-quality habitats at a scale difficult to accomplish with fragmented ownership. Protecting and managing these lands is not only important for ecological reasons, but also benefits public enjoyment of these lands and the resources they provide. This program is increasing access to public lands to meet the continued high demand for outdoor recreation within the region.

This Program has a long, proven track record of protecting, restoring and enhancing lands that meet both state and local priorities for biodiversity conservation, land access and watershed health. To date, the Partnership has protected 5,332 acres of priority lands and 40.8 stream and river miles, and has restored/enhanced 7,467 acres of habitat.

This 13th Phase of our Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Program continues this body of work. MLT is the sole applicant in this proposal; TNC and TPL have sufficient existing funds for fee acquisition and restoration to put on the ground. MLT's work will focus in two areas:

1. **Conservation Easements.** MLT will protect 382 acres of high-quality private land through conservation easements. MLT will identify potential projects within targeted priority areas through an RFP process coupled with local outreach via SWCD offices and vendors. This competitive landowner bid process will rank projects based on ecological value and cost, prioritizing the best projects and securing them at the lowest cost to the state.
2. **Restoration and Enhancement.** MLT will enhance and restore 120 acres of high-quality habitat, both on public lands as well as on private lands protected through conservation easements in prior phases of this program.

In Phase 13, MLT will expand its partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program, modeled after our collaboration in western Minnesota, where we collectively restore and enhance thousands of acres of habitat annually. Through this partnership, PFW Biologists and MLT staff will restore and enhance habitat on priority MLT easements. With more than 12,000 acres of permanently protected MLT easements in SEMN, we are excited to launch this new phase of our partnership. This partnership will add needed capacity and expertise to restore and enhance these important lands.

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

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

Restoration and enhancement work on bluff prairies is particularly important for these goals. Bluff prairies have never been plowed and therefore contain many rare and threatened plant species. This flora, in turn, provides critical habitat for rare and threatened fauna, including rusty patch bumblebees and timber rattlesnakes.

Sedimentation and erosion are major threats to fish in the region. Protecting and enhancing upland natural communities, especially on the steep bluffs that flank most trout streams, will help prevent additional erosion. Aquatic habitat also benefits from protection of trout stream banks and floodplains. The water quality benefit that comes with the protection of forested upland areas is significant and contributes to improved trout and non-game fish and mussel habitat.

This program has benefited habitat for over 311 documented occurrences of some 110 SGCN identified by the Minnesota Natural Heritage Inventory. This proposal will continue with high impact projects that protect, restore, and enhance habitat for Minnesota's rarest and most vulnerable species. Specific habitats include bluff prairie, oak savanna, barrens prairie, oak-hickory woodland, jack pine-oak woodland, white pine - oak/maple forest and maple basswood hardwood forest. These habitats support species including: tri-colored and northern long-eared bats, timber rattlesnake, Blanding's turtle, western foxsnake, North American racer, American ginseng, great Indian plantain, plains wild indigo and red-shouldered hawk.

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

Habitat fragmentation caused by the continued growth from Rochester and demand for rural residential housing and cropland continues to be a threat. This program has generated several large protection and restoration projects that are increasingly rare in the region; moreover, MLT has seen a major uptick in landowner interest over the past year. When priority landholdings come available, it's crucial we have the resources to move quickly. Expanding existing protected areas through land protection helps improve the efficiency and effectiveness of ecological management and ensures the long-term viability of ecosystems.

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

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

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

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

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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

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

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Southeast Forest

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

Outcomes

Programs in southeast forest region:

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

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

This proposal does not substitute or supplant previous funding that was not from a Legacy fund.

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

Land protected through conservation easements will be sustained by MLT through a state-of-the art easement stewardship standards and practices. MLT is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a successful easement stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring and defending the easements as necessary. In addition, MLT encourages landowners to undertake active ecological management of their properties, provides them with habitat management plans and works with them to secure resources (expertise and funding) to undertake these activities over time.

Habitats cleared of invasive species will be maintained with prescribed fire and other practices depending on funding. Protection and restoration projects will improve future prescribed fire and maintenance activities through economies of scale. The tracts protected and enhanced as part of this proposal also meet the prioritization for Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan. MLT's burgeoning partnership with USFWS PFW program adds additional capacity to address long-term management needs.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2023 and perpetually	MLT Easement Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring in perpetuity	Enforcement as necessary	-
Every 4-6 years	US Fish and Wildlife Service	prescribed fire	-	-

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

This program focuses on protecting and restoring habitat critical to biodiversity in the most biologically diverse region of Minnesota. While that primary goal does not directly engage specific human communities, protecting, restoring, and enhancing diverse and resilient habitat benefits all Minnesotans. It keeps our air and water clean, mitigates the impacts of climate change, conserves the biological diversity that is every Minnesotan's natural heritage.

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

Minnesota Land Trust holds a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice as a core value. Examples of that commitment include, but are not limited to, programs to protect camps and nature centers that serve a diversity of Minnesota Youth; partnerships with indigenous communities to protect and restore culturally

important resources like wild rice; and to undertake shared learning around cultural practices like prescribed fire. We are committed to seeking more ways to close the outdoor access gap and support diverse human communities as we continue preserving the biological diversity of Minnesota.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Yes

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

Yes

Who will manage the easement?

Minnesota Land Trust

Who will be the easement holder?

Minnesota Land Trust

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

Minnesota Land Trust expects to close 3-5 conservation easements through this appropriation.

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Land Use

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

Yes

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

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

The purpose of the MLT's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. As such, we restrict any agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases in which there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either

carve the agricultural area out of the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to carve those areas out. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement.

Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this program either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?

No

Will the eased land be open for public use?

No

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

Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Lands protected with conservation easements often include private roads or trails used by the landowners on their property.

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

Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

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

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

No

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

No

Restoration expenses include program development activities in addition to restoration construction expenses. MLT restoration personnel will conduct outreach with easement landowners to evaluate, scope, design and schedule additional restoration projects. These activities will improve the project selection, cost-estimates and outcomes for future OHF funding requests.

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

No

Explain how, when, and source of the R/E work:

Restoration expenses include program development activities in addition to restoration construction expenses. MLT restoration personnel will conduct outreach with easement landowners to evaluate, scope, design and schedule additional restoration projects. These activities will improve the project selection, cost-estimates and outcomes for future OHF funding requests.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Easement acquisitions completed	June 30, 2029
Restoration/Enhancement on parcels protected without grant	June 30, 2030
Restoration/Enhancement on parcels protected with grant	June 30, 2034

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2030

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, 2029;
- (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, 2033;
- (3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2030;
- (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.

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$410,000	\$15,000	USFWS	\$425,000
Contracts	\$677,500	-	-	\$677,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$883,000	\$124,000	Landowner donation of easement value	\$1,007,000
Easement Stewardship	\$140,000	-	-	\$140,000
Travel	\$15,000	-	-	\$15,000
Professional Services	\$143,000	-	-	\$143,000
Direct Support Services	\$116,500	-	-	\$116,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$2,387,000	\$139,000	-	\$2,526,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Restoration Staff	0.62	5.0	\$250,000	\$15,000	USFWS	\$265,000
MLT Protection Staff	0.4	4.0	\$160,000	-	-	\$160,000

Amount of Request: \$2,387,000

Amount of Leverage: \$139,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 5.82%

DSS + Personnel: \$526,500

As a % of the total request: 22.06%

Easement Stewardship: \$140,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 15.86%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?

Proposed outputs reflect 32-33% of that initially proposed, protecting 382 and enhancing 120 acres.

Personnel/DSS was conservatively reduced 49% to accommodate for fixed costs (grant management, landowner recruitment), potential easement projects failing midstream, and number of donated easements that ultimately become part of the portfolio.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:

MLT encourages landowners to donate easement value; \$124,000 is a conservative estimate of expected landowner contribution. USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife is contributing \$15,000 in in-kind personnel time toward restoration.

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) slightly more than proportionately. Some costs related to program development and oversight remain constant regardless of appropriation amount. The costs of many professional services related to land protection also do not scale proportionately, forcing a larger reduction in acres/activities.

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

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

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

Yes

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

MLT will use contract funds for three purposes: to complete habitat management plans on new easement acquisitions; for restoration projects, and contracting for outreach.

Professional Services**What is included in the Professional Services line?**

- Appraisals
- Other : Mapping, Phase 1 Environmental Assessments, Minerals Reports, etc.
- Surveys
- Title Insurance and Legal Fees

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

The Land Trust expects to close 3-5 projects.

The average cost per easement to perpetually fund the Minnesota Land Trust's long-term monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$28,000; in extreme circumstances, a larger amount may be sought. This figure has

been determined by using a stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is the industry standard according to the Land Trust Accreditation process. Periodic updates to this cost analysis are provided to LSOHC staff.

Travel

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

Yes

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

Vehicle rental is also included.

I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:

Yes

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?

In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, MLT determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of the direct support services.

Other Equipment/Tools

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

Equipment and tools to be purchased will be those necessary for protection, restoration and management activities. Examples include Personal Protective Equipment, other field safety equipment, GPS units, and assorted hand tools for restoration/enhancement.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

Yes

Are the funds confirmed?

Yes

Is Confirmation Document attached?

[Yes](#)

- Other : In-Kind Contributions

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	382	382
Enhance	-	40	80	-	120
Total	-	40	80	382	502

How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie? (Table 1b)

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Easement	-
Enhance	10
Total	10

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$1,436,000	\$1,436,000
Enhance	-	\$317,000	\$634,000	-	\$951,000
Total	-	\$317,000	\$634,000	\$1,436,000	\$2,387,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	382	-	-	382
Enhance	-	-	120	-	-	120
Total	-	-	502	-	-	502

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	-	-	\$1,436,000	-	-	\$1,436,000
Enhance	-	-	\$951,000	-	-	\$951,000
Total	-	-	\$2,387,000	-	-	\$2,387,000

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	-	-	-	\$3,759
Enhance	-	\$7,925	\$7,925	-

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	-	-	\$3,759	-	-
Enhance	-	-	\$7,925	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](#)

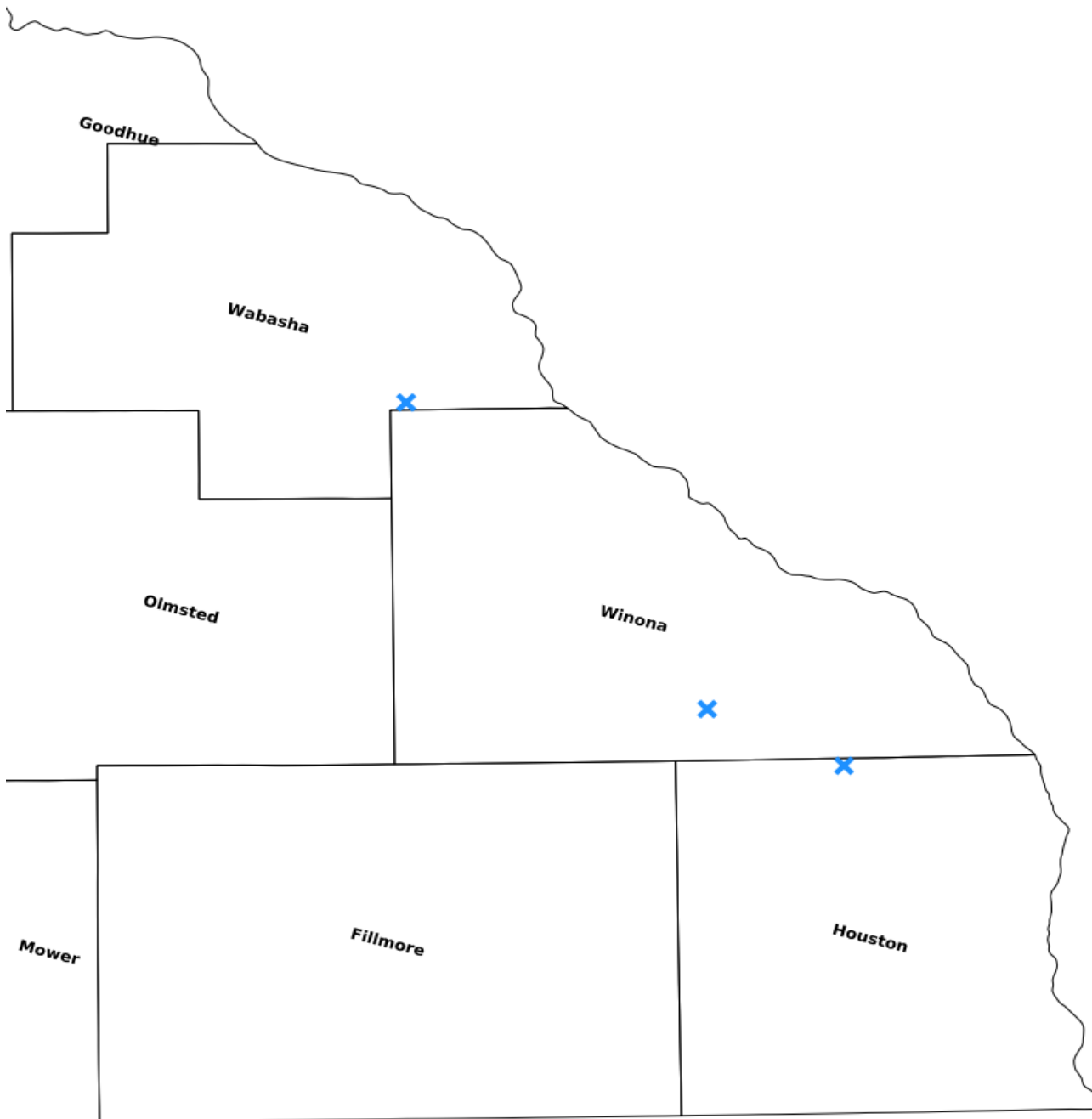
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

The Land Trust uses the attached criteria to prioritize parcels not currently on the parcel list. All protection parcels will be added to the parcel list before incurring any expenses in accordance with LSOHC guidance.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
MLT - Root River (Gilmer)	Houston	10406202	40	\$200,000	Yes	Prairie enhancements, including bluff prairie acres
MLT - East Indian Creek (Schad)	Wabasha	10910231	40	\$200,000	Yes	Bluff prairie, prairie, and oak savanna enhancement
MLT - Wiscoy Valley (Zephyr Valley Community Cooperative)	Winona	10507217	40	\$227,500	Yes	Enhancement of bluff prairies and surrounding oak savanna and woodlands

Parcel Map



0 3 6 9 mi

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



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 13

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2025 - Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 13

Organization: Minnesota Land Trust

Manager: Wayne Ostlie

Budget

Requested Amount: \$6,267,000

Appropriated Amount: \$2,387,000

Percentage: 38.09%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	\$800,000	\$15,000	\$410,000	\$15,000	51.25%	100.0%
Contracts	\$2,029,000	-	\$677,500	-	33.39%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$2,500,000	\$375,000	\$883,000	\$124,000	35.32%	33.07%
Easement Stewardship	\$308,000	-	\$140,000	-	45.45%	-
Travel	\$32,000	-	\$15,000	-	46.88%	-
Professional Services	\$370,000	-	\$143,000	-	38.65%	-
Direct Support Services	\$216,000	-	\$116,500	-	53.94%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$6,000	-	\$1,000	-	16.67%	-
Supplies/Materials	\$6,000	-	\$1,000	-	16.67%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$6,267,000	\$390,000	\$2,387,000	\$139,000	38.09%	35.64%

If the project received 70% 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) slightly more than proportionately. Some costs related to program development and oversight remain constant regardless of appropriation amount. The costs of many professional services related to land protection also do not scale proportionately, forcing a larger reduction in acres/activities.

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

Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well. However, not exactly

proportionately as program development and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

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

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

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

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

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	1,150	382	33.22%
Enhance	375	120	32.0%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$3,714,000	\$1,436,000	38.66%
Enhance	\$2,553,000	\$951,000	37.25%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	1,150	382	33.22%
Enhance	375	120	32.0%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$3,714,000	\$1,436,000	38.66%
Enhance	\$2,553,000	\$951,000	37.25%