



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Metro Big Rivers 16

Laws of Minnesota 2026 Accomplishment Plan

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### General Information

**Date:** 10/17/2025

**Project Title:** Metro Big Rivers 16

**Funds Recommended:** \$5,889,000

**Legislative Citation:**

**Appropriation Language:**

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Neal Feeken

**Title:** Executive Director

**Organization:** MN Valley Trust (Metro Big Rivers)

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### Location Information

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

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

Metro / Urban

**Activity types:**

Protect in Fee

Restore

Enhance

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

**Narrative****Abstract**

Metro Big Rivers 16 will protect 260 acres in fee title, restore 102 acres and enhance 292 acres of priority habitat in the big rivers corridors in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (654 acres total). Partners will attempt to leverage OHF grant by approximately 10% with partner funds, private donations, local government contributions, and landowner donations of easement value. Significant volunteer engagement will be invested in habitat enhancement activities. MBR projects benefit wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation (SGCN) and provide increased public access and nature connections for metro residents.

**Design and Scope of Work**

Metro Big Rivers 16 will protect, restore and enhance 654 acres of prioritized wildlife habitat in the Metropolitan Urban Area, with an emphasis on the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries. Metro Big Rivers' work benefits wildlife and species in greatest conservation need (SGCN), improves water quality and in-stream food availability, increases wildlife-based recreational opportunities, and connects metro residents with nature.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) will enhance 107 acres across multiple sites to increase native plant diversity, improve pollinator and wildlife habitat, bolster water quality, and improve public access to natural spaces. Projects include invasive woody plant removal, seeding and planting native prairie and forest species, mowing, spot-spraying, and prescribed burning. 11 acres of enhancement occur on remnant native prairie.

Great River Greening (GRG) will restore and enhance 44 acres of forest, prairie and other priority habitat across multiple sites. Projects include invasive tree removal, shoreline restoration, tree stand thinning, onsite biochar processing, planting and seeding native grass and wildflowers, planting climate-resilient trees and shrubs, mowing, herbicide application and spot-spraying, and prescribed burning.

Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will protect through fee acquisition 100 acres of river frontage, floodplain forest, wetland and upland habitat to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Prospective lands are prioritized by the USFWS and will be restored/enhanced, then open for wildlife-based recreation. MVT will enhance an additional 125 acres of prairie/oak savanna habitat on multiple sites across Refuge units.

Trust for Public Land (TPL) will protect through fee acquisition 160 acres of priority wildlife habitat and restore/enhance 116 acres of prairie and forest habitat, across multiple sites including on a recently-acquired WMA complex. Prospective acquisition sites are prioritized in state, regional, and local natural resource plans. Lands will be managed by public partners and open for wildlife-based recreation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Protection partners prioritize work through science-based processes led by the public entities that own or will own interest in the properties (e.g., MN DNR, USFWS). Plans followed include MBS, RESA, Metropolitan Conservation Corridors, Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan, and the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Actions are targeted toward building conservation corridors and priority habitat complexes.

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

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

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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

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

### **Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?**

#### **Metro / Urban**

Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

### **Outcomes**

#### **Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:**

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

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

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

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

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

All MBR restore/enhance partners will raise funds and work with partners to ensure the project benefits are maintained. FMR and GRG will continue hosting volunteer events to maintain habitat investments.

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

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

**Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes**

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

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

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

Friends of the Mississippi River and Great River Greening actively engage residents in habitat work in their neighborhoods through targeted outreach for volunteer events. Their youth programming targets young people from diverse backgrounds for exploring environmental careers. FMR's Environmental Stewards Institute increases underrepresented youth participating in environmental career pathway programs; at least 65% of participants identify as black, indigenous, or a person of color.

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

explore the outdoors and conservation careers.

Through its partnership with the MN Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Trust for Public Land facilitates mentored hunting and angling opportunities for diverse communities on public lands and waters across Minnesota, with a focus on ones protected by the OHF. Like mentee participants, the mentors come from historically marginalized communities with diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds. We know that seeing diversity in outdoor spaces helps foster a sense of representation, belonging and inclusion.

### Activity Details

#### Requirements

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

Yes

**Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought\*\* prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**

No

**Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:**

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

**Where does the activity take place?**

SNA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

County/Municipal

WMA

Refuge Lands

WPA

#### 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:**

Restoration/Enhancement:

Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted best practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example, short-term use of soybeans could be used for restorations in order to control weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank.

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

No

**Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?**

No

**Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?**

Yes

**Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:**

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

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

**Who will eventually own the fee title land?**

State of MN

Federal

Local Unit of Government

County

**Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:**

WMA

National Wildlife Refuge

SNA

State Forest

AMA

Other : County Conservation Area

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

2-5

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

Yes

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

We are not aware of any trails or roads at this time, although some parcels acquired in fee title may have existing field roads or low maintenance trails. Properties identified and prioritized for protection through conservation easements often have trails and roads on them; private landowners typically will be allowed to use those trails/roads on their property.

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

Yes

**How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?**

Any pre-existing low-maintenance roads and trails on properties acquired for the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) may be continued under a plan developed for the purpose of property access for habitat maintenance and public use of the property for wildlife-dependent recreation (e.g., hunting and fishing).

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

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

No

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

Yes

We expect some restoration needs for most if not all acquired parcels. Restoration needs will likely be funded via this and potentially through subsequent appropriations, depending on fund availability.

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

Yes

### Timeline

| Activity Name                                         | Estimated Completion Date |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| MVT - Enhance and restore 125 acres                   | June 2031                 |
| TPL - Restore and enhance 116 acres                   | June 2031                 |
| TPL - Protect 160 acres through fee title acquisition | June 2030                 |
| MVT - Protect 100 acres through fee title acquisition | June 2030                 |
| GRG - Restore 22 acres and enhance 22 acres           | June 2031                 |
| FMR - Enhance 107 acres                               | June 2031                 |

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 11/01/2031

**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, 2030;
- (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, 2034;
- (3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2031;
- (4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
- (5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

**Budget**

*Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan.*

**Grand Totals Across All Partnerships**

| <b>Item</b>                | <b>Funding Request</b> | <b>Leverage</b>  | <b>Leverage Source</b>                  | <b>Total</b>       |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel                  | \$432,800              | \$105,500        | members, donors, Cities and Foundations | \$538,300          |
| Contracts                  | \$1,681,800            | \$132,500        | MVT, Foundation Grant, volunteers       | \$1,814,300        |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT    | \$2,380,000            | -                | -                                       | \$2,380,000        |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT   | \$1,000,000            | \$100,000        | -, MVT                                  | \$1,100,000        |
| Easement Acquisition       | -                      | -                | -                                       | -                  |
| Easement Stewardship       | -                      | -                | -                                       | -                  |
| Travel                     | \$12,100               | \$1,200          | Private                                 | \$13,300           |
| Professional Services      | \$35,000               | -                | -                                       | \$35,000           |
| Direct Support Services    | \$139,900              | \$208,100        | MVT, Private, GRG                       | \$348,000          |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$64,000               | -                | -                                       | \$64,000           |
| Capital Equipment          | -                      | -                | -                                       | -                  |
| Other Equipment/Tools      | \$7,900                | -                | -                                       | \$7,900            |
| Supplies/Materials         | \$110,500              | \$10,000         | -, FMR                                  | \$120,500          |
| DNR IDP                    | \$25,000               | -                | -                                       | \$25,000           |
| <b>Grand Total</b>         | <b>\$5,889,000</b>     | <b>\$557,300</b> | <b>-</b>                                | <b>\$6,446,300</b> |

**Partner: Friends of the Mississippi River****Totals**

| Item                          | Funding Request  | Leverage        | Leverage Source | Total            |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Personnel                     | \$78,600         | \$35,500        | members, donors | \$114,100        |
| Contracts                     | \$480,000        | \$22,500        | volunteers      | \$502,500        |
| Fee Acquisition w/<br>PILT    | -                | -               | -               | -                |
| Fee Acquisition w/o<br>PILT   | -                | -               | -               | -                |
| Easement Acquisition          | -                | -               | -               | -                |
| Easement<br>Stewardship       | -                | -               | -               | -                |
| Travel                        | \$4,700          | -               | -               | \$4,700          |
| Professional Services         | -                | -               | -               | -                |
| Direct Support<br>Services    | \$45,200         | -               | -               | \$45,200         |
| DNR Land Acquisition<br>Costs | -                | -               | -               | -                |
| Capital Equipment             | -                | -               | -               | -                |
| Other<br>Equipment/Tools      | \$1,000          | -               | -               | \$1,000          |
| Supplies/Materials            | \$35,500         | \$10,000        | FMR             | \$45,500         |
| DNR IDP                       | -                | -               | -               | -                |
| <b>Grand Total</b>            | <b>\$645,000</b> | <b>\$68,000</b> | <b>-</b>        | <b>\$713,000</b> |

**Personnel**

| Position                                                                       | Annual FTE | Years<br>Working | Funding<br>Request | Leverage | Leverage<br>Source | Total     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|
| FMR Staff<br>(Ecologists,<br>Pollinator<br>Biologist,<br>Conservation<br>Tech) | 0.2        | 4.0              | \$78,600           | \$35,500 | members,<br>donors | \$114,100 |

**Partner: Great River Greening****Totals**

| Item                       | Funding Request  | Leverage         | Leverage Source        | Total            |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Personnel                  | \$194,200        | \$70,000         | Cities and Foundations | \$264,200        |
| Contracts                  | \$478,800        | -                | -                      | \$478,800        |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT    | -                | -                | -                      | -                |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT   | -                | -                | -                      | -                |
| Easement Acquisition       | -                | -                | -                      | -                |
| Easement Stewardship       | -                | -                | -                      | -                |
| Travel                     | \$7,400          | -                | -                      | \$7,400          |
| Professional Services      | -                | -                | -                      | -                |
| Direct Support Services    | \$46,700         | \$72,100         | GRG                    | \$118,800        |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | -                | -                | -                      | -                |
| Capital Equipment          | -                | -                | -                      | -                |
| Other Equipment/Tools      | \$6,900          | -                | -                      | \$6,900          |
| Supplies/Materials         | \$75,000         | -                | -                      | \$75,000         |
| DNR IDP                    | -                | -                | -                      | -                |
| <b>Grand Total</b>         | <b>\$809,000</b> | <b>\$142,100</b> | <b>-</b>               | <b>\$951,100</b> |

**Personnel**

| Position                            | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source        | Total     |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|------------------------|-----------|
| GRG Staff (Ecologists, Technicians) | 0.34       | 5.0           | \$194,200       | \$70,000 | Cities and Foundations | \$264,200 |

**Partner: MN Valley NWR Trust****Totals**

| Item                          | Funding Request    | Leverage         | Leverage Source | Total              |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Personnel                     | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Contracts                     | \$448,000          | \$35,000         | MVT             | \$483,000          |
| Fee Acquisition w/<br>PILT    | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Fee Acquisition w/o<br>PILT   | \$800,000          | \$100,000        | MVT             | \$900,000          |
| Easement Acquisition          | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Easement<br>Stewardship       | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Travel                        | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Professional Services         | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Direct Support<br>Services    | -                  | \$88,000         | MVT             | \$88,000           |
| DNR Land Acquisition<br>Costs | \$7,000            | -                | -               | \$7,000            |
| Capital Equipment             | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Other<br>Equipment/Tools      | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Supplies/Materials            | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| DNR IDP                       | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| <b>Grand Total</b>            | <b>\$1,255,000</b> | <b>\$223,000</b> | -               | <b>\$1,478,000</b> |

**Partner: Trust for Public Land****Totals**

| Item                       | Funding Request    | Leverage         | Leverage Source  | Total              |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel                  | \$160,000          | -                | -                | \$160,000          |
| Contracts                  | \$275,000          | \$75,000         | Foundation Grant | \$350,000          |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT    | \$2,380,000        | -                | -                | \$2,380,000        |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT   | \$200,000          | -                | -                | \$200,000          |
| Easement Acquisition       | -                  | -                | -                | -                  |
| Easement Stewardship       | -                  | -                | -                | -                  |
| Travel                     | -                  | \$1,200          | Private          | \$1,200            |
| Professional Services      | \$35,000           | -                | -                | \$35,000           |
| Direct Support Services    | \$48,000           | \$48,000         | Private          | \$96,000           |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$57,000           | -                | -                | \$57,000           |
| Capital Equipment          | -                  | -                | -                | -                  |
| Other Equipment/Tools      | -                  | -                | -                | -                  |
| Supplies/Materials         | -                  | -                | -                | -                  |
| DNR IDP                    | \$25,000           | -                | -                | \$25,000           |
| <b>Grand Total</b>         | <b>\$3,180,000</b> | <b>\$124,200</b> | <b>-</b>         | <b>\$3,304,200</b> |

**Personnel**

| Position  | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Leverage | Leverage Source | Total     |
|-----------|------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| TPL Staff | 0.31       | 3.0           | \$160,000       | -        | -               | \$160,000 |

**Amount of Request:** \$5,889,000**Amount of Leverage:** \$557,300**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 9.46%**DSS + Personnel:** \$572,700**As a % of the total request:** 9.72%**Easement Stewardship:** -**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** -

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

Metro Big Rivers reduced the number of projects it will complete and acres impacted to accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation.

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

Leverage includes committed partner and other private funds (FMR, GRG, MVT, TPL), committed and anticipated city funds (FMR, GRG).

**Does this project have the ability to be scalable?**

Yes

## If the project received 50% of the requested funding

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

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities). The reduction will not be exactly proportional, as partners have some fixed costs that do not change based on project size.

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

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

## Personnel

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

Yes

## Contracts

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

FMR, GRG, MVT, TPL - Restoration / enhancement contracts with service providers.

TPL - Potential site clean up and initial development costs.

## Professional Services

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

Appraisals

Design/Engineering

Other : Phase 1 Environmental Review

Surveys

## Fee Acquisition

### **What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?**

3-5

## 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**

NA

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

Yes

## Direct Support Services

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

FMR – As of October 27, 2023, FMR's DSS rate has been approved by DNR staff. The rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. A portion not exceeding 50% of these costs are requested from the grant and the balance is contributed as leverage.

GRG – As approved by the DNR in September 2024, GRG's DSS rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. A portion not exceeding 50% of these costs are requested from the grant and the balance is contributed as leverage.

TPL - DSS rate is based upon our federal rate which has been approved by the DNR. 50% of these costs are requested from the grant, 50% is contributed as leverage.

MVT is not requesting DSS but is offering foregone DSS as leverage. MVT is estimating these costs at 15% on eligible line items

## Other Equipment/Tools

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

Hand tools, saws, brush cutters, GPS devices, safety gear and other necessary equipment to complete restoration and enhancement activities.

## Federal Funds

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

No

## Output Tables

### Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

| Type                                     | Wetland  | Prairie    | Forest     | Habitat    | Total Acres |
|------------------------------------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Restore                                  | 0        | 90         | 10         | 2          | 102         |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -        | -          | -          | 140        | 140         |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -        | -          | -          | 120        | 120         |
| Protect in Easement                      | -        | -          | -          | -          | -           |
| Enhance                                  | -        | 39         | 126        | 127        | 292         |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>0</b> | <b>129</b> | <b>136</b> | <b>389</b> | <b>654</b>  |

### 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                                  | 11                     |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>11</b>              |

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

| Type                                     | Wetland  | Prairie          | Forest           | Habitat            | Total Funding      |
|------------------------------------------|----------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Restore                                  | -        | \$499,000        | \$161,300        | \$220,500          | \$880,800          |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -        | -                | -                | \$2,556,000        | \$2,556,000        |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -        | -                | -                | \$1,156,000        | \$1,156,000        |
| Protect in Easement                      | -        | -                | -                | -                  | -                  |
| Enhance                                  | -        | \$170,600        | \$677,600        | \$448,000          | \$1,296,200        |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>-</b> | <b>\$669,600</b> | <b>\$838,900</b> | <b>\$4,380,500</b> | <b>\$5,889,000</b> |

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

| Type                                     | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie  | N. Forest | Total Acres |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Restore                                  | 102         | -              | -         | -        | -         | 102         |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 140         | -              | -         | -        | -         | 140         |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | 120         | -              | -         | -        | -         | 120         |
| Protect in Easement                      | -           | -              | -         | -        | -         | -           |
| Enhance                                  | 292         | -              | -         | -        | -         | 292         |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>654</b>  | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b>  | <b>654</b>  |

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

| Type                                     | Metro/Urban        | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie  | N. Forest | Total Funding      |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------------------|
| Restore                                  | \$880,800          | -              | -         | -        | -         | \$880,800          |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$2,556,000        | -              | -         | -        | -         | \$2,556,000        |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | \$1,156,000        | -              | -         | -        | -         | \$1,156,000        |
| Protect in Easement                      | -                  | -              | -         | -        | -         | -                  |
| Enhance                                  | \$1,296,200        | -              | -         | -        | -         | \$1,296,200        |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$5,889,000</b> | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b>  | <b>\$5,889,000</b> |

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

| Type                                     | Wetland | Prairie | Forest   | Habitat   |
|------------------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Restore                                  | -       | \$5,544 | \$16,130 | \$110,250 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -       | -       | -        | \$18,257  |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -       | -       | -        | \$9,633   |
| Protect in Easement                      | -       | -       | -        | -         |
| Enhance                                  | -       | \$4,374 | \$5,377  | \$3,527   |

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

| Type                                     | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Restore                                  | \$8,635     | -              | -         | -       | -         |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$18,257    | -              | -         | -       | -         |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | \$9,633     | -              | -         | -       | -         |
| Protect in Easement                      | -           | -              | -         | -       | -         |
| Enhance                                  | \$4,439     | -              | -         | -       | -         |

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

3.79

## Parcels

### Parcel Information

#### Sign-up Criteria?

No

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

FMR and GRG work with their public partners and other interested stakeholders to identify priority projects and areas. Criteria includes ecological and habitat value and potential (biodiversity, size and location), congruence with existing plans and priority areas, adjacency and connectedness to other public and protected lands and complexes, willing and committed landowners and leveraged opportunities.

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

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

### Restore / Enhance Parcels

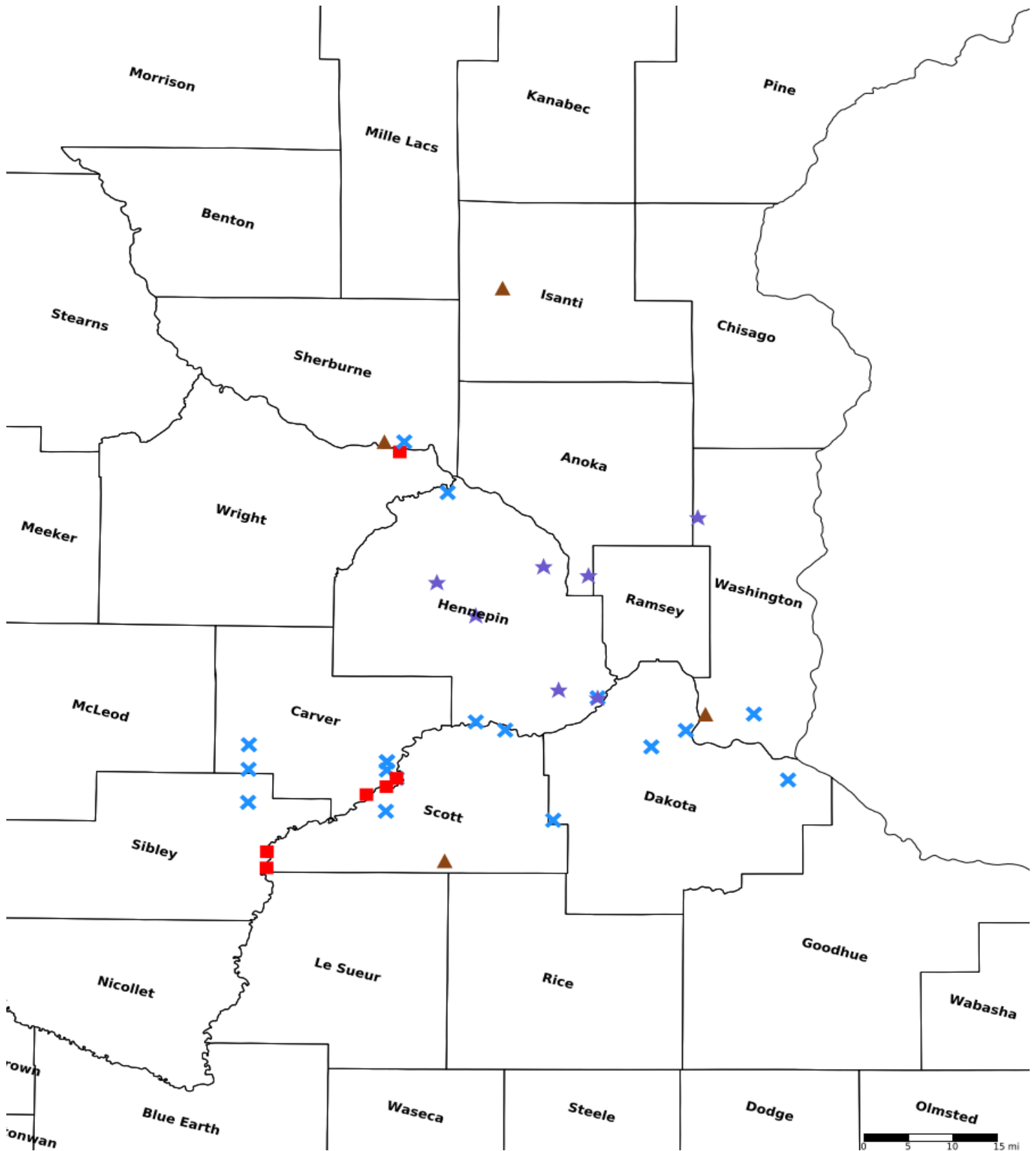
| Name                            | County   | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost  | Existing Protection | Description                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|-------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GRG - Innsbruck Park Phase 2    | Anoka    | 03024224 | 22    | \$78,200  | Yes                 | Enhance 22 acres of natural woodland area with additional funding to assist budgets in Phase 1 impacted by Prevailing Wage.                                                                           |
| MVT - Rapids Lake Lundquist     | Carver   | 11524236 | 50    | \$27,500  | Yes                 | Oak savanna enhancement                                                                                                                                                                               |
| MVT - Rapids Lake Unit #2       | Carver   | 11524225 | 57    | \$25,000  | Yes                 | Oak Savanna enhancement                                                                                                                                                                               |
| MVT - Rapids Lake VC            | Carver   | 11423206 | 1     | \$5,000   | Yes                 | Oak savanna                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| MVT - San Francisco Belter Unit | Carver   | 11424225 | 10    | \$235,000 | Yes                 | Oak Savanna enhancement                                                                                                                                                                               |
| MVT -Perbix WPA                 | Carver   | 11526234 | 20    | \$25,000  | Yes                 | Grassland enhancement                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| MVT -Tiger Lake WPA             | Carver   | 11526215 | 50    | \$15,000  | Yes                 | Grassland enhancement                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| MVT-Rapids Lake Unit North      | Carver   | 11524225 | 90    | \$530,000 | Yes                 | Oak Savanna enhancement                                                                                                                                                                               |
| FMR - Hastings Sand Coulee SNA  | Dakota   | 11417202 | 88    | \$511,500 | Yes                 | Enhance 32 acres native prairie, and 56 acres forest                                                                                                                                                  |
| FMR - Pine Bend Bluffs SNA      | Dakota   | 02722227 | 42    | \$323,400 | Yes                 | Enhance 42 acres forest                                                                                                                                                                               |
| FMR - Rosemount Preserve        | Dakota   | 11519216 | 24    | \$110,980 | Yes                 | Enhance 7 acres prairie and 17 acres forest                                                                                                                                                           |
| MVT -Soberg WPA                 | Dakota   | 11421235 | 25    | \$5,000   | Yes                 | Grassland enhancement                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| GRG - Brookdale Park            | Hennepin | 11921227 | 8     | \$246,200 | Yes                 | Restore 8 acres mesic prairie through turf removal conversion. Adjacent to water way connected to Shingle Creek that will require erosion control, soil stabilization and local watershed permitting. |

|                                          |            |          |     |             |     |                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------|------------|----------|-----|-------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GRG - Medina Lake Phase 2                | Hennepin   | 11823202 | 2   | \$102,800   | Yes | Restore 2 acres of natural area through prairie establishment. Budget is based bid proposals received in fall 2024. |
| GRG - Parkers Lake Park                  | Hennepin   | 11822228 | 2   | \$220,500   | Yes | Restore 1800 lf of shoreline from 2 acres of turf grass to native vegetation along Parkers Lake.                    |
| GRG - Wood Lake Nature Center - Phase 2  | Hennepin   | 02824233 | 10  | \$161,300   | Yes | Restore 10 acres of woodland through understory invasive removal and native establishment.                          |
| MVT - Long Meadow Lake                   | Hennepin   | 02723206 | 15  | \$50,000    | Yes | Floodplain restoration                                                                                              |
| MVT - Long Meadow Lake BLVC              | Hennepin   | 02723206 | 12  | \$250,000   | Yes | Oak savanna                                                                                                         |
| MVT - Upgrala Unit                       | Hennepin   | 11622233 | 72  | \$100,000   | Yes | Grassland/Wetland enhancement                                                                                       |
| MVT - Wilkie Unit                        | Hennepin   | 11522201 | 15  | \$250,000   | Yes | Oak savanna                                                                                                         |
| FMR - Camp Cozy                          | Sherburne  | 03326231 | 29  | \$240,900   | Yes | Enhance 29 acres forest                                                                                             |
| MVT - Redhead WPA                        | Sibley     | 11426222 | 40  | \$25,000    | Yes | Grassland/Wetland enhancement                                                                                       |
| FMR - Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park | Washington | 02721214 | 81  | \$734,990   | Yes | Enhance 54 acres prairie, and 27 acres forest                                                                       |
| TPL - Keystone Woods WMA                 | Washington | 03121218 | 800 | \$1,500,000 | Yes | Restore 600 acres of prairie, enhance 200 acres of forest                                                           |
| FMR - Highlands of Riverpointe           | Wright     | 12023212 | 22  | \$156,630   | Yes | Enhance 22 acres forest                                                                                             |

### Fee Parcels

| Name                                                                  | County     | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost    | Existing Protection |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|-------|-------------|---------------------|
| MVT - Rapids Lake Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge   | Carver     | 11423206 | 118   | \$826,000   | No                  |
| MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge | Carver     | 11424215 | 353   | \$1,147,250 | No                  |
| MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge | Carver     | 11424212 | 168   | \$546,000   | No                  |
| TPL - Green Lake SNA                                                  | Isanti     | 03625226 | 190   | \$600,000   | No                  |
| MVT - Blakeley Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge      | Scott      | 11326236 | 194   | \$630,500   | No                  |
| TPL - Ney WMA addition #3                                             | Scott      | 11323225 | 193   | \$1,500,000 | No                  |
| TPL - Mississippi Sherburne North                                     | Sherburne  | 03327235 | 34    | \$1,200,000 | No                  |
| MVT - Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge    | Sibley     | 11326224 | 367   | \$1,835,000 | No                  |
| TPL - Nesvig AMA                                                      | Washington | 02722213 | 200   | \$5,000,000 | No                  |
| TPL - Mississippi River Conservation Area                             | Wright     | 12123218 | 133   | \$3,500,000 | No                  |

# Parcel Map





## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Metro Big Rivers 16

Comparison Report

**Program Title:** ML 2026 - Metro Big Rivers 16

**Organization:** MN Valley Trust (Metro Big Rivers)

**Manager:** Neal Feeken

### Budget

**Requested Amount:** \$21,386,800

**Appropriated Amount:** \$5,889,000

**Percentage:** 27.54%

| Item                       | Requested Proposal  | Leverage Proposal  | Appropriated AP    | Leverage AP      | Percent of Request | Percent of Leverage |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Personnel                  | \$1,507,400         | \$216,800          | \$432,800          | \$105,500        | 28.71%             | 48.66%              |
| Contracts                  | \$6,396,300         | \$255,000          | \$1,681,800        | \$132,500        | 26.29%             | 51.96%              |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT    | \$8,500,000         | -                  | \$2,380,000        | -                | 28.0%              | -                   |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT   | \$3,750,000         | \$350,000          | \$1,000,000        | \$100,000        | 26.67%             | 28.57%              |
| Easement Acquisition       | -                   | -                  | -                  | -                | -                  | -                   |
| Easement Stewardship       | -                   | -                  | -                  | -                | -                  | -                   |
| Travel                     | \$22,700            | \$1,200            | \$12,100           | \$1,200          | 53.3%              | 100.0%              |
| Professional Services      | \$115,000           | -                  | \$35,000           | -                | 30.43%             | -                   |
| Direct Support Services    | \$377,100           | \$726,600          | \$139,900          | \$208,100        | 37.1%              | 28.64%              |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$253,000           | -                  | \$64,000           | -                | 25.3%              | -                   |
| Capital Equipment          | -                   | -                  | -                  | -                | -                  | -                   |
| Other Equipment/Tools      | \$13,400            | -                  | \$7,900            | -                | 58.96%             | -                   |
| Supplies/Materials         | \$352,700           | -                  | \$110,500          | \$10,000         | 31.33%             | -                   |
| DNR IDP                    | \$99,200            | -                  | \$25,000           | -                | 25.2%              | -                   |
| <b>Grand Total</b>         | <b>\$21,386,800</b> | <b>\$1,549,600</b> | <b>\$5,889,000</b> | <b>\$557,300</b> | <b>27.54%</b>      | <b>35.96%</b>       |

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

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

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

### **If the project received 50% of the requested funding**

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

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities). The reduction will not be exactly proportional, as partners have some fixed costs that do not change based on project size.

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

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

## Output

**Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)**

| Type                                     | Total Proposed | Total in AP | Percentage of Proposed |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Restore                                  | 362            | 102         | 28.18%                 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 498            | 140         | 28.11%                 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | 343            | 120         | 34.99%                 |
| Protect in Easement                      | 0              | -           | -                      |
| Enhance                                  | 1,030          | 292         | 28.35%                 |

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

| Type                                     | Total Proposed | Total in AP | Percentage of Proposed |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Restore                                  | \$1,926,900    | \$880,800   | 45.71%                 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$9,282,000    | \$2,556,000 | 27.54%                 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | \$4,016,000    | \$1,156,000 | 28.78%                 |
| Protect in Easement                      | -              | -           | -                      |
| Enhance                                  | \$6,161,900    | \$1,296,200 | 21.04%                 |

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

| Type                                     | Total Proposed | Total in AP | Percentage of Proposed |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Restore                                  | 362            | 102         | 28.18%                 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 498            | 140         | 28.11%                 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | 343            | 120         | 34.99%                 |
| Protect in Easement                      | 0              | -           | -                      |
| Enhance                                  | 1,030          | 292         | 28.35%                 |

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

| Type                                     | Total Proposed | Total in AP | Percentage of Proposed |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Restore                                  | \$1,926,900    | \$880,800   | 45.71%                 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$9,282,000    | \$2,556,000 | 27.54%                 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | \$4,016,000    | \$1,156,000 | 28.78%                 |
| Protect in Easement                      | -              | -           | -                      |
| Enhance                                  | \$6,161,900    | \$1,296,200 | 21.04%                 |