Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

ML 2026 Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Phase XVI

Laws of Minnesota 2026 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/30/2025

Project Title: ML 2026 Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Phase XVI

Funds Recommended: $2,645,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Chris McGrath
Title: Associate Director of Protection
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Location Information

County Location(s): Nicollet, Becker, Brown, Chippewa, Big Stone, Clay, Cottonwood, Grant, Jackson, Kittson, Kandiyohi, Marshall, Lyon, Mahnomen, Lincoln, Lac qui Parle, Murray, Nobles, Norman, Otter Tail, Pipestone, Pennington, Red Lake, Pope, Redwood, Polk, Renville, Rock, Stearns, Wilkin, Roseau, Swift, Stevens, Traverse, Yellow Medicine and Martin.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will work together to permanently protect native prairie and associated complexes of wetlands and native habitats in western and central Minnesota by purchasing approximately 470 acres of fee title properties and/or permanent habitat easements, and restoration & enhancement of approximately 290 acres. Approximately 301 acres out of the 470 acquired acres will be native prairie. Work will be focused in priority areas identified in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan that have significant biodiversity by the Minnesota Biological Survey.

Design and Scope of Work

The NTP NWR was established in 2000 to address the loss of America's grasslands and the decline of grassland wildlife and was created to permanently preserve and restore a portion of our disappearing tallgrass prairie. The NTP NWR is authorized to work in the prairie landscapes of western Minnesota and northwestern Iowa.

To date, the NTP NWR has protected more than 15,027 acres of native prairie and associated habitat. Funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) will allow TNC and USFWS, working in partnership, to significantly accelerate this progress. TNC and USFWS will cooperate on protecting approximately 470 acres of native prairie and associated habitat in the 49 Minnesota counties within the Refuge boundary. We anticipate protecting approximately 390 acres with permanent habitat easements and approximately 80 acres in fee title.

This program's work is targeted at protecting high-quality native habitat in areas with existing concentrations of native prairie, wetlands, and protected lands. The lands protected will consist of native prairie and associated habitats including wetlands, streams, coulees, and lakes.

Potential acquisitions are reviewed using the following criteria:
1) Is there untilled native prairie on the tract? If not, is it adjacent to untilled native prairie?
2) Is the property in a priority area (Core/Corridor/Strategic Habitat Complex) identified in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan?
3) Is it adjacent to an existing complex of protected land?
4) Was it identified by Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) or USFWS biologists as having concentrations of threatened and endangered species and communities?
5) Is it suitable for public recreation?

Previous OHF support has allowed the partners to make significant progress towards our shared goal of protecting and buffering the remaining native prairie. The first property was acquired in March, 2013. Since then, approximately 9,406 acres have been added to the NTP NWR with OHF funding. Of these, approximately 5,956 acres (approximately 63.3%) are classified as untilled native prairie. Additional habitat includes approximately

719 acres of wetlands, 31 miles of stream front, and more than 2.5 miles of lakefront.

With the continued support from the OHF, this program will continue to make lasting progress towards protecting Minnesota's native prairies and the wildlife that depend on those lands.

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

The NTP NWR program takes the approach that specific species are best protected by conserving high-quality habitat in the most critical prairie areas.

This focus on habitat quality has produced positive results. Of the 9,406 acres protected, approximately 52% have been identified as having significant biodiversity by MBS. These high-quality lands provide habitat for a wide range of species, from game species to those that are endangered, threatened, or in greatest conservation need.

MBS field work has identified populations of 29 rare species located wholly or partially on NTP NWR properties protected with OHF-funding. Benefited species include:

Birds – Henslow's sparrow (endangered), Wilson's phalarope (threatened), and species of special concern including the greater prairie-chicken, marbled godwit, short-eared owl, and yellow rail
Butterflies – Dakota skipper (endangered), Poweshiek skipperling (endangered), Arogos skipper (threatened), Pawnee montane skipper (threatened), and regal fritillary (special concern)
Fish - Topeka shiner (endangered)
Reptiles - Blanding's turtle (threatened)
Plants – prairie clover (threatened), sterile sedge (threatened), hair-like beak rush (threatened), and species of special concern including western white prairie clover, blanket flower, buffalo grass, few-flowered spikerush, Hall's sedge, least moonwort, Missouri milk-vetch, mudwort, prairie mimosa, slender milk-vetch, slender plantain, and small white lady's slipper.

Highlights over the past year included the protection of 828 grassland acres, including 698 acres of untilled native prairie, 28 acres of wetlands, 2.3 miles of stream frontage, much of it identified as critical habitat for the Topeka Shiner, a federally endangered species, and other populations of federally and state listed species & species of special concern.

Future acquisition work will be guided by this same focus on high-quality, diverse habitat, benefiting a wide range of species. As we successfully continue with the program to protect the last remaining native prairie in MN, we are seeing climate resiliency benefits resulting from increased enhancement and restoration investments. To that end, this proposal includes funding for the enhancement and restoration of up to 290 acres of native prairie and associated habitat on parcels acquired with this appropriation.

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

While native prairie once covered one-third of Minnesota, this habitat type has experienced steep declines in recent decades, and it is estimated that approximately 1% of untilled prairie remains. Many of these remaining areas are small and geographically isolated from each other. Conversion of the few remaining native prairie areas to cropland, sand and gravel mining, and residential development has been a consistent and real threat in many areas of the state. To protect these irreplaceable habitats, it is essential to either place them in public ownership through fee acquisition, which allows the public to enjoy the habitats for recreation or hunting/fishing, or to prevent the conversion of these habitats with permanent conservation easements.

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

In addition to an evaluation based on the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan and location in a Prairie Core, Corridor, or Strategic Habitat Complex, every proposed project is evaluated using Survey information on: 1) native prairie sites, 2) rare, threatened, and endangered species locations, and 3) areas of biodiversity significance.

The selection criteria also recognize the importance of building on existing complexes and reducing fragmentation. If a prairie is small or isolated, the animal and plant species that live there are at risk. The best approach is conserving larger areas, like the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan's priority areas, that have the scale, species diversity, and connectivity to support functioning prairie systems over the long term.

The numbers shared above demonstrate this program's success at identifying and protecting biologically significant lands located in areas with existing complexes of habitat and protected lands.

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

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area (HPA) Final Environmental Impact Statement

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.

Three quarters of the carbon dioxide emissions driven by humans have occurred since 1950. We have seen a nearly 70% average decline of birds, amphibians, mammals, fish, and reptiles since 1970. A key component of our evaluation of the conservation significance of a habitat easement or fee acquisition is TNC's Resilient and Connected Network analysis (RCN). We use the RCN analysis for every acquisition project to determine the climate resiliency of the habitat we're acquiring. We prioritize acquisitions of habitats with higher climate resiliency because higher climate resiliency is critical for species to survive and thrive in a world that faces significant climate change and biodiversity loss. Once acquired, we take actions to protect, better manage and restore habitat to maximize biodiversity and climate resiliency, including the use of locally wild-collected seeds (local ecotypes) for prairie restorations.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

Prairie

Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands ~ *The percent of native remnant prairie, as determined by the MBS and/or USFWS biologists, will be*

documented on each parcel. Surrounding natural habitat types and cropped areas will be evaluated as part of the ranking criteria for submitted parcels. Native prairie protection acquisitions are also evaluated by their location relative to the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan priority areas of prairie Cores, Corridors and Strategic Habitat Complexes.

Programs in prairie region:

Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands ~ *The percent of native remnant prairie, as determined by the MBS and/or USFWS biologists, will be documented on each parcel. Surrounding natural habitat types and cropped areas will be evaluated as part of the ranking criteria for submitted parcels. Native prairie protection acquisitions are also evaluated by their location relative to the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan priority areas.*

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 project does not substitute or supplant any previous funding. The work described in this proposal would not be funded or completed without this appropriation.

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

OHF funds will be used to purchase the land in fee title or to purchase perpetual habitat easements. The land and easements purchased will be transferred to the USFWS to become units of the NTP NWR. Long term costs for restoration, management, and wildlife/habitat/easement monitoring will be funded through annual USFWS operations funding.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Annually	USFWS Annual Service Operating funds	Monitoring and management by USFWS managers, biologists, field staff, and realty staff to ensure the long-term health of these habitats is maintained. Activities may include burning as well as mechanical, biological, and chemical treatments.	-	-

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

TNC is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, which are embedded in our code of conduct and values. We recognize that conservation is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and identities. Our hiring practices have been updated to be more inclusive. Additionally, we recognize that BIPOC and other marginalized communities experience disproportionate access to nature on private lands, making it essential to provide public lands that are accessible to, and safe for, all Minnesotans; and where diverse communities will feel welcome and safe to pursue their passions for hunting, angling, photography, hiking, and simply enjoying all the benefits that nature provides. This program, if funded,

will add to the availability of fee lands included in the NTP NWR that will be open for all Minnesotans to enjoy, including BIPOC and other disadvantaged communities.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**
No

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:
We will follow the county/township board notification processes as directed by current statutory language.

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
Once acquired, TNC transfers NTP NWR conservation easements to the USFWS to hold and manage the easement.

Who will be the easement holder?
Once acquired, TNC transfers NTP NWR conservation easements to the USFWS to hold and manage the easement.

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
3-5 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 planting of agricultural crops is an accepted best management practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example, short-term use of soybeans could be used to prepare seedbeds prior to prairie plantings, which has been proven effective in decreasing the need for subsequent invasives control activities, and can shorten the amount of time that additional weed control is needed on the site. In some cases this may necessitate the use of GMO products to facilitate herbicide use to control invasives. Our process prohibits the use of neonicotinoid treated seeds. We anticipate that the use of agricultural crops would not exceed 3 years on any given OHF-acquired property, and in most cases will be considerably shorter.

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:
Land acquired in fee title will be open to public hunting and fishing during the open season according to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, United States Code, Title 16, Section 668dd, et seq. Conservation easement land will not be open to public hunting and fishing.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

Federal

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

National Wildlife Refuge

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
4-7 closed acquisitions consisting of 1-2 fee acquisitions and 3-5 easement acquisitions

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 currently existing private roads or 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?
Yes

Yes. We anticipate that up to 290 acres will be restored or enhanced on parcels acquired with this appropriation.

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
Grassland and wetland restoration and enhancement activities on all OHF acquired parcels to be completed.	June 30, 2034
Closing of approximately 470 acres of fee and conservation easement acquisitions.	June 30, 2030

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2034

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.

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$301,800	$200,000	USFWS	$501,800
Contracts	$301,000	-	-	$301,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$361,200	$150,000	PF NAWCA	$511,200
Easement Acquisition	$1,404,700	-	-	$1,404,700
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$12,800	-	-	$12,800
Professional Services	$68,200	-	-	$68,200
Direct Support Services	$61,300	$98,000	TNC private funds	$159,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$9,600	-	-	$9,600
Supplies/Materials	$124,400	-	-	$124,400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,645,000**	**$448,000**	**-**	**$3,093,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
USFWS In-kind	-	-	-	$200,000	USFWS	$200,000
TNC Staff	1.52	3.0	$301,800	-	-	$301,800

Amount of Request: $2,645,000
Amount of Leverage: $448,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 16.94%
DSS + Personnel: $363,100
As a % of the total request: 13.73%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
This program is scalable & therefore the deliverables in this accomplishment plan have been adjusted based on the recommended appropriation for this phase.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
The Personnel line includes USFWS in-kind support. The fee acquisitions w/out PILT line includes leverage from Pheasants Forever that will be paid for through a North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant. Federal funds confirmation letters are attached.

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?
As it is more efficient to purchase larger parcels and acreages, a reduction of 50% of the requested funding would likely result in a reduction of deliverables to approximately 45-50% of the proposed amounts.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We are anticipating that personnel and DSS expenses would be reduced approximately proportionally to the overall budget.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
These funds are entirely for restoration and enhancement work. While this program targets primarily high-quality habitats, small areas included in the acquisition projects may need enhancement and/or restoration. It is anticipated that the majority of the contract work will consist of woody species, invasives removal, and seeding

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Environmental Assessments and marketable minerals analysis as needed

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
1-2 fee acquisitions

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
Rental car expense is included in the travel budget

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?
DSS is based on TNC's Federal Negotiated Rate (FNR) as proposed and approved by the US Dept. of Interior on an annual basis. In this proposal we are requesting reimbursement of 7.5% of eligible base costs as determined by our annual FNR and based on suggestions from the Council in prior years' hearings. The FNR is not applied to capital equipment over $50,000 or land acquisition. The amount requested for reimbursement represents 38% of the total reimbursable costs allowed under the FNR. Examples of expenses included in the FNR include services from in-house legal counsel; finance; human resources; and information technology support, all of which contribute directly to the implementation of the project. We have included as leverage the $98,000 of additional project implementation expenses over and above the 7.5%.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Chainsaws, safety equipment, vehicles, and other equipment and tools needed for prairie restoration and enhancement needs.

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
Yes

Is Confirmation Document attached?
Yes, on file

Cash : $150,000

In Kind : $200,000

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	-	80	-	-	80
Protect in Easement	-	390	-	-	390
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**470**	**-**	**-**	**470**

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	40
Protect in Easement	261
Enhance	-
Total	**301**

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	-	$541,000	-	-	$541,000
Protect in Easement	-	$2,104,000	-	-	$2,104,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**$2,645,000**	**-**	**-**	**$2,645,000**

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	-	4	-	76	-	80
Protect in Easement	-	20	-	370	-	390
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**24**	**-**	**446**	**-**	**470**

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	-	$27,000	-	$514,000	-	$541,000
Protect in Easement	-	$104,000	-	$2,000,000	-	$2,104,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**$131,000**	**-**	**$2,514,000**	**-**	**$2,645,000**

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	-	$6,762	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	$5,394	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	$6,750	-	$6,763	-
Protect in Easement	-	$5,200	-	$5,405	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

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:

Submitted parcels will be prioritized and selected according to criteria that include: the amount of native remnant prairie on the parcel, location in a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan priority area, adjacency to existing protected lands and habitat complexes, and presence of federally or state listed plant and animal species and Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SCGN).

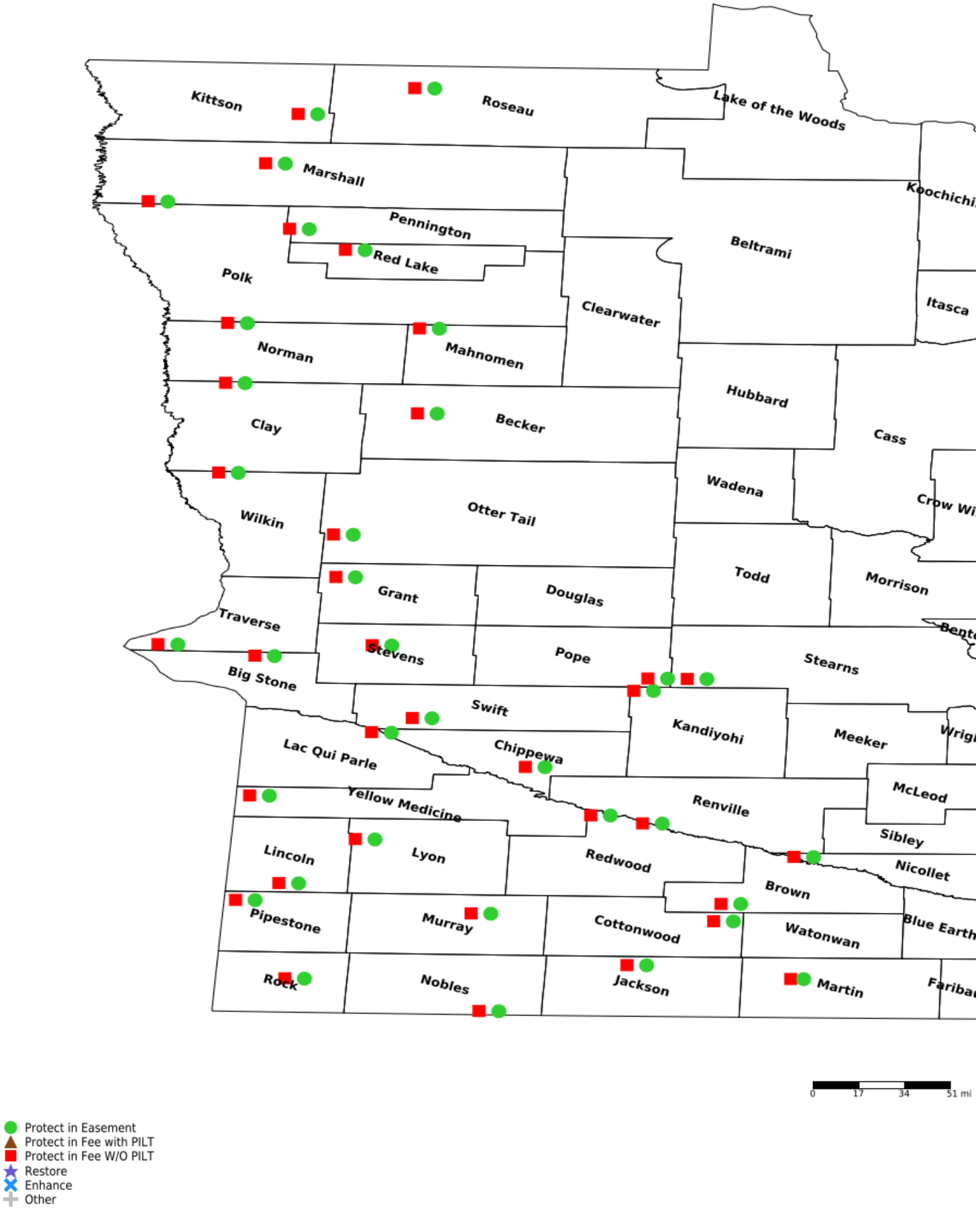
Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
NA	Becker	14142233	99	$1,000	No
NA	Big Stone	12446209	99	$1,000	No
NA	Brown	10834216	99	$1,000	No
NA	Chippewa	11739216	99	$1,000	No
NA	Clay	14247204	99	$1,000	No
NA	Cottonwood	10734220	99	$1,000	No
NA	Grant	13044233	99	$1,000	No
NA	Jackson	10436219	99	$1,000	No
NA	Kandiyohi	12236207	99	$1,000	No
NA	Kittson	16045206	99	$1,000	No
NA	Lac qui Parle	11943209	99	$1,000	No
NA	Lincoln	10945217	99	$1,000	No
NA	Lyon	11243218	99	$1,000	No
NA	Mahnomen	14642208	99	$1,000	No
NA	Marshall	15746216	99	$1,000	No
NA	Martin	10332217	99	$1,000	No
NA	Murray	10740207	99	$1,000	No
NA	Nicollet	11132208	99	$1,000	No
NA	Nobles	10140228	99	$1,000	No
NA	Norman	14647204	99	$1,000	Yes
NA	Otter Tail	13244205	99	$1,000	No
NA	Pennington	15345230	99	$1,000	No
NA	Pipestone	10846219	99	$1,000	No
NA	Polk	15449204	99	$1,000	No
NA	Pope	12336216	99	$1,000	No
NA	Red Lake	15144204	99	$1,000	No
NA	Redwood	11336204	99	$1,000	No
NA	Renville	11437219	99	$1,000	No
NA	Rock	10345228	99	$1,000	No
NA	Roseau	16242207	99	$1,000	No
NA	Stearns	12335216	99	$1,000	No
NA	Stevens	12543216	99	$1,000	No
NA	Swift	12042209	99	$1,000	No
NA	Traverse	12548219	99	$1,000	No
NA	Wilkin	13647205	99	$1,000	No
NA	Yellow Medicine	11546221	99	$1,000	No

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
NA	Becker	14142236	99	$1,000	No
NA	Big Stone	12446212	99	$1,000	No
NA	Brown	10834213	99	$1,000	No
NA	Chippewa	11739213	99	$1,000	No
NA	Clay	14247201	99	$1,000	No
NA	Cottonwood	10734223	99	$1,000	No
NA	Grant	13044236	99	$1,000	No
NA	Jackson	10436222	99	$1,000	No
NA	Kandiyohi	12236210	99	$1,000	No
NA	Kittson	16045203	99	$1,000	No
NA	Lac qui Parle	11943212	99	$1,000	No
NA	Lincoln	10945214	99	$1,000	No
NA	Lyon	11243215	99	$1,000	No
NA	Mahnomen	14642211	99	$1,000	No
NA	Marshall	15746213	99	$1,000	No
NA	Martin	10332215	99	$1,000	No
NA	Murray	10740210	99	$1,000	No
NA	Nicollet	11132211	99	$1,000	No
NA	Nobles	10140225	99	$1,000	No
NA	Norman	14647201	99	$1,000	No
NA	Otter Tail	13244202	99	$1,000	No
NA	Pennington	15345227	99	$1,000	No
NA	Pipestone	10846222	99	$1,000	No
NA	Polk	15449201	99	$1,000	No
NA	Pope	12336213	99	$1,000	No
NA	Red Lake	15144201	99	$1,000	No
NA	Redwood	11336201	99	$1,000	No
NA	Renville	11437222	99	$1,000	No
NA	Rock	10345225	99	$1,000	No
NA	Roseau	16242210	99	$1,000	No
NA	Stearns	12335213	99	$1,000	No
NA	Stevens	12543213	99	$1,000	No
NA	Swift	12042212	99	$1,000	No
NA	Traverse	12548222	99	$1,000	No
NA	Wilkin	13647202	99	$1,000	No
NA	Yellow Medicine	11546224	99	$1,000	No

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- Restore
- Enhance
- Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

ML 2026 Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Phase XVI

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2026 - ML 2026 Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Phase XVI
Organization: The Nature Conservancy
Manager: Chris McGrath

Budget

Requested Amount: $9,886,200
Appropriated Amount: $2,645,000
Percentage: 26.75%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$1,128,100	$200,000	$301,800	$200,000	26.75%	100.0%
Contracts	$1,125,000	-	$301,000	-	26.76%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$1,350,000	$150,000	$361,200	$150,000	26.76%	100.0%
Easement Acquisition	$5,250,000	-	$1,404,700	-	26.76%	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$47,800	-	$12,800	-	26.78%	-
Professional Services	$255,000	-	$68,200	-	26.75%	-
Direct Support Services	$229,300	$366,500	$61,300	$98,000	26.73%	26.74%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$36,000	-	$9,600	-	26.67%	-
Supplies/Materials	$465,000	-	$124,400	-	26.75%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$9,886,200**	**$716,500**	**$2,645,000**	**$448,000**	**26.75%**	**62.53%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
As it is more efficient to purchase larger parcels and acreages, a reduction of 50% of the requested funding would likely result in a reduction of deliverables to approximately 45-50% of the proposed amounts.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We are anticipating that personnel and DSS expenses would be reduced approximately proportionally to the overall budget.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
As it is more efficient to purchase larger parcels and acreages, a reduction of 70% of the requested funding would likely result in a reduction of deliverables to approximately 25-30% of the proposed amounts.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We are anticipating that personnel and DSS expenses would be reduced approximately proportionally to the overall budget.

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	225	80	35.56%
Protect in Easement	1,500	390	26.0%
Enhance	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	$2,022,200	$541,000	26.75%
Protect in Easement	$7,864,000	$2,104,000	26.75%
Enhance	-	-	-

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	225	80	35.56%
Protect in Easement	1,500	390	26.0%
Enhance	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	$2,022,200	$541,000	26.75%
Protect in Easement	$7,864,000	$2,104,000	26.75%
Enhance	-	-	-