Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Mission Creek Watershed Connectivity

ML 2026 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/26/2025

Proposal Title: Mission Creek Watershed Connectivity

Funds Requested: $3,442,200

Confirmed Leverage Funds: -

Is this proposal Scalable?: Yes

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jeramy Pinkerton
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Fax Number:
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Location Information

County Location(s): St. Louis.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Enhance

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

MNDNR's SLR-LS Team leads a collaborative program focused on important habitats in Minnesota's Lake Superior watershed. Our vision includes strategic investments that protect, restore, and enhance diverse, productive, and resilient ecosystems across this region. The Mission Creek Watershed Connectivity Project will restore and enhance 202 acres of priority, cold water stream and forest habitat for important fish, game, and avian Species of Greatest Conservation Need by replacing barriers to fish passage and enhancing avian habitat. With this project, we intend to build on our prior success conserving 900+ acres and leveraging $25M+ in non-state funds.

Design and Scope of Work

The SLR-LS Team will restore and enhance priority habitats in the Mission Creek Watershed utilizing a collaborative approach that includes a network of resource managers, researchers, key stakeholders, and our partners at the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT). MNDNR and MLT have partnered for more than 15 years to successfully restore wetland, stream, and open water aquatic habitats while leveraging significant federal support.

Mission Creek Stream Connectivity: DNR's SLR-LS Team, in coordination with the MNDNR Division of Parks and Trails, will reconnect up to 6.6 miles of cold-water habitat above known barrier culverts to approximately 7.0 miles below these barriers to improve passage for cold-water species such as Brook Trout. This initiative will also enhance terrestrial habitat corridors, facilitate downstream sediment transport, and ameliorate the risk of catastrophic habitat degradation due to potential culvert failure. OHF funding will be used to develop a strategic plan that addresses aquatic organism passage barriers on Mission Creek and its tributaries at the Willard Munger State Trail (Trail), local roads, and an impoundment. The Trail causeway and culverts are approaching 100 years of age, and the tall trail embankment shows signs of sluffing and instability, with at least one crossing showing signs of imminent failure. Monitoring data indicates that many of the tributaries upstream of the Trail have excellent thermal conditions for Brook Trout, while thermal conditions are often less ideal downstream. Allowing access to these upstream reaches will make populations of cold-water species in this system more resilient to climate change. Terrestrial and semi-aquatic organisms in the Mission Creek watershed will also benefit from road/trail crossing designs that facilitate movement along riparian corridors in this forested watershed. OHF funding will allow us to scope, prioritize, and design and construct two crossings while we seek construction funding for the remaining crossings/barriers between Highway-23 and Interstate-35. This funding will be used to leverage recreational trail funds as there are important habitat and trail components to these projects.

Mission Creek Forest Enhancement: This effort is led by MLT in coordination with the City of Duluth (City) and will be completed on City owned forested lands in the Mission Creek Watershed. These lands are important bird and wildlife habitat and provide connectivity to other forested areas within the region. The proposed project includes enhancing 200 acres of forested habitat. This work will support habitat for birds and wildlife, overall forest health, and integrity of the watershed to protect cold-water habitat for Brook Trout and other aquatic species. Restoration will diversify tree species and assist transition from the current aspen dominated overstory. Improvements will also enhance habitat conditions to be more suitable for migrating and breeding birds and other native wildlife communities. Proposed work in the forested areas may include gap creation, underplanting, seeding, and invasive species management.

In addition to specific projects mentioned above, the team will continue coordinating with our partners to develop additional projects that improve fish and wildlife populations throughout Minnesota's portion of the Lake Superior Watershed.

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

Brook Trout are native to headwaters and small streams of northeastern and southeastern Minnesota. Reconnecting the upper reaches of Mission Creek and its tributaries will promote natural flows and open access to cold-water refugia to improve habitat conditions for all life stages of Brook Trout, increasing the resiliency of this population.

Forest diversification in the upland areas of the Mission Creek watershed will increase overall forest resilience and enhance avian habitat. Three species that this project will support are the winter wren (SGCN species), chestnut-sided warbler (MN stewardship species), and the Canada warbler (threated in Canada and included on the Partners in Flight yellow watchlist).

The Mission Creek watershed is included in the MNDNR's Wildlife Action Network and is designated as low medium to medium high priority for conservation. This site also has high biodiversity significance as mapped by the Minnesota Biological Survey.

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

Aging infrastructure and sloughing trail embankments are a threat to both critical cold-water habitat in Mission Creek, as well as flooding that could impact both habitat and the Fond du Lac neighborhood in Duluth. One crossing is showing signs of imminent failure that could release up to 30,000 cubic yards on sediment into Mission Creek.

The City of Duluth prioritized the Mission Creek watershed in their new forest management plan, allowing the allocation of limited City resources there over the next 5-10 years. The synergy of timing between our proposed stream connectivity and forest restoration work in the Mission Creek watershed provides an opportunity to create long-term benefits that enhance habitat resilience for aquatic and terrestrial species in the watershed.

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

The Mission Creek Watershed and Forest is an approximately 4 square mile area of high biodiversity significance immediately adjacent to an approximately 25 square mile complex of outstanding and high biodiversity significance made up in part by Jay Cooke State Park. The lower portion of the watershed is located within the St. Louis River Estuary Important Bird Area, a globally important migratory corridor. Northeastern Minnesota is part of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes Joint Venture.

This project addresses habitat fragmentation by re-connecting aquatic habitats within Mission Creek and its tributaries. It also supports terrestrial habitat connectivity for avian and wildlife species through forest enhancement. We will prioritize areas for habit conservation by coordinating with natural resources professionals to help determine which culverts to replace and forest tracts to enhance. Forest enhancement prioritization will be supported by recently completed Native Plant Community mapping that identifies target communities and their condition.

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

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Projects Joint Ventures Plan

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

Our project directly addresses climate resilience by enhancing hydrologic connectivity to cold water habitats and implementing forest management actions that protect stream and habitat integrity.

Climate change is expected to severely impact cold-water habitats in our region with deleterious ramifications for cold-water reliant species, such as Brook Trout. Currently, Brook Trout in Mission Creek are unable to access colder reaches upstream due to culverts severing hydrologic connectivity. Appropriately designed stream crossings will provide access to cold water refugia, thereby enhancing climate resilience for Brook Trout and other aquatic and terrestrial species. Stream crossings will be designed using aquatic organism passage guidelines and natural channel design that reconnects the creek and its tributaries to the floodplain and conveys higher volume flows without risk of structural failure resulting from intense precipitation events predicted by climate change models. Forest enhancement actions will provide resilience to climate threats through diversification of species and structure.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

Northern Forest

Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

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

The proposed project will allow Brook Trout and other cold-water aquatic organisms to reach the cold-water refugia upstream of the current barriers to aquatic organism passage (compromised culverts). By opening up and connecting miles of cold-water habitat, the project will permanently increase the resiliency of this native brook trout population to climate change. Utilizing aquatic organism passage and natural channel design techniques will also improve stream health and may allow terrestrial organism passage in some cases.

Recent avian monitoring in the St. Louis River Important Bird area identified 169 species of migrating and nesting birds including more than 30 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Surveys have also indicated the importance of stream corridors for forest birds in the area. The Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Joint Venture has identified retention and expansion of forests patches and corridors along waterways in the Great Lakes region and managing for high quality habitat as important management actions specific to forest birds in Minnesota.

Diversifying the upland forest areas and moving beyond the current aspen dominated overstory will make the forest more resilient to multiple stressors, including climate change, and more attractive to migrating and breeding birds and other native wildlife communities. The restored areas will also be seed sources for other nearby areas in the future, aiding in diversification of the forest.

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *Program monitoring conducted by others including DNR program monitoring, the City of Duluth and the South St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District will evaluate the response of indicator species at project sites.*

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

N/A

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 would not supplant previous funding that was not from a legacy fund.

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

SLR-LS habitat restoration projects are designed to be maintained by the natural processes that define these systems. Barring catastrophic events, these projects will not require future adjustment or maintenance. In the case of stream crossings, we will complete an agreement with the entity that owns/manages a road or trail that states they own the crossing and have the responsibility to maintain it.

MNDNR Duluth Area Fisheries manages Mission Creek and its tributaries through regular monitoring, assessment, and regulation. The City of Duluth manages its forests by engaging multiple natural resource partners, its Natural Resource Commission and City staff (natural resource coordinator and forester).

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
All years	DNR Fish & Wildlife Game and Fish Fund	Regular Survey/monitoring of aquatic habitat	-	-
All years	City of Duluth	Regular Survey/monitoring of terrestrial habitats	-	-

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

Our team is leading the Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership, an emerging initiative to continue existing coordination and collaboration into the future. This initiative seeks to align natural resource management efforts with community health and economic development. Goals and objectives related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) have been established for the initiative.

SLR-LS projects are completed in close coordination with the Fond du Lac Band (FdL) and the 1854 Treaty Authority to ensure that tribal benefits are maximized, and that Traditional Ecological Knowledge is valued. FdL meets all three of Minnesota's primary Environmental Justice criteria: federally recognized Tribal area, 50% or more people of color, and at least 40% of people with reported income less than 185% of the federal poverty level. FdL's Environmental Program maintains a list of culturally significant species, which will be included in restoration and protection plans where feasible.

MNDNR's OHF projects aim to serve all Minnesotans. At the same time, we are bringing more focus in all our work to BIPOC and diverse communities. MNDNR has adopted advancing diversity, equity and inclusion as a key priority in its 2023-27 strategic plan. The plan focuses on increasing the cultural competence of our staff, creating a workforce that is reflective of Minnesota, continuing to strengthen tribal consultation and coordination, and building partnerships with diverse communities.

MLT completed a DEIJ plan in 2022. Two of the five major goals of the plan are: integrating DEIJ values into MLT's conservation project selection and development and providing capacity to develop meaningful, authentic partnerships with communities and organizations that will further DEIJ goals.

Activity Details

Requirements

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?

County/Municipal

Other : State Trail

Public Waters

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?
No

Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this proposal either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?
No

Other OHF Appropriation Awards

Have you received OHF dollars through LSOHC in the past?
Yes

Are any of these past appropriations still OPEN?
Yes

Approp Year	Funding Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Funding Remaining	% Spent to Date
2024	$1,447,000	-	-	-
2023	$2,596,000	-	-	-
2022	$4,915,500	$245,022	$4,670,478	4.98%
2021	$2,024,000	$565,830	$1,458,170	27.96%
2020	$2,280,000	$1,323,823	$956,177	58.06%
Totals	$13,262,500	$2,134,675	$11,127,825	16.1%

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Mission Creek Stream Connectivity	December 2030
Project prioritization, integration, and development; site-specific coordination	June 2031
Mission Creek Watershed Forest Enhancement	June 2031

Budget

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$700,000	-	-	$700,000
Contracts	$2,050,000	-	-	$2,050,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$7,000	-	-	$7,000
Professional Services	$520,000	-	-	$520,000
Direct Support Services	$135,700	-	-	$135,700
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$25,000	-	-	$25,000
Supplies/Materials	$4,500	-	-	$4,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,442,200**	**-**	**-**	**$3,442,200**

Partner: MN Land Trust

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$200,000	-	-	$200,000
Contracts	$500,000	-	-	$500,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
Professional Services	$20,000	-	-	$20,000
Direct Support Services	$54,000	-	-	$54,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$5,000	-	-	$5,000
Supplies/Materials	$1,500	-	-	$1,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$782,500**	**-**	**-**	**$782,500**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Restoration Staff	0.5	4.0	$200,000	-	-	$200,000

Partner: MNDNR

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$500,000	-	-	$500,000
Contracts	$1,550,000	-	-	$1,550,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$5,000	-	-	$5,000
Professional Services	$500,000	-	-	$500,000
Direct Support Services	$81,700	-	-	$81,700
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$20,000	-	-	$20,000
Supplies/Materials	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,659,700**	**-**	**-**	**$2,659,700**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
FAW Project Manager	0.5	3.0	$150,000	-	-	$150,000
EWR Project Manager	0.5	3.0	$150,000	-	-	$150,000
FAW OAS	0.5	3.0	$110,000	-	-	$110,000
EWR Supervisor	0.2	3.0	$90,000	-	-	$90,000

Amount of Request: $3,442,200
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $835,700
As a % of the total request: 24.28%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We would continue scoping and prioritizing crossings. We would only be able to complete one crossing replacement.

Acres of forested habitat enhancement would be reduced proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel/DSS expenses would reduce to 70-85% of the requested amount. Getting projects to being construction-ready and overseeing construction requires the largest investment of staff time. Staff time spent on advancing the program as a whole and developing future projects would be most reduced.

If the project received 30% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We would fund the design and construction of one lower value stream crossing. Additional funds could be acquired to implement the full project.

Forest enhancement could be scaled proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel/DSS expenses would be reduced to 50-70% of the requested amount. Getting projects to the point of being construction-ready requires the largest investment of staff time. Staff time spent on advancing the program as a whole and developing future projects would be most reduced.

Personnel

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

Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?
FTEs listed in the proposal are based on the current MNDNR SLR-LS Team staffing plan and are an estimate of the personnel time required to deliver the grant outputs included in this proposal and advance the overall mission of the SLR-LS Team. An array of staff may work on projects to complete deliverables and manage the grant. MLT's basis for billing is the individual restoration project we work on, ensuring allocation to the appropriate grant award. MLT also uses timesheet-based accounting ensuring only those personnel funds actually expended are used to achieve the goals of the grant. Time involving coordination among projects is billed proportionately. As projects/initiatives allow, personnel funds are generally coordinated to spend down oldest funds first.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
MNDNR budget: contracts for project implementation (primarily construction contracts)

MLT budget: contracts for restoration activities (planting, seeding, invasive species control, etc).

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Design/Engineering

Other : Profession construction oversight and contract administration

Surveys

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?
No

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

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

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?
MNDNR Process: Used Direct and Necessary calculator provided by DNR OHF staff.

MLT Process: In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, we determined our direct support services rate to be 27%. The rate represents the relationship of indirect costs to direct costs and is fully explained in materials submitted to the DNR. The calculations are based on the most recent audited financial statements that were available at the time. We will apply the approved rate to personnel expenses funded by the grant.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
The Equipment and Tools budget line includes field and safety equipment or tools, space rental, and utilities.

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
No

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds?
Unknown. Our team has a strong history of leveraging federal funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). GLRI continues to be strongly supported. As projects are developed, we anticipate applying for GLRI or other federal funds to supplement OHF budgets.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	-	2	2
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	200	-	200
Total	**0**	**0**	**200**	**2**	**202**

Restoration/Enhancement Acres Breakdown of Existing Protected Lands (Table 1a.2)

	RESTORE		ENHANCE	
	Lands acquired with OHF	Lands NOT acquired with OHF	Lands acquired with OHF	Lands NOT acquired with OHF
DNR Lands (WMA, State Forests, etc)	-	2	-	-
Non-DNR Lands (city, state, federal, etc.)	-	0	-	200
Easements	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**2**	**-**	**200**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$2,659,700	$2,659,700
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	$782,500	-	$782,500
Total	**-**	**-**	**$782,500**	**$2,659,700**	**$3,442,200**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	2	2
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	200	200
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**202**	**202**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	$2,659,700	$2,659,700
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	$782,500	$782,500
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,442,200**	**$3,442,200**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	$1,329,850
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	$3,912	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	$1,329,850
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	$3,912

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

880 feet

Parcels

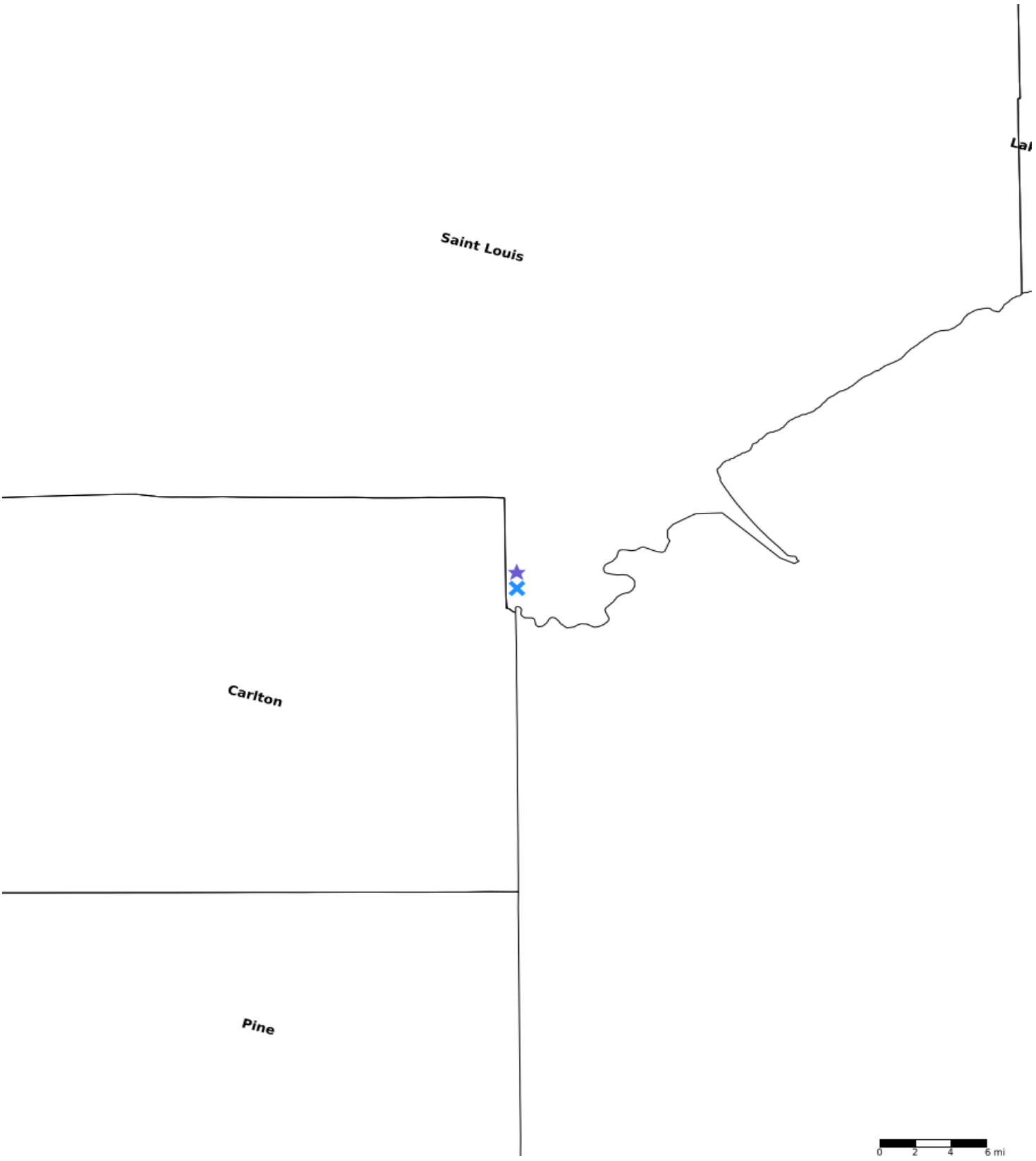
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
The SLR-LS is a partner to the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP), working within the nexus between GLRI, LAMP, and state priorities for habitats and species within the Minnesota portion of the Lake Superior Basin.
We work with partners and stakeholders to develop and implement the following: Lower St. Louis River Habitat Plan, City of Duluth Natural Resources Management Program Plan, and St. Louis River Natural Area Management Plan, and priorities of the Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership (Headwaters Partnership). The MNDNR and the City of Duluth are founding Forum members of the Headwaters Partnership, which is coordinated by the MLT. The Headwaters Partnership, consisting of local, state, federal, and tribal partners, provides a framework for how partners in the lower St. Louis River region work together to achieve a thriving estuary landscape and community. Projects elevated through the Headwaters Partnership consider ecological integrity, community health, and economic development.
In previous OHF proposals, the AOC Remedial Action Plan largely influenced parcel selection. As AOC projects are completed and the AOC moves closer to delisting, our team and partners select parcels that meet habitat goals and objectives that were outside of the AOC program's limited scope. This area has a strong cohort of partners that help each other manage both aquatic and terrestrial natural resources projects and planning efforts in the western Lake Superior and North Shore Highlands region. We consider partners' needs and priorities when selecting project areas.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Mission Creek Connectivity (Exact location unknown, could also include adjacent parcels within the watershed including in Carlton County)	St. Louis	04915230	1	$2,659,700	Yes	Crossing prioritization and replacement
Mission Creek Watershed Forest Enhancement (could also include City land in adjacent sections)	St. Louis	04915231	200	$782,500	Yes	Forest enhancement

Parcel Map


Saint Louis
Carlton
Pine
0
2
4
6 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

ST. Louis River - Lake Superior Program

OUR TEAM

We are an interdivisional team that includes project managers and support staff from Ecological and Water Resources and Fish & Wildlife. We work closely with external partners at Minnesota Land Trust to implement OHF-funded projects.

OUR WORK

Since 2015, our team has completed a series of projects contributing to the success of the St. Louis River Restoration Initiative (SLRRI). As the SLRRI nears completion, we are developing new initiatives and projects to support DNR and partner priorities in the St. Louis River Estuary Landscape and Lake Superior Basin.

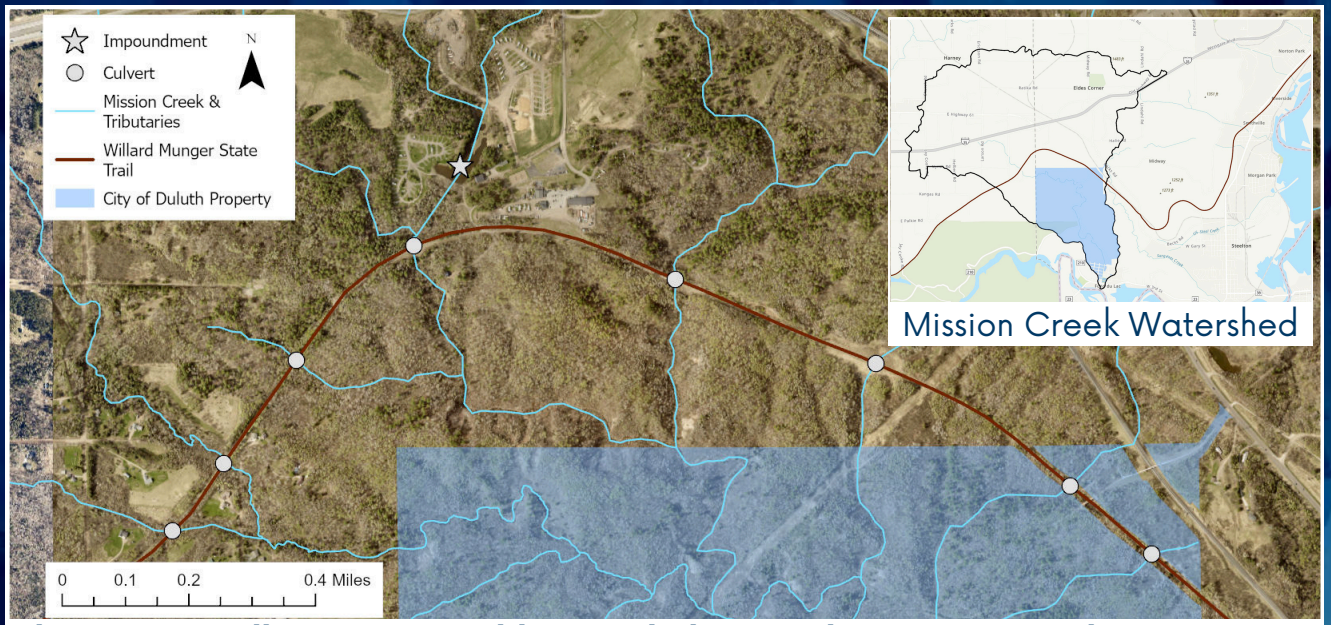
OUR VISION

We implement well-designed, ecological restoration projects in collaboration with local, non-governmental, state, tribal, and federal partners.

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Mission Creek Watershed Connectivity

Culvert failure and embankment instability along the Munger Trail.



This project will reconnect cold-water habitat, enhance terrestrial connectivity, improve avian habitat, reduce downstream sedimentation, and reduce the risk of culvert failure.

UP TO 6.6 MILES OF HIGH-QUALITY COLD WATER BROOK TROUT HABITAT RECONNECTED TO WATERSHED

200 ACRES OF FOREST ENHANCEMENTS TO BENEFIT BIRDS AND FOREST HEALTH

ADDITIONAL CONNECTIVITY BENEFITS FOR GAME & NON-GAME SPECIES

Contact:
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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT