

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council MN Prairie Recovery Program Phase 15 ML 2026 Request for Funding

## General Information

**Date:** 06/26/2025

**Proposal Title:** MN Prairie Recovery Program Phase 15

**Funds Requested:** $13,668,300

**Confirmed Leverage Funds:** $315,000

**Is this proposal Scalable?:** Yes

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Liz Beery **Title:** Associate Director of Grasslands - MN **Organization:** The Nature Conservancy **Address:** 1101 W River Parkway Suite 200 **City:** Minneapolis, MN 55415 **Email:** elizabeth.beery@tnc.org **Office Number:**   **Mobile Number:** 551-497-3373 **Fax Number:**   **Website:** nature.org

### Location Information

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

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

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

**Activity types:**

Protect in Fee

Restore

Enhance

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

Wetlands

Prairie

## Narrative

### Abstract

This project continues to advance the protection, restoration, and enhancement goals for increasingly rare prairie, grassland, and wetland habitats as described in the 2018 MN Prairie Conservation Plan and builds on the highly successful model established by prior MN Prairie Recovery Program Phases. We will protect a total of 700 acres in Fee to be held by The Nature Conservancy or MNDNR, enhance 27,500 acres of permanently protected grasslands, and restore 300 acres of prairie and wetland habitat. Protection and restoration projects will contribute toward state climate goals by sequestering approximately 190,000 metric tons CO2 equivalent.

### Design and Scope of Work

Protect - An estimated 700 acres of prairie, wetlands, grasslands, and savanna will be permanently protected through fee-title acquisition from willing sellers in priority prairie core/corridor landscapes as identified in the 2018 MN Prairie Conservation Plan. Acquired lands will be prioritized using LSOHC approved criteria that include: native prairie percentage on the parcel, proximity to permanently protected areas, habitat quality, species diversity, and public recreation suitability. Protected acres without PILT will be held by The Nature Conservancy subject to a recorded notice of funding restrictions. Protected acres with PILT will be transferred to MNDNR.  
  
Enhance - An estimated 27,500 acres of grassland/wetland complex will be enhanced on permanently protected lands, including lands purchased with OHF funds and held by the Conservancy; MN DNR Management Units including Wildlife Management Areas, Scientific & Natural Areas, and Native Prairie Bank easements; and USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas, Refuges, and grassland/wetland habitat easements. The primary objectives of these enhancement activities are increasing native species diversity and improving critical wildlife habitat. A variety of techniques will be implemented to accomplish these objectives such as: prescribed fire; tree and woody species removal; invasive species control including mechanical, biological, and chemical control; over-seeding degraded grasslands with native seed; and conservation grazing, mowing, or haying. The work will be conducted primarily through contracts with local vendors, Conservation Corps of MN & IA, Student Conservation Association crews, and Nature Conservancy seasonal and permanent staff. Prairie Recovery Biologists, stationed in five landscapes within the Prairie region are responsible for identifying, prioritizing, and designing projects in collaboration with agency land managers; selecting vendors and overseeing contracted work; and managing and directing seasonal staff. The Biologists are also responsible for participating in and leading Prairie Plan Local Technical Teams to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of grassland conservation program delivery by multiple partners at the landscape scale.   
  
Restore - Approximately 300 acres of cropland and low diversity grassland will be restored to diverse local-ecotype grassland/wetland complexes. Practices to be implemented include those listed as enhancements above.   
  
Results to date - Through previous Phases of the MN Prairie Recovery Program we protected 8,179 acres of prairies, wetlands, grasslands, and savannas, enhanced over 205,000 acres of permanently protected grasslands and restored approximately 2,700 acres with diverse local ecotype native seed. All parcels protected directly contributed to the functional integrity of existing habitat complexes. Costs to acquire properties in fee-title are averaging around $4,500 per acre as land prices have been increasing over the past years. Our enhancement projects have focused on accelerating the implementation of prescribed fire, woody vegetation removal, building conservation grazing infrastructure, and treatment of invasive species. Recent costs for enhancement and restoration have averaged around $200 per acre. Contract costs have increased due to inflation and MN Prevailing Wage requirements.   
  
Collectively these projects have captured approximately 1.65 million metric tons CO2 equivalent and will continue to hold that carbon in prairie soils.

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

Temperate grasslands are the most endangered and least protected habitat type on earth, and Minnesota's prairies are no exception. Activities identified in this project directly reflect implementation strategies identified in the MN Prairie Conservation Plan. Properties targeted for acquisition are identified and prioritized using MN County Biological Survey Rare Element Occurrences and Biodiversity Significance. The geographies we work within, in addition to being Prairie Plan Core areas, reflect areas with the highest density and highest quality remaining prairie systems left in the state. By focusing our work in these particular landscapes we increase the functionality of the overall prairie/grassland systems, including increasing water retention, improving breeding and nesting habitat and augmenting migratory corridors. While our work focuses on increasing and maintaining system functionality a number of individual species and suites of SPGCN will directly benefit from this project including:  
   
Insects - Habitat management and protection specifically for the federally-endangered rusty patched bumble bees and Poweshiek skipperlings, as well as the federally-threatened Dakota skipper butterfly and the declining regal fritillary butterflies. Numerous bees, butterflies, and other pollinators rely on prairie habitat and scientists have observed declines in these populations due to habitat fragmentation, habitat degradation, land use, pesticide drift, and many other anthropogenic factors.   
  
Birds - Grassland dependent birds have experienced precipitous population decline across Minnesota and the northern Great Plains, largely due to habitat loss of breeding grounds. This project will provide permanently protected and enhanced habitat for a suite of grassland and wetland nesting birds, most notably the Meadowlark, Bobolink, Dickcissel, Grasshopper sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, Upland sandpiper, Black tern, Northern pintail, Greater Prairie-chicken, Sharp-tail grouse, and many others.  
  
Reptiles - Hognose snake (primarily in western MN counties of Lac qui Parle, Big Stone and Yellow Medicine), 5-lined skink (rock outcroppings in the upper MN River Valley).  
  
Mammals - American badger (an indicator species requiring intact blocks of quality habitat), elk (for herd management in NW MN).   
  
The implementation of prescribed fire, conservation grazing, invasive species control, woody removal, and high diversity prairie restorations are key strategies for supporting these prairie species.

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

Little more than 1% of Minnesota's original prairies remain and of these only about half are currently protected. The rest remain at risk for conversion to other uses including row-crop production, gravel mining, alternative energy development, and urban development. It is imperative that we permanently protect all the remaining native prairie as quickly as we can. The MN Prairie Conservation Plan sets an ambitious goal of protecting all of our remaining native prairies and annually enhancing significant acres of grassland habitat over the next 15 years. This project represents one tool designed to help the conservation community meet these goals. The enhancement component of the project greatly accelerates habitat improvement on public lands by bringing additional resources to bear, enabling the treatment of rapidly expanding invasive species, developing infrastructure that facilitates future management using either conservation grazing or prescribed fire, and building a private vendor industry to accomplish enhancement work.

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

The project focuses activities on prairie cores, corridors, and complexes as described in the MN Prairie Conservation Plan. The Prairie plan was developed using the best available information for identifying the highest quality/highest density remaining prairie and grassland complexes in the state and is periodically revisited for accuracy and relevance by a core team of State, Federal and NGO prairie biologists.  
Individual parcels are prioritized using the attached criteria. Important considerations include % of native prairie on tract; adjacency to other native prairie; proximity to other protected lands; and uniqueness and diversity of species present. MN Biological Survey data and biodiversity rankings are key tools used to measure these criteria.

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

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

### 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.

The MN Prairie Recovery Program addresses climate change impacts by protecting remnant prairie, grasslands, wetlands, and savannas to expand habitat complexes, restoring cropland or low diversity grasslands to very high diversity local-ecotype prairie, and enhancing prairies and grasslands using techniques including invasive species control, conservation grazing, prescribed fire, and woody removal to increase climate resilience. Prairie ecosystems require disturbance to maintain high diversity plant communities which support diverse wildlife and pollinator populations. The variety of grassland protection, restoration, and enhancement within the Prairie Recovery Program directly supports game and non-game species, especially species that are facing population declines due to fragmented habitat in this region. Prairie Recovery Biologists lead several Prairie Plan Local Technical Teams to facilitate coordination among conservation partners to achieve this work at a larger scale. The efforts described in this proposal will also contribute toward state climate goals by sequestering approximately 190,000 metric tons CO2.

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

**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

### 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 Nature Conservancy has been actively protecting and managing prairies in Minnesota for 75 years. Funds available through this program provide critical resources for protecting the currently unprotected native prairie remaining in the state. Given the continued pressure to convert prairie lands it is imperative that willing sellers of native prairie be given the opportunity to protect these increasingly rare systems. The MN Prairie Recovery Program represents one of the best tools the Conservancy has to afford such protection. Further, many of the lands in public ownership are in need of intensive management to ensure healthy grassland systems and improve resilience in the face of climate change. Investment in removing woody species, controlling invasive species, and restoring prescribed fire regimes is akin to infrastructure development in that upfront costs are high but ongoing maintenance becomes more sustainable once those investments have been made. This project, and others that support the goals of the MN Prairie Conservation Plan, are critical to ensuring the long-term health and viability of Minnesota's prairie landscapes.

## Outcomes

### Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands ~ *Protection results will be measured against MN Prairie Conservation Plan goals for protected acres of native prairie and associated grassland for each geography.  
  
Enhancement results will be measured using protocols developed for the multi-agency Grassland Monitoring Network.*

### Programs in prairie region:

Remnant native prairies and wetlands are perpetually protected and adequately buffered ~ *Protection results will be measured against MN Prairie Conservation Plan goals for protected acres of native prairie and associated grassland for each geography.  
  
Enhancement results will be measured using protocols developed for the multi-agency Grassland Monitoring Network.*

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

Other

### 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.

All protection, enhancement, and restoration work utilizing OHF allocations is supplemental to core work historically done by the Conservancy. OHF dollars allow us to increase the pace and scale of protection, restoration, and enhancement of native prairies and critical grasslands identified as priorities in the MN Prairie Conservation Plan.

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

Protection, restoration, and enhancement are all critical tools for the long-term viability of Minnesota's prairie/wetland systems. The prairie pothole landscape can only be sustained through the regular application of disturbance, including fire, grazing and haying. A primary purpose of this proposal is to continue a highly successful collaborative and coordinated partnership that accelerates the use of these practices across multiple landscapes. In many cases, requested funds will develop infrastructure and enable completion of one-time large expenses such as woody species removal and fence installation for conservation grazing. Once the initial activities are completed we expect long-term maintenance costs to moderate. The Nature Conservancy will continue to seek mechanisms that derive revenue from grazing, haying, and seed production consistent with our conservation goals. All resulting income will be placed in a dedicated account for future property tax payments and management of properties acquired with Outdoor Heritage Funds. Our past efforts show that revenue generation is insufficient to pay for all associated expenses, therefore we plan to seek future funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund along with private contributions for long-term stewardship needs.

### Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Source of Funds** | **Step 1** | **Step 2** | **Step 3** |
| Once every 4-5 years | OHF, TNC private funds | Prescribed Fire | - | - |
| As appropriate | OHF/TNC private funds, lease payments | Conservation grazing | - | - |
| Annually | OHF/TNC private funds | Invasive search/treatment | - | - |

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

The MN Prairie Recovery landscapes are located near a number of cities with diverse communities (St. Cloud, Willmar, Fargo/Moorhead) in addition to many small rural communities with low and moderate income households. Diverse, low-moderate income communities often experience disproportionate access to nature on private lands. Open and accessible public lands and publicly accessible TNC lands are crucial resources for inspiring people from all backgrounds to become the next generation of hunters, anglers, nature photographers, writers, artists, nature enthusiasts, and biologists. Work proposed through the MN Prairie Recovery Program will add to the quantity and quality of public lands available to all Minnesotans.  
  
In addition to the on-the-ground conservation benefits, the MN Prairie Recovery Program serves as a vehicle for training the next generation of conservation professionals through a robust seasonal employee hiring program. Our seasonal staff is largely comprised of young and aspiring conservationists looking to gain practical hands-on experience, either through short-term summer, or longer-term "1st job in the field" employment. Our recruitment practices are rooted in our Mission and guided by our Values, which includes a Commitment to Diversity and Respect for People, Communities, and Cultures. We know we will only achieve our Mission by hiring and engaging a diverse workforce that reflects the communities in which we work. Hiring Teams must follow TNC’s inclusive hiring practices for all positions. Through these efforts, we have seen more diverse candidate pools resulting in a subsequent diversification of our workforce.

## Activity Details

### Requirements

**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

**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?**

WMA

WPA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Refuge Lands

Other : TNC owned lands purchased with OHF dollars

SNA

AMA

State Recreation Areas

County/Municipal

### Land Use

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

**Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:**Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted Best Management Practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example: short-term use of soybeans or other commercial crops can 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 seed bank. Neonicotinoid and/or fungicide treated seed will not be used. We would not expect agricultural crop use to exceed 3 years on any given OHF acquired property. We continue to explore the viability of alternative restoration techniques to minimize the need to farm restoration sites.

**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

**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:**No variation anticipated

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

NGO

State of MN

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

WMA

SNA

Other : Other: Addition to TNC Natural Areas Preserve Network

**Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?**No

**Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?**No

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

### Other OHF Appropriation Awards

**Have you received OHF dollars 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** |
| 2025 | $2,249,000 | - | - | - |
| 2023 | $3,856,000 | - | - | - |
| 2022 | $4,512,000 | $643,290 | $3,868,710 | 14.26% |
| 2021 | $2,794,000 | $2,602,250 | $191,750 | 93.14% |
| 2020 | $3,365,000 | $3,286,315 | $78,685 | 97.66% |
| Totals | $16,776,000 | $6,531,855 | $10,244,145 | 38.94% |

## Timeline

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity Name** | **Estimated Completion Date** |
| 300 acres restored to native prairie/wetland | June 2030 |
| 175 acres protected in Fee w/out PILT | June 2029 |
| 175 acres protected in Fee w/ PILT | June 2029 |
| 175 acres protected in Fee w/out PILT | June 2030 |
| 175 acres protected in Fee w/ PILT | June 2030 |
| 7,500 acres enhanced | June 2028 |
| 10,000 acres enhanced | June 2029 |
| 10,000 acres enhanced | June 2030 |

## Budget

### Totals

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Funding Request** | **Total Leverage** | **Leverage Source** | **Total** |
| Personnel | $2,838,800 | - | - | $2,838,800 |
| Contracts | $5,500,000 | - | - | $5,500,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | $1,575,000 | - | - | $1,575,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | $1,575,000 | $315,000 | TNC Private Funds | $1,890,000 |
| Easement Acquisition | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Stewardship | - | - | - | - |
| Travel | $228,100 | - | - | $228,100 |
| Professional Services | $116,800 | - | - | $116,800 |
| Direct Support Services | $737,900 | $1,173,700 | TNC Private Funds | $1,911,600 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | $52,800 | - | - | $52,800 |
| Capital Equipment | $80,000 | - | - | $80,000 |
| Other Equipment/Tools | $644,200 | - | - | $644,200 |
| Supplies/Materials | $254,100 | - | - | $254,100 |
| DNR IDP | $65,600 | - | - | $65,600 |
| **Grand Total** | **$13,668,300** | **$1,488,700** | **-** | **$15,157,000** |

### Personnel

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Annual FTE** | **Years Working** | **Funding Request** | **Total Leverage** | **Leverage Source** | **Total** |
| Contract Specialist | 0.25 | 2.0 | $64,200 | - | - | $64,200 |
| Protection Specialist | 1.2 | 2.0 | $308,200 | - | - | $308,200 |
| Grant Administration | 0.2 | 2.0 | $51,400 | - | - | $51,400 |
| Science Staff | 0.05 | 2.0 | $16,900 | - | - | $16,900 |
| Habitat Crews | 8.0 | 2.0 | $1,141,600 | - | - | $1,141,600 |
| Project Management | 0.65 | 2.0 | $164,900 | - | - | $164,900 |
| Prairie Recovery Biologists | 5.0 | 2.0 | $1,091,600 | - | - | $1,091,600 |

### Capital Equipment

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Funding Request** | **Total Leverage** | **Leverage Source** | **Total** |
| UTV w/ Trailer | $40,000 | - | - | $40,000 |
| UTV w/ Trailer | $40,000 | - | - | $40,000 |

**Amount of Request:** $13,668,300 **Amount of Leverage:** $1,488,700 **Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 10.89% **DSS + Personnel:** $3,576,700 **As a % of the total request:** 26.17% **Easement Stewardship:** - **As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** -

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Leverage (from above)** | **Amount Confirmed** | **% of Total Leverage** | **Amount Anticipated** | **% of Total Leverage** |
| $1,488,700 | $315,000 | 21.16% | $1,173,700 | 78.84% |

**Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:**For Fee w/out PILT acquisitions, leverage represents private contributions equal to 20% of acquisition costs; the funds exist in an endowment to ensure long-term management and property tax obligations are met.   
For DSS, leverage represents private contributions necessary to support program costs beyond OHF's 7.5% DSS reimbursable rate.

**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 anticipate delivering proportionally fewer acres across the Protection, Enhancement, and Restoration categories respectively.

**Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?**To deliver accomplishments in a consistent manner, staffing would be kept at approximately the same levels as in a full-funding model. The timeline in which those personnel are supported will be shortened in this scenario. DSS would remain at 7.5% of eligible expenses.

### 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 anticipate delivering proportionally fewer acres across the Protection, Enhancement, and Restoration categories respectively.

**Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?**To deliver accomplishments in a consistent manner, staffing would be kept at approximately the same levels as in a full-funding model. The timeline in which those personnel are supported will be shortened in this scenario. DSS would remain at 7.5% of eligible expenses.

### 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?**Phase 15 is a component of the larger MN Prairie Recovery Program. Continuity of funding across multiple Phases allows us flexibility when prioritizing parcels for protection or enhancement. Further, it ensures stability in our staffing model and provides the ability to plan and prioritize projects over multiple years. The flexibility provided by stable funding is critically important to achieving conservation goals given the uncertainty and variability of field season weather conditions. Prairie Recovery Biologists have leadership roles in Local Technical Teams which requires stable staffing to maintain leadership and coordination among agency and NGO partners.

### Contracts

**What is included in the contracts line?**The contracts line item is dedicated to enhancement and restoration work. Typical contractors include private vendors and Conservation Corps of MN/IA. This proposal includes adjustments to account for Prevailing Wage requirements which result in higher cost/acre.

### Professional Services

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

Appraisals

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

### Fee Acquisition

**What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?**Anticipated 3 Fee w/out PILT projects and 3 Fee w/ PILT projects. Final number of transactions will vary depending on size of individual acquisition parcels, physical location within the state, and corresponding land costs.

### 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**The travel line item includes funds for short term vehicle rentals, primarily for Project Coordinator and Protection Specialist.  
Long-term truck lease costs for the Prairie Recovery Biologists are reflected in the Other Equipment line item.

**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 The Nature Conservancy'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 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. The FNR is not applied to capital equipment over $50,000 or land acquisition. The remaining cost for DSS that is not reimbursable through OHF is listed as leverage in the budget table.

### Other Equipment/Tools

**Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?**Equipment and tools run the gamut of necessary field supplies ranging from power equipment to hand tools. Examples may include small machines, chain saws, brush saws, herbicide application equipment, and fencing/ watering materials for conservation grazing. The equipment line item also includes replacement parts and service for existing equipment to reduce the need to fully replace equipment and tools purchased in earlier Prairie Recovery phases.

## 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 | 25 | 275 | 0 | 0 | 300 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 50 | 300 | 0 | 0 | 350 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | 50 | 300 | 0 | 0 | 350 |
| Protect in Easement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Enhance | 3,000 | 24,500 | 0 | 0 | 27,500 |
| **Total** | **3,125** | **25,375** | **0** | **0** | **28,500** |

### Restoration/Enhancement Acres of OHF Acquired Lands (Table 1a.1)

|  | **RESTORE** |  | **Total** | **ENHANCE** |  | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Lands acquired in this proposal** | **Lands acquired with previous OHF approprations (<5yrs old)** |  | **Lands acquired in this proposal** | **Lands acquired with previous OHF approprations (<5yrs old)** |  |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 25 | 25 | 50 | 350 | 400 | 750 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | 25 | 25 | 50 | 350 | 1,200 | 1,550 |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **50** | **50** | **100** | **700** | **1,600** | **2,300** |

### 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) | 0 | 80 | 1,000 | 7,900 |
| Non-DNR Lands (city, state, federal, etc.) | 50 | 70 | 5,000 | 12,000 |
| Easements | - | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **50** | **150** | **6,000** | **19,900** |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Native Prairie (acres)** |
| Restore | 0 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 125 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | 125 |
| Protect in Easement | 0 |
| Enhance | 12,000 |
| **Total** | **12,250** |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Wetland** | **Prairie** | **Forest** | **Habitat** | **Total Funding** |
| Restore | $50,000 | $450,000 | - | - | $500,000 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | $300,000 | $1,450,000 | - | - | $1,750,000 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | $300,000 | $1,450,000 | - | - | $1,750,000 |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | - | - |
| Enhance | $850,000 | $8,818,300 | - | - | $9,668,300 |
| **Total** | **$1,500,000** | **$12,168,300** | **-** | **-** | **$13,668,300** |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Metro/Urban** | **Forest/Prairie** | **SE Forest** | **Prairie** | **N. Forest** | **Total Acres** |
| Restore | 0 | 150 | 0 | 150 | 0 | 300 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0 | 175 | 0 | 175 | 0 | 350 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | 0 | 175 | 0 | 175 | 0 | 350 |
| Protect in Easement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Enhance | 0 | 13,000 | 0 | 14,500 | 0 | 27,500 |
| **Total** | **0** | **13,500** | **0** | **15,000** | **0** | **28,500** |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Metro/Urban** | **Forest/Prairie** | **SE Forest** | **Prairie** | **N. Forest** | **Total Funding** |
| Restore | - | $250,000 | - | $250,000 | - | $500,000 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | $850,000 | - | $900,000 | - | $1,750,000 |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | $850,000 | - | $900,000 | - | $1,750,000 |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Enhance | - | $4,690,200 | - | $4,978,100 | - | $9,668,300 |
| **Total** | **-** | **$6,640,200** | **-** | **$7,028,100** | **-** | **$13,668,300** |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Wetland** | **Prairie** | **Forest** | **Habitat** |
| Restore | $2,000 | $1,636 | - | - |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | $6,000 | $4,833 | - | - |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | $6,000 | $4,833 | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | - |
| Enhance | $283 | $359 | - | - |

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Metro/Urban** | **Forest/Prairie** | **SE Forest** | **Prairie** | **N. Forest** |
| Restore | - | $1,666 | - | $1,666 | - |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | $4,857 | - | $5,142 | - |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | $4,857 | - | $5,142 | - |
| Protect in Easement | - | - | - | - | - |
| Enhance | - | $360 | - | $343 | - |

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

## Parcels

**Sign-up Criteria?**[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](https://lsohcprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/lsohc/proposal/signup_criteria/07324fc3-c0f.pdf)

**Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:**Parcel selection for Protection projects with and without PILT obligations are prioritized according to the goals within the MN Prairie Conservation Plan and specifically using the attached criteria. Parcels that The Nature Conservancy will own and manage are located within core portfolio sites. Protection parcels are not exactly specified because we want to be able to act swiftly when opportunities with willing landowners in key landscapes arise. Maintaining anonymity of parcels is an important consideration for the organization in order to protect landowner privacy rights and to maintain the integrity of good faith negotiations. Specific protection parcels will be submitted to LSOHC for approval prior to pursuing acquisition through an Accomplishment Plan amendment request.  
  
Enhancement and Restoration parcels consist of permanently protected grasslands primarily on USFWS WPAs and Refuges; MN DNR WMAs, SNAs and Native Prairie Bank easements; and TNC OHF tracts. Project sites are selected for funding in close consultation with the partner responsible for ultimate management. This parcel list is illustrative of the areas in which our work will be conducted and the types of projects that we will implement. All completed restoration and enhancement projects will be reported to the Council on the Status Updates and the Final Report.

### Restore / Enhance Parcels

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **County** | **TRDS** | **Acres** | **Est Cost** | **Existing Protection** | **Description** |
| NA | Becker | 13942227 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Becker | 13942227 | 200 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Becker | 13942227 | 400 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Becker | 14043225 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Big Stone | 12246224 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Big Stone | 12447210 | 650 | $50,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Big Stone | 12447210 | 200 | $75,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Big Stone | 12447210 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Chippewa | 11939228 | 650 | $50,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Chippewa | 11939228 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Chippewa | 11939228 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Chippewa | 11739213 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Clay | 14245204 | 550 | $40,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Clay | 14245204 | 200 | $75,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Clay | 14245204 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Clay | 14145208 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Cottonwood | 10737220 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Cottonwood | 10535215 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Douglas | 12739218 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Douglas | 13039212 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Grant | 13044218 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Grant | 13041204 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Kandiyohi | 12035210 | 500 | $30,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Kandiyohi | 12035210 | 200 | $75,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Kandiyohi | 12035210 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Kandiyohi | 12233215 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Kittson | 16045206 | 1,100 | $75,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Kittson | 16045206 | 200 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Kittson | 16045206 | 375 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Kittson | 16246224 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Lac qui Parle | 12044236 | 650 | $50,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Lac qui Parle | 12044236 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Lac qui Parle | 12044236 | 375 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Lac qui Parle | 11746224 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Lincoln | 11345217 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Lincoln | 11345217 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Lincoln | 11345217 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Lincoln | 11244228 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Lyon | 11243218 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Lyon | 10942211 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Lyon | 10942211 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Lyon | 10942211 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Mahnomen | 14641230 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Mahnomen | 14642215 | 375 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Mahnomen | 14642215 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Mahnomen | 14642215 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Marshall | 15746214 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Marshall | 14642208 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Marshall | 14642208 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Marshall | 14642208 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Murray | 10740232 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Murray | 10740232 | 375 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Murray | 10740232 | 325 | $190,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Murray | 10841225 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Nobles | 10439225 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Nobles | 10442215 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Nobles | 10439225 | 325 | $175,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Nobles | 10439225 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Norman | 14644220 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Norman | 14644220 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Norman | 14644220 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Norman | 14645203 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Otter Tail | 13244216 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Otter Tail | 13244210 | 425 | $20,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Pennington | 15445232 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Pennington | 15345230 | 425 | $20,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Pipestone | 10846219 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Pipestone | 10744222 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Pipestone | 10744222 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Pipestone | 10744222 | 325 | $175,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Polk | 14844201 | 650 | $50,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Polk | 14844201 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Polk | 14844201 | 355 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Polk | 15244215 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Pope | 12336214 | 375 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Pope | 12336214 | 800 | $65,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Pope | 12336214 | 150 | $75,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Pope | 12439203 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Red Lake | 15145221 | 375 | $20,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Red Lake | 15144202 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Rock | 10345227 | 425 | $20,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Rock | 10145210 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Roseau | 16043207 | 1,100 | $75,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Roseau | 16043207 | 200 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Roseau | 16043207 | 375 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Roseau | 16243205 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Stearns | 12335216 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Stearns | 12335216 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Stearns | 12335216 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Stearns | 12535222 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Stevens | 12541222 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Stevens | 12343221 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Stevens | 12544201 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Stevens | 12544201 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Swift | 12140215 | 425 | $30,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Swift | 12140215 | 200 | $70,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Swift | 12140215 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Swift | 12238214 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Traverse | 12547232 | 425 | $20,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Traverse | 12548220 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Wilkin | 13345204 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |
| NA | Wilkin | 13345204 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Wilkin | 13345204 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Wilkin | 13645205 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Yellow Medicine | 11544235 | 10 | $25,000 | Yes | Prairie Restoration |
| NA | Yellow Medicine | 11546221 | 425 | $25,000 | Yes | Prescribed Fire |
| NA | Yellow Medicine | 11546221 | 150 | $65,000 | Yes | Invasive Control |
| NA | Yellow Medicine | 11546221 | 325 | $195,000 | Yes | Woody Removal |

### Protect Parcels

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **County** | **TRDS** | **Acres** | **Est Cost** | **Existing Protection** |
| TBD WMA Addition | Becker | 14242221 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Big Stone | 12346223 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Chippewa Prairie Addition | Chippewa | 11942212 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Lac qui Parle WMA Addition | Chippewa | 11942221 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Bluestem Prairie Addition | Clay | 13946235 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Clay | 13945204 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Red Rock Prairie Addition | Cottonwood | 10735210 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Cottonwood | 10637233 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Douglas | 12840216 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Grant | 12842208 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Leif Mountains Addition | Kandiyohi | 12236201 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Kandiyohi | 12234208 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Wallace C Dayton Addition | Kittson | 16345223 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Lac qui Parle WMA Addition | Lac qui Parle | 11943215 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Plover Prairie Addition | Lac qui Parle | 12045213 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Hole in the Mountain Addition | Lincoln | 10945221 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Lincoln | 11046212 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Lyon | 11041206 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Mahnomen | 14442235 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Marshall | 15745202 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Murray | 10840226 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Nobles | 10140225 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Norman | 14545235 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Twin Valley Prairie Addition | Norman | 14345226 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Otter Tail | 13144204 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Pennington | 15245212 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Pipestone | 10746227 | 20 | $90,000 | Yes |
| Mentor Prairie Addition | Polk | 14943206 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Polk | 14845226 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Ordway Prairie Addition | Pope | 12337225 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Pope | 12437222 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Marcoux Prairie Addition | Red Lake | 15044215 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Rock | 10445223 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Wallace C Dayton Addition | Roseau | 16244215 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Roscoe Prairie Addition | Stearns | 12332234 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Stearns | 12434220 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Stevens | 12542229 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Chippewa Prairie Addition | Swift | 12043225 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Lac qui Parle WMA Addition | Swift | 12043218 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Miller Prairie Addition | Traverse | 12745234 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Wilkin | 13646204 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| Western Prairie Addition | Wilkin | 13546226 | 20 | $90,000 | No |
| TBD WMA Addition | Yellow Medicine | 11445215 | 20 | $90,000 | No |

## Parcel Map



