



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

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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, Mahnommen, 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 appropriations (<5yrs old)		Lands acquired in this proposal	Lands acquired with previous OHF appropriations (<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](#)

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

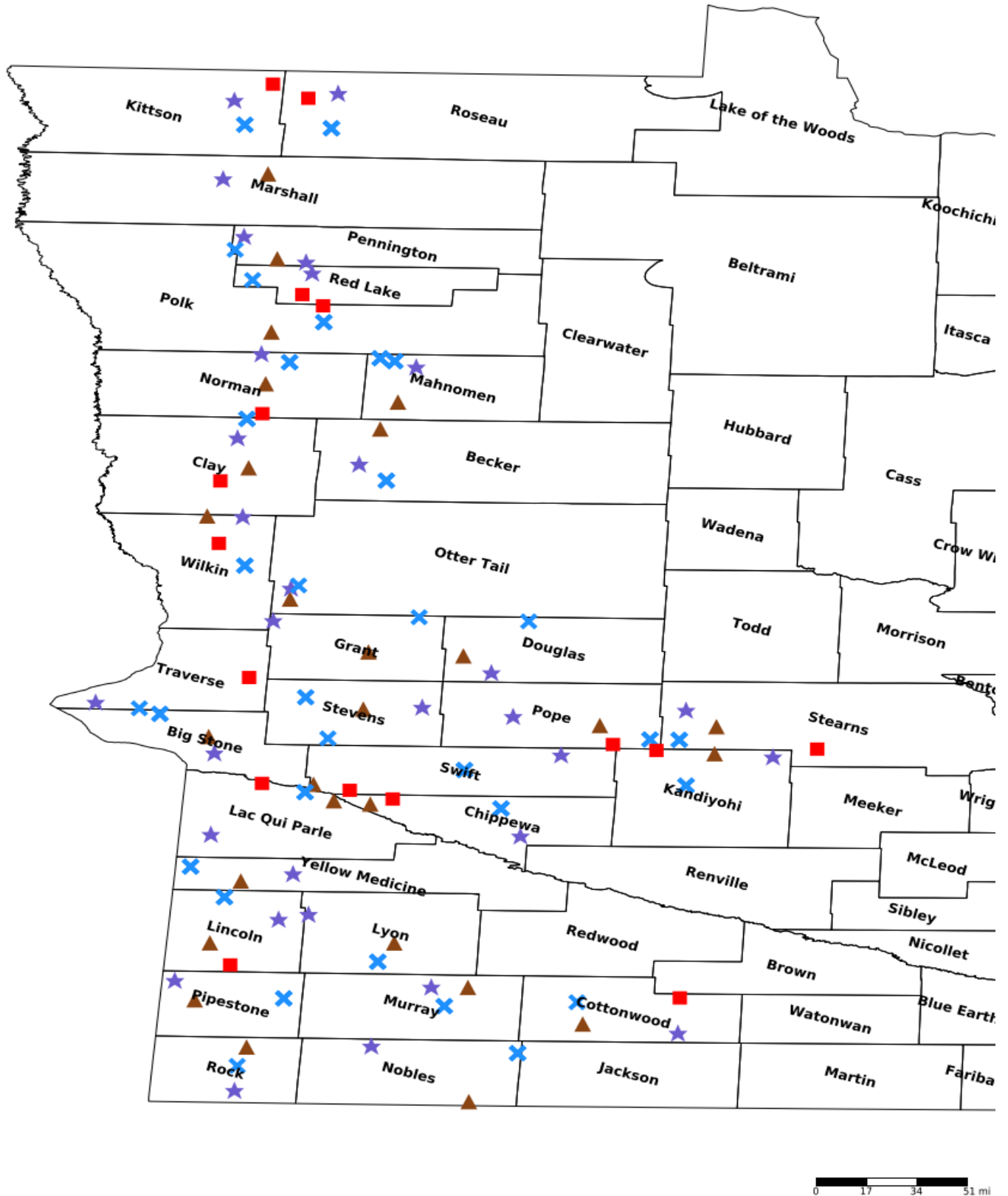
NA	Rock	10145210	10	\$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Roseau	16043207	1,100	\$75,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Roseau	16043207	200	\$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Roseau	16043207	375	\$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Roseau	16243205	10	\$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Stearns	12335216	325	\$195,000	Yes	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



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

MN Prairie Recovery Program

Phase 15

Funds Requested: \$13,676,000

Objective: Accelerate the protection, restoration and enhancement of increasingly rare prairie and grassland habitat within prairie core and corridor landscapes as identified in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

Outcomes

Protect approximately 700 acres of prairie, wetlands, grasslands, and savanna permanently protected through fee-title acquisition. All lands will be open to public use per constitutional requirements.

Enhance permanently protected lands including WPA, WMA, TNC OHF tracts, SNA, and Prairie Bank, encompassing an estimated 27,500 acres of grassland/wetland complex with the goal of increasing species diversity and improving critical wildlife habitat.

Restore approximately 300 acres of marginal cropland restored to grassland and grassland/wetland complexes using high diversity local ecotype seed mixes and restoration of wetland hydrology.



Photo of tallgrass prairie on TNC OHF tract.



MN Prairie Recovery Program

Results To Date

2012-2025

Protected 8,179 acres native prairie, wetlands and other habitat permanently protected in fee-title. Over 50 total transactions completed with willing sellers in prairie core/corridor landscapes at an average cost of approximately \$3,000/acre. Permanently sequestered approximately 1.65 million metric tons CO₂E.

Enhanced over 205,000 acres of publicly owned grassland/wetland habitat enhanced on state and federal conservation lands through prescribed fire, invasive species control, tree removal and conservation grazing. More than 1,800 unique projects at an average implementation cost of \$150/acre.

Restored over 2,700 acres of marginal cropland restored to diverse plant communities through over 50 individual projects at a cost of approximately \$900/acre.



Pasqueflowers blooming on hillside.



Prescribed fire to control brush in grassland.



Blazing stars blooming in wet meadow