Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase 11

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/16/2026

Project Title: Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase 11

Funds Recommended: $2,650,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Wiley Buck
Title: Senior Program Manager
Organization: Great River Greening
Address: 251 Starkey Street Ste 2200
City: Saint Paul, MN 55107
Email: wbuck@greatrivergreening.org
Office Number: 651-272-3981
Mobile Number: 651-318-8667
Fax Number:
Website: greatrivergreening.org

Partners Contact

ACD: Carrie Taylor - -

Great River Greening: Wiley Buck - wbuck@greatrivergreening.org - 651-272-3981

Location Information

County Location(s): Sherburne, Isanti, Chisago and Anoka.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The Anoka Sand Plain (ASP) Partnership will enhance 787 acres of Prairie/Oak Savanna, Wetland, Habitat, and Woodland/Forest at sites in the Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion and its watersheds. Our actions will increase biodiversity, habitat connectivity and quality, recreational opportunities, and landscape resilience, which align with the ASP Partnership's 10-year Strategic Conservation Action Plan, DNR Wildlife Action Plan and LSOHC Section priorities. Great River Greening (GRG) and Anoka Conservation District (ACD) are direct recipients, with match from LGUs, USFWS, ngo's, and private sources.

Design and Scope of Work

The ASP Partnership overall long-term project boundary is defined by the DNR's ASP ecological subsection plus its intersecting minor watersheds, which captures portions of the Metropolitan Urbanizing, Forest/Prairie Transition, and Northern Forest LSOHC sections. Our overall long-term project area is a marvelously complex mosaic of habitats, home to quality prairie, savanna, wetlands, fire-dependent forests and woodlands, large habitat cores, designated wild and scenic rivers, and a high concentration of rare species. The amount of high-quality remnant habitat in the ASP is remarkable given its proximity to the Twin Cities and St. Cloud urban cores. While the location of the ASP provides easy access for the majority of Minnesotans, the associated stressors - invasive species, development pressure, and conversion - threaten its sustainability. The need for continuing and accelerating conservation action here is urgent.

In this phase, we are proposing to enhance parcels in the Metropolitan Urbanizing LSOHC section because of the high impact opportunities that are present at this time.

The diversity in this rich and important habitat mosaic, complemented by its close proximity to most Minnesotans, is reflected in the number and diversity of organizations that identify the area as a priority, combining our specific knowledge and stakeholder engagement to join forces for its conservation. The robust ASP Partnership is committed to protecting, restoring, and enhancing this spectacular region so it can continue to provide vital habitat, invaluable ecological services, and high-quality recreational and engagement opportunities. The science-based ASP Partnership's 10-year Strategic Plan was created to identify priority habitats, opportunities, centers of biodiversity, and a plan of action with measurable goals. This provides guidance to prioritize actions for our work in Phase 11.

With this funding, Restoration and Enhancement partners Great River Greening (GRG) and Anoka Conservation District (ACD) will complete enhancement on over 780 protected acres. Habitats include prairie/savanna grasslands, woodlands and forest, and wetlands. This mosaic of natural resources enhanced in this reflects the mosaic of natural communities in the Anoka Sand Plain. We maintain our emphasized focus on the guild of rare plant species known to occur in high concentrations in specific wetland fringe soils and communities found

primarily in Minnesota's Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion, both through the Rare Plant Rescue program, and rare plant habitat enhancement in several parcels.

Results will be achieved by conducting invasive species and woody encroachment removal, prescribed burning, thinning, seeding, planting, and enhancing hydrology. Our program will create and improve critical habitat for rare species and Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) by increasing biodiversity and landscape resilience, with a particular focus on rare plants that have their highest concentration in the Anoka Sand Plan. This work will also benefit water quality and quantity, carbon sequestration and storage, improve ecosystem resiliency, and increase recreational opportunities including community engagement in the R/E process, while addressing and planning for climate change.

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

The Anoka Sand Plain serves as a refuge for many globally unique species and rare plant communities, including roughly one-third of Minnesota's listed rare plant and animals, and 97 known or predicted Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and 131 federally or state endangered, threatened, or special concern. The Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) ranks 72,000 acres in the ASP as Outstanding or High Biodiversity. This proposal addresses LSOHC and Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) priorities by enhancing oak savanna, prairie, riparian, woodlands, and non-forested wetlands.

We will complete enhancement on 361 acres of prairie/savanna grasslands; 78 acres of wetlands, and 346 forest/woodland acres. Over 740 of these acres across 11 sites have documented rare species present and our proposed enhancements are established practices for increasing these populations.

Furthermore, we will maintain our emphasized focus on the guild of rare plant species known to occur in high concentrations in specific wetland fringe soils and communities found primarily in Minnesota's Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion, both through the Rare Plant Rescue program, as well as rare plant habitat enhancement in several parcels. We anticipate rescuing 8-20 rare plant populations totaling 1,000-10,000 plants and transplanting them into protected suitable habitat, and enhancing over 250 acres with documented rare plant populations found primarily in Minnesota's Anoka Sand Plain, where our evaluation has indicated a very high likelihood of increasing these existing populations several fold.

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

The amount of high-quality remnant habitat in the ASP is remarkable given its proximity to Twin Cities Metropolitan and St. Cloud areas. While the location of the ASP provides easy access for the majority of Minnesotans, the associated stressors threaten the ASP's sustainability. The ecological diversity of the ASP is threatened by invasive species and development pressure. State-wide growth through 2045 is projected at 7% while projected growth in Anoka and Sherburne counties is 14% and 24% respectively. Restoration and enhancement efforts will prevent habitat degradation and increase biodiversity. The rare plant rescue program is underway with existing appropriations and is in pressing need for additional funding to continue to rescue plants from development sites and transplant them into protected and enhanced recipient sites. ASP11 will help address the urgent need for suitable recipient sites via enhancement.

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

The ASP Partnership 10-Year Conservation Strategic Plan utilizes multiple-criteria GIS analyses to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat connectivity, SGCN, biodiversity, and native plant communities. Data layers include: 1. Top 95% of SGCN population composite 2. Good or excellent populations of state or federally endangered and threatened species 3. Richness hotspots falling outside the top 95% of populations 4. Marxan outputs from the Scientific and Natural Area strategic plan 5. Sites of Biodiversity Significance that intersect with Marxan outputs 6. Native plant communities: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Division of Ecological and Water Resources – Biological Survey. MNDNR Native Plant Communities. 2014.

The sites and conservation actions included in this proposal will combat the threats of habitat fragmentation, degradation and invasive species and improve habitat cores. These items were identified in state Wildlife Action Plan, Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (SCPP), and Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25-Year Framework as the priority actions needed to address significant challenges facing SGCN and landscape resilience in the ASP region. The Anoka Sand Plain has been identified as a Conservation Opportunity Area in the 2025-2035 Minnesota Statewide Action Plan.

The Anoka Sand Plain Partnership project area is remarkable in containing four large, protected habitat cores; and large riparian corridors including the designated Wild & Scenic Rum River, and the Mississippi River, a 12+ river miles portion of which is also designated as Wild & Scenic.

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

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Metro / Urban

Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna ~ *Perform ecological monitoring using DNR protocol and evaluate data; adapt management when and where needed. Record number of acres protected of high quality habitat on private lands, which buffer public lands and expand habitat cores and corridors; and number of acres of key habitat successfully restored / enhanced. Map project sites and periodically perform GIS analysis to help quantify impact on habitat cores and corridors.*

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

This proposal to LSOHC for Outdoor Heritage Fund support does not supplant any other sources of funds. In all cases, this proposal and the projects to be completed accelerate regional habitat work in the Anoka Sand Plain.

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

The ASP Partnership is committed to working with respective land management agencies, owners, and conservation organizations in an on-going basis to identify and procure financial resources for maintaining these improvements as needed.

For R/E on existing protected land, site-specific resource management plans will be developed/adopted to guide effective long-term management. All land managers benefitting from R/E and rare plant recipient sites must commit to the long-term maintenance of these sites. A principle management goal is to elevate each R/E site prior to grant close to a threshold where on-going management cost is diminished. For sites and programs that use volunteers, community volunteer engagement promotes an increase in community stakeholders.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2031	Anoka County Parks	Spot herbicide treatment and spot mowing and biocontrol	Prescribed burn every 3-5 years	Overseeding
2031	ACD Anoka Agriculture Preserves	Monitor every 2-3 years	Spot treatment	Overseeding
2031	USFWS in-kind	Rx Burning	Spot herbicide treatment	-
2031	GRG in-kind	Monitoring every 2-3 years	Landowner Engagement	-

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

ASP Partners have existing DEIJ initiatives including Future Stewards Program (GRG), and 'Engaging a Diverse Public in Stewardship' funded by Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (GRG) and others. Partners will continue to connect all our DEIJ programs and resources to ASP11 projects when appropriate opportunities arise.ASP ecoregion provides close-to-home recreation opportunities for the majority of Minnesotans. This includes large BIPOC and low-income populations areas as identified by the MPCA environmental justice tool. Furthermore, the ASP encompasses a priority Drinking Water Supply Management Area, attributable to groundwater recharge through sandy soils and the miles of Mississippi River upstream of the Twin Cities drinking water intakes. Through the land-water connection of our projects, we will contribute to water quality, quantity, and security for all, including urban core and rural populations.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

County/Municipal

Other : U of M's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve

Public Waters

Refuge Lands

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
GRG: Sustained follow up enhancement activities completed	6/30/2032
GRG: Initial site treatments completed	1/1/2030
GRG: RFP process completed and contracts executed	1/1/2029
GRG: Landowner agreements	1/1/2028
ACD: targeted follow up weed control and seeding	6/1/2032
ACD: prairie and wetland prescribed burns and seeding, buckthorn and woody encroachment removal, ditch plug installation.	12/31/2030
ACD: site prep in prairies and wetlands	11/1/2028

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2032

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation
(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.
(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;

(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;
(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$561,400	$47,000	County, City of Anoka, TNC, NWTF, LGUs, Private	$608,400
Contracts	$1,842,500	$55,000	USFWS, County, TNC, USFWS, NWTF	$1,897,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$24,000	-	-	$24,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$93,100	$214,000	ACD, Great River Greening	$307,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$5,000	-	-	$5,000
Supplies/Materials	$124,000	$1,000	-, NWTF, USFWS	$125,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,650,000**	**$317,000**	**-**	**$2,967,000**

Partner: ACD

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$365,000	$7,000	County, City of Anoka, TNC, NWTF	$372,000
Contracts	$776,500	$50,000	County, TNC, USFWS, NWTF	$826,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$36,500	$74,000	ACD	$110,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$78,000	$1,000	NWTF, USFWS	$79,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,256,000**	**$132,000**	**-**	**$1,388,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
ACD Personnel	1.25	5.0	$365,000	$7,000	County, City of Anoka, TNC, NWTF	$372,000

Partner: Great River Greening

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$196,400	$40,000	LGUs, Private	$236,400
Contracts	$1,066,000	$5,000	USFWS	$1,071,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$24,000	-	-	$24,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$56,600	$140,000	Great River Greening	$196,600
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$5,000	-	-	$5,000
Supplies/Materials	$46,000	-	-	$46,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,394,000**	**$185,000**	**-**	**$1,579,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Staff	0.55	5.0	$196,400	$40,000	LGUs, Private	$236,400

Amount of Request: $2,650,000
Amount of Leverage: $317,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 11.96%
DSS + Personnel: $654,500
As a % of the total request: 24.7%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
GRG dropped some parcels, and scaled Carlos Avery Wild Rice, Carlos Avery Stacy Dam, Becker City Park

ACD dropped the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes and Lamprey Pass WMA parcels and scaled all other parcels except the Cedar Creek Conservation Area parcel.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Sources of leverage include GRG, ACD, cities, towns, counties, NWTF, USFWS, TNC and private foundations. These sources will contribute toward Personnel, Contracts, DSS, and Supplies.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is some loss of economy of scale in labor and travel. Larger discrepancies may occur due to determination of which parcels remain fully funded, as there is a wide range of $/ac in our parcels. We commit to transparency.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is potential loss of economy of scale in labor and contracts. DSS expenses are highly proportional to labor and contracts. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Contract funds will go toward enhancement contracting work, and rare plant surveys and monitoring.

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
N/A

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

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?
ACD: ACD is requesting 10% DSS and listing the remaining 20.25% as match. ACD calculated their rate following USDA guidelines and has submitted their methodology to DNR for review. DNR has no objections to their rate in their preliminary analysis.

GRG: In a process approved by DNR in 2023, GRG's direct support services rate includes all allowable direct and necessary expenditures not captured in other line items in the budget. Our DSS request to LSOHC is less than half the amount allowed by the DNR approved rate, and less than or equal to 10% of the total allocation request.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Loppers, trowels, shovels, chainsaws, brush-cutters, sprayers, flagging, pin flags, PPE, GPS handhelds

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
No

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds?
We expect confirmation on 10K of federal match, by March 1, 2029. Some funds from USFWS expected by 2028.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	78	361	346	2	787
Total	**78**	**361**	**346**	**2**	**787**

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

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Easement	-
Enhance	361
Total	**361**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$320,000	$865,100	$1,287,000	$177,900	$2,650,000
Total	**$320,000**	**$865,100**	**$1,287,000**	**$177,900**	**$2,650,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	787	-	-	-	-	787
Total	**787**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**787**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$2,650,000	-	-	-	-	$2,650,000
Total	**$2,650,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,650,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$4,102	$2,396	$3,719	$88,950

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$3,367	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
Yes - Sign up criteria is attached

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
The ASP Partnership 10 - Year Strategic Conservation Action Plan utilizes multiple-criteria GIS analyses to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat connectivity, SGCN, biodiversity, and native plant communities. For the ASP partnership's strategic plan, multiple-criteria decision analyses in GIS were performed to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat using data sources layers that capture habitat connectivity, habitats that support species in greatest conservation need, terrestrial and aquatic sites of biodiversity, potential locations of groundwater influenced shallow wetlands, and native plant communities.

Direct recipients used their local expertise, knowledge, and landowner contacts to identify parcels and scope out the activities. At multiples points in the process, the direct recipients reviewed the parcel list collectively and culled parcels that did not rank highly on the Strategic Plan criteria.

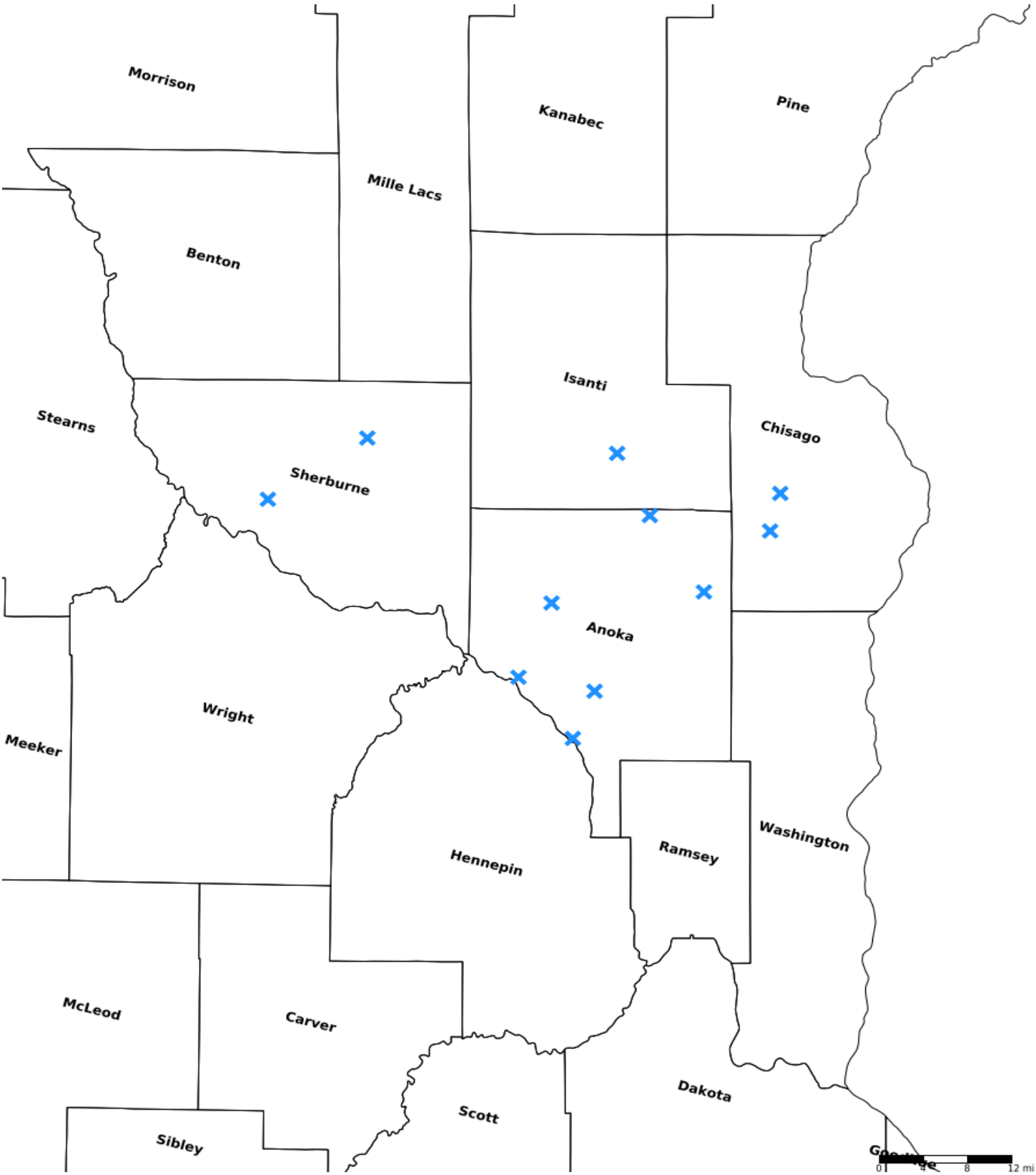
Note that in addition to the parcels below, we have included Anoka Conservation District's Rare Plant Rescue Program, with program write-up and criteria included as an attachment.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
ACD - Bunker Hills Regional Park	Anoka	03124201	80	$385,600	Yes	Invasive species control, tree removal to control encroachment, Rx burn, potential rare plant habitat
ACD - Cedar Creek Conservation Area NW	Anoka	03324232	16	$73,500	Yes	ditch plugs to restore hyrdology, vegetation enhancement in wetlands and adjacent uplands, potential rare plant habitat
ACD - Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve	Anoka	03423226	85	$327,000	Yes	Invasive species control, tree removal to control encroachment, Rx burn, native seeding, potential rare plant habitat
ACD - Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park Ph 2	Anoka	03124227	40	$187,500	Yes	invasive control, tree removal for savanna, possible Rx burn, seeding
ACD - Kings Island Ph 2	Anoka	03225235	40	$104,500	Yes	Invasive species control, tree planting to replace EAB ash, seeding
GRG - Carlos Avery Wild Rice	Anoka	03322227	8	$30,000	Yes	Multiple seed sowing of wild rice seed in shallow water basins. Potential water control structure(s).

GRG - Carlos Avery Lent Twsp North Ph 2	Chisago	03421214	17	$228,000	Yes	Enhance habitat for rare plant populations known to exist primarily in Minnesota's Anoka Sand Plain. Non-native invasive and overabundant native woody encroachment woody removal and control, for rare plant release and native seed bank stimulation.
GRG - Carlos Avery South Dam Forest : Utility Sub Unit	Chisago	03421234	16	$47,000	Yes	16ac early response forest buckthorn removal
GRG - Spirit River Natural Area	Isanti	03523232	116	$372,000	Yes	Invasive control, EAB Oak Wilt and DED replacement tree planting
GRG - Becker City Park	Sherburne	03429224	67	$396,000	Yes	67 ac forest enhancement including invasive control, EAB replacement tree planting; 5 acre prairie conversion, 2 acre pollinator turf conversion. Part of 350ac habitat core.
GRG - Sherburne NWR	Sherburne	03527228	300	$321,000	Yes	Aspen shearing, Siberian elm and black locust control, spot inter-seeding for high quality prairie enhancement

Parcel Map



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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase 11

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase 11
Organization: Great River Greening
Manager: Wiley Buck

Budget

Requested Amount: $5,502,000
Appropriated Amount: $2,650,000
Percentage: 48.16%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$1,167,000	$47,000	$561,400	$47,000	48.11%	100.0%
Contracts	$3,962,000	$70,000	$1,842,500	$55,000	46.5%	78.57%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$35,000	-	$24,000	-	68.57%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$168,000	$296,000	$93,100	$214,000	55.42%	72.3%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$7,000	-	$5,000	-	71.43%	-
Supplies/Materials	$163,000	-	$124,000	$1,000	76.07%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$5,502,000**	**$413,000**	**$2,650,000**	**$317,000**	**48.16%**	**76.76%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is some loss of economy of scale in labor and travel. Larger discrepancies may occur due to determination of which parcels remain fully funded, as there is a wide range of $/ac in our parcels. We commit to transparency.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is potential loss of economy of scale in labor and contracts. DSS expenses are highly proportional to labor and contracts. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is some loss of economy of scale in labor and travel. Larger discrepancies may occur due to determination of which parcels remain fully funded, as there is a wide range of $/ac in our parcels. We commit to transparency.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is potential loss of economy of scale in labor and contracts. DSS expenses are highly proportional to labor and contracts. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	1,221	787	64.46%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$5,502,000	$2,650,000	48.16%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	1,221	787	64.46%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$5,502,000	$2,650,000	48.16%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Beaver Creek Habitat Restoration

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/14/2026

Project Title: Beaver Creek Habitat Restoration

Funds Recommended: $1,777,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jennifer Biederman, PhD
Title: Habitat Program Director
Organization: Minnesota Trout Unlimited
Address: P.O. Box 845
City: Chanhassen, MN 55317
Email: jennifer.biederman@mntu.org
Office Number: 507-313-3428
Mobile Number: 507-313-3428
Fax Number:
Website: www.mntu.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Winona.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Enhance

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Habitat in two segments of Beaver Creek will be restored and enhanced in settings that will facilitate DNR evaluation of trout habitat project methodologies. OHF funds will not be used for the evaluation; rather DNR has independent research funding. Beaver Creek is located near Whitewater State Park and is popular with anglers despite its degraded condition. Minnesota Trout Unlimited will restore in-stream and riparian habitat for trout and other wildlife. In addition to restoring productive, resilient habitats, the projects will allow DNR to evaluate the effectiveness, longevity, and biological response of different designs and guide future Outdoor Heritage Fund investments.

Design and Scope of Work

This project will restore and enhance degraded habitat in and along two segments of Beaver Creek in Winona County through targeted stream restoration, floodplain reconnection, installation of in-stream habitat features designed to improve ecological function, increase habitat complexity, and support all life stages of trout and other aquatic species, and restoration of riparian vegetation. Restoration activities will address key limiting factors within the project corridor, including unstable streambanks, excess sediment delivery, simplified channel conditions, poor floodplain connectivity, and degraded riparian habitat that currently limit biological productivity, stream resilience, and water quality.

Minnesota Trout Unlimited (MNTU) will implement habitat improvements designed to restore natural stream processes while improving long-term channel stability and ecological resilience, including installation of large wood cover habitat, riffle and pool enhancement, other cover features for trout, bank stabilization, and restoration of native riparian vegetation. These improvements will increase pool frequency and depth, improve spawning and rearing habitat, restore overhead cover, reduce erosion, reduce sedimentation, improve floodplain access, and enhance aquatic and riparian habitat conditions throughout the project reach. Riparian corridor restoration will provide habitat benefits for terrestrial and avian wildlife. Reconnecting the stream to its floodplain will help dissipate flood energy, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and improve the long-term stability and function of the stream corridor under increasingly variable precipitation and flood conditions.

The projects will create high quality, durable habitat on two sections of Beaver Creek. In addition, the projects will provide a unique opportunity for the Minnesota DNR to conduct research (funded with non-OHF funds) to evaluate the two primary stream restoration approaches and long-term habitat responses. DNR scientist Doug Dieterman presented this research to the LSOHC at it January 2026 meeting. Treatment reaches paired with adjacent control reaches will provide an opportunity to assess how different restoration techniques influence habitat quality, channel stability, erosion reduction, and biological response over time. The projects will incorporate a range of restoration strategies currently being implemented in Minnesota trout streams, including wood-based habitat treatments emphasizing natural channel processes and less use of rock, as well as more traditional enhancement approaches that incorporate bank shaping and structural habitat features. While these techniques are widely used, comparative long-term performance data remain limited. By implementing two quality habitat projects within a controlled study framework, the DNR can evaluate the projects and identify which methods most effectively improve habitat complexity, maintain long-term stability, and support sustainable trout populations under changing environmental conditions. Results will help improve future habitat restoration design, project selection, and long-term conservation efficiency statewide. All monitoring, evaluation and research will be conducted by DNR researchers, and no OHF funds will not be used for these activities. OHF funds will be used by MNTU only to design and implement two quality trout habitat projects. Through this combination of direct habitat enhancement by MNTU and applied evaluation by DNR (using non-OHF funds), the project will improve the coldwater trout fishery

and ecological condition of Beaver Creek while increasing understanding of how to implement more effective trout stream restoration across Minnesota.

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

The two projects on Beaver Creek will restore and enhance degraded habitat for trout and other fish and wildlife in and along a coldwater stream that historically supported naturally reproducing trout populations highly valued by generations of anglers. While trout are the apex predator and key indicator species for the health of coldwater ecosystems, a host of rare aquatic and riparian species are uniquely associated with these systems. Well-functioning coldwater aquatic ecosystems are far fewer in number than the 6% of Minnesota's stream and river miles which theoretically can still support trout. Like many streams considered to be the best remaining trout streams, Beaver Creek has badly degraded segments which disrupt connectivity and significantly impact the productivity and long-term resilience and sustainability of the overall trout population. Trout streams, including Beaver Creek, face growing threats from warming temperatures, increased frequency of severe flooding, and rising demand for groundwater extraction from the aquifers which supply inputs of vitally important cold water. The proposed Beaver Creek projects are focused on stream segments which will benefit most from in-stream work and help ensure Minnesota retains at least some high quality coldwater fisheries for future generations.

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

Minnesota's trout streams represent only 6% of stream and river miles yet are among the highest quality aquatic systems remaining. Unfortunately, the majority have badly degraded habitat, including the Beaver Creek project sites. Leaving degraded segments untreated creates impacts that extends throughout the stream. Degraded sections are no longer providing habitat, clean water benefits, or angling opportunities. The increasing frequency of heavy rains/floods require action now to increase floodplain connectivity and increase durability of in-stream habitat. It is critical that restoration be done now to increase long term resilience and sustainability of these rare fisheries.

DNR researchers have been gathering baseline data in the projects sites and three additional segments that serve as research "control" reaches. To ensure the best research can be conducted, the habitat restoration/enhancement projects should be installed in 2028. This requires that design and permitting work begin in 2027 under a ML 2027.

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

Most of the Beaver Creek watershed is contained within the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area. However, much of the in-stream habitat and riparian corridor habitat remains degraded due to historic land use practices. The projects will restore high quality habitat both in-stream and in the adjacent riparian corridor. Beaver Creek has a decent population of wild, naturally reproducing trout that can quickly take advantage of the improved habitat. The projects will boost the stream's carrying capacity (fish numbers) and improve the connectivity of good aquatic and riparian habitat. In short, the projects reverse fragmentation and increase long term resilience of trout and other wildlife in the Beaver Creek valley, as well as in the larger Whitewater River valley.

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

Driftless Area Restoration Effort

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Southeast Forest

Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

Outcomes

Programs in southeast forest region:

Rivers, streams, and surrounding vegetation provide corridors of habitat ~ *Enhancement of in-stream and riparian corridor habitat creates miles of connected habitat. Outcomes in aquatic life are measured through surveys of fish, macro invertebrates and/or exposed substrates. Abundance, size structure and species diversity are considered.*

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.

The request is not supplanting or a substitution for previous funding. The work proposed for funding is for new habitat work.

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

MNTU's coldwater aquatic habitat restoration and enhancement projects are designed for long-term ecological and hydraulic stability. Construction contracts include three-year maintenance/warranty provisions to ensure habitat work is well established. After this period and once riparian vegetation is well established, major maintenance work is not typically required to sustain the habitat outcomes for decades. Reconnected floodplains allow flood water to quickly spread out and dissipate energy, reducing the destructive impact of a flood. Flood waters typically flatten streamside vegetation temporarily and do not damage the in-stream structures. The increase in trout populations common following completion of a southeast Minnesota project are typically sustainable long-term through natural reproduction.

We anticipate that long-term monitoring of the integrity of the improvements will be done in conjunction with routine inspections and biological monitoring conducted by MNDNR researchers and other MNDNR staff. This monitoring will not require OHF or other constitutional funding. If modest maintenance is needed, MNDNR Lanesboro Fisheries Office's in-house habitat crew can perform the work. If the crew cannot perform the work, potential sources of funding include MNDNR AMA maintenance funding, WMA funding, and other grant funds.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Every 3 years thereafter	DNR staff funding and volunteers.	Inspect structural elements and vegetation.	If needed, work with DNR to develop action plans.	If DNR's in-house habitat crew cannot perform the maintenance, work with DNR on using volunteers and/or contractors.
Spring 2033 (one year after the June 2032 end of grant)	DNR staff funding and volunteers.	Inspect structural elements and vegetation.	If needed, work with DNR to develop action plans.	If DNR's in-house habitat crew cannot perform the maintenance, work with DNR on using volunteers and/or contractors.

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

The habitat projects will provide easy public access to fishable trout populations in a relatively small, approachable stream. The project sites and surrounding areas are located within the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area are open to the public for angling, hunting, foraging and just walking about. Beaver Creek is accessible to diverse communities, including low- and moderate-income households. It can be fished from the streambanks and no expensive boat, waders, or special gear is required. In southeast MN there are no natural lakes, so anglers of all economic and cultural backgrounds focus angling on the region's accessible, productive trout streams. This project will give anglers more places to easily access productive fishing.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

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

No

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Maintenance and other steps under warranty to establish riparian vegetation.	Complete by June 2032
Begin construction of projects.	2028
Begin design and permitting of projects after receipt of grant agreement from State.	Begin summer 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2032

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:

(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;

(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;

(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;

(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and

(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$170,000	-	-	$170,000
Contracts	$1,254,500	$30,000	MNDNR in kind	$1,284,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$10,000	-	-	$10,000
Professional Services	$270,000	-	-	$270,000
Direct Support Services	$67,500	-	-	$67,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
Supplies/Materials	$4,000	-	-	$4,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,777,000**	**$30,000**	**-**	**$1,807,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Habitat Enhancement staff	0.3	5.0	$170,000	-	-	$170,000

Amount of Request: $1,777,000
Amount of Leverage: $30,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 1.69%
DSS + Personnel: $237,500
As a % of the total request: 13.37%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Not applicable

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
MNDNR staff will provide in-kind services totaling approximately $30,000

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
No

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Cost of hiring construction contractors to install the projects on the ground, and includes heavy equipment use (with operators), other labor, and materials that the construction contractor must supply and incorporate into the project. It also includes follow up work to establish vegetation and perform maintenance.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Other : Geomorphological and archeological surveys, comprehensive permitting and hydraulic modeling, construction oversight, and more.

Travel

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

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

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?
The Direct Support Services parallels Trout Unlimited's federal rate, which is approved every two years. It is based only upon the amount of personnel time, travel, and professional services actually expended on the habitat projects in this proposal.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Primarily hand tools and safety gear for work on the sites.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	11	11
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**11**	**11**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$1,777,000	$1,777,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,777,000**	**$1,777,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	11	-	-	11
Total	**-**	**-**	**11**	**-**	**-**	**11**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	$1,777,000	-	-	$1,777,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**$1,777,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,777,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$161,545

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	$161,545	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

1

Parcels

Parcel Information

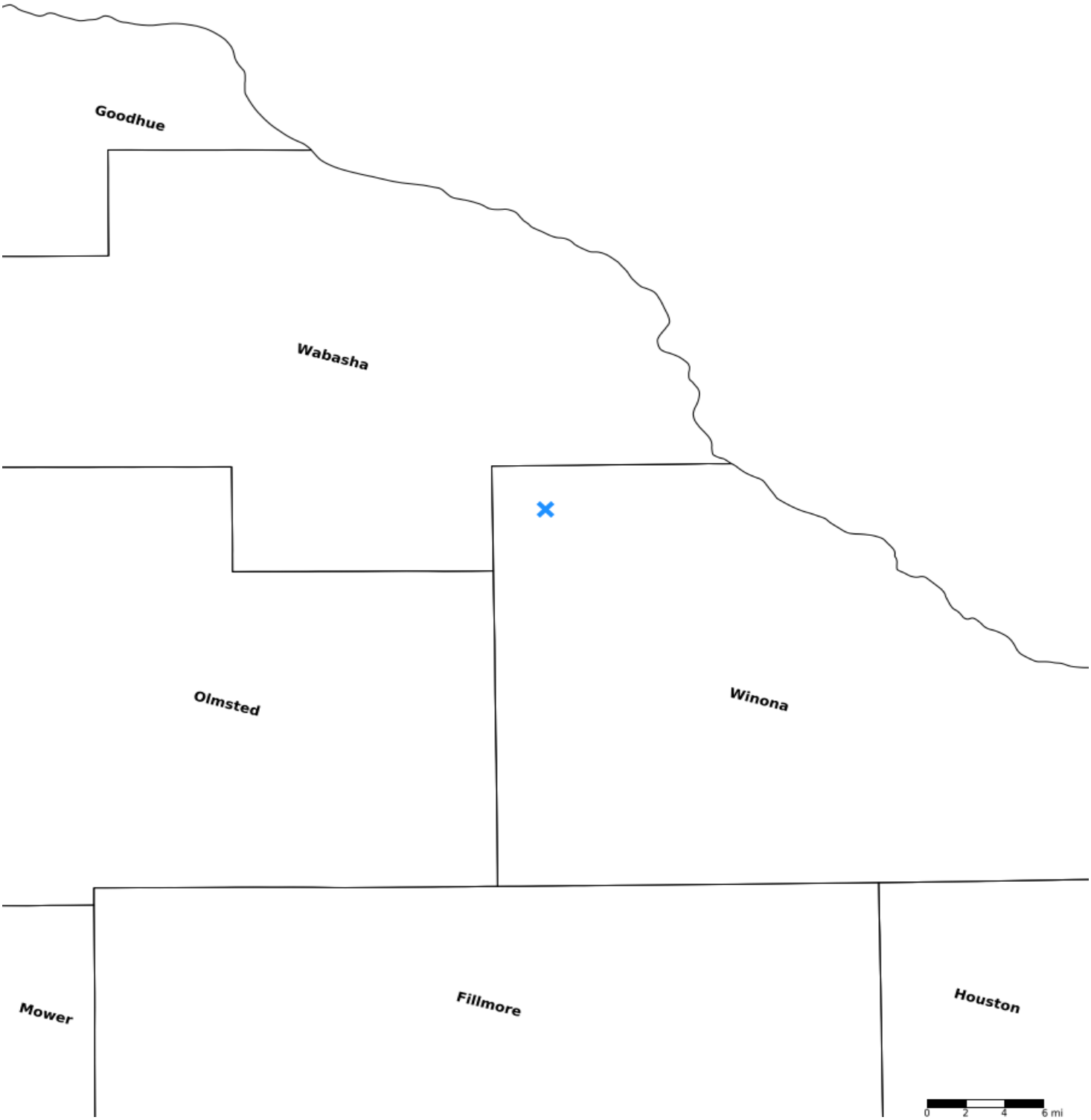
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
MNTU focuses habitat enhancement and restoration efforts on those watersheds likely to continue to support viable, fishable populations of naturally reproducing trout fifty years and more from now. Work is done only where degraded habitat is a limiting factor for a quality, sustainable fishery. Priority locations are determined through consultations with MNDNR professionals, MNDNR management plans and surveys, other habitat and conservation planning efforts, MNTU members' knowledge of watersheds, and science-based criteria.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Beaver Creek watershed	Winona	10810216	11	$1,776,700	Yes	Enhance & restore habitat on two segments of Beaver Creek

Parcel Map



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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Beaver Creek Habitat Restoration

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Beaver Creek Habitat Restoration
Organization: Minnesota Trout Unlimited
Manager: Jennifer Biederman, PhD

Budget

Requested Amount: $1,777,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,777,000
Percentage: 100.0%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$170,000	-	$170,000	-	100.0%	-
Contracts	$1,254,500	$30,000	$1,254,500	$30,000	100.0%	100.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$10,000	-	$10,000	-	100.0%	-
Professional Services	$270,000	-	$270,000	-	100.0%	-
Direct Support Services	$67,500	-	$67,500	-	100.0%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,000	-	$1,000	-	100.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$4,000	-	$4,000	-	100.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,777,000**	**$30,000**	**$1,777,000**	**$30,000**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Only one of the two project sites could be constructed. This could negatively impact the quality of the research results that DNR could obtain (DNR is using non-OHF funds for the research). Only the six acre site (2,700') could be completed.

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

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

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

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	11	11	100.0%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$1,777,000	$1,777,000	100.0%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	11	11	100.0%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$1,777,000	$1,777,000	100.0%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Daylighting Phalen Creek - Phase 2

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/12/2026

Project Title: Daylighting Phalen Creek - Phase 2

Funds Recommended: $1,641,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Gabby Menomin
Title: Director of Land and Environment
Organization: Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi
Address: 590 4th St E
City: Saint Paul, MN 55107
Email: gmenomin@wakantipi.org
Office Number: (651) 370-2106
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: https://wakantipi.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Ramsey.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Phalen Creek is a long-buried waterway that previously flowed through Saint Paul's East Side from Lake Phalen to the Mississippi River. Until the early twentieth century, it was a thriving wildlife corridor and cultural resource for Dakota people. Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi, with support from LSOHC and others, has built strong momentum to daylight Phalen Creek. We are requesting a) 100% design development for the portion of the creek within Wakan Tipi Sanctuary, and b) 10% design development of the remaining creek channel between these two sites (key areas only to keep up with other development projects along the corridor).

Design and Scope of Work

Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi (WTA) is nearing completion of engineering design to daylight a ¼-mile creek stretch south of Lake Phalen with previous support from LSOHC and others. We begin construction of this first section in 2027. Daylighting the full creek will restore aquatic habitat and reconnect Lake Phalen, Wakan Tipi Sanctuary, and the Mississippi River. The ecosystems to be restored include wet meadows, shallow fresh marshes, and seasonally flooded wetlands. Within Wakan Tipi Sanctuary, there will be approximately 3,230 linear feet /16 additional acres brought to 100% design. The remaining creek channel will be designed to 10% between Lake Phalen and Wakan Tipi Sanctuary - a stretch that is 11,135 linear feet/anticipated 12-15 acres.

We request support to complete 100% design reintroducing the creek to ongoing habitat restoration efforts at Wakan Tipi. Currently, the sanctuary includes mesic prairie, oak savanna, woodland bluff, riparian and wetland ecosystems that are under active habitat restoration outside of this proposal. Some considerations for the design of this creek section will be connecting water from Swede Hollow to Wakan Tipi and continuing into the Mississippi River through existing culvert systems. During design, we will analyze options to determine the optimal water flow in consultation with the railroad and MNDOT. Wakan Tipi Center opens to the public this month. We are actively managing the sanctuary and ready to implement this work.

Finally, we're requesting funding to complete 10% design for key areas between Wakan Tipi and Lake Phalen. This is critical to ensure the project coordinates with community projects and developments within the corridor, including the Bronze Line BRT, Hamm's Brewery redevelopment, habitat work in Swede Hollow and Eastside Heritage Park.

The 5 year scope includes:

Site Investigation (Reaches 1-6): Topographic survey, geotechnical investigation, and environmental (soil) analysis to support design, permitting, bidding, and construction phases. The survey includes topography, transportation/recreation infrastructure, existing utilities/easements, soil conditions, and major vegetation.

Design (Reaches 1-6): Engineering, ecological, soil, and geomorphic assessment and design of the proposed restored channel, associated wetland, and upland areas. Deliverables include concept through 10% design for Reaches 4-6 (the central section of the creek), and final construction drawings and bid documents for Reaches 1-3 (Wakan Tipi Sanctuary). Construction drawings will be signed by a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Minnesota. Construction costs will also be estimated as part of the design process.

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

Daylighting will restore lost aquatic habitat and support the ecological health of a lake and stream system that once formed the ecological backbone of the local environment. The restoration of the creek and riparian habitat will support the return of a range of terrestrial, avian, insect, and aquatic species formerly endemic to this area.

It will restore the specific aquatic habitats including stream, inland shallow fresh marsh, inland deep fresh marsh, inland open fresh water, and inland fresh meadow.

Planned creekbed design at the Lake Phalen site incorporates standing dead wood in the naturalized area, which will provide immediate habitat opportunities for bats, including the Eastern Pipistrelle, Northern Long-eared Bat, and Big Brown Bat (species of Special Concern).

Insect species we anticipate to colonize the creek channel include aquatic macroinvertebrates and terrestrial species like Monarch Butterflies. Insect species listed as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern in Minnesota, which are anticipated to return, include Rusty Patched Bumblebee, Caddisfly, Ghost Tiger Beetles, Iowa Skipper, Leadplant Flower Moth, Regal Fritallary, and Whitney's Underwing.

The creek will provide habitat for a range of endemic turtle species, including the SGCN "threatened" status Blanding's Turtle. The restored naturalized shoreline will be paired with areas allowing for nesting sites.

The creek outfalls to the Mississippi River and will provide enhanced forage and spawning habitat for many fish species including green sunfish, pumpkinseed, large-mouth bass, and bluegill. The proposed stream habitat will have sections that will be fishable for these species, offering a unique fishing experience to the residents and visitors.

Lake sedge, white turtlehead, and joe pye weed are a few of the native species that will help with the establishment of healthy native plant communities. These will help stabilize shoreline conditions, trap sediment to improve water quality and enhance the terrestrial and aquatic habitat value. Upland areas are also being re-established with native plant and pollinator species. Flowering species such as Bottle Gentian, asters, butterfly milkweed and white wild indigo - a state-listed species of special concern native to prairie habitats- provide critical forage and nesting habitat for specialist pollinators.

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

The community has been advocating for creek restoration since 1997. Over the past decade, WTA has made significant progress with support from LSOHC and a broad coalition of partners. Continued momentum is critical for future phases of this restoration. Urban development pressures are ever-present; including development of the Bronze Line BRT, Eastside Heritage Skate park, and Hamm's Brewery Redevelopment. Developing and advancing design for the full creek corridor will ensure this vision is included in local projects and in larger regional planning documents. Since receiving previous support from LSOHC, WTA has secured additional public funding, additional support from private and corporate foundations, and a broad base of individuals invested in the project. Beyond the phase outlined in this request, we anticipate a future final phase of the project to complete creek construction at Wakan Tipi and to accomplish design/construction for the remaining creek (Reaches 4 - 6).

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

Similar to the efforts at the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary, 2 miles to the west, this project continues the process of creating and planning for expanding north-south habitat corridors that enhance and support the overall Mississippi River flyway. There is a distinct lack of connectivity between the Mississippi River and riparian resources to the north of Saint Paul. This project will restore and plan for critical habitat to reduce the isolation and fragmentation, bridging the gap between resources north and south of Saint Paul. To achieve those goals, Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi previously completed a feasibility study (2017) which included the scientific evaluation of geology (surficial and bedrock) hydrology, topography, and soil types to identify the likely location of the lost riparian and creek habitat resources. Based on these foundational elements, WTA has identified targeted habitats and appropriate locations to leverage the natural site conditions to achieve the ecological restoration goals.

Specific areas of habitat connectivity included in the design of Reaches 1-6 are the connection to the Mississippi River, which was previously lost when the creek was buried in the 1930s. As well as connecting to the already established habitat restoration in Wakan Tipi and the creek and woodland habitats located in Swede Hollow. For the creek site at the south end of Lake Phalen, the continued habitat restoration will expand on the already existing Lake Phalen aquatic and shoreline habitat and beyond into the large chain-of-lake system.

WTA has also conducted a series of preliminary habitat evaluations in the project area, with support and consultation from wildlife ecologists at the University of Minnesota, conservation professionals with Saint Paul Natural Resources, the DNR and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, technicians from Capitol Region and Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed Districts, and other knowledgeable stakeholders. Additional research has been conducted to ensure that the daylighting of Phalen Creek is designed for targeted habitat improvements and expansions for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, in addition to the expansion of valuable riparian habitat.

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

Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Metro / Urban

Protect, enhance, and restore riparian and littoral habitats on lakes to benefit game and nongame fish species

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *Success for this project is measured in the planned length of the restored stream channel and in the acreage of restored riparian habitat. We will conduct habitat surveys throughout the planned creek corridor. Vegetation community will be assessed with transect surveys and/or confirmation of the presence of targeted plant species on-site. WTA will also conduct regular wildlife habitat surveys to track presence of indicator species in the project area. University of Minnesota and additional academic institutions will act as support in these studies, surveys, and evaluations.*

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

This request is not supplanting or substituting for any previous funding not from legacy funds or used for the same purpose.

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

This project will apply U.S. Fish and Wildlife Strategic Habitat Preservation principles throughout the project to ensure that project outcomes are achieved and maintained after the listed funding period. Namely, this project: (1) is prepared to monitor and encourage the positive watershed-wide impacts of extending riparian habitat from the north metro to the Mississippi River; (2) will continue a legacy of collaboration by working in partnership with community members, government entities, scientists, conservation professionals, and other stakeholders; (3) will utilize an adaptive management framework that incorporates biological planning, conservation design, and monitoring and research in the project and post-project activities; and (4) will rely on science and related tools to evaluate gaps in knowledge and implement best management practices.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2032	Public, Corporate, Private Foundation Grants and Individual Donor support	Maintenance of riparian plantings	Routine water-quality monitoring	IBI assessment
2031	LCCMR ENTRF - Co-Management between WTA and City of Saint Paul	Maintenance of riparian plantings	Routine water-quality monitoring	IBI assessment

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

The project to daylight Phalen Creek represents a unique opportunity to restore a natural resource with longstanding cultural value to the Dakota people of Minnesota, and presents a rare opportunity for stream restoration in the urban core. The project directly serves environmental justice and social equity needs. More than 1,000 community members will be directly engaged during this project. Community engagement will parallel the development of compelling graphics and renderings, and community members will have direct input on project designs throughout the process. This is of particular importance to the East Side, where many residents lack access to naturalized public green spaces, and to the knowledge and health benefits these spaces provide. The area has the second-highest vacancy rate among all Racially Concentrated Areas of Poverty in Minnesota; 40% of households report an annual income of less than $35,000, and over 64% of residents identify as People of Color. In the Payne-Phalen neighborhood alone, 37% of residents are Asian or Pacific Islander; 14% are Black or African American; 13% are Hispanic or Latino, and the neighborhood's 400+ Native American and Alaska Native residents are bolstered by a strong East Metro Indigenous community. Consistent engagement will ensure that community interests shape how the creek channel is designed and best utilized by residents.According to the EPA, residents living within ½-mile of the Phalen Creek corridor are, statewide, in the 90th percentile or higher for wastewater discharge, traffic proximity and volume, respiratory hazards, and cancer risk. For nearly 25 years, WTA has engaged local residents about restoring Phalen Creek. Numerous community surveys and targeted outreach events have shown overwhelming support for bringing Phalen Creek back to the surface—to recognize and celebrate the creek's value to the Dakota people, to whom this land has belonged for time immemorial and which holds unique value as a trade route and resource cache; to improve access to natural spaces and water resources in a heavily

industrialized area of the city; and to align with regional watershed management plans surrounding water quality, storm-water runoff, and flood risk mitigation.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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?
No

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Site Investigation - Reaches 1 - 3	April 2028
100% Design - Reaches 1 - 3	June 2030
Site Investigation - Reaches 4 - 6	September 2028
10% Design - Reaches 4 - 6 (Key Areas Only)	June 2030

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2032

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation
(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.
(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;

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

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Contracts	$1,641,000	$180,000	Great Lakes Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program	$1,821,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,641,000**	**$180,000**	**-**	**$1,821,000**

Amount of Request: $1,641,000
Amount of Leverage: $180,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 10.97%
DSS + Personnel: -
As a % of the total request: 0.0%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
We are reducing our design scope for Reaches 4-6, removing community engagement work, and removing five-year habitat establishment period for Reaches 7-8.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
We have a pending proposal of $180,000 to the Great Lakes Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We would reduce the project scope and not complete 60% design development for the stretch of the creek between the Lower Phalen Creek site and the Lake Phalen Creek site.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and design costs would be scaled to accomplish 30% design for Wakan Tipi site.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Working with water and civil engineers and site investigation contractors.

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	-	-	-	1	1
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1**	**1**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$1,641,000	$1,641,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,641,000**	**$1,641,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	1	-	-	-	-	1
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	$1,641,000	-	-	-	-	$1,641,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$1,641,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,641,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	$1,641,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	$1,641,000	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

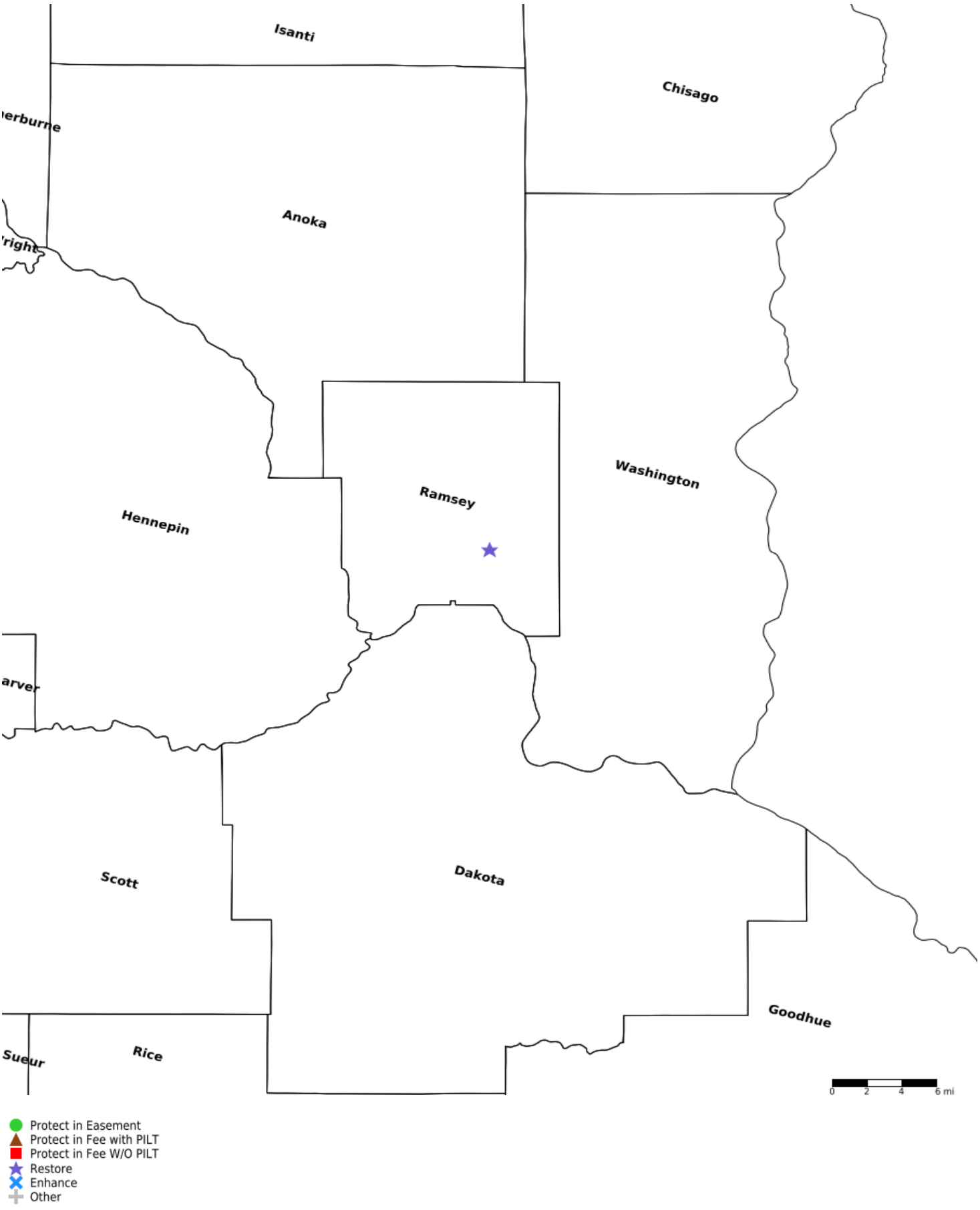
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
The project area encompasses Wakan Tipi (formerly Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary) as well as key project areas near Hamm's Brewery, Eastside Heritage Park, Swede Hollow and Phalen Blvd (Bronze Line BRT). The parcel was identified during a 2017 feasibility study commissioned by WTA to evaluate ideal portions of Phalen Creek to be daylit.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Phalen Creek	Ramsey	02922228	9	$395,965	Yes	Habitat restoration for establishment period.

Parcel Map


Isanti
Chisago
Anoka
Ramsey
Washington
Hennepin
Scott
Dakota
Goodhue
Rice
0 2 4 6 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Daylighting Phalen Creek - Phase 2

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Daylighting Phalen Creek - Phase 2
Organization: Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi
Manager: Gabby Menomin

Budget

Requested Amount: $6,781,400
Appropriated Amount: $1,641,000
Percentage: 24.2%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$588,300	$235,000	-	-	0.0%	0.0%
Contracts	$4,975,300	$257,000	$1,641,000	$180,000	32.98%	70.04%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$1,217,800	$513,900	-	-	0.0%	0.0%
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$6,781,400**	**$1,005,900**	**$1,641,000**	**$180,000**	**24.2%**	**17.89%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We would reduce the project scope and not complete 60% design development for the stretch of the creek between the Lower Phalen Creek site and the Lake Phalen Creek site.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and design costs would be scaled to accomplish 60% design for Wakan Tipi site.

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 only accomplish habitat establishment for reaches 7 & 8 and only 30% design development for reaches 1 - 3. This would hamper our ability to have a shovel ready project at Wakan Tipi at the end of this grant period and reduce overall success for daylighting the full creek.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and design costs would be scaled to accomplish 30% design for Wakan Tipi site.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	9	1	11.11%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$6,781,400	$1,641,000	24.2%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	9	1	11.11%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$6,781,400	$1,641,000	24.2%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 10

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/16/2026

Project Title: DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 10

Funds Recommended: $5,802,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Dean Paron
Title: Section of Fisheries Habitat Program Manager
Organization: Department of Natural Resources
Address: 525 Lake Ave South Suite 415
City: Duluth, MN 55802
Email: dean.paron@state.mn.us
Office Number: 6512595205
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Hubbard, Red Lake, Lake, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Otter Tail, Redwood, Marshall, Pine, St. Louis, Carlton, Aitkin, Becker, Le Sueur, Dakota, Meeker, Wabasha, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Scott, Washington, Faribault, Big Stone, Stearns, , Wadena, Cass, Wright and Jackson.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Enhance

Restore

Other : Feasibility studies are proposed for two projects.

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The MNDNR proposes three river projects—a fish-passage improvement, a channel restoration, and a feasibility study—to restore habitat for fish and other aquatic life, creating over two miles of diverse river habitat. Funds will also enhance 113 acres of riparian and terrestrial habitat on Aquatic Management Areas. Although the fish-passage footprint is small, the project will reconnect extensive lake and river habitat. Stream projects were selected from a statewide priority list based on ecological benefit, scale of impact, urgency, and local support.

Design and Scope of Work

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) maintains and annually updates a statewide list of priority stream habitat projects submitted by agency staff and conservation partners. Projects are evaluated using criteria such as ecological significance, scale of impact, urgency, and local support, with additional consideration for habitats supporting rare or sensitive species. From this prioritized list, MNDNR and its partners propose to implement one fish-passage project, one channel-restoration project, and one feasibility study under this funding request.

Aquatic organisms rely on access to a variety of habitats to complete their life cycles. Spawning areas, juvenile rearing zones, overwintering refuges, and feeding habitats may be separated by considerable distances. Barriers such as dams or improperly designed road crossings restrict movement, forcing fish and other aquatic organisms into less suitable habitat where survival and reproductive success may be lower. In some systems, fragmentation has led to the local loss of sensitive species upstream of barriers. The proposed fish-passage project will have a small construction footprint, approximately one acre, yet will restore upstream connectivity to thousands of acres of river and lake habitat. Improved connectivity will enhance ecological processes and benefit species such as Walleye, Northern Pike, and Lake Sturgeon, along with several mussel species listed as threatened or of special concern.

Natural stream function relies on meandering channels, variable depths, and diverse in-channel structures such as wood, boulders, and aquatic vegetation. These features create a mosaic of habitat types—fast riffles, deep pools, and transitional runs—that support all life stages of riverine fish. In degraded reaches, channel straightening, sedimentation, and loss of structural complexity reduce habitat suitability. The proposed channel-restoration project will re-establish natural geomorphic processes, reconnect high-quality upstream and downstream reaches, and improve habitat diversity essential for sustaining robust fish communities.

The proposal also includes enhancement of 113 acres of riparian and upland habitats within Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs). These lands protect critical shoreline habitat used by spawning fish, waterfowl, wading birds, amphibians, and species of special concern. Upland areas within river corridors provide important buffers that

maintain water quality and support terrestrial wildlife. Enhancement activities will include native shoreline plantings, invasive species control, and prescribed burning, each guided by site-specific AMA management plans. The demand for stream and shoreline restoration across Minnesota exceeds current state capacity. Outdoor Heritage Fund support has been pivotal in accelerating this work, enabling MNDNR and partners to implement complex, high-value habitat projects. This proposal includes funding for essential staff positions—a stream habitat consultant and a coordinator—who provide technical expertise, project management, design oversight, and coordination with partner organizations. Their involvement ensures consistency, efficiency, and high-quality restoration outcomes across projects funded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Collectively, these proposed actions will improve aquatic connectivity, restore natural stream function, and enhance riparian and upland habitats, yielding long-term benefits for Minnesota's fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation resources.

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

The Necktie and Elizabeth Dam projects are key components to Lake Sturgeon restoration efforts in the Red River basin. Lake Sturgeon are an important game species and also listed as a species of Special Concern in Minnesota. Dams that blocked migrations to spawning habitat, overharvest, and poor water quality contributed to the extirpation of Lake Sturgeon from the Red River basin in the early 1900's. Lake Sturgeon reintroduction in the Red River basin has been ongoing for 20 years and mature fish are being captured during spring surveys now. However, barriers such as these projects, block upstream migrations of mature Lake Sturgeon on the Otter Tail River. Removing these barriers to fish passage is key to restoring a naturally reproducing population of Lake Sturgeon in the Red River basin.

Endangered and threatened species often rely on migratory corridors. Our AMA riparian parcels serve as important habitat corridors for threatened and endangered species. Restoring and enhancing these parcels provides the optimal habitat for these species to recover and reach other critical habitat. In North America riparian habitat has the most diverse and rich array of bird, amphibian, and mammal species. Maintaining this habitat is critical for biodiversity as well as threatened and endangered species.

There are 68 species of greatest conservation need that utilize headwaters to large streams, including birds, turtles, frogs, fish, and insects. Stream habitat projects are not designed with one species in mind but instead are intended to benefit multiple functions and habitats within the stream and riparian area which in turn benefit rare species. Completion of proposed stream restoration projects will include habitat features that will directly benefit many of the species in greatest conservation needs.

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

The projects on our list have local support that may not be present in the future if public sentiment were given time to change, which can happen with dam removal or modification projects.

Matching funds are currently available for our projects. Completing these projects would take advantage of those funds while they are available.

There are multiple one-time federal funding opportunities for aquatic habitat restoration and enhancement. We have been aggressively pursuing these funding sources using Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations as leverage. Working out the timing between federal funding and Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations is always challenging

so we only include federal funding that has already been committed as leverage. However, we will continue to aggressively pursue all federal funding opportunities with these appropriations.

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

Science-based targeting was used to identify, design, and prioritize restoration and enhancement projects included in this proposal. Projects were prioritized based on multiple criteria, including scale-of-impact, critical habitat, technical feasibility, and compatibility with other resource initiatives. Projects that benefit or reconnect areas of high or outstanding biological significance or lakes of biological significance were targeted and prioritized.

Our proposal features projects intended to reduce fragmentation. Dams and other obstructions in rivers fragment areas of suitable habitat, similar to when pieces of prairie are separated by large areas of row-crop farmland. By removing or modifying barriers in streams, we will allow fish and other aquatic life to move between different patches of habitat that may be critical for their life-processes, such as spawning. Connectivity also expands fishing opportunities by acting as a conduit for recolonization after catastrophic events such as drought happen in one portion of a watershed. We have prioritized fish passage projects that connect large areas of high-quality habitat.

Similarly, our stream channel restoration projects and AMA enhancement projects target reaches of river where habitat is poor due to past alterations. Lengths of poor habitat can themselves act as barriers to animal movement, where a fish may choose not to migrate through a reach without adequate depth or cover to reach more suitable habitat upstream. Restoring the stream channel removes that "barrier" of poor habitat that fragments the stream. In the process, we also create high-quality habitat within the formerly degraded reach.

This accomplishment plan also includes survey, design, and permitting for the MN Headwaters Feasibility project. No acres will be claimed on this appropriation but will follow with request for construction funding.

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

Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda

Red River of the North Fisheries Management Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

Northern Forest

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

Prairie

Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Rivers and streams provide corridors of habitat including intact areas of forest cover in the east and large wetland/upland complexes in the west ~ *The Lost River Dry Dam project aligns with "Reconnect the Red" efforts (Goal #3, Red River Fisheries Management plan; Phase 2 Lake Sturgeon Restoration Plan), and the Otter Tail River 1W1P ("enhancing aquatic connectivity" goal). This multi-phase collaboration builds on 30 years of Red River connectivity progress to date, 47 of 79 major barriers on the Red River and Minnesota tributaries have been removed or modified to allow fish passage. For this project, we will compare warmwater fish communities before and after project completion. We will also compare catch rates for critical species before and after project completion.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Improved aquatic habitat indicators ~ *Improved aquatic habitat indicators will include geomorphic monitoring on the Necktie Rive, Bieg Rice Lake, Mayo Brook Culverts restoration projects. For the Mayo Brook Culverts, fish communities will be assessed before and after project completion.*

Programs in prairie region:

Other ~ *The Valleau WMA channel restoration projects in this region will improve in-channel and riparian habitat. We will use metrics that evaluate instream and floodplain habitat to assess our success. For the Elizabeth Dam and Le Sueur Dam fish passage projects, we will use routine fish surveys to gauge changes to the fish community and compare with pre-project data.*

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

This request is an acceleration of DNR aquatic habitat work to a level not attainable but for the appropriation.

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

MNDNR has multiple potential avenues that could be used for ongoing maintenance of projects, including the Game and Fish Fund which is supported by license sales, the Heritage Enhancement account funded by taxes on lottery tickets, funds raised through the sale of Trout Stamps, the General Fund, and people who volunteer to help the department with projects.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Annual	Game and Fish	Inspect project	Control Invasives	Make instream adjustments as needed

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

The DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement proposal has the following specific ties to BIPOC and diverse communities: Projects included in this proposal provide benefits at the watershed scale. These benefits extend well beyond the footprint of each individual project and benefit all Minnesotans. Tribal partners have been significant partners in efforts to restore Lake Sturgeon in the Red River basin. Multiple projects included in this proposal contribute to these efforts. DNR's OHF projects aim to serve all Minnesotans. At the same time, we are bringing more focus in all our work to BIPOC and diverse communities. The Minnesota DNR has adopted advancing

diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) as a key priority in its strategic plan. The plan focuses on increasing the cultural competence of our staff, creating a workforce that is reflective of Minnesota, continuing to strengthen tribal consultation and building partnerships with diverse communities. The OHF funds high quality habitat projects that provide ecosystem services like clean water and carbon sequestration that support environmental justice. OHF also supports public access and recreational opportunities on these lands. OHF projects and outcomes benefit BIPOC and diverse communities through recreational opportunities that are close-to-home, culturally responsive and accessible to Minnesotans with disabilities. The DNR has diversity, equity and inclusion strategies that benefit all OHF projects: Multilingual and culturally specific hunting and fishing education programs take place on public lands. All hiring is equal opportunity, affirmative action, and veteran friendly. Contracting seeks out Targeted Group, Economically Disadvantaged and Veteran-Owned businesses. Public engagement seeks out BIPOC voices and involves diverse communities. Outreach and marketing of projects has this focus as well. Partnerships are at the center of all projects. Tribes in particular are consulted in all pertinent areas of the DNR's work, under EO 19-24.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

AMA

County/Municipal

Public Waters

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Vegetation maintenance on fish passage and channel restoration projects	June 2030
Construction of fish passage and channel restoration projects	September 2030
Permitting and environmental review of fish passage and channel restoration projects	December 2028
Design of fish passage and channel restoration projects	March 2028

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2032

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation
(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.
(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;
(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$763,600	-	-	$763,600
Contracts	$4,724,400	-	-	$4,724,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$75,000	-	-	$75,000
Professional Services	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Direct Support Services	$159,000	-	-	$159,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$65,000	-	-	$65,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$5,802,000**	**-**	**-**	**$5,802,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Interns	2.0	2.0	$50,000	-	-	$50,000
Restoration Consultant	1.0	2.5	$447,300	-	-	$447,300
River Specialist	1.0	2.5	$266,300	-	-	$266,300

Amount of Request: $5,802,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $922,600
As a % of the total request: 15.9%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Funding at 36% required major reductions: salary support lowered to 37% of the original request, river restoration projects reduced from 11 to 3, and AMA enhancements from 870 to 113 acres. Professional services, supplies, and direct services were also scaled back.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Projects come from a prioritized list. With partial funding, we would fund only the top projects from our list that fit within the amount allocated. At 50% funding, we estimate that we would still be able to achieve approximately 40-50% of enhancement and restoration acres.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel would reduce to 30 to 40% of the requested amount. Staff time would focus on project coordination, administration, and project development.

Direct Support Services is determined by a standard DNR process taking into account the amount of funding and the number of allocations made with that funding.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
100% of contracts are for Restoration and Enhancement work.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Design/Engineering

Travel

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

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
All travel line costs will be used for mileage, food, and lodging.

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?
DNR calculates the program's fair share to pay for support costs directly related to and necessary for the appropriation, and an internal Service Level Agreement (contract) guarantees each program will receive the services for the calculated amount.

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
No

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds?
There are multiple federal funds being applied for, however, it is expected we will know by December 2026 for most

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	25	25
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	114	114
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**139**	**139**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$2,187,100	$2,187,100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$3,614,900	$3,614,900
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$5,802,000**	**$5,802,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	0	25	25
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	53	-	61	0	114
Total	**-**	**53**	**-**	**61**	**25**	**139**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	$2,187,100	$2,187,100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$48,600	-	$3,566,300	-	$3,614,900
Total	**-**	**$48,600**	**-**	**$3,566,300**	**$2,187,100**	**$5,802,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	$87,484
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$31,709

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	$87,484
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$916	-	$58,463	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

81 miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
MN DNR uses a prioritized list to select stream habitat projects for submission. Project submissions are solicited from MN DNR staff as well as partner organizations. Criteria used to rank projects includes the scale of impact, critical habitat for rare species, the urgency of completing the project, feasibility, and local support. From that list we select the highest-ranked projects that we feel could be completed during the life of the OHF appropriation.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

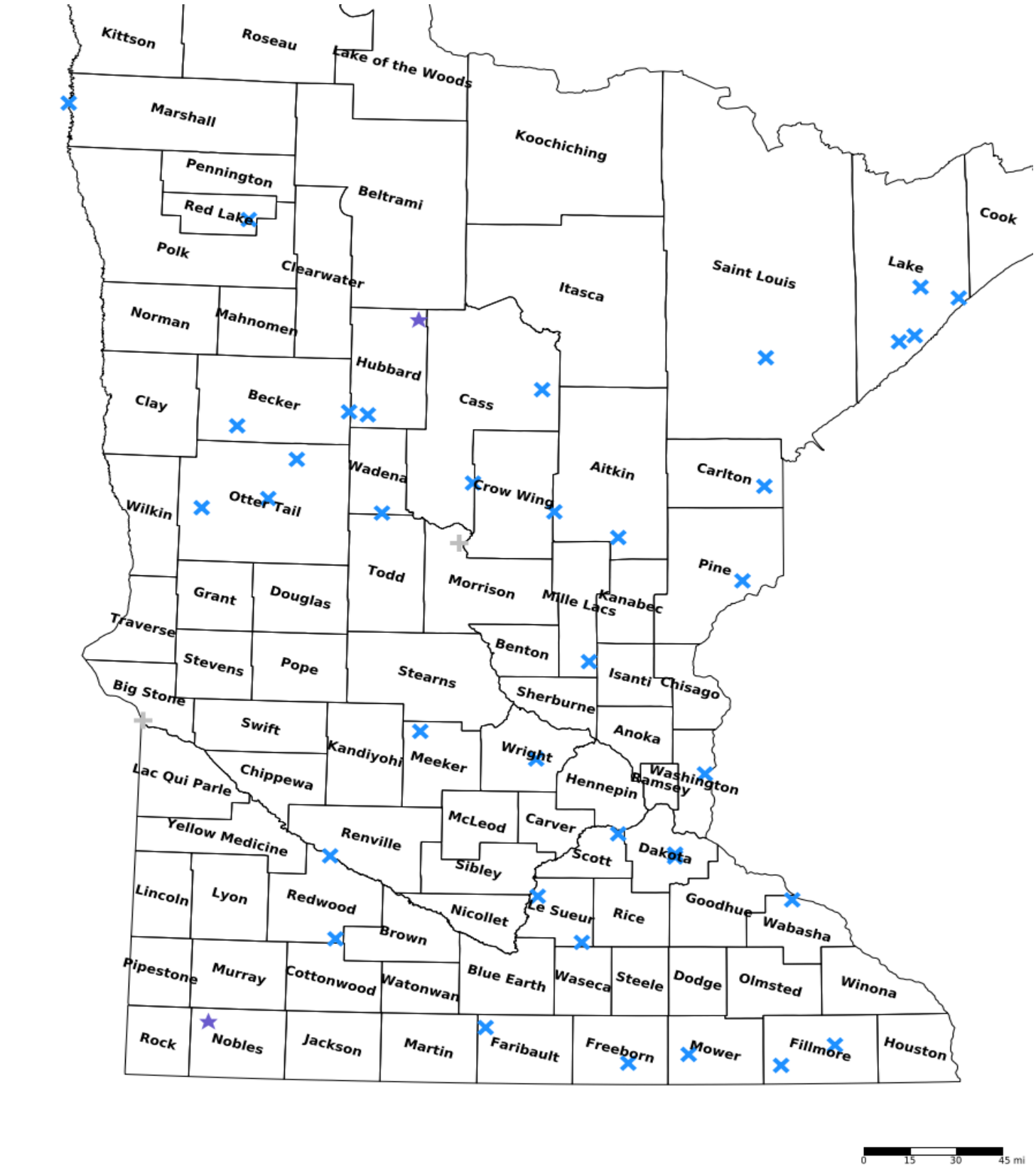
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Le Seuer Creek Dam	-	11125206	1	$920,000	Yes	Dam modification
Mud River AMA	Aitkin	04527207	9	$10,000	Yes	Ash Stand Planting Maintenance
Monson Lake AMA	Becker	13841206	5	$10,000	Yes	Buckthorn Control
Straight River AMA	Becker	13936201	3	$5,000	Yes	Prescribed burn
Blackhoof River	Carlton	04716230	10	$10,000	Yes	Tree planting maintenance
Big Rice Lake Outlet/Willow River Restoration (4 miles channel resto)	Cass	14125219	48	$2,100,000	Yes	Dam Removal and channel restoration DNR
Mayo Brook Culverts	Cass	13529204	2	$1,000,000	Yes	Connectivity through Culvert Replacements
South Branch of Vermillion River AMA	Dakota	11418229	30	$7,250	Yes	prairie invasive control
Vermillion River AMA	Dakota	11418220	20	$7,150	Yes	prairie invasive control
Blue Earth AMA	Faribault	10428228	56	$43,000	Yes	prescribed burn and tree control
Etna Creek AMA	Fillmore	10213236	45	$15,000	Yes	prescribed burn
Lanesboro Hatchery AMA	Fillmore	10310226	6	$7,000	Yes	buckthorn control
Juglans Woods	Freeborn	10221225	22	$6,100	Yes	Inter-seeding riparian area where buckthorn removed (5ac)
Gemini AMA	Goodhue	10217207	49	$28,000	Yes	prescribed burn and tree/vetch control
Necktie River Phase II	Hubbard	14532222	57	$4,000,000	Yes	Stream channel restoration
Straight River	Hubbard	13935212	20	$11,000	Yes	invasives species control
Valleau WMA	Jackson	10443225	20	$650,000	Yes	Stream channel restoration DNR
Little Knife AMA	Kanabec	04424228	27	$10,000	Yes	Rx burn
Beaver River AMA	Lake	05508206	4	$10,000	Yes	tree cage maintenance
East Beaver River AMA	Lake	05808209	45	$10,000	Yes	tree planting/protection
Manitou River AMA	Lake	05806233	30	$5,000	Yes	Riparian planting followed harvest or burn
Split Rock River AMA	Lake	05509217	95	$10,000	Yes	ash diversification; tree planting
Waterville Hatchery AMA	Le Sueur	10923228	12	$7,000	Yes	prescribed burn
Frank Rose	Marshall	15750230	60	$30,000	Yes	Rx burn and Prairie enhancement; woody control, invasives
North Fork Crow River AMA	Meeker	12132224	28	$36,000	Yes	riparian buckthorn control

Chuck Davis AMA	Mille Lacs	03626203	8	$40,000	Yes	invasive control and tree planting
Dead River Walker AMA	Otter Tail	13440211	12	$10,000	Yes	Prescribed burn and native seeding
Elizabeth Dam Pelican River	Otter Tail	13443232	1	$2,600,000	Yes	Dam Modifications
Toad River AMA	Otter Tail	13738232	5	$10,000	Yes	spray invasive species
Barnes Spring AMA	Pine	04118212	15	$10,000	Yes	Rx Burn
Lost River Dry Dam	Red Lake	15041203	1	$1,000,000	Yes	Connectivity through Culvert Replacement
Sanborn AMA	Redwood	10936227	35	$50,000	Yes	spray and interseed
Whispering Ridge AMA	Redwood	11436232	100	$150,000	Yes	control of woody invasives on outcrops
Eagle Creek AMA	Scott	11521217	15	$35,600	Yes	prescribed burn and invasive control
Whiteface River	St. Louis	05416208	20	$10,000	Yes	Riparian Planting. Protect/Add Conifer in upland.
Miller Creek AMA	Wabasha	11112209	46	$26,400	Yes	buckthorn and prairie tree control
Aldrich Dam	Wadena	13434235	1	$350,000	Yes	Dam modification DNR
Brown's Creek AMA	Washington	03020221	5	$3,300	Yes	woody invasive control
Deer Lake Outlet on Mill Creek	Wright	11926201	171	$200,000	Yes	Dam Modification/lake habitat

Other Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
MN River Headwaters	Big Stone	12146216	0	$275,000	Yes
Cold Spring Dam Feasibility Study	Stearns	13230223	0	$112,000	Yes

Parcel Map


Kittson
Roseau
Lake of the Woods
Marshall
Koochiching
Pennington
Beltrami
Red Lake
Polk
Clearwater
Itasca
Saint Louis
Lake
Cook
Norman
Mahnomen
Hubbard
Clay
Becker
Cass
Aitkin
Carlton
Wadena
Crow Wing
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Pine
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Grant
Douglas
Traverse
Benton
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Isanti
Chisago
Big Stone
Sherburne
Swift
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Wright
Anoka
Chippewa
Hennepin
Ramsey
Washington
Lac Qui Parle
McLeod
Carver
Yellow Medicine
Renville
Scott
Dakota
Sibley
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Nicollet
Le Sueur
Rice
Goodhue
Wabasha
Brown
Pipestone
Murray
Cottonwood
Watonwan
Blue Earth
Waseca
Steele
Dodge
Olmsted
Winona
Rock
Nobles
Jackson
Martin
Faribault
Freeborn
Mower
Fillmore
Houston
0
15
30
45 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 10

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 10
Organization: Department of Natural Resources
Manager: Dean Paron

Budget

Requested Amount: $16,328,300
Appropriated Amount: $5,802,000
Percentage: 35.53%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$2,055,000	-	$763,600	-	37.16%	-
Contracts	$10,718,800	$1,510,000	$4,724,400	-	44.08%	0.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$10,000	-	$75,000	-	750.0%	-
Professional Services	$3,110,000	-	$15,000	-	0.48%	-
Direct Support Services	$317,900	-	$159,000	-	50.02%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$116,600	-	$65,000	-	55.75%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$16,328,300**	**$1,510,000**	**$5,802,000**	**-**	**35.53%**	**0.0%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Projects come from a prioritized list. With partial funding, we would fund only the top projects from our list that fit within the amount allocated. At 50% funding, we estimate that we would still be able to achieve approximately 40-50% of enhancement and restoration acres.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel would reduce to 50 to 60% of the requested amount. Staff time would focus on project coordination, administration, and project development.

Direct Support Services is determined by a standard DNR process taking into account the amount of funding and the number of allocations made with that funding.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Top ranked projects are watershed-scale connectivity projects; at 30% funding we will achieve approximate 30-40% of our initial proposed acres for enhancement and 11% of our initial restoration acres.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel would reduce to 30 to 40% of the requested amount. Staff time would focus on project coordination, administration, and project development.

Direct Support Services is determined by a standard DNR process taking into account the amount of funding and the number of allocations made with that funding.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	77	25	32.47%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	872	114	13.07%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$5,821,000	$2,187,100	37.57%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$10,507,300	$3,614,900	34.4%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	77	25	32.47%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	872	114	13.07%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$5,821,000	$2,187,100	37.57%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$10,507,300	$3,614,900	34.4%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Fish Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 1

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: DNR Fish Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 1

Funds Recommended: $3,820,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Heather Baird
Title: Lake Habitat Supervisor
Organization: Mn DNR Section of Fisheries
Address: 1601 Minnesota Drive
City: Brainerd, MN 56401
Email: heather.baird@state.mn.us
Office Number: 218-203-4345
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Hubbard, Aitkin, Pine, Otter Tail, Douglas, Pope, Meeker, Blue Earth, Rice, Kandiyohi, Clay, Itasca, St. Louis, Crow Wing, Cass, Becker, Beltrami, Mahnomen, Todd, Benton and Cottonwood.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Metro / Urban

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The MNDNR is proposing to enhance fish habitat in lakes by modifying five different lake outlets and fish passage, enhance habitat with aquatic plantings and improving riparian habitat on lakeshores. The new outlet structures will reestablish the appropriate lake elevation and help diversify the habitat in the lakes for fish and aquatic resources. Aquatic and terrestrial plantings of native plants will help with lake water quality and enhance habitat for fish. Projects were selected from a statewide request, prioritized by factors such as ecological benefit, scale of impact, urgency of completion, and local support.

Design and Scope of Work

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) is starting a programmatic approach to restoring and enhancing fish habitat in lakes. A request from DNR area offices and resource partners developed an initial list of fish habitat projects for lakes. Projects are prioritized based on scale-of-impact, urgency, local support, and critical habitat for rare species. Outlet structures on five different lakes will reestablish appropriate lake levels and improve habitat for fish and aquatic resources. Improving aquatic vegetation with plantings and lake draw downs, along with riparian habitat restoration will improve habitat and water quality for fish habitat statewide.

Working in cooperation with partners, five new rock arch rapids at the outlets of Big Pine, Little Wolf, String Lakes, Dead River and Blanche creek will be installed. These new outlet structures will reestablish the appropriate run-out elevation and hydrologic regime to the lakes, and it will also allow fish migration which in turn will help diversify the fish composition and help improve the aquatic ecology of these basins. Modifying or removing the barriers through our five proposed fish passage projects would improve fish habitat on a few thousand acres of water and allow access of many miles to river habitat, restoring river ecological processes that have ecosystem wide benefits. This will benefit fish such as Walleye, Northern Pike, and Lake Sturgeon present in these lakes, as well as five mussel species classified as threatened or special concern.

To improve lake water quality and fish habitat in Little Rock Lake in Benton County, the lake will be drawn down for a period of time allowing for planting of native bullrush (three species) in opportune areas and will be maintained for five years. Planting aquatic plants will restore and enhance emergent vegetation which is critical habitat to many fish species.

We propose to enhance 2,948 acres of habitat in 21 counties across the state, which includes 315 acres of lake shore uplands on Aquatic Management Areas (AMA). Uplands in these parcels provide a buffer to protect water quality, and habitat for more terrestrial species. Our enhancement work includes shoreline plantings, invasive species control, planting climate resilient tree species, and prescribed burns. Projects are selected based on management guidance documents that have been written for each AMA.

Historically, Department resources for fish habitat work falls short of our funding and staff capacity; funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund will be critical to an acceleration of fish habitat work by the department and partners.

To develop future projects and to manage proposed projects, funding for a Fish Habitat Restoration Coordinator is included in this proposal. These position, located in the Division of FAW, Section of Fisheries, will provide critical technical assistance, and construction oversight to partners working on Legacy-funded restoration and enhancement projects.

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

The Dead River and Blanche creek project will be a key components to Lake Sturgeon restoration efforts in the Red River basin. Lake Sturgeon are an important game species and also listed as a species of Special Concern in Minnesota. Dams that blocked migrations to spawning habitat, overharvest, and poor water quality contributed to the extirpation of Lake Sturgeon from the Red River basin in the early 1900's. Lake Sturgeon reintroduction in the Red River basin has been ongoing for 20 years and mature fish are being captured during spring surveys now. However, barriers block upstream migrations of mature Lake Sturgeon on the Otter Tail River. Removing these barriers for fish passage is key to restoring a naturally reproducing population of Lake Sturgeon in the Red River basin.

Big Pine Lake(s) outlet is at the head of the Pine River (Kettle River Watershed). Modifying the lake outlet structure would allow for fish passage between lakes and river for regionally important species including but not limited to Lake Sturgeon, Walleye, and state listed mussel species.

Endangered and threatened species often rely on migratory corridors, such as our AMA parcels. Restoring and enhancing these parcels provides the optimal habitat for these species to recover and reach other critical habitat. In North America, riparian habitat has the most diverse and rich array of bird, amphibian, and mammal species, maintaining this habitat is critical for biodiversity as well as threatened and endangered species.

There are 68 species of greatest conservation need that utilize headwaters to large streams, including birds, turtles, frogs, fish, and insects. Habitat projects are intended to benefit multiple functions and habitats of the lake both within the lake and in the riparian area, which will have benefits for many rare species.

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

The projects on our list have local support that may not be present in the future if public sentiment were given time to change, which can happen with outlet structure removal or modification projects.
If funded, timing for the Ida Lake shoreline restoration will align nicely with work that Ducks Unlimited and local government units are doing to establish a baseline elevation for Ida Lake and removing a road that segments the lake and runs through the AMA.

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

Science-based targeting was used to identify, design, and prioritize restoration and enhancement projects included in this proposal. Projects were prioritized based on multiple criteria, including scale-of-impact, critical habitat, technical feasibility, and compatibility with other resource initiatives. Projects that benefit or reconnect areas of high or outstanding biological significance or lakes of biological significance are targeted and prioritized.

Our proposal features projects intended to reduce fragmentation. Dams and other obstructions in rivers on lake outlet fragment areas of suitable habitat, similar to when pieces of prairie are separated by large areas of row-crop farmland. By removing or modifying barriers on lakes, we will allow fish and other aquatic life to move between

different patches of habitat that may be critical for their life-processes, such as spawning and overwintering habitat. Connectivity also expands fishing opportunities by acting as a conduit for recolonization after catastrophic events such as drought happen in one portion of a watershed. We have prioritized fish passage projects that connect large areas of high-quality habitat.

Similarly, our vegetation improvement projects and AMA enhancement projects target reaches of where habitat is poor due to past alterations. Poor habitat can act as barriers to animal movement, where a fish may choose not to migrate through a reach without adequate depth or cover to reach more suitable habitat upstream. Restoring aquatic vegetation and riparian habitat removes that "barrier" of poor habitat that fragments a watershed. In the process, we also create high-quality habitat within the formerly degraded lake system.

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

Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management

Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

Northern Forest

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

Prairie

Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Improved aquatic habitat vegetation ~ *Forest Prairie will be lake riparian focused restoration of valuable corridors of habitat. It will be monitored with AMA staff and local Area Fisheries Staff during routine fish surveys and AMA monitoring. The non-game program is very active in this region with projects assessing wildlife populations. And there are the same ongoing wildlife surveys as in the other regions of the state. The Blanche Lake and McCraney Lake Outlet connectivity aligns with "Reconnect the Red" efforts (Goal #3, Red River Fisheries Management plan; Phase 2 Lake Sturgeon Restoration Plan). Compare fisheries communities before and after project completion.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors ~ *Improved aquatic habitat indicators will include geomorphic monitoring on the Toad Lake restoration projects. Fish communities will be assessed before and after project completion. Stream riparian focused restoration will be monitored with AMA staff and local Area Fisheries Staff during routine fish surveys and AMA monitoring. The*

non-game program is very active in this region with projects assessing wildlife populations and there are the same ongoing wildlife surveys as in the other regions of the state.

Programs in prairie region:

Enhanced shallow lake productivity ~ *String Lake will improve connectivity to many miles of river habitat and the acres within the lake will remain viable depth for walleye and northern pike stocking. It will be monitored with regular schedule fish lake surveys. Shallow lakes for fish habitat in south differ from wildlife shallow lake management. The efforts in this grant will restore habitat for fish and aquatic resources that are lacking in many southern, more shallow lakes. Lake riparian focused restoration of valuable corridors of habitat. It will monitored with AMA staff and local Area Fisheries Staff during routine fish surveys and AMA monitoring.*

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

This request is an acceleration of DNR aquatic habitat work to a level not attainable without this appropriation.

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

MNDNR has multiple potential avenues that could be used for ongoing maintenance of projects, including the Game and Fish Fund which is supported by license sales, the Heritage Enhancement account funded by taxes on lottery tickets, the General Fund, and people who volunteer to help the department with projects.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Annual	Game and fish funds	monitor projects	replant as needed	make adjustments as needed

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

The DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement proposal has the following specific ties to BIPOC and diverse communities: Projects included in this proposal provide benefits at the watershed scale. These benefits extend well beyond the footprint of each individual project and benefit all Minnesotans. Tribal partners have been significant partners in efforts to restore Lake Sturgeon in the Red River basin. Multiple projects included in this proposal contribute to these efforts. DNR's OHF projects aim to serve all Minnesotans. At the same time, we are bringing more focus in all our work to BIPOC and diverse communities. The Minnesota DNR has adopted advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) as a key priority in its strategic plan. The plan focuses on increasing the cultural competence of our staff, creating a workforce that is reflective of Minnesota, continuing to strengthen tribal consultation and building partnerships with diverse communities. The OHF funds high quality habitat projects that provide ecosystem services like clean water and carbon sequestration that support environmental justice. OHF also supports public access and recreational opportunities on these lands. OHF projects and outcomes benefit BIPOC and diverse communities through recreational opportunities that are close-to-home, culturally responsive and accessible to Minnesotans with disabilities. The DNR has diversity, equity and inclusion strategies that benefit all OHF projects: Multilingual and culturally specific hunting and fishing education programs take place on public lands. All hiring is equal opportunity, affirmative action, and veteran friendly. Contracting seeks out Targeted Group, Economically Disadvantaged and Veteran-Owned businesses. Public engagement seeks out BIPOC voices and involves diverse communities. Outreach and marketing of projects has this focus as well. Partnerships are at the center of all projects. Tribes in particular are consulted in all pertinent areas of the DNR's work, under EO 19-24.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

AMA

County/Municipal

Public Waters

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Vegetation maintenance on all projects	June 2030
Construction of fish passage and riparian and aquatic vegetation	September 2030
Permitting and environmental review of outlet fish passage and vegetation planting	December 2028
Design of lake outlet projects for fish passage	March 2028

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2032

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation
(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.
(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;
(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$651,200	-	-	$651,200
Contracts	$3,019,200	$100,000	Blanchard Hydro Mitigation funds	$3,119,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$84,600	-	-	$84,600
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$50,000	-	-	$50,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,820,000**	**$100,000**	**-**	**$3,920,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Lake Restoration Coordinator	1.0	4.0	$651,200	-	-	$651,200

Amount of Request: $3,820,000
Amount of Leverage: $100,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 2.62%
DSS + Personnel: $735,800
As a % of the total request: 19.26%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The original request was reduced to 54%. We reduced salary to 49% of original request, we reduced contracts to 53% of original request, and reduced DSS. However, kept travel and supplies at same level.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Leverage funds are coming from the Blanchard Hdyro mitigation funds that will help fund the drawdown and replanting of aquatic plants in Little Rock Lake.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Projects come from a prioritized list. With partial funding, we would fund only the top projects from our list that fit within the amount allocated. At 50% funding, we estimate that we would still be able to achieve approximately 40-50% of enhancement and restoration acres.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel would reduce to 30 to 40% of the requested amount. Staff time would focus on project coordination, administration, and project development.

Direct Support Services is determined by a standard DNR process taking into account the amount of funding and the number of allocations made with that funding.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?
No

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Contracts for rock arch rapids installation, contractor work for enhancement work on AMA such as invasive species control, tree planting, prescribed burns.

Travel

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

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
Travel will only include the traditional travel costs of mileage, food and lodging.

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?
DNR calculates the program's fair share to pay for support costs directly related to and necessary for the appropriation, and an internal Service Level Agreement (contract) guarantees each program will receive the services for the calculated amount.

Federal Funds

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

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	2,948	2,948
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**2,948**	**2,948**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$3,820,000	$3,820,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,820,000**	**$3,820,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	0	2,275	0	450	223	2,948
Total	**0**	**2,275**	**0**	**450**	**223**	**2,948**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$1,550,000	-	$1,660,000	$610,000	$3,820,000
Total	**-**	**$1,550,000**	**-**	**$1,660,000**	**$610,000**	**$3,820,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$1,295

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$681	-	$3,688	$2,735

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

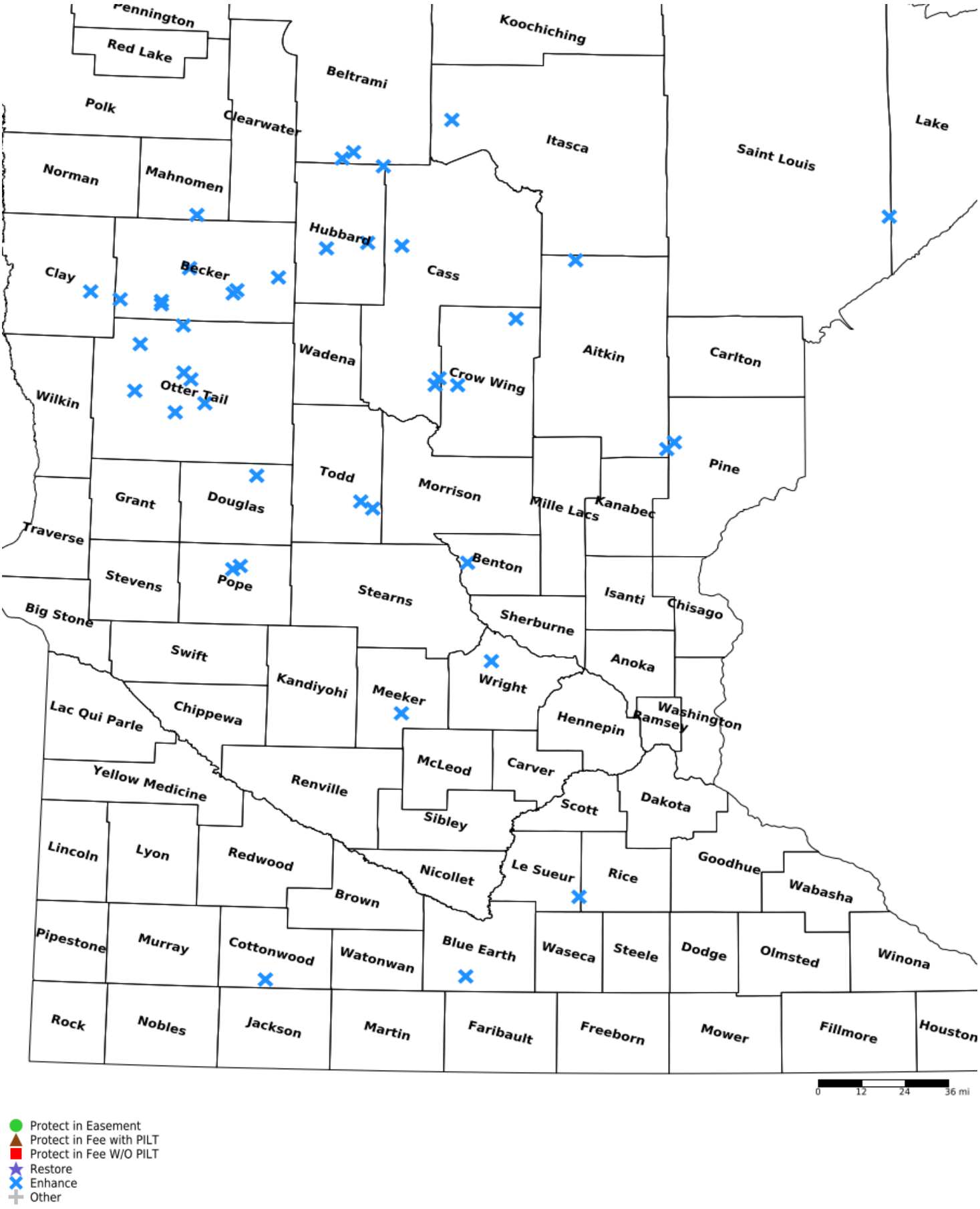
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
MN DNR uses a prioritized list to select habitat projects for submission. Project submissions are solicited from MN DNR staff as well as partner organizations. Criteria used to rank projects includes the scale of impact, critical habitat for rare species, the urgency of completing the project, feasibility, and local support. From that list we select the highest-ranked projects that we feel could be completed during the life of the OHF appropriation.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Hill Lake AMA	Aitkin	05226212	130	$50,000	Yes	Buckthorn- 3 yr. follow-up
Strawberry Creek	Aitkin	04322224	1	$350,000	Yes	Culvert replacement
Monson Lake AMA	Becker	13841206	5	$10,000	Yes	Buckthorn control
Rock Lake AMA	Becker	14040217	5	$8,000	Yes	Tree planting or prescribed savanna burn
Sallie Lake AMA	Becker	13841207	10	$10,000	Yes	Buckthorn control
Straight Lake AMA	Becker	14036229	18	$10,000	Yes	Invasive Spp. Control
Toad Lake	Becker	13938220	1,715	$725,000	Yes	Lake Outlet removal and modification
Toad Lake AMA	Becker	13938216	5	$10,000	Yes	Common Tansy Control
Upper Cormorant Lake AMA	Becker	13843205	10	$10,000	Yes	Buckthorn control
Bemidji Lake South AMA	Beltrami	14633215	4	$10,000	Yes	Invasive Spp. Control
Preece Point AMA	Beltrami	14633230	10	$10,000	Yes	Invasive Spp. Control
Little Rock Lake	Benton	03731214	1,000	$350,000	Yes	Aquatic Vegetation planting
Ida Lake AMA	Blue Earth	10528212	30	$500,000	Yes	Shoreline restoration and engineering design
Agate Rearing Pond AMA	Cass	13529232	9	$10,000	Yes	Invasives (canada thistle (0.6 acres), red cedar, reed canary grass)
Ah Gwah Ching AMA	Cass	14131202	15	$10,000	Yes	Invasives
Grassy Point AMA	Cass	13529221	14	$10,000	Yes	Invasive species control
Silver Lake AMA	Clay	13945225	50	$20,000	Yes	Prescribed burn/invasives birdsfoot
String Lake	Cottonwood	10536219	402	$1,233,750	Yes	Lake Outlet removal and modification
Bertha Moody Lake AMA	Crow Wing	13528232	100	$30,000	Yes	Buckthorn control
Roosevelt AMA	Crow Wing	13826224	30	$10,000	Yes	Tree cage
Miltona Lake AMA	Douglas	12127224	20	$20,000	Yes	Buckthorn Control
Lester Lake AMA	Hubbard	14232232	5	$10,000	Yes	Tree planting
Little Wolf Lake Outlet	Hubbard	14532201	1	$110,000	Yes	Outlet connection to Mississippi River
Pickerel Lake AMA	Hubbard	14134209	4	$10,000	Yes	Invasive Spp. Control
Dixon Lake AMA	Itasca	14829225	5	$5,000	Yes	Prescribed burn/ native seeding
Elizabeth Lake AMA	Kandiyohi	13037221	10	$5,000	Yes	Buckthorn Control
McCraney Lake	Mahnomen	14340227	265	$725,000	Yes	Lake Outlet removal and modification
Minniebelle Lake AMA	Meeker	11831212	3	$4,000	Yes	prescribed burn
Blanche Lake	Otter Tail	13339206	1,228	$750,000	Yes	Lake Outlet removal and modification

Dead Lake	Otter Tail	13540233	1	$350,000	Yes	Outlet connection
Dead Lake AMA	Otter Tail	13540219	20	$20,000	Yes	Invasive Spp. Control
Jewitt Lake AMA	Otter Tail	13443224	1	$2,000	Yes	Prescribed burn
Lake Seven AMA	Otter Tail	13740207	8	$10,000	Yes	buckthorn control
Lizzie Lake AMA	Otter Tail	13642207	2	$2,000	Yes	Prescribed burn
North Turtle Lake	Otter Tail	13341223	2	$2,000	Yes	Prescribed burn
Big Pine Lake Outlet	Pine	04321208	1	$100,000	Yes	Outlet connection to Big Pine Lake to river
Glenwood HQ AMA	Pope	12538202	5	$7,000	Yes	invasive species control
Pelican Lake AMA	Pope	12538209	5	$8,000	Yes	invasive species control
Horseshoe Lake AMA	Rice	10923212	5	$400,000	Yes	Gully repair, design, and restoration of shoreline outlet location
Donna Lake AMA	St. Louis	05412201	20	$20,000	Yes	Spruce Budworm Rx/Tree Planting
Dohn Lake	Todd	12932230	4	$10,000	Yes	Buckthorn/honeysuckle follow-up
Little Swan Lake	Todd	12832203	27	$10,000	Yes	Invasives (buckthorn, garlic mustard);

Parcel Map


Pennington
Red Lake
Polk
Norman
Mahnomen
Clearwater
Beltrami
Koochiching
Itasca
Saint Louis
Lake
Hubbard
Cass
Clay
Becker
Wadena
Aitkin
Carlton
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Crow Wing
Pine
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Grant
Douglas
Traverse
Stevens
Pope
Benton
Stearns
Isanti
Chisago
Big Stone
Sherburne
Swift
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Wright
Anoka
Lac Qui Parle
Chippewa
Hennepin
Ramsey
Washington
McLeod
Carver
Yellow Medicine
Renville
Scott
Dakota
Sibley
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Nicollet
Le Sueur
Rice
Goodhue
Wabasha
Brown
Pipestone
Murray
Cottonwood
Watonwan
Blue Earth
Waseca
Steele
Dodge
Olmsted
Winona
Rock
Nobles
Jackson
Martin
Faribault
Freeborn
Mower
Fillmore
Houston
0
12
24
36 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Fish Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 1

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - DNR Fish Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Phase 1
Organization: Mn DNR Section of Fisheries
Manager: Heather Baird

Budget

Requested Amount: $7,112,300
Appropriated Amount: $3,820,000
Percentage: 53.71%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$1,326,500	-	$651,200	-	49.09%	-
Contracts	$5,606,800	$100,000	$3,019,200	$100,000	53.85%	100.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$15,000	-	$15,000	-	100.0%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$113,600	-	$84,600	-	74.47%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$50,400	-	$50,000	-	99.21%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$7,112,300**	**$100,000**	**$3,820,000**	**$100,000**	**53.71%**	**100.0%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Projects come from a prioritized list. With partial funding, we would fund only the top projects from our list that fit within the amount allocated. At 50% funding, we estimate that we would still be able to achieve approximately 40-50% of enhancement and restoration acres.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel would reduce to 50 to 60% of the requested amount. Staff time would focus on project coordination, administration, and project development.

Direct Support Services is determined by a standard DNR process taking into account the amount of funding and the number of allocations made with that funding.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Top ranked projects are watershed-scale connectivity projects; at 30% funding we will achieve approximate 30-40% of our initial proposed acres for enhancement and 11% of our initial restoration acres.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel would reduce to 30 to 40% of the requested amount. Staff time would focus on project coordination, administration, and project development.

Direct Support Services is determined by a standard DNR process taking into account the amount of funding and the number of allocations made with that funding.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	5,205	2,948	56.64%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$7,112,300	$3,820,000	53.71%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	5,205	2,948	56.64%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$7,112,300	$3,820,000	53.71%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Irish Creek Watershed Enhancement, Phase 1

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/16/2026

Project Title: DNR Irish Creek Watershed Enhancement, Phase 1

Funds Recommended: $2,103,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jeramy Pinkerton
Title: St. Louis River and Lake Superior Program Supervisor
Organization: MNDNR
Address: 525 South Lake Ave #415
City: Duluth, MN 55802
Email: jeramy.pinkerton@state.mn.us
Office Number: 2183023253
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Cook.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

MNDNR's St. Louis River – Lake Superior Team leads a collaborative program focused on important habitats in Minnesota's Lake Superior watershed. The Team aims to make strategic investments that protect, restore, and enhance ecosystems across this region to ensure they are diverse, productive, and resilient into the future. The two elements of this project would support the resiliency of moose and Brook Trout populations in northeast Minnesota by enhancing foraging habitat for moose and re-connecting Brook Trout habitat in or near the Irish Creek watershed.

Design and Scope of Work

The St. Louis River – Lake Superior (SLR-LS) Team will enhance priority Brook Trout and moose habitats in and around the Irish Creek Watershed, located predominantly in the Grand Portage State Forest. Our Team utilizes a collaborative approach to restoration and enhancement projects that includes a network of resource managers, researchers, and key stakeholders.

Irish Creek Connectivity: This project would reconnect up to 8.9 miles of Brook Trout habitat in Irish Creek's mainstem and tributaries by replacing two crossings that are barriers to fish movement with appropriately sized structures on the mainstem of Irish Creek and provide funding for design of one additional crossing. This would also allow Brook Trout to utilize habitat in the Swamp River during favorable temperature conditions. The targeted crossings are undersized resulting in conditions that are impassable to fish such as being perched, having shallow flows, or high velocities. They also have the potential to release excess sediment into the stream via overtopping or catastrophic failure. The Trout Unlimited Great Lakes Brook Trout Conservation Portfolio indicates temperatures in Irish Creek will be resilient to climate change, especially in the mid to upper reaches. Enhancing fish passage in this system will make Brook Trout more resilient in Irish Creek and more broadly across Northeast Minnesota. Irish Creek is part of the MPCA long-term biological monitoring program and is classified as having exceptional tiered aquatic life use by the MPCA for fish and invertebrates. The MNDNR Division of Forestry has FEMA disaster relief funds that will likely be used to aid in funding this project. Once we have a firm cost estimate, Cook County will also apply for bridge bonding funds to help cover up to 50% of the costs of one crossing. Additional funding will be sought to implement the third design.

Moose Foraging Habitat Enhancement: This project will build on the successes of the Minnesota Moose Habitat Collaborative by enhancing up to 170 acres of moose browse foraging habitat within or near the Irish Creek Watershed. The area currently supports moose and is adjacent to the Swamp River, which supports aquatic vegetation creating a mosaic of foraging habitat. This watershed is also located within the Arrowhead block of the Moose Habitat Project Implementation Plan. Access to high-quality forage can lead to higher moose survival and benefit regional population resilience. No known OHF funded foraging habitat improvements have been implemented on these parcels, but local area wildlife biologists have identified foraging habitat enhancement as an important management action in and around the Irish Creek Watershed. We will implement approved forest treatments such as shearing, prescribed fire, planting and/or cutting to stimulate re-growth that is more palatable, nutritious, and accessible to moose.

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

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

Brook Trout are native to headwaters and small streams of northeastern and southeastern Minnesota, but face challenges in the form of habitat fragmentation and rising temperatures due to climate change. Reconnecting Irish Creek and its tributaries will promote natural flows and connect habitat access throughout the entire watershed and to the Swamp River downstream, improving habitat conditions for all life stages of Brook Trout and ultimately increasing the resiliency of this population.

Moose are a state listed species of special concern, and a species of greatest conservation need. Increasing the foraging habitat will add to the resilience of this population.

The Irish Creek watershed is included in the MNDNR's Wildlife Action Network and is generally designated as medium with some low medium and high medium areas for conservation. Approximately half of the watershed has moderate to outstanding biodiversity significance as mapped by the Minnesota Biological Survey.

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

We are seeing more frequent high flow events in this area, that add to the risk of catastrophic failure of undersized road crossings that would cause a significant influx of fine sediments into the stream, impacting Brook Trout habitat.

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

This project addresses habitat fragmentation by reconnecting aquatic habitats within Irish Creek, its tributaries and the Swamp River and by aligning different types of moose foraging habitats.

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

Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda

Moose Advisory Committee Report to the Minnesota DNR

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Northern Forest

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

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors ~ *This will be measured by the length of stream re-connected.*

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

This request would not supplant previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

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

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

MNDNR Grand Marais Area Fisheries manages Irish Creek and its tributaries through regular monitoring, assessment, and regulation.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
All years	DNR Fish & Wildlife Game and Fish Fund	Monitoring/survey of moose habitat and populations	-	-
All years	Cook County Roads	Maintaining Crossings	-	-
All years	DNR Roads	Maintaining Crossings	-	-
All years	DNR Fish & Wildlife Game and Fish Fund	Regular Survey/monitoring of aquatic habitat	-	-

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

SLR-LS projects are completed in close coordination with the Fond du Lac Band (FdL) and the 1854 Treaty Authority to ensure that tribal benefits are maximized, and that Traditional Ecological Knowledge is valued. FdL meets all three of Minnesota's primary Environmental Justice criteria: federally recognized Tribal area, 50% or more people of color, and at least 40% of people with reported income less than 185% of the federal poverty level. FdL's Environmental Program maintains a list of culturally significant species, which will be included in restoration and protection plans where feasible. MNDNR's OHF projects aim to serve all Minnesotans. At the same time, we are bringing more focus in all our work to BIPOC and diverse communities. MNDNR has adopted advancing diversity, equity and inclusion as a key priority in its 2023-27 strategic plan. The plan focuses on increasing the cultural competence of our staff, creating a workforce that is reflective of Minnesota, continuing to strengthen tribal consultation and coordination, and building partnerships with diverse communities.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

State Forests

Public Waters

County/Municipal

Other : Road easements held by the MNDNR on roads that cross public water.

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Vegetation maintenance	June 2032
Construction of fish passage projects	September 2031
Permitting and environmental review of fish passage projects	April 2030
Design of fish passage projects	March 2029
Project prioritization, integration, and development; site specific coordination	June 2032
Irish Creek Watershed Moose Foraging Enhancement	June 2032

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2032

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation
(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.
(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;
(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$448,000	-	-	$448,000
Contracts	$1,066,200	-	-	$1,066,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
Professional Services	$500,000	-	-	$500,000
Direct Support Services	$60,800	-	-	$60,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$20,000	-	-	$20,000
Supplies/Materials	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,103,000**	**-**	**-**	**$2,103,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Manager	0.3	4.0	$135,000	-	-	$135,000
Team Supervisor	0.2	3.0	$103,000	-	-	$103,000
OAS	0.3	3.0	$100,000	-	-	$100,000
Project Manager	0.3	3.0	$110,000	-	-	$110,000

Amount of Request: $2,103,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $508,800
As a % of the total request: 24.19%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
We will complete two crossings, with design on a third, and the funds spent on moose foraging habitat enhancement are reduced proportionately. Personnel costs were reduced to 70%, as getting projects to the point of being construction-ready requires the largest investment of staff time.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We would complete two crossings and the acres of moose foraging habitat enhancement would be reduced proportionately.

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

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Contracts for project implementation (primarily construction contracts).

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Design/Engineering

Other : Profession construction oversight and contract administration

Surveys

Travel

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

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
NA

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

Direct Support Services

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

Other Equipment/Tools

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

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
No

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds?
The level of Federal Funding depends on the number of crossings we replace. It is likely that we will, at a minimum, have enough federal funds to cover the purchase of the replacement structures on DNR managed roads. We anticipate receiving confirmation of those Federal Funds around July 1, 2027. Our team also has a strong history of leveraging federal funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). GLRI continues to be strongly supported. As projects are developed, we anticipate applying for GLRI or other federal funds to supplement OHF budgets.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	170	2	172
Total	**-**	**-**	**170**	**2**	**172**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	$224,000	$1,879,000	$2,103,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**$224,000**	**$1,879,000**	**$2,103,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	172	172
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**172**	**172**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	0-	-	-	$2,103,000	$2,103,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,103,000**	**$2,103,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	$1,317	$939,500

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	$12,226

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

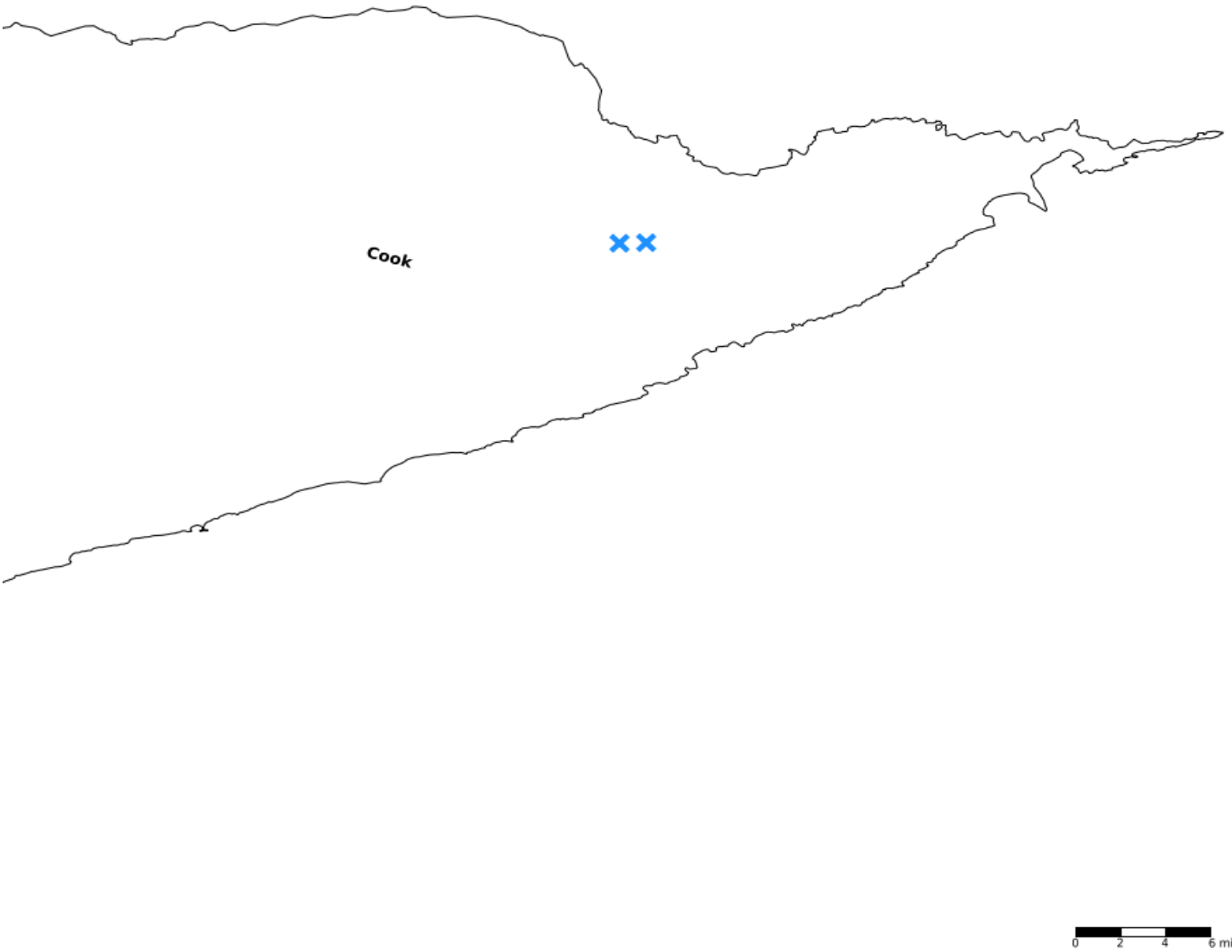
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
The SLR-LS is a partner to the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP), working within the nexus between GLRI, LAMP, and state priorities for habitats and species within the Minnesota portion of the Lake Superior Basin.

These parcels were identified, prioritized and selected by working with internal and external partners to identify priority work areas that had multiple needs so we could achieve the highest ecological uplift.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Irish Creek Connectivity (multiple sites, could include adjacent sections)	Cook	06304118	2	$2,400,600	Yes	Stream connectivity
Moose Foraging Enhancement (multiple sites, section with highest acreage listed)	Cook	06304117	170	$200,000	Yes	shearing, cutting, planting, etc to improve moose foraging habitat.

Parcel Map


Cook
0
2
4
6 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Irish Creek Watershed Enhancement, Phase 1

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - DNR Irish Creek Watershed Enhancement, Phase 1
Organization: MNDNR
Manager: Jeramy Pinkerton

Budget

Requested Amount: $3,370,000
Appropriated Amount: $2,103,000
Percentage: 62.4%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$640,000	-	$448,000	-	70.0%	-
Contracts	$1,807,600	-	$1,066,200	-	58.98%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$7,000	-	$6,000	-	85.71%	-
Professional Services	$800,000	-	$500,000	-	62.5%	-
Direct Support Services	$92,400	-	$60,800	-	65.8%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$20,000	-	$20,000	-	100.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,000	-	$2,000	-	66.67%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,370,000**	**-**	**$2,103,000**	**-**	**62.4%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We would complete two crossings and the acres of moose foraging habitat enhancement would be reduced proportionately.

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

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

Forest enhancement could be scaled proportionately.

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

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	274	172	62.77%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$3,370,000	$2,103,000	62.4%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	274	172	62.77%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$3,370,000	$2,103,000	62.4%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation Project-PH VIII

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 11/02/2026

Project Title: Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation Project-PH VIII

Funds Recommended: $1,568,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Blake Francis (RWF); Kevin J. Bovee (LSSA)
Title: Fiscal Manager (RWF); Project Manager (LSSA)
Organization: Lake Superior Steelhead Association (LSSA) w/Rajala Woods Foundation (RWF)
Address: 30 W. Superior Street (RWF); P. O. Box16034 (LSSA)
City: Duluth (Both), MN 55802 (RWF); 55816 (LSSA)
Email: blakefrancis@gmail, outriderduluth@msn.com
Office Number: 218/391-2487 (RWF); 218/269-7427 (LSSA)
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: www.rajalawoodsfoundation.org (RWF); www.steelheaders.org (LSSA)

Location Information

County Location(s): Lake and St. Louis.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

Historic flooding in 2012 and 2022 led to severe habitat degradation in the Knife River watershed. Degradation includes miles of eroding streambanks, tons of sediment discharge, turbidity measurements exceeding the TMDL and loss of instream trout habitat. This is LSSA's eighth grant phase. Previous grant phases have led to well over two miles of restored stream channel, 13,000+ feet of stabilized streambanks and annual reduction of sediment discharge by over 1,000 tons. This project will stabilize approximately 3200 feet of river with many slumping streambanks and enhance trout habitat in the best remaining cool water zone.

Design and Scope of Work

The LSSA's stream restoration process utilizes a Watershed Restoration/Rehabili Approach to determine the restoration project's design scope of work. This Watershed Approach assesses and surveys how landscape parameters affect the river's stability and identifies what the underlying cause(s) are that result in stream impacts. By focusing on the Watershed as a whole and working to fix the root cause of the impacts, the LSSA has successfully stabilized well over two miles of stream channel, restored 13,000+ feet of streambank, reduced annual sediment discharge by 1,000 tons annually and replanted thousands of long-lived tree species and include multiple native pollinator plant species in our projects. Our stream restoration process is performing as designed/constructed because our six previous restoration projects survived an 8,000 cfs flood event in 2022.

The rehabilitation of the Knife River has not just had a positive effect on the watershed and fishery but also the landscape itself. This restored landscape habitat has increased the density and diversity of herbaceous plants, pollinator shrubs/flowers and long lived tree species. The LSSA has also observed several species of interest using our restored riparian habitats. These include: honeybees, monarch butterflies, frogs, toads, king fishers, ruff grouse, Canada geese, bald eagles, wild turkeys, mergansers, whitetail deer, timberwolves, black bear, rare mussels and endangered turtles.

Another feature we utilize on every rehabilitation project, is a prioritization system to identify specific restoration reaches. Our policy is to work from an upstream to downstream manner to avoid impacting restored reaches. This top-down restoration approach eliminates re-impacting previously restored stream sections. This unique approach also reduces downstream flooding and sedimentation because flood water and eroded sediments are deposited on land in newly constructed upstream floodplains, wetlands and off channel ponds. Our reach prioritization also utilizes existing agency studies, such as the MPCA's TMDL to identify erosion areas. These erosion areas are combined with our cool water temperature assessments and annual trout spawning surveys to ensure we restore the most critical stream reaches.

Finally, we engage Stakeholders in the final reach selection process. The LSSA has collaborated with the MNDNR for over the past decade plus to identify key trout habitat sites within the Knife River Watershed and discuss proposed restoration projects. By utilizing this prioritization approach, we ultimately invest grant funds in the most efficient manner possible.

The Scope of Work for the Reaches Upper 15, Middle 15 and Lower 15 project will include:

- Obtain baseline and as-built assessment and survey data.
- Restore the stream channel's shape, dimension and profile.
- Enhance the riparian zone and instream trout habitat.
- Create new floodplain wetlands.
- Reconnect the river channel to the floodplain.

- Raise the groundwater table.
- Stabilize streambanks.
- Rehabilitate the riparian tree canopy utilizing multiple native tree, species, including white pines.
- Collect as-built survey elevations.

Design specifications/data collection processes utilize the Natural Channel Design parameters as required by the MN DNR.

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

The Knife River is more unique than most other trout streams in NE Minnesota because this watershed has both anadromous (migratory) and resident trout and does not have a barrier falls. The Knife River is the only watershed in Minnesota that has these two combined features. So, of the 60 + tributaries that connect to Lake Superior, only the Knife River, has these two unique features. Finally, the Knife River Watershed consists of over 65 miles of anadromous trout habitat, which represents over 50% of all the total anadromous trout habitat in Minnesota.

The Knife River also has the only operating fish weir on the North Shore. This weir enables the MN DNR to monitor the population trends for all anadromous (migratory) trout species in the watershed. This weir also collects down-bound migrants-both young and adult fish. These species include the coaster brook trout (a MN DNR priority), steelhead (migratory rainbows) and brown trout.

This project's main goal has always been to focus on increasing the trout populations. In reality, this project's outcome is really much more than just trout production. It is an enhancement, restoration and rehabilitation of the entire Knife River Watershed. Now that we are almost 15 years into this restoration work, we are truly seeing the benefits and affects these projects are having on the overall Knife River ecosystem. Because our project places a priority on landscape restoration (streambanks, riparian vegetation, floodplains and wetlands), we are seeing a significant habitat benefit to invertebrate, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. This project is also restoring the plant community including pollinator plants and shrubs and the reestablishment of diverse, long lived tree species. Trees planted in the first phase of our projects are now close to 40 feet tall and provide a riparian shade canopy across an important spawning reach on the Main West Branch of the Knife River which we refer to as Gordy's Forest.

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

This grant project is combining three reaches into one grant. Upper15 is the current reach we are working on, which we have received partial funding to restore. This reach is in public ownership, enabling grant funds to rehabilitate the remainder of this section. The downstream reaches also proposed in this grant are Middle 15 and Lower 15 which is in an easement enabling grant funds to be utilized

Reach Lower 15 is farthest downstream and has promising habitat features that the 2012 flood left damaged. One noteworthy habitat feature is an oxbow channel that can be brought back online to store flood waters, provide spawning habitat, high-water refugia and create juvenile trout rearing habitat. Lower 15 also has streambank erosion due to dying spruce and balsam fir. Similar dead trees were a large factor in the May, 2025 MN wild fires. Funding will restore/repair instream and riparian habitats.

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

The LSSA uses an upstream to downstream restoration approach. This approach is used to ensure upstream impacts do not affect restored downstream habitat. However, this top-down approach also ensures we do not skip upstream sections where habitat needs to be restored prior to moving downstream. By sequentially restoring each upstream habitat first before moving downstream, we are stabilizing streambank erosion, restoring the stream channel's shape, dimension and profile, minimizing downstream flooding by holding floodwaters on upstream landscapes, allowing the stream better access to the entire floodplain and replanting/rehabilitating the riparian zone. This approach provides a continuous restored habitat corridor and does not leave fragmented upstream habitats to impact downstream projects.

Also, by reconnecting the stream to the floodplain and reestablishing a continuous corridor of riparian tress, we can hold floodwaters within our newly accessible floodplain and riparian wetlands, recharge the ground water table and maintain cool, instream water temperatures. The replanted tree canopy shades the stream through diverse riparian plantings. This shade creates and enhances better juvenile trout rearing habitat because we maintain a cooler water temperature during periods of summer drought. Providing shade to the stream also diminishes evaporation during the long summer months. The beneficial cooler water zone is then advanced downstream. Thoughtful planting is specifically focused on the west side of the stream, since this bank is where the afternoon sun provides the most solar warming. Maintaining cooler instream water temperatures is critical in this stream section because it resides in the more fertile upper Knife River and is prone to less flashing than lower river reaches. Also, by stabilizing these reaches we reduce sediment discharge to the lower river and out into Lake Superior.

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

Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management

Other : Knife River Implementation Plan for Turbidity-Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Plan implemented by MPCA.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Northern Forest

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

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *By funding this project, anadromous trout (steelhead, coaster brook trout and brown trout) and resident stream trout (brook trout) populations should increase. Population increases will be seen by MNDNR during weir operation and upstream population assessment work. This project will also provide improved habitat to invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. This project also will replant the riparian zone of the river with native, old growth tree species and various native shrubs and native pollinator flower species. These multiple specie plantings will establish a varied and lush riparian zone benefitting the entire watershed and neighboring areas for decades to come.*

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.

We will not be supplanting or substituting previous funding. This grant will allow us to augment the rehabilitation and enhancement of the prime trout habitat in the main stem of the Knife River. Both instream habitat, wetlands and the riparian borders. Without this funding, this work probably wouldn't be done.

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

An advantage of NCD projects, is they are designed and constructed to be self-sustaining by using the natural forces of the stream's current to maintain deep pools and deposit spawning gravels. The manipulation of the stream's current is achieved by strategically placing log/rock structures to scour the center of pools and burying logs in the stream-bed to create current breaks that accumulate gravel. These pools support juvenile rearing and the accumulated gravels support adult spawning. This results in a sustained project because the current is performing the long term maintenance.

Another aspect of annual maintenance is site reconnaissance, to ensure beavers do not colonize our restoration area. This is a critical component of the project. To ensure that LSOHC projects remain beaver free, annual helicopter flights are conducted by MNDNR on the Knife River. These beaver flights are conducted in late autumn to determine if dams/food caches are present. If dams or beaver activity is noted in the flight, the DNR contracts with Federal trappers to remove the beavers and notch their dams. The estimated cost of the flight, beaver removal is approximately $ 15,000. If MNDNR loses this funding, the TMDL plan has budgeted funds.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2031-Fall	DNR	Beaver Flights	Beaver Trapping/Dam Removal; APHIS to trap beaver following spring.	Annual Site Walk. High water (above 4000 cfs) event walk.
2031	LSSA/Grant	Spring Dispersal Beaver Trapping	Habitat/Stream Assessment, Spring Redd Walk, Riparian Zone Inspection and "As Built" Designs	Tree Planting. Uncage riparian plantings as needed.
2030-Fall	MN DNR	Beaver Flights	Beaver Trapping/Dam Removal;APHIS to trap beaver following spring.	Annual Site Walk. High water (above 4000 cfs) event walk.
2030	LSSA/Grant	Beaver Trapping	Habitat/Stream Assessment, Spring Redd Walk, Tree Survival Walk and Construction	Tree Planting. Uncage riparian plantings as needed.
2029-Fall	MN DNR	Beaver Flights	Beaver Trapping/Dam Removal; APHIS to trap beaver following spring.	Annual Site Walk. High water (above 4000 cfs) event walk.
2029	LSSA/Grant	Spring Dispersal Beaver Trapping	Habitat/Stream Assessment, Spring Redd Walk, Tree Survival Walk and Construction	Tree Planting. Uncage riparian plantings as needed.

2028-Fall	MN DNR	Beaver Flights	Beaver Trapping/Dam Removal; APPHIS to trap beaver following sprting.	Annual Site Walk. High water (above 4000 cfs) event walk.
2028	LSSA/Grant	Spring Dispersal Beaver Trapping	Habitat/Stream Assessment, Spring Redd Walk, Tree Survival Walk and Construction	Tree Planting. Uncage riparian plantings as needed.
2027-Fall	MN DNR	Beaver Flights	Beaver Trapping/Dam Removal; APHIS to trap beaver following spring.	Annual Site Walk. High water (above 4000 cfs) event walk.
2027-Start July 1.	LSSA/Grant	Secure grant. Design/award RFP for the construction phase. Begin staging materials-weather depending.	-	-

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

Fishing on the Knife River is open to all people no matter their race, religion or sex. The beauty of this specialized type of fishing activity, is there is little gear or cost required to participate. Stream trout and Knife River steelhead fishing is conducted exclusively from shore. The only gear a person needs is a rod/reel, sinker, hook and yarn or bait. There are no expensive boats, electronics or lures to buy. One can usually fish from shore in rubber boots without the need of expensive waders. In the summer you can fish wearing just sneakers in the low water if desired. The LSSA started a youth mentoring fishing class just for this reason. The class is open for kids up to age 16, along with their parents. This class provides all the gear for the youngsters and teaches the participants to fish during two classroom sessions and a session on the river. Over the 10+ years the LSSA has provided this class, we have had youth and parent participants that have included women, minorities and LGBT individuals. In 2025 we increased the class size to 20 youth. We also had five parents participate in the class which included three young girls. In 2026 we will be increasing the number of youth participants to 25. LSSA volunteer mentors donate their time (both classroom and streamside activities) for this very rewarding program. Youth/parent participation is growing every year. This class is open to all youth regardless of family income.The LSSA has a MN Conservation Officer address the class during the last classroom session. This not only gives all participants a chance to learn the rules and regulations pertaining to stream fishing but also lets the participants know the CO's are their friends and are an integral part of the fishery.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Public Waters

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Post Construction Survey as Required by MN DNR Permit: "As Builts". File Final Report with LSOHC.	June 30, 2031
Create RFP: Bid/Award. Begin staging materials. Knife River Grant Restoration Reaches Upper15 and Middle 15.	July 1, 2027- July 1, 2028
Tree/Shrub/Pollinator Planting	July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2031
Construction Activities-Reach Upper 15 and Middle15.	July 1, 2027 - September 15, 2030

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2032

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation
(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.
(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;
(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$190,000	$19,000	Private Source: LSSA and Other	$209,000
Contracts	$1,247,000	$23,000	Private Source: LSSA and Other	$1,270,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$8,000	Private Source: LSSA and Other	$8,000
Professional Services	-	$4,000	Private Source: LSSA and Other	$4,000
Direct Support Services	$6,000	$10,000	Private Source: LSSA and Other	$16,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	$1,000	Private Source: LSSA and Other	$1,000
Supplies/Materials	$125,000	-	-	$125,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,568,000**	**$65,000**	**-**	**$1,633,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Management	0.6	4.0	$108,000	$19,000	Private Source: LSSA and Other	$127,000
Fiscal Management	0.4	4.0	$82,000	-	-	$82,000

Amount of Request: $1,568,000
Amount of Leverage: $65,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 4.15%
DSS + Personnel: $196,000
As a % of the total request: 12.5%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
We are forced to perform less work than if full funding was received. We plan to get through Middle 15 with this

appropriation. Lower 15 (Ox Bow) can be accomplished if increased funding is awarded. As mentioned previously, this will be our last LSOHC grant request for the Knife River.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
DNR IDP is for beaver trapping/dam removal, weir operation and annual KR stream population assessment. The LSSA continues to to donate funds/provide volunteer services. Fiscal team and contractor also donate leverage sources with travel/milage charges and use of OHV.

Confirmed: $ 136,500
Anticipated: $ 48,500

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
No

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
"Contracts" includes cost of contractor to complete project as outlined in project RFP. Also included would be use of misc. contracting groups such as CCM, NRRI or other professional groups whose skills may be needed to provide the best job possible for the citizens of Minnesota.

Direct Support Services

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

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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	300	-	300
Total	**-**	**-**	**300**	**-**	**300**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	$1,568,000	-	$1,568,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**$1,568,000**	**-**	**$1,568,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	300	300
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**300**	**300**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	$1,568,000	$1,568,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,568,000**	**$1,568,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	$5,226	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	$5,226

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

12

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Eroding clay banks were determined to be the main cause of the excess sedimentation/turbidity within the Knife River watershed, which listed the Knife River on the impaired waters list for Minnesota. The MPCA identified erosion areas within the Knife River watershed TMDL study. The LSSA assessed these MPCA identified erosion areas, along with other stream reaches in the system for the presence of cool (trout supporting) water, availability for access by trout, existing trout habitat and the potential to restore negative stream impacts. This in-depth analysis has allowed the LSSA to prioritize areas for restoration that provide the best benefit to all aspects of aquatic life and improved water quality.

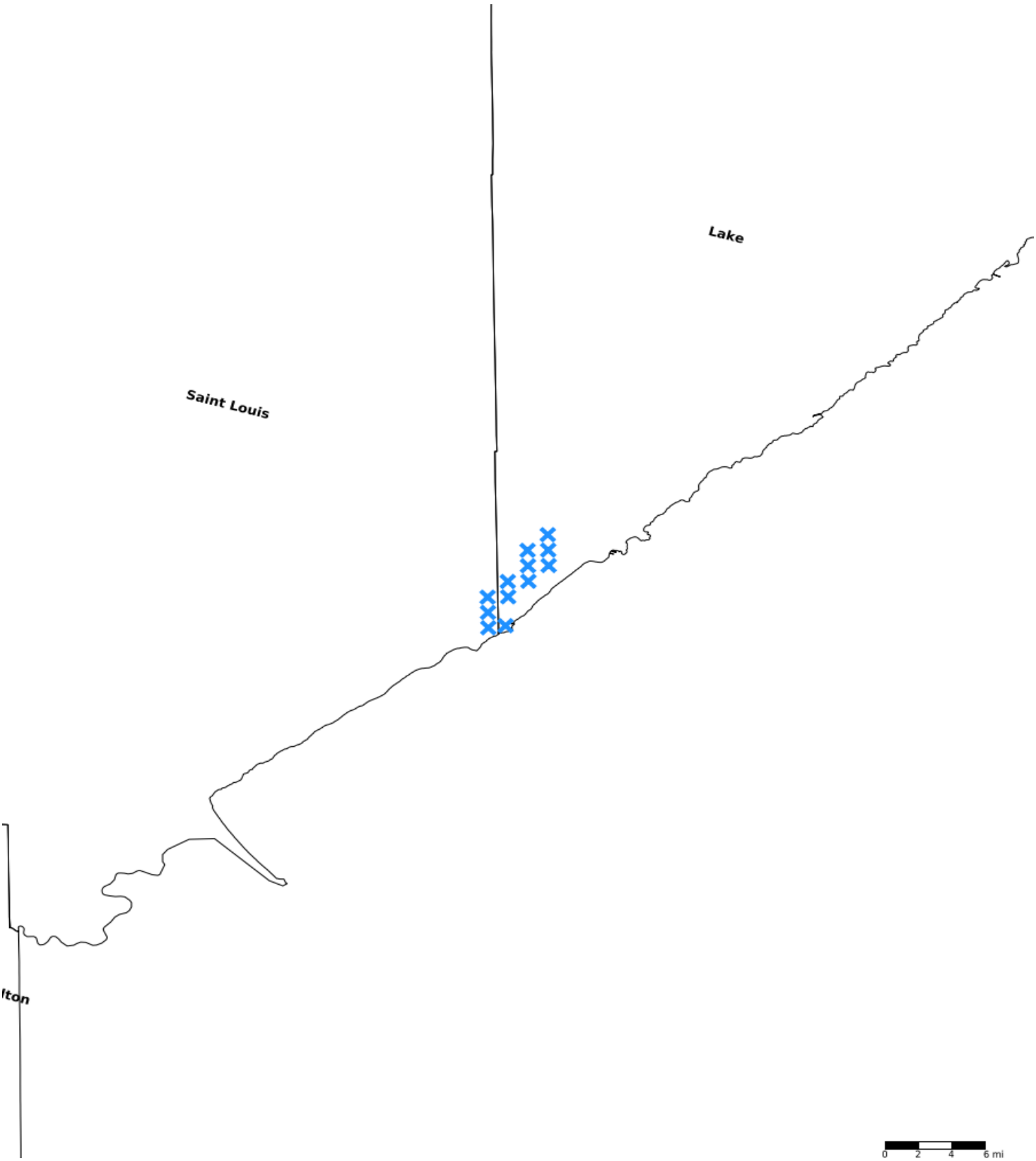
The LSSA also has a policy to work from the top of a reach downstream. Our top-down restoration approach eliminates re-impacting restored reaches downstream and reduces future downstream flooding and sedimentation. As mentioned in the "Design and Scope of Work", the LSSA incorporates a Watershed Restoration Approach in our projects.

For Reach 15 we utilized a BEHI (Bank Erosion Hazard Index) analysis. The BEHI assesses stream-bank erosion condition and potential. Because of a severe outbreak of Spruce Bud Worm, balsam and spruce are dying throughout the watershed. Since balsam is the most predominant tree species in this section, the riparian canopy is expected to be a total loss shortly. This lost tree canopy will greatly accelerate erosion because there will be no stabilizing vegetation remaining on the streambank. This die-off created great fire danger in both 2025 and 2026.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Knife River	Lake	05211218	-	-	Yes	-
Knife River	Lake	05311233	-	-	Yes	-
Knife River	Lake	05211204	-	-	Yes	-
Knife River	Lake	05211209	-	-	Yes	-
Knife River	Lake	05211219	-	-	Yes	-
Knife River	Lake	05211205	-	-	Yes	-
Knife River	Lake	05211231	-	-	Yes	-
Knife River	Lake	05211217	-	-	Yes	-
Knife River	Lake	05211208	-	-	Yes	-
Knife River	St. Louis	05212225	-	-	Yes	-
Knife River	St. Louis	05212236	-	-	Yes	-
Knife River	St. Louis	05212224	-	-	Yes	-

Parcel Map


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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation Project-PH VIII

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation Project-PH VIII
Organization: Lake Superior Steelhead Association (LSSA) w/Rajala Woods Foundation (RWF)
Manager: Blake Francis (RWF); Kevin J. Bovee (LSSA)

Budget

Requested Amount: $2,661,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,568,000
Percentage: 58.93%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$340,000	-	$190,000	$19,000	55.88%	-
Contracts	$2,100,000	$50,000	$1,247,000	$23,000	59.38%	46.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$10,000	-	$8,000	-	80.0%
Professional Services	-	$5,000	-	$4,000	-	80.0%
Direct Support Services	-	-	$6,000	$10,000	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,000	$1,500	-	$1,000	0.0%	66.67%
Supplies/Materials	$220,000	-	$125,000	-	56.82%	-
DNR IDP	-	$130,000	-	-	-	0.0%
Grand Total	**$2,661,000**	**$196,500**	**$1,568,000**	**$65,000**	**58.93%**	**33.08%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Less work will be able to be done. Budget can be proportionately reduced with some possible tweeking of fund accounts.

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
30% of requested funds would surely mimize amount of work that could be done. Acreage would be reduced also. Funding at the 30% level would not allow work to progress to Reach 16.

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

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	300	300	100.0%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$2,661,000	$1,568,000	58.93%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	300	300	100.0%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$2,661,000	$1,568,000	58.93%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Little Cannon River Stream Habitat Restoration - Construction Phase

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Little Cannon River Stream Habitat Restoration - Construction Phase

Funds Recommended: $3,509,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: John Lenczewski
Title: Executive Director
Organization: Minnesota Trout Unlimited
Address: PO Box 845
City: Chanhassen, MN 55317
Email: john.lenczewski@mntu.org
Office Number: 612-670-1629
Mobile Number: 612-670-1629
Fax Number:
Website:

Partners Contact

Clean River Partners: Jennifer Tonko - jennifer@cleanriverpartners.org -

Great River Greening: Jennifer Grommes - jgrommes@greatrivergreening.org -

MN Trout Unlimited: John Lenczewski - john.lenczewski@mntu.org - 612-670-1629

Location Information

County Location(s): Goodhue.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

This project will restore approximately two-thirds of a severely degraded 3.3-mile section of the Little Cannon River by re-meandering the channel and creating new stream habitat. Design and permitting were funded through ML 26 by the LSOHC and Legislature. Located on protected, publicly accessible lands near much of Minnesota's population, the project will create miles of high-quality habitat. Minnesota Trout Unlimited will lead stream restoration to support trout and aquatic life, while Great River Greening will restore native upland habitat benefiting birds, wildlife, and four federally threatened species.

Design and Scope of Work

Using ML27 funding, this project will restore habitat in three miles of the Little Cannon River and its riparian corridor, creating lasting benefits for fish and wildlife in a region where coldwater streams are scarce and increasingly impaired.

Minnesota Trout Unlimited (MNTU) will lead the in-stream habitat restoration, restoring a natural meandering pattern and creating a mile or more of new stream habitat in the process. By raising the incised channel and reconnecting it to the floodplain, the natural flow pattern is restored which in turn stabilizes the stream. This ensures in-stream habitats remain productive and resilient, even during large floods. Diverse trout habitats for all life stages will be created, including pool habitat, bank cover, riffles and runs for food production and spawning habitat. By stabilizing the riverbanks, we will significantly reduce erosion and subsequent sediment loading. This intervention preserves critical habitat quality both within the project reach and in downstream ecosystems. Channel restoration will increase available niche habitat for the red-sided dace (a MN Species of Greatest Conservation Need). Furthermore, newly created oxbow habitats will enhance biodiversity by providing spawning, nesting, and foraging grounds for amphibians, reptiles, waterfowl, and mammals.

Great River Greening (GRG) will restore riparian and upland vegetation on adjacent Aquatic Management Area (AMA) lands, as well as on the new conservation easements added upstream and downstream in 2025. Their work will include native plantings that stabilize soil, improve infiltration, and restore nesting habitat for waterfowl, migrating birds, amphibians, and reptiles.

Beyond coordinating project partners, Clean River Partners (CRP) will plan and facilitate community volunteer events that provide hands-on restoration experience. This direct engagement links local stewardship with large-scale watershed initiatives to ensure lasting project success. CRP has secured separate funding to support upstream conservation practices like cover crops and managed grazing, and has pending federal funds to support additional agricultural practices near the project site.

Goodhue SWCD has decades-long relationships with the project area landowners and introduced the concept of habitat restoration and fishing easements in 2021. It has facilitated planning discussions and secured $30,000 in Watershed-Based Implementation Funding to support permitting and early-stage development. While not seeking

OHF funding for this specific phase, the SWCD remains a vital local facilitator. Their ongoing presence ensures that conservation efforts in this high-priority implementation area will continue seamlessly beyond the scope of the stream restoration project. The SWCD is providing $20,000 in leverage funds to cover personnel costs.

Stream habitat and vegetation plans are being coordinated with the Minnesota DNR to ensure alignment with long-term management goals. All project partners bring specific, complementary strengths and long-standing relationships to ensure that this work is completed efficiently and achieves permanent ecological benefits.

This proposal if for Phase II (the Construction phase), and costs for construction were determined by an estimate provided by the DNR.

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

Rewilding this corridor will create high-quality habitat for trout and other coldwater-dependent species, including the red-sided dace. These ecosystems are increasingly vulnerable to climate-driven stressors—including rising thermal profiles and intensified flooding—as well as the depletion of cold water inputs due to increased groundwater extraction from replenishing aquifers.

Restoration is critical to stabilize eroding banks and mitigate the sedimentation that currently degrades in-stream habitat. The current high erosion rates cause unstable banks that collapse and bury habitat. The turbidity and sedimentation infills deep pools and smothers the gravel and cobble, which are essential for macroinvertebrate production and trout spawning. Elevated turbidity also limits light penetration, suppressing the primary producers—such as plants and phytoplankton—that form the foundation of the broader ecosystem.

Although management practices have improved on surrounding agricultural acres, erosion and bank instability continue to increase the sediment load within the river channel. After over 70 years of being unable to naturally re-meander, the stream now requires active restoration to stabilize the channel, protect and create critical riffles for spawning and food production, and safeguard vital aquatic habitats from further sediment-driven degradation.

While enhancement and restoration is ongoing at the Little Cannon River AMA, adjacent lands have remained unaddressed. The completed 2025 easements provide a critical opportunity to expand these efforts, allowing a larger contiguous portion of the river to be re-meandered and stabilized. By restoring the riparian corridor to native riparian and mesic prairie vegetation, we will expand nesting habitat for waterfowl, migratory birds, and reptiles. Furthermore, the creation of off-channel oxbows will provide essential habitat for amphibians and breeding fish populations.

There are potentially four federally threatened or endangered species in the area that could benefit from our restoration efforts: Northern Long-eared Bat, Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, Minnesota dwarf trout lily, and prairie bush clover.

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

Some survey and conceptual design has been completed by MN DNR, and this project will be shovel ready by 2027. The DNR has dedicated most of its Trout Stream easement funding for Region 3 to acquiring easements above and below the AMA. Landowners are enthusiastic for this project, transferring easements to facilitate it. Moving forward will encourage other landowners to adopt easements. Large, coordinated projects like this are only possible when landowner interest, LGU capacity, and appreciation of habitat and public use converge. Council support is critical to capitalize on this collaboration and secure landscape-scale benefits

The presence of high-priority species adds extreme urgency. The red-sided dace is extirpated in Iowa and highly fragmented in Minnesota; the DNR warns that once lost, recolonization is unlikely. The Minnesota dwarf trout lily is the only known vascular plant endemic to Minnesota; its loss would be a permanent extinction of unique genetic heritage.

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

Using ML27 funding, the Little Cannon River project will create a three mile long corridor of restored habitat. While the AMA and adjacent 2025 easements anchor this stretch, their current state is too degraded to support a functional habitat corridor or complex. By re-meandering the channel and re-establishing native riparian woodland and mesic prairie, this project will bridge these fragmented habitats into a cohesive landscape. This restored corridor will facilitate species dispersal and movement, providing essential foraging and nesting grounds for waterfowl and migratory birds, while new oxbow features create critical nursery habitat for amphibians and fish.

This project will also enhance the hydrology and associated wildlife habitat of a rare calcareous fen located adjacent to the stream restoration site. These fens—some of the rarest wetland types in Minnesota—are groundwater-dependent and highly sensitive to changes in surface and subsurface hydrology. By increasing floodplain connectivity and water infiltration, the project will help stabilize water levels that sustain this unique plant community and its associated species of conservation concern.

This work complements goals outlined in multiple regional plans, including the Cannon River Watershed Landscape Stewardship Plan and Cannon River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan, and leverages existing protected lands to expand functional habitat corridors in southeastern Minnesota's fragmented landscape.

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

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Other : H3 – Improve connectivity and access to recreation – improving protected lands for wildlife watching and hunting

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Southeast Forest

Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

Outcomes

Programs in southeast forest region:

Rivers, streams, and surrounding vegetation provide corridors of habitat ~ *Enhancement of in-stream and riparian corridor habitat creates miles of connected habitat. Outcomes in aquatic life are measured through surveys of fish, macro invertebrates and/or exposed substrates. Abundance, size structure and species diversity are considered.*

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

This proposal does not substitute or supplant previous funding that was not from a Legacy fund.

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

MNTU's aquatic habitat restoration projects are designed for long-term ecological and hydraulic stability. Construction contracts include three-year maintenance/warranty provisions to ensure habitat work is well established. After this period major maintenance is not typically required to sustain the habitat outcomes for decades. Reconnected floodplains quickly dissipate flood energy. Floods typically flatten streamside vegetation temporarily and do not damage the in-stream structures. Long-term monitoring will be done by MNDNR staff as part of routine inspections and biological monitoring, and not require OHF funding. If modest maintenance is needed, MNDNR's in-house habitat crew can perform repairs. Other funding sources include AMA maintenance funding and other grants.

We anticipate that long-term monitoring of the integrity of the improvements will be done in conjunction with routine inspections and biological monitoring conducted by MNDNR researchers and other MNDNR staff. This monitoring will not require OHF or other constitutional funding. In the event that there are modest maintenance costs, potential sources of funding include MNDNR AMA maintenance funding, WMA funding, and other grant funds.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2032	MNTU Staff/volunteers	Inspect structural elements and vegetation	If needed, alert DNR and develop action plan	Conduct maintenance with volunteers and/or contractors if DNR does not
Every 3 years thereafter	MNTU Staff/volunteers	Inspect structural elements and vegetation	If needed, develop action plan with DNR	Perform or assist DNR with maintenance if needed

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

This project significantly increases equitable access to Minnesota's outdoor heritage by restoring three miles of the Little Cannon River where permanent public angling access is being established. The restored reach will have gently sloped streambanks which not only allow access of water to the floodplain during flood events, but also are much easier and safer for anglers and other users to access the stream. There are no restrictions on angling equipment, which lowers the barriers to entry for beginners and for those from low- and moderate-income households.

Located in a part of the state without natural lakes, the Little Cannon River provides one of the few local stream fishing opportunities for area residents. This project will serve a rural population and make it easier for all Minnesotans—regardless of income, background, or ability—to experience the cultural tradition of stream fishing close to home. Based on past experience with nearby restoration projects, we anticipate that this work will draw more local visitors and increase community awareness of and connection to the river.

Currently, most anglers at this site are visitors from the south metro on weekends, with local users more common during the week. We believe that restoring the river's habitat and improving access will encourage more year-

round, local use and create a welcoming destination for diverse communities in the Cannon River region and beyond.

Activity Details

Requirements

If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?
No

Explain why program will not meet all applicable criteria:
We will follow the County/Township Board notification processes as directed by the current statutory language.

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?

AMA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Complete implementation of habitat enhancements, including native vegetation work.	June 2032
Begin planning, design and implementation of habitat enhancements	July 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2032

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation
(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.
(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;
(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$242,300	$20,000	-, Goodhue SWCD	$262,300
Contracts	$3,109,800	-	-	$3,109,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$5,500	-	-	$5,500
Professional Services	-	$30,000	-, Goodhue SWCD	$30,000
Direct Support Services	$50,900	$51,800	-, Private	$102,700
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,500	-	-	$4,500
Supplies/Materials	$96,000	-	-	$96,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,509,000**	**$101,800**	**-**	**$3,610,800**

Partner: Clean River Partners

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$29,300	-	-	$29,300
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$7,900	-	-	$7,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$37,200**	**-**	**-**	**$37,200**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
CRP Staff	0.1	3.0	$29,300	-	-	$29,300

Partner: Great River Greening

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$37,000	-	-	$37,000
Contracts	$50,000	-	-	$50,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$3,500	-	-	$3,500
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$14,000	$51,800	Private	$65,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$2,500	-	-	$2,500
Supplies/Materials	$94,000	-	-	$94,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$201,000**	**$51,800**	**-**	**$252,800**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Restoration Staff	0.13	5.0	$37,000	-	-	$37,000

Partner: MN Trout Unlimited

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$176,000	$20,000	Goodhue SWCD	$196,000
Contracts	$3,059,800	-	-	$3,059,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
Professional Services	-	$30,000	Goodhue SWCD	$30,000
Direct Support Services	$29,000	-	-	$29,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
Supplies/Materials	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,270,800**	**$50,000**	**-**	**$3,320,800**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MNTU Staff	0.3	5.0	$176,000	$20,000	Goodhue SWCD	$196,000

Amount of Request: $3,509,000
Amount of Leverage: $101,800
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 2.9%
DSS + Personnel: $293,200
As a % of the total request: 8.36%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
We will focus the project work on the Little Cannon AMA and upstream easement, and pursue other funding for the downstream easement.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Goodhue SWCD has Clean Water Funds (WBIF) that will contribute towards this project.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Because we would design and permit the entire project site and install as much as the reduced construction funding allows, the acre amount completed might be less than strictly proportional.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
MNTU & GRGs personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted downward but not strictly proportionally. Design and permitting would be frontloaded and personnel and DSS costs would track those efforts and project oversight will remain consistent. CRP's administration is consistent to manage the program and maintain partner and community relationships.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
MNTU's includes earthwork contracts by service providers for contracted services to construct the project on the ground, and includes heavy equipment use (with operators), other labor, and materials that the contractor must incorporate into the project features. GRG's contract line includes restoration/enhancement contracts by service providers.

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?
Yes

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
NA

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

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?
MNTU's Direct Support Services parallels Trout Unlimited's federal rate, which is approved every two years. It is based only upon the amount of personnel time, travel, and professional services actually expended on the habitat project.

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

CRP's DSS rate was approved by the DNR in 2024.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Primarily hand tools and safety gear for cutting trees and brush, raking and seeding areas. Also saws, brush cutters, personal protective equipment, burn equipment, seed collection equipment, repairs and other necessary equipment to complete restoration and enhancement activities.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?
No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	93	93
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**93**	**93**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$3,509,000	$3,509,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,509,000**	**$3,509,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	93	-	-	93
Total	**-**	**-**	**93**	**-**	**-**	**93**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	$3,509,000	-	-	$3,509,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**$3,509,000**	**-**	**-**	**$3,509,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$37,731

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	$37,731	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

3

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

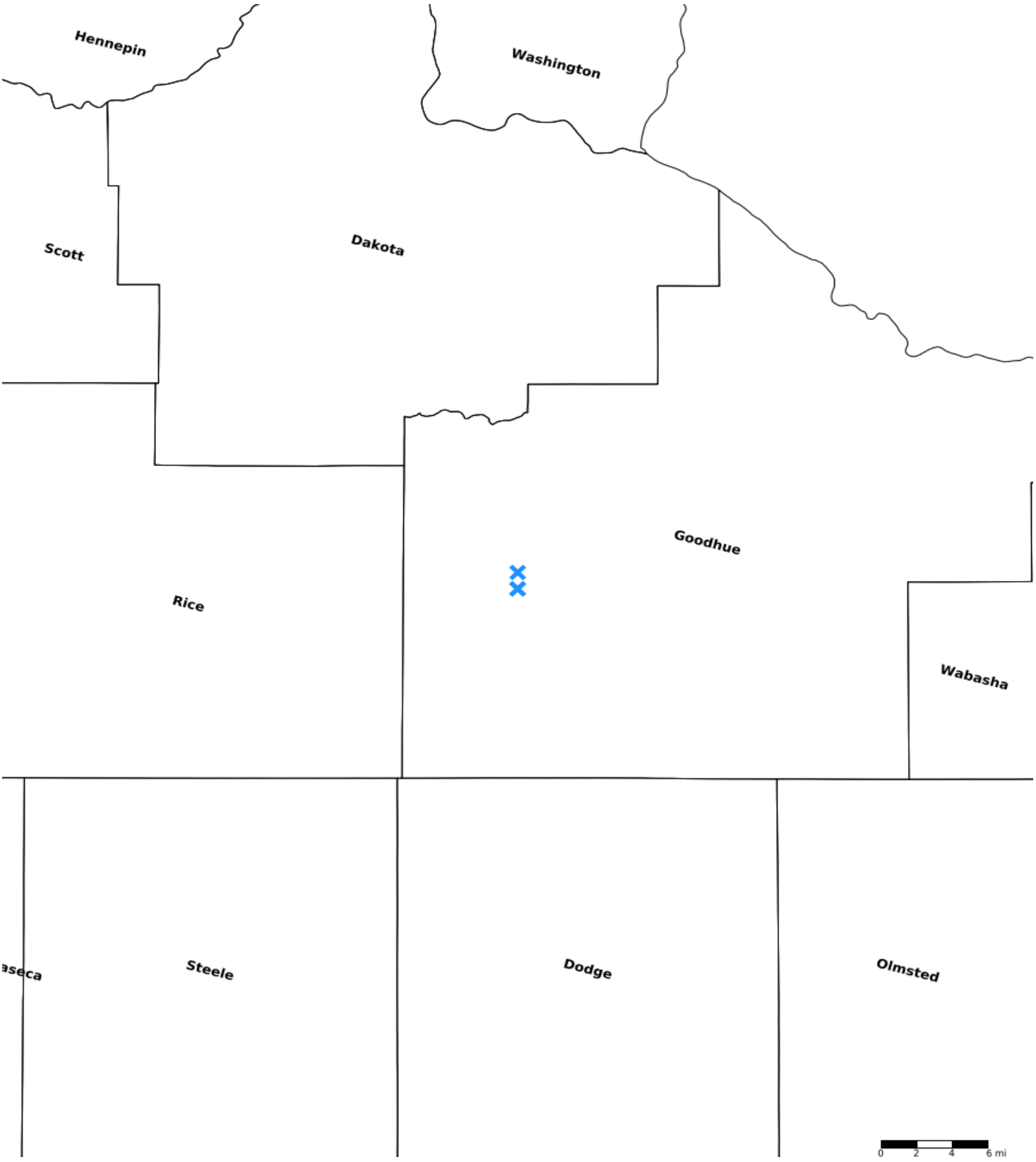
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Great River Greening works with land owning entities (public and protected private) and interested stakeholders to identify parcels where there is a need for restoration or enhancement of lands and water resources. Parcels are selected using the following criteria: permanently protected status (WMA, AMA, SNA, Forestry, County Conservation, etc.), ecological and habitat value and potential (biodiversity, size and location), congruence with existing plans and priority areas, willing and committed landowners (demonstrated through leveraged match), and leveraging opportunities.

MNTU focuses habitat enhancement and restoration efforts on those watersheds likely to continue to support viable, fishable populations of naturally reproducing trout fifty years and more from now. Work is done only where degraded habitat is a limiting factor for a quality, sustainable fishery. Priority locations are determined through consultations with MNDNR professionals, MNDNR management plans and surveys, other habitat and conservation planning efforts, MNTU members' knowledge of watersheds, and science-based criteria.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Little Cannon River 1 (S.)	Goodhue	11018201	25	$1,403,600	Yes	Restore habitat in re-meandered channel totaling up to 5.0 miles at completion
Little Cannon River 2 (N.)	Goodhue	11118236	0	$0	Yes	Restore habitat in re-meandered channel totaling up to 5.0 miles at completion
Little Cannon River AMA	Goodhue	11018201	68	$2,105,400	Yes	Restore habitat in re-meandered channel totaling up to 5.0 miles at completion

Parcel Map


Hennepin
Washington
Scott
Dakota
Goodhue
Rice
Wabasha
Steele
Dodge
Olmsted
0 2 4 6 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Little Cannon River Stream Habitat Restoration - Construction Phase

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Little Cannon River Stream Habitat Restoration - Construction Phase
Organization: Minnesota Trout Unlimited
Manager: John Lenczewski

Budget

Requested Amount: $4,952,200
Appropriated Amount: $3,509,000
Percentage: 70.86%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$290,300	$85,000	$242,300	$20,000	83.47%	23.53%
Contracts	$4,456,000	$35,000	$3,109,800	-	69.79%	0.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$7,000	-	$5,500	-	78.57%	-
Professional Services	-	$30,000	-	$30,000	-	100.0%
Direct Support Services	$60,900	$60,000	$50,900	$51,800	83.58%	86.33%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$5,000	-	$4,500	-	90.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$133,000	-	$96,000	-	72.18%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,952,200**	**$210,000**	**$3,509,000**	**$101,800**	**70.86%**	**48.48%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Because we would design and permit the entire project site and install as much as the reduced construction funding allows, the acre amount completed might be less than strictly proportional.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
MNTU & GRGs personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted downward but not strictly proportionally. Design and permitting would be frontloaded and personnel and DSS costs would track those efforts and project oversight will remain consistent. CRP's administration is consistent to manage the program and maintain partner and community relationships.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Because we would design and permit the entire project site and install as much as the reduced construction funding allows, the acre amount completed might be less than strictly proportional.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
MNTU & GRGs personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted downward but not strictly proportionally. Design and permitting would be frontloaded and personnel and DSS costs would track those efforts and project oversight will remain consistent. CRP's administration is consistent to manage the program and maintain partner and community relationships.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	140	93	66.43%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$4,952,200	$3,509,000	70.86%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	140	93	66.43%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$4,952,200	$3,509,000	70.86%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat Enhancement & Protection - Construction

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/14/2026

Project Title: Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat Enhancement & Protection - Construction

Funds Recommended: $2,646,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: John Lenczewski
Title: Executive Director
Organization: Minnesota Trout Unlimited
Address: P O Box 845
City: Chanhassen, MN 55317
Email: john.lenczewski@mntu.org
Office Number: 6126701629
Mobile Number: 6126701629
Fax Number:
Website: www.mntu.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Olmsted, Dakota, Lake, Carlton, Fillmore, St. Louis, Pine, Cook and Winona.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Southeast Forest

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Minnesota Trout Unlimited will enhance degraded habitat for wild trout and diverse wildlife in and along priority streams. The LSOHC has funded design and permitting of these projects and we now seek construction funding. Increasing threats to these scarce resources require accelerating habitat work to fix degraded sections and buffer streams from the increased frequency and intensity of large rainfall and flooding. While restoring in-stream habitat, we also increase resilience by reconnecting streams to their floodplains and removing barriers to vital trout movement. Outcomes include increased fish and wildlife populations, and more angling opportunities near people's homes.

Design and Scope of Work

Badly degraded habitat on those trout streams that are most accessible to the public severely limits their productivity and public enjoyment. Minnesota Trout Unlimited ("MNTU") will directly enhance or restore degraded habitat on 6 miles of priority streams with existing permanent protections and public access.

We will use construction funding to enhance habitat in and along many of these public waters (in these counties):
1. Vermillion River (Dakota);
2. Hay Creek (Pine);
3. Midway River (Carlton);
4. Anderson Creek (Carlton);
5. Us-Kab-Wan-Ka River (St. Louis);
6. Stewart River (Lake);
7. Greenwood River (Cook);
8. Cobblestone Creek (Winona);
9. Maple Creek (Fillmore);
10. Gribben Creek (Fillmore);
11. Numerous streams statewide (numerous counties) where primarily vegetation focused habitat work will benefit trout populations, as well as riparian wildlife; and
12. Additional habitat enhancements on several streams (several counties).

Due to the diversity of locations and work scope, which is tailored to site needs, individual project descriptions are provided in an attachment. Reduced funding means that not every project listed above can be implemented with ML 2027 funding.

Goals and scope of habitat work:
Project goals are to increase the carrying capacity and trout population of the stream, increase climate resilience, increase angling access and participation, improve water quality, and provide benefits to other wildlife. Each project will accomplish one or more of these objectives: (a) increase adult trout abundance, (b) reduce stream bank erosion and associated smothering of habitat (sedimentation) downstream, (c) reconnect the stream to its floodplains to reduce impacts from severe flooding, (d) increase natural reproduction of trout and other aquatic organisms, (e) increase habitat for invertebrates and non-game species, (f) improve connectivity of habitat along aquatic and riparian corridors, (g) improve riparian forest health and function, (h) improve angler access and

participation, and (i) protect productive trout waters from invasive species. The scope of work and methods utilized vary by project site conditions and are discussed in the individual project descriptions provided in an attachment.

How priorities were set:
MNTU focuses habitat enhancement and restoration efforts on those watersheds likely to continue to support viable, fishable populations of naturally reproducing trout fifty years and more from now. Work is done only where degraded habitat is a limiting factor for a quality, sustainable fishery. Priority locations are determined through consultations with MNDNR professionals, MNDNR management plans and surveys, other habitat and conservation planning efforts, MNTU's knowledge of watersheds, and science-based criteria. All things being equal, we consider the potential to draw new anglers outdoors, increase public awareness, engage landowners in conservation, foster partnerships, and increase public support for OHF projects.

Stakeholder support:
We continue receiving strong support from anglers, landowners, local governments and communities.

LSOHC and Legislative support:
The LSOHC recommended funding for design and permitting of all projects listed and the Minnesota Legislature concurred, appropriating OHF funds for this purpose in May 2026. We now seek construction funding for these projects so we can implement them without delay and provide returns on the state's investment.

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

The projects will restore or enhance degraded habitat for fish and wildlife in and along coldwater streams and rivers which historically supported naturally reproducing trout populations highly valued by generations of anglers. While trout are the apex predator and key indicator species for the health of coldwater ecosystems, a host of rare aquatic and riparian species are uniquely associated with these systems. Well-functioning coldwater aquatic ecosystems are far fewer in number than the 6% of Minnesota's stream and river miles which theoretically can still support trout. Even many streams considered to be the best remaining trout streams have badly degraded segments which disrupt connectivity and significantly impact the productivity and long-term resilience and sustainability of the overall trout population. Streams face growing threats from warming temperatures, increased frequency of severe flooding, and rising demand for groundwater extraction from the aquifers which supply inputs of vitally important cold water. The proposed projects are focused on streams and stream segments which will benefit most from in-stream work and help ensure Minnesota retains at least some high quality coldwater fisheries for future generations. A small portion of an appropriation would be used to maintain and add habitat enhancements to past projects to ensure continuing habitat benefits.

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

Minnesota's trout streams are among the highest quality aquatic systems remaining, but a majority have badly degraded habitat. Leaving degraded segments untreated creates impacts that extends throughout the stream. Degraded sections are no longer providing habitat, clean water benefits, or angling opportunities. A warming climate and more frequent heavy rains require action now to increase floodplain connectivity and increase durability of in-stream habitat. Increased restoration is needed now to increase long term resilience and sustainability of these rare fisheries. Timely maintenance on older projects will extend habitat function and maximize outcomes well into the future.

Threats to trout streams are growing, but most have no permanent protection. DNR acquisition rates have not

increased since passage of the Legacy Amendment, despite a growing list of willing riparian landowners. Securing permanent protection before land is transferred to less enlightened landowners is critical to preserve these scarce resources.

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

In selecting project sites, MNTU reviews MNDNR watershed specific fisheries management plans and other conservation planning efforts, consults with MNDNR professionals, and applies ranking criteria developed by the MNDNR. Projects must have the potential to increase the stream's carrying capacity (fish numbers), the stream must have natural reproduction, and the public must have access to fish it. Improving the connectivity of good aquatic and riparian habitat is an important consideration and the projects are selected to expand complexes or connect gaps in these corridors. We are increasingly targeting stream segments which build off earlier habitat or protection work in the same stream or connected watershed. The projects reverse fragmentation and increase long term resilience of trout and other wildlife.

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

Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management

Strategic Plan for Coldwater Resources Management in Southeastern Minnesota

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Metro / Urban

Enhance and restore coldwater fisheries systems

Northern Forest

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

Southeast Forest

Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Improved aquatic habitat indicators ~ *Measured through surveys of fish, macro invertebrates and/or exposed substrates. Abundance, size structure and species diversity are considered.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Improved aquatic habitat indicators ~ *Measured through surveys of fish, macro invertebrates and/or exposed substrates. Abundance, size structure and species diversity are considered.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Rivers, streams, and surrounding vegetation provide corridors of habitat ~ *Enhancement of in-stream and riparian corridor habitat creates miles of connected habitat. Outcomes in aquatic life are measured through surveys of fish, macro invertebrates and/or exposed substrates. Abundance, size structure and species diversity are considered.*

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.

The request is not supplanting or a substitution for previous funding. The work proposed for funding is for new or additional work.

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

MNTU's coldwater aquatic habitat restoration and enhancement projects are designed for long-term ecological and hydraulic stability. Construction contracts include three-year maintenance/warranty provisions to ensure habitat work is well established. After this period and once riparian vegetation is well established, major maintenance work is not typically required to sustain the habitat outcomes for decades. Reconnected floodplains allow flood water to quickly spread out and dissipate energy, reducing the destructive impact of a flood. Flood waters typically flatten streamside vegetation temporarily and do not damage the in-stream structures. The increases in trout populations common following completion of a habitat project are typically sustainable long-term through natural reproduction.

We anticipate that long-term monitoring of the integrity of the improvements will be done in conjunction with routine inspections and biological monitoring conducted by MNDNR Fisheries staff. This monitoring will not require OHF or other constitutional funding. In the event that modest maintenance is needed, sources of labor and funding include MNDNR's in-house habitat improvement crew, MNDNR AMA maintenance funding, WMA funding, MNTU volunteers and other grant funds and partners. MNTU volunteers may assist with long-term monitoring and periodic hands-on labor such as invasive vegetation removal.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Every 3 years thereafter	DNR staff funding and MNTU volunteers.	Inspect structural elements and vegetation.	If needed, work with DNR to develop action plans.	If DNR's in-house habitat crew cannot perform the maintenance, work with DNR on using volunteers and/or contractors.
Spring 2033 (one year after the June 2032 end of grant)	DNR staff funding and MNTU volunteers.	Inspect structural elements and vegetation.	If needed, work with DNR to develop action plans.	If DNR's in-house habitat crew cannot perform the maintenance, work with DNR on using volunteers and/or contractors.

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

Our habitat projects provide easy public access to fishable trout populations in relatively small, approachable streams. These projects are accessible to diverse communities, including low- and moderate-income households.

They can be fished from the streambanks and no expensive boat, waders, or special gear is required. All that is needed is a pair tennis shoes or mud boots and a simple fishing pole. In southeast Minnesota there are no natural lakes, so anglers of all economic and cultural backgrounds focus angling on the region's accessible, productive trout streams.

We work only where public angling access is permanently guaranteed and anglers are not frightened away from public waters by "No Trespassing" signs. We believe strongly that people will only share and protect what they can access and appreciate. To preserve quality habitat for future generations the State needs more of its citizens to wander the shores of a stream or lake. These projects will provide productive fisheries accessible by foot and draw more citizens of average means outdoors.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

AMA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

County/Municipal

Public Waters

State Forests

WMA

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Complete 3 years of vegetation establishment and maintenance work (under warranties).	October 2031
Complete installation of large scale projects	September 2028
Begin bidding and construction of habitat enhancement projects.	July 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2032

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation
(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.
(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;
(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$190,000	-	-	$190,000
Contracts	$2,171,400	$608,000	NRCS, USFWS, and other partners	$2,779,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$10,000	-	-	$10,000
Professional Services	$160,000	-	-	$160,000
Direct Support Services	$61,600	-	-	$61,600
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$3,300	-	-	$3,300
Supplies/Materials	$49,700	-	-	$49,700
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,646,000**	**$608,000**	**-**	**$3,254,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Habitat enhancement staff	0.4	4.0	$190,000	-	-	$190,000

Amount of Request: $2,646,000
Amount of Leverage: $608,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 22.98%
DSS + Personnel: $251,600
As a % of the total request: 9.51%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Construction of several projects will be delayed until we secure the remaining construction funding via a subsequent OHF grant (ML 2028 or later).

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
NRCS in southeast MN projects; USFWS on Greenwood River. The leverage estimates are estimates only of funding our project partners have applied for. We will aggressively pursue leverage, including federal Farm Bill funding on southeast Minnesota and other federal funding for trout passage projects.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We anticipate that acre amounts could be proportionately reduced, unless more of the lower cost/acre projects within the program are "cut". Individual projects will cost more per acre if they are of larger scope than other smaller scope projects that enhance a similar number of acres.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted downward but not strictly proportionally. Some projects with lower construction costs can require as much or more staff time as projects with much larger construction costs. Program oversight costs also remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
The cost of hiring contractors to install projects on the ground, including heavy equipment use (with operators), other labor, and materials that the construction contractor must incorporate into project features. It also includes vegetation and maintenance follow up. We also contract hand labor for tree work, vegetation work, and more.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Design/Engineering

Other : Permitting and construction oversight.

Travel

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

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
None

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?

The Direct Support Services requested is tied to the amount of time actually worked by staff and professional service providers on the projects in this program, as well as their actual travel for these projects.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Primarily hand tools for cutting trees and brush, caging trees, raking and seeding areas, treating invasive plants, performing minor repair/ maintenance, etc. It also may include safety equipment for staff and volunteer laborers.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	73	73
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**73**	**73**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$2,646,000	$2,646,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,646,000**	**$2,646,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	7	-	30	-	36	73
Total	**7**	**-**	**30**	**-**	**36**	**73**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$450,000	-	$1,245,500	-	$950,500	$2,646,000
Total	**$450,000**	**-**	**$1,245,500**	**-**	**$950,500**	**$2,646,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$36,246

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$64,285	-	$41,516	-	$26,402

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

6

Parcels

Parcel Information

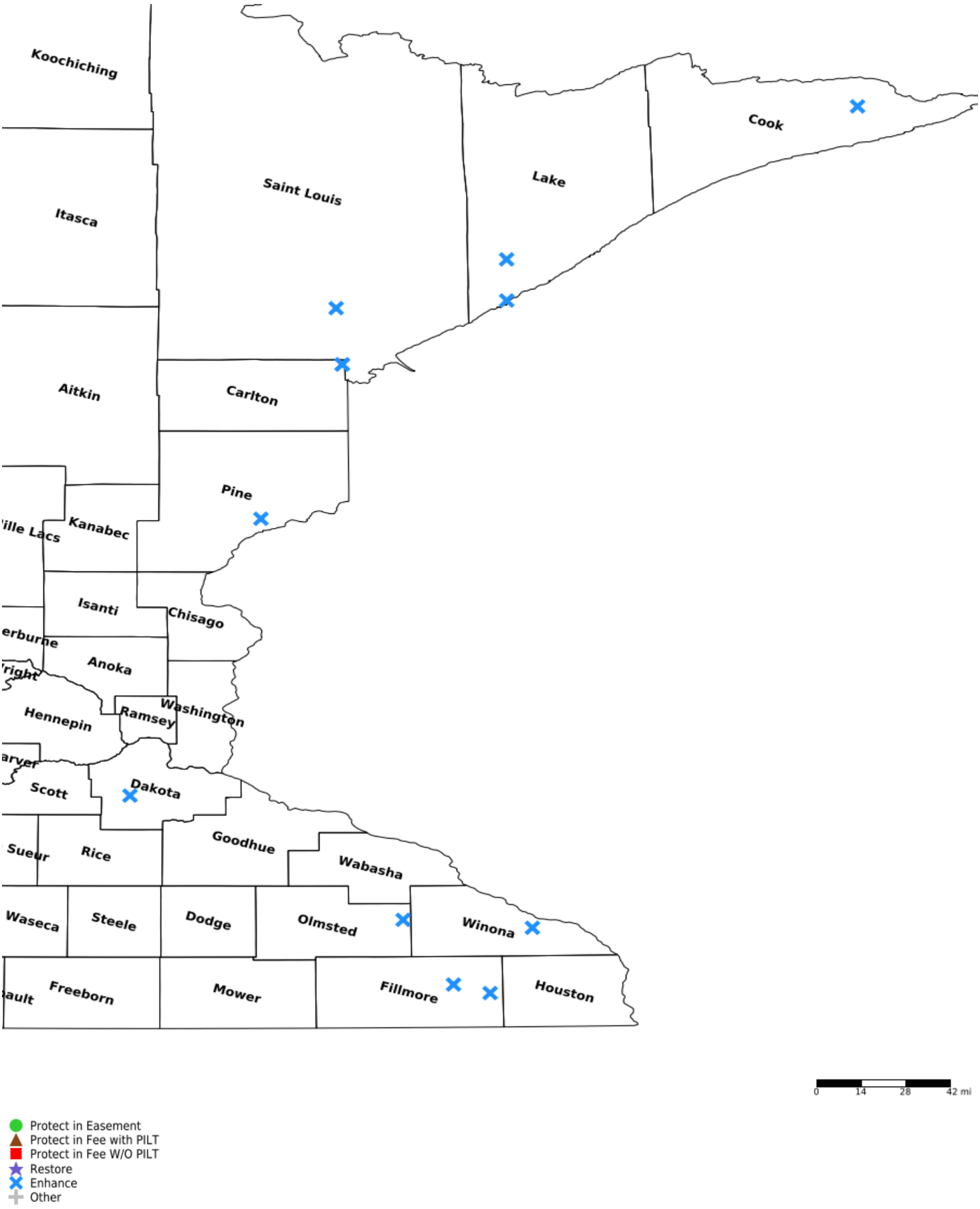
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
MNTU focuses habitat enhancement and restoration efforts on those watersheds likely to continue to support viable, fishable populations of naturally reproducing trout fifty years and more from now. Work is done only where degraded habitat is a limiting factor for a quality, sustainable fishery. Priority locations are determined through consultations with MNDNR professionals, MNDNR management plans and surveys, other habitat and conservation planning efforts, MNTU members' knowledge of watersheds, and science-based criteria.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Anderson Creek	Carlton	04916212	3	$0	Yes	Re-meneander cold brook trout stream
Midway River	Carlton	04916212	5	$0	Yes	Enhance habitat for brook trout in larger area stream
Greenwood River	Cook	06302102	24	$0	Yes	Restore acess to 2 miles of habitat for native brook trout.
Vermillion River	Dakota	11420236	5	$0	Yes	Enhance habitat on previously straightened section and recapture 1,800 feet of stream channel
Gribben Creek	Fillmore	10309221	7	$0	Yes	Enhance habitat for wild brown trout
Maple Creek	Fillmore	10208203	10	$0	Yes	Enhance habitat from recent project down to So Fork Root to connect habitat corridor
Numerous streams statewide - vegetation focused, primarily	Lake	05510217	12	$0	Yes	Enhance habitat primarily through riparian vegetation management.
Stewart River	Lake	05310229	7	$0	Yes	Restore forest canopy to cool river
Additional Enhancements & Maintenance on several streams (statewide)	Olmsted	10711235	24	$0	Yes	Maintenance and additional enhancements on older projects to ensure continued habitat benefits for years
Hay Creek	Pine	04118232	5	$0	Yes	Enhance brook trout habitat on nearest stream to north metro anglers
Us-Kab-Wan-Ka River	St. Louis	05216202	4	$0	Yes	Re-meander coldest reach of native brook trout stream
Cobblestone Creek	Winona	10607213	10	$0	Yes	Enhance habitat for heritage brook trout on entire main stem of cold stream.

Parcel Map


Koochiching
Itasca
Saint Louis
Lake
Cook
Aitkin
Carlton
Pine
Kanabec
Isanti
Chisago
Anoka
Hennepin
Ramsey
Washington
Scott
Dakota
Sueur
Rice
Goodhue
Wabasha
Waseca
Steele
Dodge
Olmsted
Winona
Freeborn
Mower
Fillmore
Houston
0
14
28
42 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat Enhancement & Protection - Construction

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat Enhancement & Protection - Construction
Organization: Minnesota Trout Unlimited
Manager: John Lenczewski

Budget

Requested Amount: $4,085,000
Appropriated Amount: $2,646,000
Percentage: 64.77%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$280,000	-	$190,000	-	67.86%	-
Contracts	$3,514,500	$608,000	$2,171,400	$608,000	61.78%	100.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$10,000	-	$10,000	-	100.0%	-
Professional Services	$160,000	-	$160,000	-	100.0%	-
Direct Support Services	$67,500	-	$61,600	-	91.26%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$3,300	-	$3,300	-	100.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$49,700	-	$49,700	-	100.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,085,000**	**$608,000**	**$2,646,000**	**$608,000**	**64.77%**	**100.0%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We anticipate that acre amounts could be proportionately reduced, unless more of the lower cost/acre projects within the program are "cut". Individual projects will cost more per acre if they are of larger scope than other smaller scope projects that enhance a similar number of acres.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted downward but not strictly proportionally. Some projects with lower construction costs can require as much or more staff time as projects with much larger construction costs. Program oversight costs also remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We anticipate that acre amounts could be proportionately reduced, unless more of the lower cost/acre projects within the program are "cut". Individual projects will cost more per acre if they are of larger scope than other smaller scope projects that enhance a similar number of acres.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted downward but not strictly proportionally. Some projects with lower construction costs can require as much or more staff time as projects with much larger construction costs. Program oversight costs also remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	110	73	66.36%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$4,085,000	$2,646,000	64.77%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	110	73	66.36%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$4,085,000	$2,646,000	64.77%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Protection and Resiliency in the Rainy River Headwaters

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/06/2026

Project Title: Protection and Resiliency in the Rainy River Headwaters

Funds Recommended: $1,975,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Robert Kimmel-Hass
Title: County Engineer
Organization: Cook County
Address: 609 4th Ave E
City: Grand Marais, MN 55604
Email: robert.hass@cookcountymn.gov
Office Number: 218-387-3014
Mobile Number: 218-264-9122
Fax Number:
Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Cook.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The project will improve cold-water streams and wetland connectivity in the Rainy River headwaters by replacing at least 16 undersized or deteriorated culverts in the Saganaga Lake and Granite River sub-watersheds. These crossings support critical habitat for aquatic species. As part of a countywide effort with local and state partners, the project will install properly sized culverts to enhance fish passage, improve watershed connectivity, reduce sediment and erosion, improve climate resilience, and protect long-term water quality at the Rainy River Headwaters.

Design and Scope of Work

Northeast Minnesota contains many pristine lakes and and rivers which support robust populations of wild trout and other sensitive or semi-rare aquatic organisms. Healthy trout populations are significant to aquatic ecosystems, recreational fishing, and an indicator of healthy watersheds. Ecological functions of streams are diminished by roads, development, and impairments that degrade the aquatic ecosystem leading to reductions in trout populations. Tributaries provide critical services by providing thermal refugia to trout populations.

The proposed project in the Rainy River headwaters identified at least 16 culverts for replacements. Four of these culverts carry named streams (Seagull Creek and Larch Creek) while the remaining provide critical watershed connectivity. The Rainy Headwaters-Vermillion One Watershed One Plan (RH-V 1W1P) identified approximately 208,000 acres of the Rainy River Headwaters Watershed in Cook County. The proposed protection and resiliency project would impact the watershed at multiple scales. Excavation and culvert replacement occurs over approximately 2 acres that would immediately improve 4.6 miles of named streams and many unnamed tributaries. Once these 16 culverts are replaced, according to StreamStats (https://streamstats.usgs.gov/ss/), they will indirectly positively affect about a quarter of the Rainy River Watershed (50,000 acres) based on an analysis of each culvert basin along with about 80 lakes.

Right sizing culverts prevents sediment loading and erosion which can be seen all throughout this corridor and watershed basin. Perched culvert bottoms prevent aquatic organism passage (AOP) which is the ability for fish and other aquatic organisms to migrate and swim freely upstream and downstream through or beneath human infrastructure such as culverts, bridge, diversions, dams, etc. The sizing of these culverts will be determined from a robust hydraulic analysis along with following geomorphic design guidance. The new crossings will meet AOP guidelines and also be more climate resilient. The new culverts will also improve watershed connectivity as seen in the attached illustration.

Cook County and Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District (Cook SWCD), with input from the local MN DNR fisheries, agree that right-sizing crossings will be the most beneficial for the water quality and aquatic habitat. This project is directly in line with the MN DNR Fisheries priorities of restoring fish passage in our streams. 80 lakes and 4.6 miles of streams would be positively impacted by this project. These waterbodies house a variety of organisms from trout, walleye, and pike, to small micro-invertebrates. The interconnectedness of this system provides a healthy habitat and thus a healthy ecosystem where the RH-V 1W1P has identified the region as one to protect and enhance.

The current crossings are impeding AOP, pinching the two named rivers at four locations, causing flooding and sediment loading, prohibit watershed connectivity, and are not resilient to climate change. Right-sizing these crossings will provide better watershed connectivity, increased climate resilience to more frequent storm events, and be in line with the watershed plan's goal of protecting and enhancing the watershed.

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

Currently, at least 16 culverts have been identified for replacement. These culverts are prohibiting watershed connectivity and in some cases are undersized, causing bank erosion, sediment loading, and preventing AOP. Watershed connectivity and removing barriers is identified in the RH-V 1W1P as a key priority. The new structures will be right-sized based on a robust hydraulic analysis and meeting geomorphic design guidelines. These will be able to handle larger and more frequent flood events. Engineering final design work is already underway with the preliminary design already completed by Cook County. The new crossings will create more connectivity in the watershed which leads to a healthier ecosystem that will benefit the surrounding environment. Approximately 50,000 acres of the watershed will be positively affected, along with 4.6 miles of streams, and 80 lakes.

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

With increased precipitation in rain and snow melt events, it is important to be proactive and complete the work now before additional issues arise. Work has already begun to design these crossings to meet AOP needs and if this project doesn't happen now then resources will have been expended for nothing and the problems associated with increased sediment loading, impaired watershed connectivity, lack of AOP, and increased erosion will continue. The proposed project is part of a larger road construction project so by combining the two there will be savings in mobilization costs as well as a minimizing of environmental disturbance by doing all the work at once. Cook County is working on the final design as we speak and the project is construction ready within 6 months of appropriation.

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

At least 16 crossings connect approximately 50,000 acres of the Rainy River watershed near its headwaters. The culverts are prohibiting watershed connectivity and are undersized in some cases causing barriers for AOP. By replacing and right-sizing these culverts, the project protects against habitat fragmentation. The new structures will create a more resilient habitat as well by being designed to handle more extreme weather events. The project will better protect and connect 50,000 acres of the watershed, 4.6 miles of streams, and 80 lakes will all benefit from this.

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

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Other : Rainy Headwaters-Vermillion, One Watershed One Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Northern Forest

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

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

Improved aquatic habitat indicators ~ *The project will eliminate wetland connectivity barriers and impediments for AOP in 50,000 acres of RRHW watershed, 4.6-mi of streams, and positively impact at least 80 lakes. A hydraulic*

analysis of the area, along with following geomorphic design guidelines, will right-size the culverts and create a better habitat and more climate resilient watershed.

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.

These funds are not supplanting or substituting previous funds allocated for this project.

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

The project is part of a larger countywide effort to protect water quality. The crossings in this project will allow the river and watershed to be restored to a more natural state and will be maintained by Cook County for the lifespan of the structure and any subsequent replacements into perpetuity.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2028 and beyond	local	initial installation	document observations	continue inspections and documentation for lifespan of structure

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

Enhancing and protecting water quality is in direct alignment with the goals set out by the 1854 Treaty Authority to protect, preserve, and enhance the hunting, fishing and gathering rights of the Grand Portage and Bois Forte bands of Lake Superior Chippewa in the 1854 Treaty area. This project occurs within the 1854 Treaty area in NE MN. By improving the water quality, creating better fish habitat, and reducing bank erosion this project is directly benefiting the Grand Portage and Bois Forte bands of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Public Waters

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?
No

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
End construction	October 2028
Begin construction	June 2028
Bid letting	December 2027
Design, engineering, permitting	September 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2029

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation
(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.
(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;
(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	$230,000	county levy	$230,000
Contracts	$1,975,000	$2,855,000	state and federal	$4,830,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,975,000**	**$3,085,000**	**-**	**$5,060,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Cook County Engineer	1.0	1.0	-	$30,000	county levy	$30,000
Cook County inspector	2.0	1.0	-	$200,000	county levy	$200,000

Amount of Request: $1,975,000
Amount of Leverage: $3,085,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 156.2%
DSS + Personnel: -
As a % of the total request: 0.0%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Other state and federal funding sources will be pursued. If not secured, then less crossings will be replaced.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
PROTECT ($420,000) secured. LRIP ($1,500,000) secured. Bridge bonds (hydraulic analysis will determine dollar amount) pending. Rainy River Headwater (waiting on meeting) pending.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The proposed project could be broken down by crossing size: bridges, large culverts, and wetland connectors. A final hydraulic analysis will determine which crossings become bridges and which remain larger culverts. Reduced funding could just go towards one of these categories but the remainder of those crossings would unfunded.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel costs would decrease with less crossings to inspect.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
culverts, bridge structures, aprons, mobilizing equipment, removing existing crossings, excavation of fill material, stream bank restoration, stream diversion, rip rap, fill material, culvert bedding, culvert liners

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
Yes

Other : competitive grant

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**50,000**	**50,000**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$1,975,000	$1,975,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,975,000**	**$1,975,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**50,000**	**50,000**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	$1,975,000	$1,975,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,975,000**	**$1,975,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	$39
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	$39
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

4.6

Parcels

Parcel Information

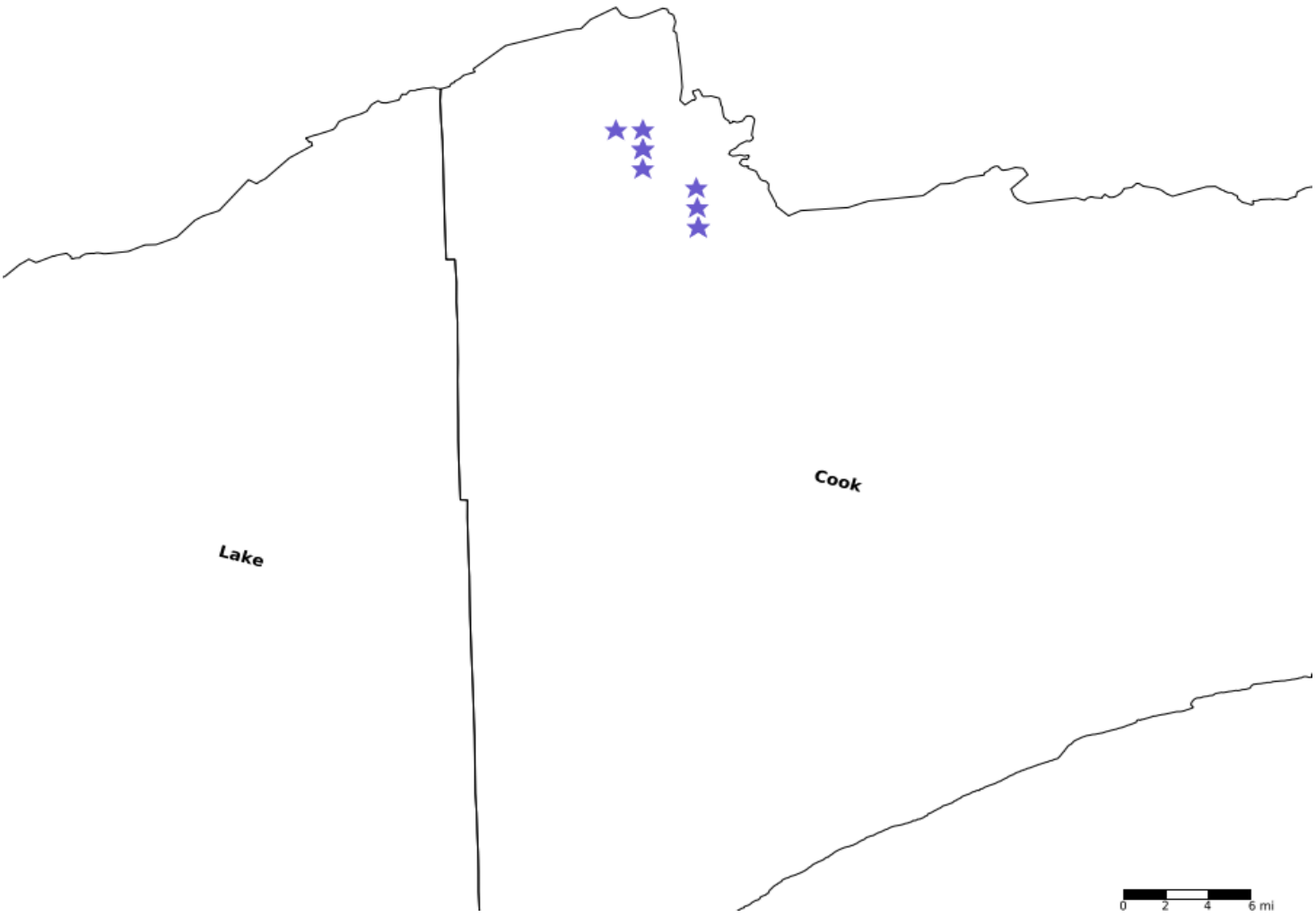
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
The parcels identified below are the locations of the culverts. Some parcels have multiple culverts and their basin acreage and costs were added together.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
C11: Tax Parcel ID: 49-505-4100	Cook	06504205	1	$65,505	Yes	replace culvert
C12: Tax Parcel ID: 49-505-1400	Cook	06504205	1	$65,505	Yes	replace culvert
C13, C14, C15: Tax Parcel ID: 49-632-1200	Cook	06604232	210	$196,515	Yes	replace culverts
C16: Tax Parcel ID: 49-631-1100	Cook	06604231	294	$65,505	Yes	replace culvert
C1: Tax Parcel ID: 49-527-1400	Cook	06504227	45,440	$65,505	Yes	replace culvert
C2: Tax Parcel ID: 49-527-1200	Cook	06504227	136	$65,505	Yes	replace culvert
C3, C4, C5, C6: Tax Parcel ID: 49-522-1100	Cook	06504222	952	$1,441,518	Yes	replace culverts
C7 & C8: Tax Parcel ID: 49-515-1100	Cook	06504215	627	$780,505	Yes	replace culverts
C9 & C10: Tax Parcel ID: 49-508-1100	Cook	06504208	2,544	$899,216	Yes	replace culverts

Parcel Map


Cook
Lake
0 2 4 6 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Protection and Resiliency in the Rainy River Headwaters

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Protection and Resiliency in the Rainy River Headwaters
Organization: Cook County
Manager: Robert Kimmel-Hass

Budget

Requested Amount: $3,000,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,975,000
Percentage: 65.83%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	-	$230,000	-	$230,000	-	100.0%
Contracts	$3,000,000	$1,037,000	$1,975,000	$2,855,000	65.83%	275.31%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,000,000**	**$1,267,000**	**$1,975,000**	**$3,085,000**	**65.83%**	**243.49%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The proposed project could be broken down by crossing size: bridges, large culverts, and wetland connectors. A final hydraulic analysis will determine which crossings become bridges and which remain larger culverts. Reduced funding could just go towards one of these categories but the remainder of those crossings would unfunded.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel costs would decrease with less crossings to inspect.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The proposed project could be broken down by crossing size: bridges, large culverts, and wetland connectors. A final hydraulic analysis will determine which crossings become bridges and which remain larger culverts. Reduced funding could just go towards one of these categories but the remainder of those crossings would unfunded.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel costs would decrease with less crossings to inspect.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	50,000	50,000	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$3,000,000	$1,975,000	65.83%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	50,000	50,000	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$3,000,000	$1,975,000	65.83%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Restoring priority habitats for Hennepin County's sensitive wildlife

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/16/2026

Project Title: Restoring priority habitats for Hennepin County's sensitive wildlife

Funds Recommended: $3,943,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Kristine Maurer
Title: Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Supervisor
Organization: Hennepin County
Address: 300 S 6th Street, MC 679
City: Minneapolis, MN 55487
Email: kristine.maurer@hennepin.us
Office Number: 612-348-6570
Mobile Number: 612-235-1251
Fax Number:
Website: HennepinCounty.gov/land-protection

Location Information

County Location(s): Hennepin.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Enhance

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Hennepin County is seeking $3,943,000 to complete habitat restoration and management activities on 540 acres of the most important remaining protected natural areas in the county. This work will improve the quality and connectivity of vital ecosystems remaining in the county, support sensitive wildlife, and ensure access to diverse natural systems for residents.

This proposal includes 165 acres ready for implementation. Another 332 acres have already been identified and are actively being planned with public partners and conservation easement owners. This proposal will be generously supported by partner and landowner resources.

Design and Scope of Work

Hennepin County is seeking $3,943,000 to restore and enhance 540 acres of protected habitat including big woods forest, remnant oak savanna, native bluff prairies, wetlands, shoreline, and riparian areas. This work will improve the quality and connectivity of vital ecosystems remaining in the county, support sensitive wildlife like Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and federally listed or candidate species, and ensure access to diverse natural systems for residents.

Specifically, work could begin today on the following four shovel-ready projects:

- Restore and enhance 68 acres of remnant prairies and oak woodlands adjacent to Riley Creek on two adjacent Minnesota River bluff parcels owned by project partners, the City of Eden Prairie (40 acres) and the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (28 acres);
- Enhance 65 acres of floodplain forest, oak maple forest and remnant bluff savanna along the Minnesota River on property owned by the City of Bloomington; and
- Enhance 32 acres of hillside maple basswood forest and native prairie surrounding a pond and tamarack bog at Three Rivers Park District's Kingswood Park in Minnetrista.

This proposal will restore or enhance another 332 acres that have already been identified and are actively being planned with additional public partners and conservation easement owners. The remaining 43 acres will be identified within the first year of the grant period.

Our process involves:

- In-depth, data-driven modeling of the entire county to identify priority project focus areas.
- Strong partnerships with nonprofits, watershed organizations, cities, park districts, MN DNR, NPS, and USFWS to identify restoration opportunities and build connections with collaborative decision-making resulting in high-quality project selection.
- A standardized project intake and evaluation process. All opportunities have or will be evaluated using the following criteria: spatial context, ability for landowners or land managers to sustain habitat quality long term, benefit to overall diversity and specific sensitive species, benefit to water resources, and public access or benefit.
- Commitment to identifying and leveraging partner resources to accomplish grant goals and long-term project success.
- Engagement and communication strategies devoted to connecting meaningfully with partners, easement landowners, and the public with the goal of empowering each individual's unique role in the lifetime stewardship of improved habitats.

- Biological monitoring to inventory wildlife and plant communities, measure and evaluate habitat improvement actions, inform adaptive management priorities, and report meaningfully on the impact of our work.

This proposal builds off the momentum of three previous OHF grants that protected 528 acres of land across 16 easements and restored and enhanced 427 acres to date.

We have exceeded our restoration and enhancement goals for two previous OHF grants, and funds to support restoration and enhancement activities from our most recent grant are fully encumbered and will be spent by June 30, 2028. The timing of these funds is essential to accomplish already identified high-value habitat projects for the wildlife and people of Hennepin County.

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

Proposed activities would restore and enhance 540 acres of high-value habitat in Hennepin County to the benefit of many rare plants and SGCN known to occur in the county.

Protected natural areas in Hennepin County include ecologically significant and floristically diverse habitats such as remnant maple-basswood forest, oak woodlands, floodplain forest, oak savannas, bluff prairies, rich and poor peatlands such as fens and tamarack bogs, shallow lakes, and high-value open spaces - all of which are critically essential for wildlife. These critical habitats support around 40 mammals, 320 migratory birds, 96 fish, 17 amphibians, 23 reptiles, and thousands of invertebrates. There are also multiple occurrences of rare animal assemblages such as bat hibernaculums and heron rookeries. Additionally, many sensitive plant community types occur in Hennepin County that support rare plants.

For four years, the county's biomonitoring program has monitored protected properties and habitat improvement projects for plants, pollinators, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals to track the efficacy of our investments and improve restoration and enhancement practices and outcomes. This work has observed 644 different plant and animal species associated with previously OHF-funded conservation projects, including 40 SGCN, including the red-headed woodpecker, American bumblebee, and silver-haired bat, and 3 species that are federally listed or listing candidates, including the rusty-patched bumblebee.

Wildlife and conservation value of four projects ready for implementation:

- Observations of 47 different SGCN and 3 federally listed or listing candidate species within one-half mile of these project areas, including: American kestrel, dickcissel, purple finch, western kingbird, common nighthawk, rusty-patched bumblebee, monarch, gophersnake, mudpuppy, eastern newt, and least darter.
- Improve habitat for the species above within a contiguous protected network of 200+ acres along Riley Creek, 8,000+ acres in the Minnesota River Valley, and nearly 700 acres around the highest quality lake in the metro.
- Encompass over 60 acres of designated DNR native plant communities like bluff prairies, oak woodlands, and mesic hardwoods including documented occurrence of Kitten Tails.
- 2,500 linear feet of riparian area along Riley Creek in the Minnesota River Valley and 2,500 linear feet of lakeshore near the Pioneer – Sarah Creek.

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

The same features that originally attracted people to the metro area in high numbers - the confluence of our region's major rivers and biomes - also make it a critical region for restoration. Multiple crucial natural resource corridors and the interface of Minnesota's prairie and forest ecoregions bring high concentrations of wildlife,

including SGCNs, into close proximity with a rapidly developing region, making the need for resources dedicated to habitat improvement on protected lands more urgent than ever.

This proposal will restore or enhance 165 shovel-ready acres. Another 332 acres have already been identified and are actively being planned with public partners and conservation easement owners. Securing this funding now will allow us to capitalize on partner support for four shovel-ready projects that are available today, and continue to plan and sequence additional projects in a way that ensures high-value projects are also cost-effective.

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

The time to act on conservation in Hennepin County is now to help mitigate habitat fragmentation. Between 2001 and 2021, Hennepin County lost 12,360 acres of open space to development. In addition to threats of development, many protected spaces face fragmentation because of habitat degradation like invasive species encroachment.

The county has employed data-driven modeling to specify targeted conservation priority areas. Priority areas are identified based on spatial context (e.g., nearness to existing protected lands), project size, habitat quality and diversity, water resources, wildlife and plant conservation (e.g., NHIS occurrence), and local knowledge. The highest priority areas are generally adjacent to large core areas of already protected habitat. This modeling is used to evaluate potential restoration and enhancement projects, ensuring projects occur on parcels that meaningfully connect or buffer existing protected and quality habitat. Additionally, Hennepin County uses best available research, partner knowledge, and meaningful outcome tracking to develop management plans and implement actions likely to have success in complex environments.

The projects included in the parcel list illustrate this approach to project selection. Three parcels are within the Minnesota River Valley habitat corridor - improving 133 acres of savanna, forest, and bluff prairies within an 8,000-acre complex. The fourth project will improve 32 acres of native prairies and forest near Little Long Lake within a 700-acre complex of permanently protected public and private lands containing high quality forest and prairie habitat. These projects are all associated with mapped areas of biological significance (MCBS) and Regionally Significant Ecological Areas. Furthermore, several projects are associated with Wildlife Action Network priority areas and significant aquatic biologic areas. Proposed projects will address invasive species management and build habitat resilience by mimicking natural disturbances with prescribed fire and reintroduction of diverse native plants.

An additional 332 project acres have been vetted through the described project selection criteria process and are actively being planned with public partners and conservation easement owners. The remaining 43 acres proposed will be vetted within the first year of the grant to ensure all projects meaningfully contribute to connectivity and expansion of high-quality habitat for wildlife.

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

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Metro / Urban

Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *With this request, 540 acres of habitat will be significantly improved through restoration or enhancement. To measure program impacts and inform adaptive management, Hennepin County staff initiated a biological monitoring program in 2022. Biomonitoring efforts include relevé plots and transect surveys for plants as well as wildlife surveys for birds, pollinators, aquatic invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.*

Annual easement inspections, access to a variety of open-source data, and ability to leverage partner staff, volunteers, and conservation easement owners to observe wildlife, SGCN, and native plant diversity will allow us to evaluate the outcomes for fish and wildlife.

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

This proposal does not supplant or substitute for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund used for the same purpose.

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

Hennepin County is an experienced protected-land manager and supports a successful stewardship program that includes project biomonitoring, annual inspections of private conservation lands, effective records and contractor management, tracking changes in ownership and partner contacts, and working through mitigation of violations.

Habitat Management Plans, project-specific Ecological Improvement Plans, and Action Plans (for conservation easements) are developed (and required) for each habitat improvement project. These documents collectively set long-term target community trajectories, implementation strategies, and describe short and long-term monitoring metrics. Tracking metrics over time through biological monitoring allows Hennepin County and partners to adaptively manage toward those target trajectories in an informed and precise way, and ensure that OHF investments are sustained and maintained.

Hennepin County is committed to maintaining relationships with project partners and landowners and securing technical and financial resources to undertake prescribed activities. In the project intake, evaluation, and selection phases, we evaluate each project for the ability of the landowner, manager, or project partner to contribute to and maintain the improved habitat beyond involvement from the county.

The county will continue to work with its watersheds, cities, park districts, NGOs, and other partners to maintain and build partnership and commitment to sustained project outcomes.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2032-ongoing	Partner land managers or landowners	Monitoring and assessment of project areas.	Treatment or management of issues as they arise. Coordination/collaboration with Hennepin Co. for larger issues.	HCP remains available to consult or advise maintaining quality habitat on protected lands.

2032-ongoing	Three Rivers Park District, City of Bloomington, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed, City of Eden Prairie	Annual or semi-annual monitoring of site for newly establishing encroaching or weedy species.	Managing newly established buckthorn or other aggressive, non-desirable species through staff time or associated volunteer groups.	Future management through Rx burns and grazing. Ongoing monitoring and spot treatments.
2032-2037	Hennepin County Solid Waste Enterprise Fund	Establishment of project specific habitat improvement standards. Biomonitoring before and after habitat improvement project actions.	Make adaptive management changes as needed to meet habitat improvement performance standards.	Ongoing biomonitoring of easements and habitat improvement projects to assess wildlife and plant communities and ensure objectives are sustained.

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

Hennepin County is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion as a core value. Below are several examples of how Hennepin celebrates cultural diversity and reaches diverse communities:

- We use a wide variety of data sources, web tools, books, and partner knowledge to review cultural sensitivity and history ahead of project selection and planning. Several projects are in areas of cultural significance to the Dakota.
- We select projects across a wide array of urban and rural locations with an effort to impact diverse communities. Completed and currently proposed projects are often within or near to mapped environmental justice, red-lined, and climate risk areas. Along with multiple completed projects, three of the four identified projects on this proposal are within 1.5 miles of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency identified areas of environmental justice concern. The fourth project, located in Minnetrista, is adjacent to lands held by the Boys and Girls Club Voyager Environmental Center which caters to diverse and underserved youth. Hennepin County has facilitated restoration and interactive environmental learning initiatives in collaboration with this camp, and the currently proposed project would add publicly accessible, high-quality habitat to the protected corridor near this camp.
- The biological monitoring program allows us to engage the public more broadly in the work and outcomes of restoration and enhancement work. We share engaging images and video of wildlife found in protected habitat to promote greater awareness of the incredible biodiversity that exists in Hennepin County.
- We have engaged over 20 young adults participating in state and county diversity-focused intern programs in biological monitoring and discussion of projects supported by OHF including private conservation easements and restoration and enhancement projects.
- Hennepin County uses diversity, equity, and inclusion as a lens in project and contractor selection, preference is given to small, women, and minority-owned businesses.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

County/Municipal

Other : Fee-title or easement area associated with Watersheds (e.g., WD and WMO) and Park Districts

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Restoration and enhancement of existing permanently protected areas: 1) select projects; 2) draft restoration plan and performance standards and pre-activity monitoring; 3) perform habitat improvement activities; 4) post activity monitoring; 5) adaptive management and additional restoration activities as needed to meet performance standards	June 2032

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2032

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation
(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.
(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;
(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$949,600	$610,500	Hennepin County	$1,560,100
Contracts	$2,762,500	$304,800	Cities, Watershed Districts, Park Districts	$3,067,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$218,100	$140,200	Hennepin County	$358,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$12,800	$10,000	Cities, Park Districts	$22,800
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,943,000**	**$1,065,500**	**-**	**$5,008,500**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
R/E project management – forest and woodlands	0.7	5.0	$419,700	$140,000	Hennepin County	$559,700
R/E project and partner coordinator, senior restoration ecologist	0.25	5.0	-	$220,300	Hennepin County	$220,300
R/E project management – prairie and wetlands	0.7	5.0	$419,700	$140,000	Hennepin County	$559,700
Grant management	0.25	5.0	$110,200	$110,200	Hennepin County	$220,400

Amount of Request: $3,943,000
Amount of Leverage: $1,065,500
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 27.02%
DSS + Personnel: $1,167,700
As a % of the total request: 29.61%

Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The gap is addressed through a reduction in acreage of restoration and enhancement projects and a reduction in personnel and DSS funding to reflect the reduced project workload. The four named projects described in the narrative remain unchanged.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Hennepin County Environment and Energy Department operations are funded by the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (money received from the sale of energy and recovered materials) as allowed by Minnesota Statute. Some projects occur in partnership with cities, park districts, and watersheds who have pledged monetary and in-kind contributions.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
In general, we would expect that acres and number of projects would be reduced a bit more than proportionately, as necessary to accommodate fixed administrative and other costs (see below).

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Most personnel and DSS costs are directly project related; however, administrative and costs are somewhat fixed. There is an economy of scale to doing more projects per appropriation. Personnel and DSS expenses would be reduced a bit less than proportionately, about 40-45%.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Hennepin County will manage $2,762,500 worth of restoration and enhancement activities under contracts with restoration partners.

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?
In a process that was approved by the DNR on September 15, 2025, Hennepin County determined our direct support services (DSS) rate to include all the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. Hennepin County submits new data to the DNR annually to set DSS rates to staff expenses incurred in a particular calendar year. The DSS rate currently approved by the DNR is 22.97% for staff expenses incurred in 2024. Data to support rates for staff expense incurred in 2025 and 2026 are currently under review. We will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services.

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	-	-	-	95	95
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	445	445
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**540**	**540**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$776,800	$776,800
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$3,166,200	$3,166,200
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,943,000**	**$3,943,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	95	-	-	-	-	95
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	445	-	-	-	-	445
Total	**540**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**540**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	$776,800	-	-	-	-	$776,800
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$3,166,200	-	-	-	-	$3,166,200
Total	**$3,943,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,943,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	$8,176
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$7,115

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	$8,176	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$7,115	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

5,000 feet

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Hennepin County's Habitat Conservation Program (HCP) identifies, evaluates, and selects projects for restoration and enhancement work using a process of solicitation, ranking, and expert review. Restoration and enhancement projects are identified through ongoing outreach and relationship building with public partners and conservation easement landowners. Interested partners and landowners submit intake forms through the county's website.

Each project must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Alignment with OHF rules and expectations
- Permanently protected
- In or near a priority conservation area
- Has a habitat management plan or equivalent
- Is a qualifying project type identified by program guidelines

Qualifying projects are then evaluated using criteria developed by HCP staff to ensure feasibility, long-term sustainability, and a high return on investment. Criteria include habitat connectivity to high-quality protected complexes, project size and per-acre cost efficiency, public accessibility and benefit, partner capacity for long-term maintenance, availability of matching funds or in-kind contributions, protection of unique remnant features or threatened habitat, and long-term viability.

Following ranking, the HCP team conducts a consensus-based review of projects to identify and discuss any potential risks or benefits not captured in the pre-determined evaluation criteria. Each project is then presented at a meeting of the HCP's Technical Advisory Committee, a group of career conservation professionals across Hennepin County.

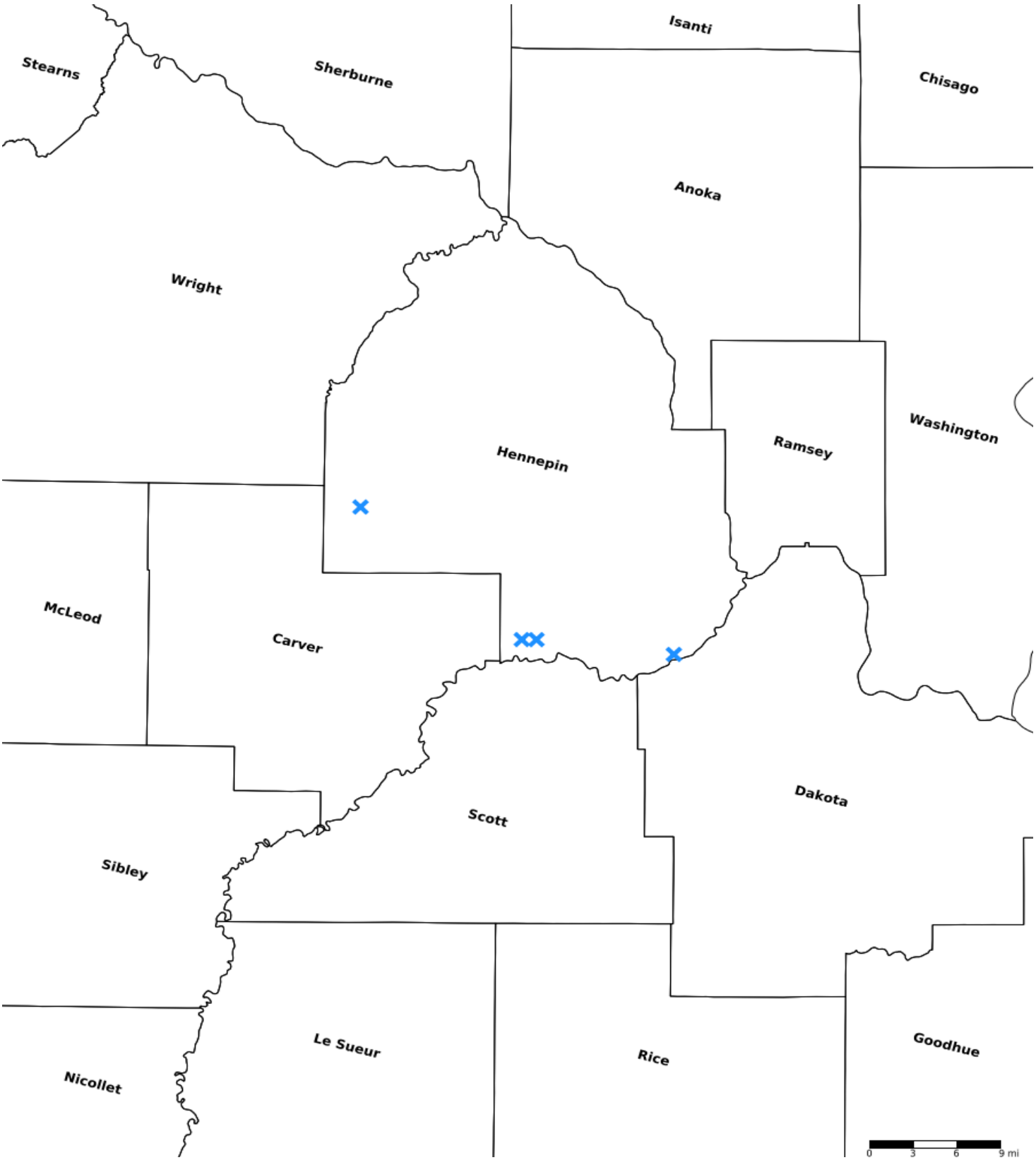
The four parcels in this proposal score highly across these criteria, each lying within a designated natural resource corridor on publicly accessible land and with a city, watershed or park district partner contributing to the success of the project.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
City of Bloomington - Minnesota River Valley Complex	Hennepin	02724222	65	$475,000	Yes	Enhancement of bluff prairies and savanna along the Minnesota River.
City of Eden Prairie - Riley Creek Conservation Area	Hennepin	11622229	40	$280,000	Yes	Enhancement of identified remnant prairie and oak forest along the lower reaches of Riley Creek and within the Minnesota River Valley habitat corridor.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed - Riley Creek Spring Road Site	Hennepin	11622228	28	$215,000	Yes	16 Acres of oak forest enhancement and 12 acres of restoration of prairie directly adjacent to remnant bluff prairie.
Three Rivers Park District - Kingswood Park	Hennepin	11724209	32	$135,000	Yes	Enhancement of 23 acres of prairie and 8 acres of forest within the Little Long Lake habitat corridor.

Parcel Map



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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Restoring priority habitats for Hennepin County's sensitive wildlife

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Restoring priority habitats for Hennepin County's sensitive wildlife
Organization: Hennepin County
Manager: Kristine Maurer

Budget

Requested Amount: $6,691,400
Appropriated Amount: $3,943,000
Percentage: 58.93%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$1,419,500	$1,060,800	$949,600	$610,500	66.9%	57.55%
Contracts	$4,933,000	$304,800	$2,762,500	$304,800	56.0%	100.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$326,100	$243,700	$218,100	$140,200	66.88%	57.53%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$12,800	$10,000	$12,800	$10,000	100.0%	100.0%
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$6,691,400**	**$1,619,300**	**$3,943,000**	**$1,065,500**	**58.93%**	**65.8%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
In general, we would expect that acres and number of projects would be reduced a bit more than proportionately, as necessary to accommodate fixed administrative and other costs (see below).

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Most personnel and DSS costs are directly project related; however, administrative costs are somewhat fixed. There is an economy of scale to doing more projects per appropriation. Personnel and DSS expenses would be reduced a bit less than proportionately, about 20-25%.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
In general, we would expect that acres and number of projects would be reduced a bit more than proportionately, as necessary to accommodate fixed administrative, and other costs (see below).

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Most personnel and DSS costs are directly project related; however, administrative and costs are somewhat fixed. There is an economy of scale to doing more projects per appropriation. Personnel and DSS expenses would be reduced a bit less than proportionately, about 40-45%.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	181	95	52.49%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	775	445	57.42%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$1,375,900	$776,800	56.46%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$5,315,500	$3,166,200	59.57%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	181	95	52.49%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	775	445	57.42%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$1,375,900	$776,800	56.46%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$5,315,500	$3,166,200	59.57%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Swift Coulee Channel Restoration/ Enhancement - Phase 2

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/06/2026

Project Title: Swift Coulee Channel Restoration/ Enhancement - Phase 2

Funds Recommended: $1,842,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Morteza Maher
Title: Administrator
Organization: Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
Address: 453 North McKinley St.
City: Warren, MN 56762
Email: morteza.maher@mstrwd.org
Office Number: 2187454741
Mobile Number: 2182305703
Fax Number:
Website: www.mstrwd.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Marshall.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

Enhance

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

The Swift Coulee Channel Restoration Project is located in Marshall County and considered a Prairie Ecological-section.
Phase 2 of this project when completed will create perpetually protected habitat under the RIM program. Phase 2 will restore over 6 miles of altered natural channel and create a habitat corridor over 400 acres through a natural channel design.
While phase 1 indirectly received funds from LSOHC for land acquisition through RIM in 2024 and constructed using other funds in 2025. This application will cover construction cost for phase 2 which will complete the whole (10 miles long) project.

Design and Scope of Work

Problem:
The Swift Coulee is not an exception to what is known as problem in the Prairie region of MN consisting of an altered natural waterway with degraded grasslands and native habitat adjacent to the coulee due to agricultural practices. Currently, the situation is unfavorable and fails to benefit the farmers and the ecosystem, as the waterway suffers from issues such as siltation, hybrid cattail proliferation, and recurrent flooding.
This project aims to address these critical challenges through the following initiatives:
1. Creation of a new low-flow meander and floodplain valley designed to reduce further siltation and side slope washouts.
2. Implementation of setback levees on both sides of the low-flow meander to establish a wider protective corridor. This will allow nearby farms to utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) for effective drainage.
3. Development of habitats within the low-flow meander and floodplain valley corridor that will provide both upland and wetland habitat species, providing essential resources for resting, feeding, and living.
4. Vegetated protection of the entire project footprint through perpetual easements, with the MSTRWD assuming responsibility for ongoing maintenance according to established design criteria.
Scope of work:
The scope of work for Phase 2 related to this application includes: - Finalize engineering, permitting, and begin construction in 2027 of the described project in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8 of McCrea Township, as well as Section 36 of Alma Township in Marshall County, Minnesota.
Priority Setting:
The Swift Coulee project has been a priority for the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD) for over two decades and has consistently been included in the Watershed Management Plan. From the early 2000s, MSTRWD adopted a structured approach by forming a project work team that engaged all relevant state and federal agencies involved in permitting, as well as local authorities and landowners. This collaborative effort led to the development of an agreed-upon Purpose and Need statement (P&N) and resulted in the identification of 13 alternative solutions to address this statement. After screening these alternatives, the team reached consensus on the most feasible option in 2021. The project directly enhances fish and wildlife habitat by enhancing and restoring wetlands and uplands and converting agricultural lands to habitat for waterfowl, grassland and migratory birds as well as grazing animals through a natural channel design that supports pool-riffle sequences for aquatic species and low-flow conditions suitable for fish passage. This is a sustainable solution that not only

enhances the environment, through use of BMPs and the environment resiliency design will meet the agricultural drainage needs.
This project is now recognized as a high priority in the MSTR Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP), which has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), endorsed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

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

This project is designed to permanently restore and enhance a vital ecological corridor within the Lake Agassiz Glacial Plain, a region that once supported vast upland and wetland prairie communities. This phase of the project will reestablish over 6 miles of previously straightened and farmed stream into a sinuous, functioning two-stage channel with native vegetation and broad riparian buffers, creating approximately 400 (just in phase 2) acres of perpetual conservation easements for upland and wetland habitat. These easements are secured through the BWSR Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program, ensuring long-term habitat protection.
The project directly enhances fish and wildlife habitat by enhancing and restoring wetlands and uplands and converting agricultural lands to habitat for waterfowl, grassland and migratory birds as well as grazing animals through a natural channel design that supports pool-riffle sequences for aquatic species and low-flow conditions suitable for fish passage. Grade control structures in the form of rock riffles will be installed at key locations, helping maintain streambed stability while facilitating fish movement across varied flows.
This project in total (phase 1 and 2) will set the stage for a long-term plan to provide fish habitat and passage to places over 25 miles away from Red River of the North. It will reduce sediment by 8,200 tons per year and phosphorus by 7,600 pounds per year, greatly improving water clarity and reducing turbidity—a key limiting factor for aquatic habitat quality.
The broader wildlife benefits include approximately 720 acres of restored and protected wetland and upland prairie habitat across Phases 1 and 2 combined, providing critical refuge for migratory birds, game species, pollinators, and other wildlife. The site falls within the Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands ecoregion, a transition zone between tallgrass prairie and forest ecosystems, and the restored habitat will reconnect fragmented wildlife corridors within an intensively farmed landscape.
Through a science-based and community-supported approach, the Swift Coulee project will transform a degraded watercourse into a resilient, diverse, and permanently protected landscape supporting fish, game, and wildlife for generations to come.

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

Several elements of the Swift Coulee Phase 2 proposal are time-sensitive:
1st, timely completion of engineering and permitting in 2026 is critical and we are currently on path to meet this, with the proposed construction window beginning in 2027. Delays in planning would postpone project readiness and jeopardize coordination with state agencies on permits and inflation of contractor bid prices.
2nd, landowner confidence hinges on a clear and credible timeline. The RIM easement sign-up period benefits from visible momentum, and uncertainty can slow enrollment.
3rd, alignment with funding cycles—particularly LSOHC and other state programs—requires adherence to established milestones to secure construction funding and leverage match sources.
4th, delaying construction could lead to increased costs and obviously delay realization of benefits.

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

Phase 2 will add approximately over 470 acres of perpetual habitat corridor to the 247.2 acres already protected under Phase 1, expanding the Swift Coulee complex to approximately 720 acres of continuous restored wetland, riparian, and upland prairie habitat. This project reconnects fragmented habitats within an otherwise agriculturally dominated landscape by restoring a meandering stream system with wide native buffers, functioning as a linear wildlife corridor. The location within the Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands ecoregion enhances the strategic value of this restoration by providing connectivity between isolated habitat patches that support migratory birds, pollinators, grassland species, and aquatic life. The wide channel corridor further serves as a buffer from adjacent land uses, improving ecological function and long-term habitat viability.

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

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Northern Tallgrass Prairie Ecoregion: A River and Stream Conservation Portfolio

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, restore, and enhance habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need

Prairie

Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need ~ *The meandering low flow channel with designed water pools at bends will create a rest area for migratory and waterfowl in the region.*

Programs in prairie region:

Agriculture lands are converted to grasslands to sustain functioning prairie systems ~ *This phase of the project will reestablish over 6 miles of previously straightened and farmed stream into a sinuous, functioning two-stage channel with native vegetation and broad riparian buffers, creating approximately 400 acres of perpetual conservation easements for upland and wetland habitat. These easements are secured through the BWSR Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program, ensuring long-term habitat protection.*

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

This request/ proposal is neither supplanting nor a substitution for any previous fund from any legacy fund.

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

The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District will assume full responsibility for operation and maintenance under the terms of the RIM easement agreements. Design specifications will include provisions for long-term maintenance of grade control structures, vegetation, and sediment control features. Regular inspections, adaptive management, and coordination with BWSR technical staff will ensure functionality over time. A benefit of the engineered design is the reduced need for future intervention, as naturalized systems are more self-sustaining. Local support and district funding will backstop periodic maintenance needs beyond the grant period.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Annual	Established Water Management District through the MSTRWD	Inspection of the project performance in coordination with BWSR/SWCD staff	Monitor & maintain vegetation	Monitor & maintain vegetation

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

Since the land for this project is through perpetual easement with individual landowners, although we would encourage them to consider the BIPOC priorities if that becomes the case as for their land use for recreational purposes, as the project sponsor we do not have more authority. However, MSTRWD adheres to non-discriminatory practices when awarding contracts for construction. We at the project management level will do all we can to provide equal opportunity and encourage BIPOC to be involved in this project.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Public Waters

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?
No

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

No

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Construction	July 2028
Permitting	May 2027
Engineering - Construction Management - Other sources are sought to aid this as well as OHF	July 2028

Date of Final Report Submission: 01/31/2029

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:

(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;

(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;

(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;

(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and

(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Contracts	$1,692,000	$396,000	WBIF, RRWMB	$2,088,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$2,000	MSTRWD	$2,000
Professional Services	$150,000	$142,000	MSTRWD, RRWMB, WBIF	$292,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,842,000**	**$540,000**	**-**	**$2,382,000**

Amount of Request: $1,842,000
Amount of Leverage: $540,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 29.32%
DSS + Personnel: -
As a % of the total request: 0.0%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
This reduced appropriation will be used the same way if it was fully funded.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
WBIF: this project is in the list of known capital projects and all partners agree to fund it as appropriate.
RRWMB: Water quality base funding will be sued and is 100% secured.
MSTRWD: This is an established project under MN Stat. 103D. 605 and has a budget line item.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Another phase could be added to the project and make the proposed Phase 2 into two separate phases and

shorten the upstream length of channel to be restored. This would not only reduce the restored channel length by approximately 3 miles but also reduce the 400 acres of proposed corridor.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel would be reduced but not proportionately as phasing physical activity does not necessarily reduce logistical tasks.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Design/Engineering

Other : Project Management

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

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	-	-	-	88	88
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	15	-	-	-	15
Total	**15**	**-**	**-**	**88**	**103**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$1,563,000	$1,563,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$279,000	-	-	-	$279,000
Total	**$279,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,563,000**	**$1,842,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	0	-	88	-	88
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	15	-	0	-	15
Total	**-**	**15**	**-**	**88**	**-**	**103**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$1,563,000	-	$1,563,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$279,000	-	-	-	$279,000
Total	**-**	**$279,000**	**-**	**$1,563,000**	**-**	**$1,842,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	$17,761
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$18,600	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	$17,761	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$18,600	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

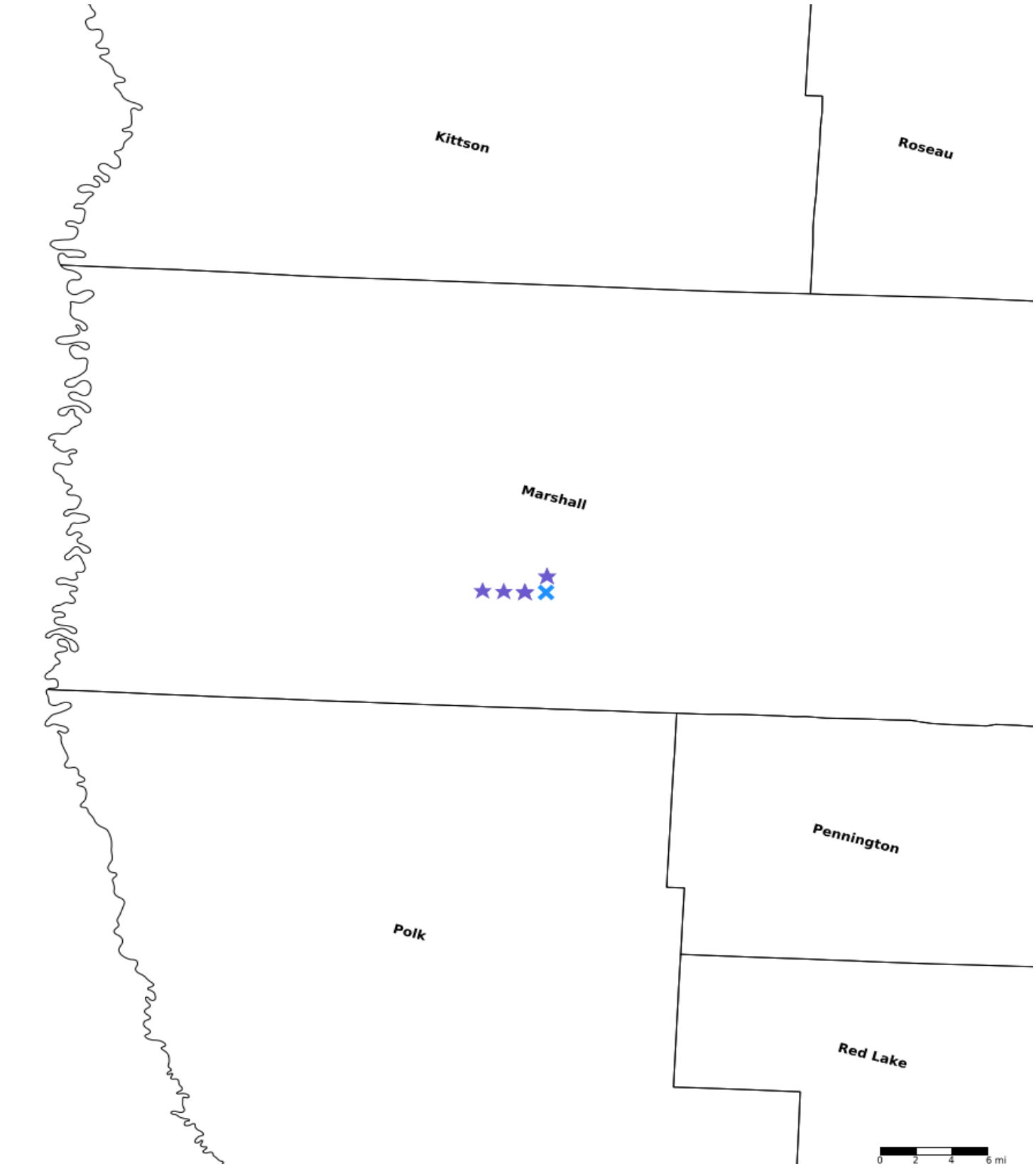
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Items on this list are reflective of the balance of what we had in original ML 2026 application and then adjusted through accomplishment plans and also more refined acres based on current project design information as it has progressed since then. acres under Kruger and Fagerstrom Trust adjusted on 6-18-26 to reflect the total acres of the phase 2 considering the ML 2026.
All the parcels on our list are the ones the Swift Coulee directly runs through. So, they are equally important and highly prioritized as for acquisition. While many of them are eligible under RIM program some are not due to the total acres. Although those excluded from RIM will be acquired through local funds, this project/ funding request would be allocated towards the overall engineering and construction of phase 2. Hence not really excluded from this application.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Fagerstrom Revocable Trust	Marshall	15547202	6	$106,591	Yes	-
Jacob Anderson	Marshall	15547201	17	$302,008	Yes	10 acres of this parcel included in ML 2026 accomplishment plan.
Jacob Anderson	Marshall	15547204	20	$355,304	Yes	-
Loren Anderson ETAL	Marshall	15647236	20	$355,304	Yes	-
Michele Diehl/ETAL	Marshall	15547202	9	$159,886	Yes	-
Robert Fagerstrom ETAL	Marshall	15647236	19	$337,539	Yes	-
Tracy Anderson	Marshall	15547203	9	$159,886	Yes	107 acres of this parcel included in ML 2026 accomplishment plan.
Virginia Kruger	Marshall	15547202	15	$266,478	Yes	-

Parcel Map


Kittson
Roseau
Marshall
Pennington
Polk
Red Lake
0 2 4 6 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Swift Coulee Channel Restoration/ Enhancement - Phase 2

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Swift Coulee Channel Restoration/ Enhancement - Phase 2
Organization: Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
Manager: Morteza Maher

Budget

Requested Amount: $2,043,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,842,000
Percentage: 90.16%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	-	$152,900	-	-	-	0.0%
Contracts	$1,893,000	$443,000	$1,692,000	$396,000	89.38%	89.39%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$2,000	-	$2,000	-	100.0%
Professional Services	$150,000	$142,000	$150,000	$142,000	100.0%	100.0%
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,043,000**	**$739,900**	**$1,842,000**	**$540,000**	**90.16%**	**72.98%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Another phase could be added to the project and make the proposed Phase 2 into two separate phases and shorten the upstream length of channel to be restored. This would not only reduce the restored channel length by approximately 3 miles but also reduce the 400 acres of proposed corridor.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel would be reduced but not proportionately as phasing physical activity does not necessarily reduce logistical tasks.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
It would not be feasible to break the project in smaller phases as it will lose the local trust and will create political issues for the future of the project.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel would be reduced but not proportionately as phasing physical activity does not necessarily reduce logistical tasks.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	98	88	89.8%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	17	15	88.24%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$1,735,700	$1,563,000	90.05%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$307,300	$279,000	90.79%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	98	88	89.8%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	17	15	88.24%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$1,735,700	$1,563,000	90.05%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$307,300	$279,000	90.79%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Tamarac River Enhancement Project - Phase 1

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/14/2026

Project Title: Tamarac River Enhancement Project - Phase 1

Funds Recommended: $3,070,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Lon Aune
Title: County Engineer
Organization: Marshall County
Address: 447 South Main
City: Warren, MN 56762
Email: lon.aune@marshallcountymn.gov
Office Number: (218) 745-4381
Mobile Number: (218) 201-1422
Fax Number: 2187454570
Website: https://www.marshallcountymn.gov/

Location Information

County Location(s): Marshall.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The Tamarac River Enhancement Project – Phase 1 begins to correct issues created by the State's construction of State Ditch 2 in the early 1900s. When all phases are completed, the full project will enhance 8 miles of straight ditch into 9.6 miles of natural meandering stream within a 290-acre habitat corridor. The project will create a minimum 300-foot wide perpetually protected stream habitat corridor in Marshall County connecting habitat corridors along the Red River to the natural Tamarac River channel and larger blocks of natural lands to the east.

Design and Scope of Work

The straightened portion of the Tamarac River is a prime example of a problem common in the Red River Valley Prairie Ecological Section of Minnesota. Straight channels created by the State to alleviate flooding through the Lake Agassiz Plain created homogenous habitats that don't have the shallow riffles and deeper pools that are required by fish throughout the year and throughout their life cycle. These channels limit access to their floodplains increasing erosion in the channel, causing lowered habitat diversity, causing lower aquatic life diversity. Downstream habitat is negatively affected due to sediment deposition and increased sediment loading, reducing habitat quality while making flooding worse.

The proposed project addresses these issues using a natural Rosgen E-Channel design with a meandering river alignment within an enhanced floodplain corridor. The natural channel design has been developed with direct input from the MN DNR River Ecology Unit. A sinuous riffle-pool design is proposed to create the aquatic habitat diversity lacking in the currently straightened channel. This activates natural stream processes to maintain habitat stability/quality in the future, which supports MN DNR Fisheries aquatic habitat goals for the Red River Basin. Existing spoil banks will be pulled back and blended into the landscape to complement a more natural waterway, establishing a terrestrial habitat corridor.

The total 8-mile project extent was originally constructed as State Ditch #2 in the early 1900s and later renamed Marshall County Ditch #45 to connect the Tamarac River to the Red River through a pre-settlement prairie wetland that is now highly valuable agricultural land. The original construction included a straight channel with the spoil used as setback levees to confine the waterway and provide flood protection to the adjacent agricultural lands. Beyond the original habitat loss from this approach, the channel bottom has down-cut approximately 3 to 5 feet in depth, causing significant bank failures that have further degraded the limited habitat. By enhancing this artificial system using natural channel design approaches, it develops channel habitat diversity and process for aquatic life, with these benefits maintained in low-flow conditions to ensure fish migrations. It also creates upland and wetland habitats for waterfowl, migratory birds, and other valuable wildlife.

Since the estimated cost of enhancing the full 8-mile project length is approximately $15,800,000, Marshall County proposes to perform the project in phases. This application includes costs for engineering and permitting for the entire 8-mile project length and the construction costs of a portion of the 8 total miles as the funding allocation allows. In 2022, Marshall County partnered with local SWCDs, the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District to develop the MSTR Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. This plan identified the proposed project as high priority. Several landowner meetings have occurred with very positive feedback regarding the natural E-channel design approach. The easement acquisition is in process and intends to use both WBIF and local funding.

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

This project is designed to permanently enhance a vital ecological corridor within the Lake Agassiz Glacial Plain, a region that once supported vast upland and wetland prairie communities. In total the multi-phase project would

restore and enhance the 8-miles straightened reach of Tamarac River into a natural E-channel design and 290 acres of associated riparian habitat, creating a corridor of perpetual upland and wetland conservation easements. Habitat benefits for fish and wildlife will be achieved by our holistic approach centered around the restored natural stream; these will extend to aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, and semi-aquatic mammals. Fish habitat improvements will support goals for the Tamarac River and the Red River of the North, specifically by promoting natural stream habitat, connectivity, and more natural hydrology. The stream habitat improvements will benefit Channel Catfish, Northern Pike, and the other 20 native fish species in the Tamarac River. Some species of fish will also benefit from the project as a result of a larger quantity of enhanced quality spawning habitat. The project is consistent with the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and will complement other ongoing work in the watershed to improve fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and reduce flood damage. Terrestrial Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) within the project area that would benefit greatly from habitat quality improvement are the Nelson's Sparrow, Yellow Rails, and Marbled Godwit. Additionally, there are 3 species of native mussel present downstream of the straightened reach that are missing above. MN DNR hopes a channel restoration will promote natural range expansion of these important but often overlooked native species.

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

Timing is important for implementation of this project, as a major feature of our proposal is the conversion of cropland to perpetual wildlife habitat. Landowners currently are willing to move forward with the proposed project. We need to capitalize on the current high level of interest and concept momentum as the easement needs drive the project. As the drainage authority of the straightened portion of the Tamarac River (MCD #45), Marshall County received BWSR Water Quality Funding for project feasibility. That was used to gain concurrence with landowners along the river. With that work and funding nearing completion, additional funding is needed to complete final engineering, permitting, and begin Phase 1 construction.

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

This is a multi-phase habitat corridor project to enhance the straightened 8-mile reach of the Tamarac River into a natural E-channel design, which will be situated within 290 acres of associated riparian habitat corridor. Perpetual conservation easements will protect these upland and wetland habitats, reconnecting a fragmented stream habitat corridor between the Tamarac River and Red River of the North. Fish and wildlife habitat benefits are diverse; in addition to the creation and natural maintenance of improved habitat for the fish and other aquatic life, the stream restoration corridor will also link isolated habitat patches that support migratory birds, pollinators, and grassland species. Amphibians, reptiles, and semi-aquatic mammals will benefit through the improved ecosystem connectivity. The wide channel corridor further serves as a buffer from adjacent land uses, improving ecological function and long-term habitat viability.

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

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Prairie

Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

Agriculture lands are converted to grasslands to sustain functioning prairie systems ~ *The overall project will enhance 8 miles of straight ditch into 9.6 miles of natural meandering stream within a 290-acre habitat corridor. The project will create a minimum 300-foot wide perpetually protected stream habitat corridor connecting habitat corridors along the Red River to the Tamarac River and larger blocks of natural lands to the east. The perpetual easement to sustain this habitat corridor will be surveyed and recorded with Marshall County so the easement perpetually will stay with the land for the future to come.*

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.

No

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

Marshall County is the drainage authority for multiple drainage ditches within the county and provides joint authority on multiple ditch systems that overlap between counties. With the Tamarac River Enhancement Project being MCD #45, Marshall County would still act as the drainage authority and have taxation capabilities for long term maintenance of the project assuming full responsibility for operation and maintenance under drainage law. Annual inspections and adaptive management will ensure functionality over time and that long term habitat benefits continue into the future.
Furthermore, the very specific design details incorporated into a natural channel design (e.g. Rosgen E-channel, stream geometry & dimensions) are intended to produce outcomes beyond immediate habitat improvements. More importantly, these choices establish necessary preconditions for natural processes to maintain stream habitat quality into the future. The emphasis on long-term beneficial outcomes via stream habitat processes is why we chose the natural channel restoration approach.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Annual	Marshall County Ditch #45 ditch fund	Inspection of the project performance in coordination with MNDNR staff	Monitor & maintain vegetation	Monitor & maintain vegetation

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

Project Partners will complete: 1. Outreach to tribal authorities on natural resource benefits. 2. Consultation with tribal authorities on cultural resources associated with the project area. 3. Project Partners will plan additional education outreach on the cultural significance and history of the area.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Public Waters

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
River Enhancement Construction (Phase 1)	October 2030
Easement Acquisition/Permitting	May 2028
Final (Design/Plans) Engineering	February 2028

Date of Final Report Submission: 01/31/2031

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation
(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.
(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;
(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Contracts	$2,210,000	$78,000	BWSR Watershed Based Implementation Funds	$2,288,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	$50,000	MCD #45 fund, WBIF	$50,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$860,000	-	-	$860,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,070,000**	**$128,000**	**-**	**$3,198,000**

Amount of Request: $3,070,000
Amount of Leverage: $128,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 4.17%
DSS + Personnel: -
As a % of the total request: 0.0%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The reduced appropriation will still be used the same way for the engineering and permitting of the full 8-mile project extents. The construction limits of Phase 1 will likely have to be reduced from the proposed 4-miles in the original application to adjust for the funding shortfall.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Marshall County: Drainage authority of MCD #45 has existing ditch account funds and taxing authority of benefited lands to leverage additional funds.
WBIF: This project is listed in the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and partners agree to assist with funding.
Letters are forthcoming supporting funding of project easements.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Professional services would be completed so final design and permitting would be accomplished for the project. The project construction would be broken into additional phases to complete portions as funding allows.

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Construction

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Design/Engineering

Surveys

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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	45	45
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**45**	**45**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$3,070,000	$3,070,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,070,000**	**$3,070,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	45	-	45
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**45**	**-**	**45**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$3,070,000	-	$3,070,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,070,000**	**-**	**$3,070,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$68,222

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$68,222	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

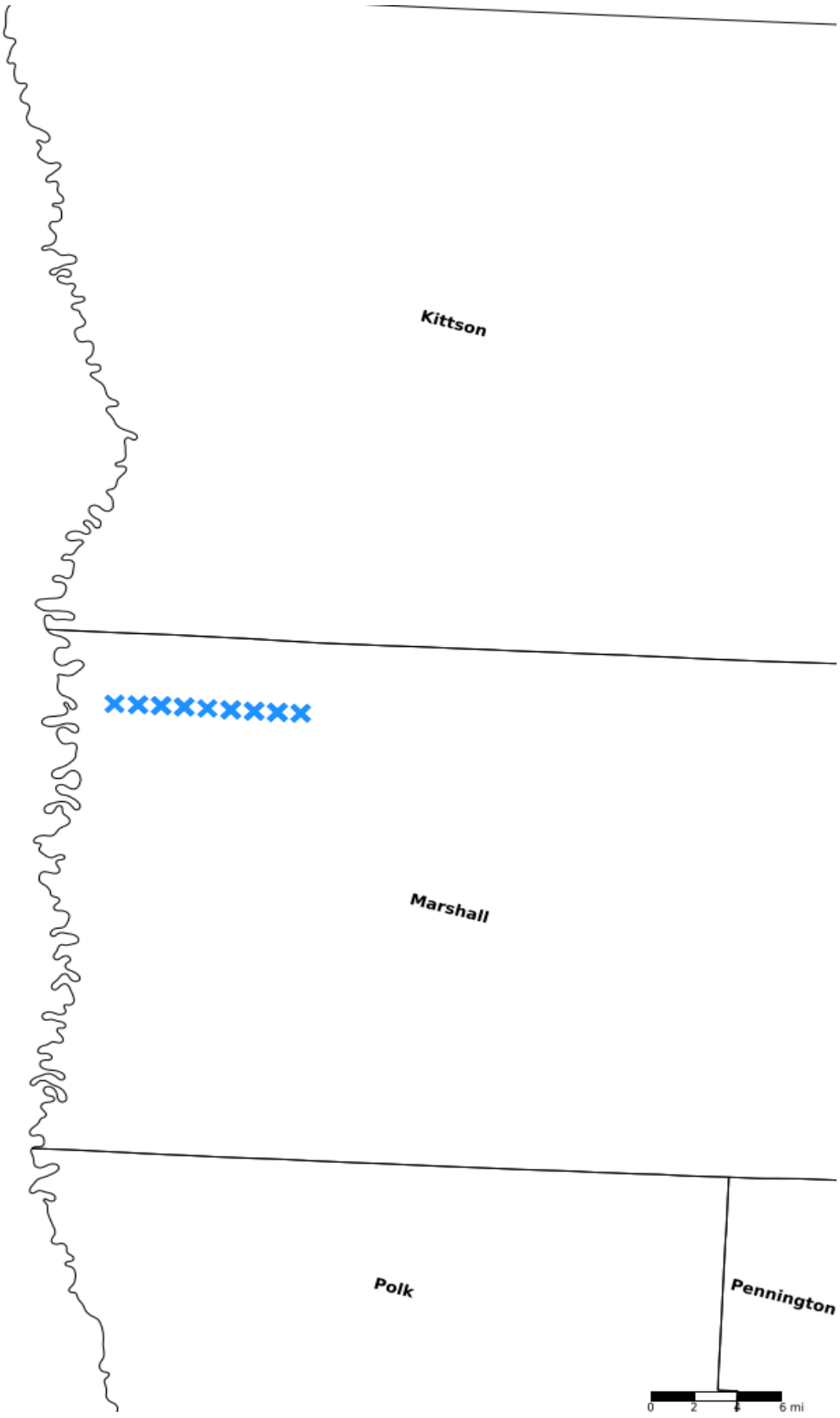
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
All the parcels are along the straight portion of the Tamarac River and are required for perpetual easement for the full implementation of the project. Some of this easement area is within existing ditch right of way and won't be of additional cost to the drainage authority or WBIF but is of poor habitat quality and will be enhanced for upland and aquatic habitat through implementation of the project. Although the additional easement needs are anticipated to be purchased with funds outside this LSHOHC funding request, the estimated dollar amounts to acquire the easements are given. The full project limits have been listed below, but Phase 1 construction area will be prioritized first as funding allows.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
10-0049-000	Marshall	15849219	17	$15,545	Yes	-
10-0050-000	Marshall	15849219	8	$7,170	Yes	-
10-0051-000	Marshall	15849219	8	$8,355	Yes	-
10-0052-000	Marshall	15849220	34	$31,522	Yes	-
10-0053-000	Marshall	15849221	15	$15,497	Yes	-
10-0053-001	Marshall	15849221	1	$356	Yes	-
10-0054-000	Marshall	15849221	19	$15,925	Yes	-
10-0055-000	Marshall	15849222	13	$16,002	Yes	-
10-0055-006	Marshall	15849222	10	$8,152	Yes	-
10-0056-000	Marshall	15849222	10	$8,065	Yes	-
10-0057-000	Marshall	15849223	5	$14,597	Yes	-
10-0058-000	Marshall	15849223	3	$4,223	Yes	-
10-0059-000	Marshall	15849223	7	$4,729	Yes	-
10-0059-001	Marshall	15849223	15	$11,259	Yes	-
10-0059-003	Marshall	15849223	5	$4,230	Yes	-
10-0060-000	Marshall	15849224	1	$0	Yes	-
10-0062-000	Marshall	15849224	38	$48,784	Yes	-
11-0081-000	Marshall	15850222	1	$0	Yes	-
11-0086-000	Marshall	15850223	35	$23,021	Yes	-
11-0087-000	Marshall	15850223	1	$2,238	Yes	-
11-0088-000	Marshall	15850224	23	$14,485	Yes	-
11-0089-000	Marshall	15850224	4	$7,655	Yes	-
11-0090-000	Marshall	15850224	7	$6,785	Yes	-

Parcel Map



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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Tamarac River Enhancement Project - Phase 1

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Tamarac River Enhancement Project - Phase 1
Organization: Marshall County
Manager: Lon Aune

Budget

Requested Amount: $7,876,000
Appropriated Amount: $3,070,000
Percentage: 38.98%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	-	$45,000	-	-	-	0.0%
Contracts	$7,016,000	$200,000	$2,210,000	$78,000	31.5%	39.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	$988,500	-	$50,000	-	5.06%
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$860,000	-	$860,000	-	100.0%	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$7,876,000**	**$1,233,500**	**$3,070,000**	**$128,000**	**38.98%**	**10.38%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Professional services would be completed so final design and permitting would be accomplished for the project. The project construction would be broken into additional phases to complete portions as funding allows.

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Professional services would be completed so final design and permitting would be accomplished for the project. The project construction would be broken into additional phases to complete portions as funding allows.

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

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	145	45	31.03%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$7,876,000	$3,070,000	38.98%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	145	45	31.03%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$7,876,000	$3,070,000	38.98%