Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program - Phase XIX

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/08/2026

Project Title: Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program - Phase XIX

Funds Recommended: $4,750,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Sabin Adams
Title: MN State Coordinator
Organization: Pheasants Forever
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Location Information

County Location(s): Douglas, Renville, Nobles, Brown, Stearns, Meeker, Wilkin, Murray, Carver and Kandiyohi.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

In this phase of Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program, Pheasants Forever (PF) seeks to protect, enhance, and restore wildlife habitat in the prairie, prairie forest transition, and metro regions of Minnesota. Acquired parcels will either be adjacent to or between existing public lands to create larger complexes or corridors for a variety of wildlife species. These properties will be restored to their greatest potential with regard to time and budgets.

Design and Scope of Work

This proposal represents the latest phase of Pheasants Forever's Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area program. The longtime goal of this program is to prevent future loss of wetland and grassland habitat and improve public access in the prairie, forest-prairie transition, and metro regions. This mission helps to expedite goals set out by the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan (MPCP), and Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years plan. Concurrently, this proposal achieves three priority actions set by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council's Ecological Vision and Priorities as part of its FY2026/ML2025 Call for Funding. To date we've successfully protected and restored over 17,000 acres of priority wildlife habitat and wish to protect additional acres under this phase.

When selecting parcels for acquisition, PF and the MN DNR will approach willing sellers who often wish to leave their conservation legacy by providing wildlife habitat for all Minnesotans to enjoy. Factors considered when prioritizing parcels include location relative to other public land complexes, corridors, and habitat priority areas. Breeding waterfowl density, restoration potential, and the presence of threatened or endangered (T/E) species or species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) as identified by surveys such as the Minnesota Biological Survey are also parameters considered when evaluating the value of parcels. Criteria used to develop the potential project list including: 1) Does the parcel contain habitat restoration potential that will result in an increase in wildlife populations? 2) Does the parcel build upon existing investments in public and private land habitat (landscape scale significance)? 3) Does the parcel contain significant natural communities, or will it protect or buffer significant natural communities? 4) Does the parcel have the potential and focus for habitat protection and restoration in the future? 5) Does the parcel provide multiple benefits (recreation, access, water control, water quality, wellhead protection, riparian protection, local community support, etc.)? Upon purchase, PF and the MN DNR will work together to create a plan that ensures habitat is restored to the highest quality as funds and time allow. Plans may include farming current cropland for 1-2 years to mitigate any herbicide present in the soil or manage non-native species, planting high-diversity native seed mixes, restoring drained wetlands, and removing invasive trees when appropriate. Tracts will ultimately be transferred to the MN DNR to be enrolled in the Wildlife Management Area program or held as an HMA by PF (in which case the property will be permanently protected by PF or transferred to another agency to hold in perpetuity). In both cases, tracts will be open to the public to be used in accordance with state law.

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

Pheasants Forever works closely with the MN DNR and other partners to identify priority areas and habitat to protect in the prairie, forest/prairie transition, and the metro areas. This is done using up to date GIS data provided by the DNR and the USFWS that identify areas where rare, T/E, and SGCN are present. Priority is given to areas that will directly benefit rare, T/E, or SGCN. Tracts that provide the most wildlife benefit are often close to or directly adjacent to large complexes. This is a function of complex size and lack of habitat fragmentation, and landscape characteristics that are necessary for priority species. Providing additional and/or protecting current habitats aid in population expansion and stabilization for sensitive species in the area.

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

These funds will not be available for use, from the time of writing this proposal, until July 2027. Because of this we cannot know what time sensitive projects we will pursue. Any potential seller in May 2026 will almost certainly have moved on by July 2027. Properties with incredible habitat value are coming on and off the market in weeks or months, not years. In order to seize these time sensitive opportunities it is critical that this funding be utilized in a programmatic way allowing older grant funds to be spent on the most appropriate and time sensitive opportunities. In July of 2027 there will be incredibly important and time sensitive properties for sale and this funding will allow us to acquire those properties.

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

Proximity to and position relative to habitat corridors and complexes are part of our criteria when selecting tracts to purchase. Our partnership utilizes the latest geospatial data to inform decisions related to an acquisitions potential for increasing an existing complex size, adding another "stepping stone" to a corridor, and it's ability to reduce the impact of habitat fragmentation. Most often, highly sought after tracts meet one of these three characteristics as they provide the most benefit for fish and wildlife, reduce cost of future management (as a function of proximity), and provide high-quality areas for the public to enjoy.

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

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

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

Metro / Urban

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

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:

Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands ~ *Parcels that increase the functionality of existing habitat will be acquired and restored to functioning wetlands with diverse upland prairie to serve as habitat for pollinators, resident and migratory game and non-game species. Outcomes will be measured by overall acres protected in prairie core areas or acres added to complexes. Lands will be transferred to the state as a WMA to provide accelerated wildlife habitat and public access, monitored by Minnesota DNR. Protected and restored acres will be measured against goals outlined in the "Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years" and the Minnesota Pheasant Action Plan.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Protected habitats will hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting ~ *Parcels that increase the functionality of existing habitat will be acquired and restored to functioning wetlands with diverse upland prairie to serve as habitat for pollinators, resident and migratory game and non-game species. Lands will be transferred to the state as a WMA to provide accelerated wildlife habitat and public access, monitored by Minnesota DNR. Outcomes (restoration and protected acres) will be measured against goals outlined in the "Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years" and the Minnesota Pheasant Action Plan 2025-2030.*

Programs in prairie region:

Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife ~ *Parcels that increase the functionality of existing habitat will be acquired and restored to functioning wetlands with diverse upland prairie to serve as habitat for pollinators, resident and migratory game and non-game species. Lands will be transferred to the state as a WMA to provide accelerated wildlife habitat and public access, monitored by Minnesota DNR. Protected and restored acres will be measured against goals outlined in the "Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years" and the Minnesota Pheasant Action Plan 2025-2030.*

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 supplements past investments and is aimed at accelerating the protection and restoration of strategic parcels.

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

Lands purchased to be donated to the state Wildlife Management Area system will be managed in perpetuity by the Minnesota DNR. All lands purchased as Pheasants Forever HMA's will have a deposit made into PF's Forever Stewardship Fund to pay for holding costs. All acquisitions will be restored to as high-quality habitat as practicable. In addition, our local PF chapter members and volunteers maintain a high interest in seeing the habitat and productivity of acquired parcels. They have a long history of providing sweat equity on PF owned parcels. PF and partners will develop an ecological restoration and management plan for each parcel. Grant and partner dollars will also be used for the initial site development and restoration/enhancement work.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Post Transfer	State of MN	Monitoring	Maintenance	Habitat Managment

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

The goal of this program is to protect and restore wildlife habitat and make these areas accessible to all Minnesotans, regardless of cultural background or fiscal standing. Properties acquired under this program will be free and open to access by all. These properties can be recreated on by all levels of income from free hiking/wildlife watching to expensive hunting practices. This program spans all of the Prairie, Forest-Prairie, and Metro regions. Some acquisitions will be nearby areas with diverse or low-income communities. This program engages with everyone who wants to participate in public lands and the outdoors.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:
At a minimum PF and/or MN DNR will notify local government in writing of the intent to acquire and donate lands to the state and follow up with questions prior to acquisition. In cases where there is interest, we will also indicate our willingness to attend or ask to attend county or township meetings to communicate our interest in the projects and seek support.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?
No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:
A limited number of the parcels may have a federal or state easement on a portion of the tract which provides permanent protection for wetlands or grasslands. If a parcel has one of these encumbrances, and is still deemed a high priority by the partnership, we will follow guidance established by the Outdoor Heritage Fund to proceed, or use non-state funding to acquire the residual value of the protected portion of the property.

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
This proposal may include initial development plans or restoration plans to utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest to prepare the seedbed for native seed planting. In these restorations, PF's policy is to use non neonicotinoid treated

seed and no herbicides other than glyphosate. On a small percentage of WMAs DNR Area Wildlife Managers may choose to create a food plot to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources. There are no immediate plans to use farming for winter food on any of the parcels in this proposal.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
There will be no variation from the State of Minnesota regulations.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

NGO

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

Other : Pheasants Forever Habitat Management Area

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
4

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

All acquired parcels will be restored with funds from the contracts and materials lines of the budget.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Complete restoration	6/30/2035
Close on tracts	1/1/2031
Contract appraisals ordered	4/1/2028
Purchase agreements	9/1/2028
Re-evaluate tract priority	2/14/2028
Purchase agreements	2/1/2028
Contract appraisals ordered	9/1/2027
Identify priority acquisitions	7/1/2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 06/30/2035

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	$263,100	-	-	$263,100
Contracts	$650,200	-	-	$650,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$3,000,800	$595,400	PF, Federal, Private	$3,596,200
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$250,100	-	-	$250,100
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$1,800	-	-	$1,800
Professional Services	$174,200	-	-	$174,200
Direct Support Services	$105,500	$92,300	PF	$197,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$90,000	-	-	$90,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$139,300	-	-	$139,300
DNR IDP	$75,000	-	-	$75,000
Grand Total	**$4,750,000**	**$687,700**	**-**	**$5,437,700**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF GRANT STAFF	0.1	5.0	$13,000	-	-	$13,000
PF FIELD STAFF	1.85	5.0	$250,100	-	-	$250,100

Amount of Request: $4,750,000
Amount of Leverage: $687,700
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 14.48%
DSS + Personnel: $368,600
As a % of the total request: 7.76%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
All line items are prorated

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Leverage is expected from multiple sources including but not limited to federal sources, land value donations, contractor donations and PF. Not every source is 100% confirmed at this point. However, PF has an exemplary track record of delivery and over-achievement of match commitments that further stretch OHF funding.

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?
If this project is reduced by 50% we would scale down all acres/activities and dollar amounts proportionately.

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

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
We anticipate all of the contract funding will be used for restoration, enhancement, and initial development of the protected acres. This could include but is not limited to wetland/grassland restoration, tree removal, prescribed fire, building removal, posts, signs, and other development.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
The proposed budget accounts for approximately 12 fee title acquisition transactions.

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?

PF utilizes the Total Modified Direct Cost method. This methodology is annually approved by the U.S. Department of Interior's National Business Center as the basis for the organization's Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. PF's allowable direct support services cost is 15%. In this proposal, PF has discounted its rate to 8% of the sum of personnel, contracts, professional services, and travel. We are donating the difference-in-kind.

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?

7/1/2029

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	42	385	-	-	427
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	3	32	-	-	35
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**45**	**417**	**-**	**-**	**462**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$438,500	$3,946,200	-	-	$4,384,700
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$36,500	$328,800	-	-	$365,300
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$475,000**	**$4,275,000**	**-**	**-**	**$4,750,000**

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	42	128	-	257	-	427
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	3	10	-	22	-	35
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**45**	**138**	**-**	**279**	**-**	**462**

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	$438,500	$1,315,400	-	$2,630,800	-	$4,384,700
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$36,500	$109,600	-	$219,200	-	$365,300
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$475,000**	**$1,425,000**	**-**	**$2,850,000**	**-**	**$4,750,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$10,440	$10,249	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$12,166	$10,275	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$10,440	$10,276	-	$10,236	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$12,166	$10,960	-	$9,963	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

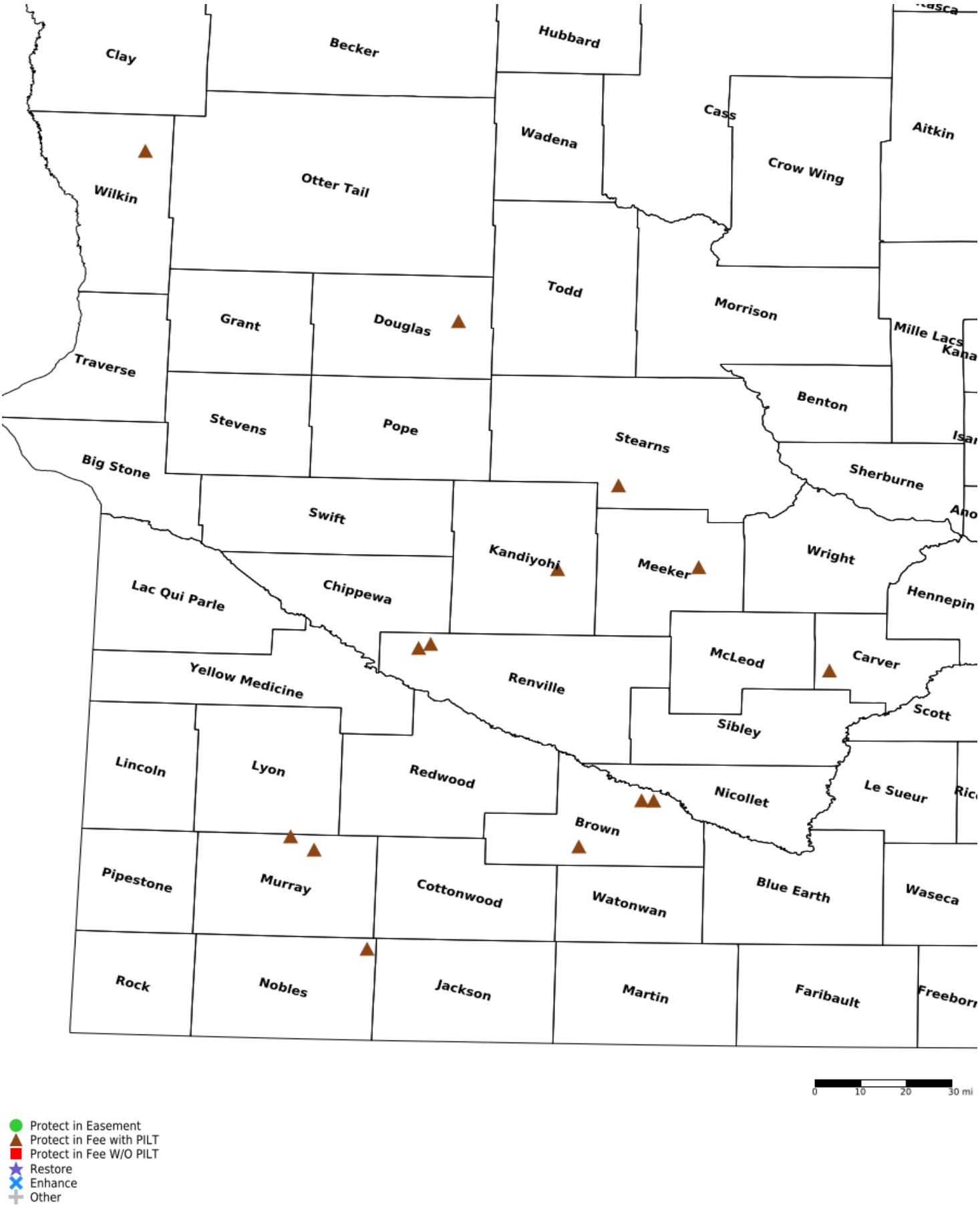
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Parcels are identified and strategically prioritized using the best science and decision support tools (e.g. HAPET Thunderstorm Maps) available. Preference is given to project sites that help deliver the goals of other recognized conservation initiatives and plans. Data layers (i.e. MN Biological Survey, Natural Heritage Database, MN Prairie Plan, Wellhead Protection Areas, Pheasant Action Plan, existing protected land, etc.) are used to help justify projects and focus areas as well as to inform decisions on top priorities for protection and restoration efforts.

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Middle Creek WMA Addn	Brown	10833210	60	$230,000	No
Rosenau-Lambrecht WMA Addn	Brown	11031215	28	$380,500	No
Rosenau-Lambrecht WMA Addn	Brown	11031217	15	$135,000	No
Tiger Marsh WMA Addn	Carver	11526209	29	$145,000	No
Belle River WMA Addn	Douglas	12936230	124	$1,057,400	No
Yohi WMA Addn	Kandiyohi	11934213	78	$709,000	No
Powers Lake WMA ADDN	Meeker	11930211	200	$1,400,000	No
Shetek Inlet WMA Addn	Murray	10841203	240	$2,160,000	No
Shetek WMA Addn	Murray	10840220	450	$5,000,000	No
Kinbrae WMA Addn	Nobles	10439214	76	$864,000	No
Chetomba Creek WMA Addn	Renville	11637216	80	$840,000	No
Rosaasen Slough WMA Addn	Renville	11637219	40	$165,000	No
Partners WMA Addn	Stearns	12232203	79	$550,830	No
Rothsay WMA Addn	Wilkin	13545217	404	$1,400,000	No

Parcel Map


Clay
Becker
Hubbard
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Wadena
Cass
Crow Wing
Aitkin
Todd
Morrison
Grant
Douglas
Traverse
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Benton
Mille Lacs
Big Stone
Swift
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Sherburne
Wright
Lac Qui Parle
Chippewa
Hennepin
McLeod
Carver
Yellow Medicine
Renville
Sibley
Scott
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Nicollet
Le Sueur
Brown
Pipestone
Murray
Cottonwood
Watonwan
Blue Earth
Waseca
Rock
Nobles
Jackson
Martin
Faribault
0
10
20
30 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program - Phase XIX

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program - Phase XIX
Organization: Pheasants Forever
Manager: Sabin Adams

Budget

Requested Amount: $15,955,500
Appropriated Amount: $4,750,000
Percentage: 29.77%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$883,800	-	$263,100	-	29.77%	-
Contracts	$2,184,000	-	$650,200	-	29.77%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$10,080,000	$2,000,000	$3,000,800	$595,400	29.77%	29.77%
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$840,000	-	$250,100	-	29.77%	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$6,000	-	$1,800	-	30.0%	-
Professional Services	$585,000	-	$174,200	-	29.78%	-
Direct Support Services	$354,300	$310,000	$105,500	$92,300	29.78%	29.77%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$302,400	-	$90,000	-	29.76%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$468,000	-	$139,300	-	29.76%	-
DNR IDP	$252,000	-	$75,000	-	29.76%	-
Grand Total	**$15,955,500**	**$2,310,000**	**$4,750,000**	**$687,700**	**29.77%**	**29.77%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If this project is reduced by 50% we would scale down all acres/activities and dollar amounts proportionately.

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If this project is reduced by 70% we would scale down all acres/activities and dollar amounts proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS will be scaled down 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	1,440	427	29.65%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	120	35	29.17%
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$14,728,100	$4,384,700	29.77%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$1,227,400	$365,300	29.76%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	1,440	427	29.65%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	120	35	29.17%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$14,728,100	$4,384,700	29.77%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$1,227,400	$365,300	29.76%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection-Phase IX

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/26/2026

Project Title: DNR Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection-Phase IX

Funds Recommended: $1,291,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Judy Elbert
Title: Statewide Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) Unit Supervisor
Organization: MN-DNR
Address: 500 Lafayette Road
City: St. Paul, MN 55155
Email: judy.elbert@state.mn.us
Office Number: 651-391-3168
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: dnr.state.mn.us/snap/prairiebank.html

Location Information

County Location(s): .

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Southeast Forest

Prairie

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

Native Prairie Bank will work with willing landowners to permanently protect 180 acres of native prairie and supporting habitat through perpetual conservation easements. Easement acquisition will focus on the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan and Wildlife Action Plan identified landscapes and target Minnesota Biological Survey-identified threatened and endangered plant and animal species, high-quality native plant communities, and key habitats for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and other wildlife species.

Design and Scope of Work

Prairies are recognized as one of the most threatened ecosystems in North America and temperate grasslands as one of the most endangered in the world. Tallgrass prairie, savanna, and barren communities have declined by more than 98% nationwide. This proposal aims to permanently protect 180 acres of native prairie habitat through the acquisition of Native Prairie Bank conservation easements.

Native prairie is a fragile, unique natural ecosystem consisting of thousands of different organisms, plants, animals, bacteria, and soil fungi developed over thousands of years. These complex systems serve as critical habitat for a disproportionate number of rare species. In Minnesota, 41% of the state's rare species are associated with native prairie, even though native prairie comprises less than 0.5% of the land area. Native prairies provide a multitude of benefits to the people of the state, such as water filtration and recharge, carbon sequestration, soil health, erosion control, and outdoor recreation. High-quality native prairies offer the highest tier of habitat for grassland-dependent pollinators, birds, and animals. Despite decades of advancement, contemporary grassland restoration efforts still fall short of the diversity and habitat quality provided by native prairies.

Approximately 250,000 acres (1.3%) of Minnesota's original native prairie still exists, with nearly half remaining unprotected, with the vast majority occurring on privately-owned land. Threats to native prairie continue to be widespread, including cropland conversion, industrial activity, development, invasive/woody encroachment, and non-prairie-focused land use.

To recognize that grassland and wetland protection is one of the most critical conservation actions needed, leading conservation organizations came together to develop the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan (Prairie Plan). Several outcomes are identified in the plan, one being the protection of all remaining native prairie, largely through conservation easements. One of the primary easement tools for native prairie protection in Minnesota is the DNR-administered Native Prairie Bank easement.

Native Prairie Bank, established by the 1987 legislature as a tool to protect native prairie in a long-term "bank", authorizes the state to acquire conservation easements from willing landowners. To date, 183 Native Prairie Banks protect more than 15,700 acres. Native Prairie Bank targets the protection of native prairie tracts and can also include adjoining lands as buffers and additional habitat.

Tracts eligible for Native Prairie Bank are prioritized based on several scientific factors, including:

1) Size and quality of habitat, focusing on diverse native prairie documented by the Minnesota Biological Survey.

2) Occurrence of endangered, threatened, or special concern species, or suitability of habitat for Species in Greatest Conservation Need.

3) Lands that are part of the Prairie Plan and Wildlife Action Plan-identified landscapes

Native Prairie Banks provide permanent protection to native prairies by placing restrictions on future land use and granting the DNR the right to monitor and implement prairie enhancement projects. The Native Prairie Bank program coordinates with Prairie Plan partners and utilizes the network of established Local Technical Teams (local staff from SWCDs, NRCS, USFWS, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, etc.) to reach out to landowners and increase enrollment.

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

This proposal will result in the permanent protection of 180 acres of land containing high-quality native prairie using Native Prairie Bank easements. The Native Prairie Bank program prioritizes outreach to landowners of sites identified as native prairie by the Minnesota Biological Survey. The program also prioritizes lands that contain documented occurrences of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and other rare plant and animal species associated with prairie habitats. Native prairies support a disproportionately high number of rare species in Minnesota. Approximately 41% of Minnesota's rare species are associated with native prairie, even though native prairie comprises less than one-half of one percent of the state's land area. Additionally, according to the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan (formally known as Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare), there are 89 Species of Greatest Conservation Need that occur in the prairie region of the state.

Each native prairie protected through this proposal will typically support several Species in Greatest Conservation Need. SGCNs found on native prairies include but are not limited to white-tailed jackrabbit, American badger, northern pintail, short-eared owl, Henslow's sparrow, upland sandpiper, sedge wren, marbled godwit, western meadowlark, greater-prairie chicken, Blanding's turtle, Great Plains toad, plains hog-nosed snake, gophersnake, common five-lined skink, and many other species of spiders, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, beetles, and bees.

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

Only a small fraction of Minnesota's original 18 million acres of native prairie still exist. These remaining native prairies are critically imperiled and at high risk of significant degradation and loss due to invasive species, woody encroachment, development, mineral extraction, cropland conversion, and lack of prairie-oriented management.

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan indicates that habitat-related stressors are a predominant stressor for 70% of Species in Greatest Conservation Need (241 of the 346 species), with habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation being top concerns. Multiple research studies show a direct correlation between declining grassland habitat and declining grassland wildlife populations further indicating that the current trajectory of grassland and prairie loss will increase the pressure and stress we are placing on grassland-dependent wildlife.

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

The Native Prairie Bank program scores and selects easement projects based on criteria including: 1) the diversity and quality of native prairie habitat as ranked by the Minnesota Biological Survey, 2) size of the prairie, 3) the

occurrence of or suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species and Species in Greatest Conservation Need, 4) location relative to other native prairie or protected lands (including Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan and Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan priority areas), 5) potential for long-term management and enhancement, and 6) other factors that would ensure long-term benefits and sustainability for Minnesota's critical wildlife species. Native Prairie Bank's numerical scoring and selection process prioritizes parcels that build on existing habitat complexes, avoids fragmentation, and targets Minnesota Biological Survey priority plant communities and areas of biodiversity significance. Please see the Native Prairie Bank scoring criteria uploaded as part of this proposal.

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?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

Prairie

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

Southeast Forest

Protect, enhance, and restore remnant goat prairies

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands ~ *Acres of native prairie protected ensuring grassland habitat for upland birds*
Acres protected within Prairie Plan Core, Corridors, and Strategic Habitat Complexes
Average size of protected complex

Programs in prairie region:

Remnant native prairies and wetlands are perpetually protected and adequately buffered ~ *Acres of native prairie protected ensuring grassland habitat for upland birds*
Acres protected within Prairie Plan Core, Corridors, and Strategic Habitat Complexes
Average size of protected complex

Programs in southeast forest region:

Remnant goat prairies are perpetually protected ~ *Acres of native prairie protected*

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 accelerates Native Prairie Bank protection to a level not attainable but for the appropriation. Prior to receiving OHF, Native Prairie Bank protected an average of 328 acres/year. Since receiving OHF, Native Prairie Bank protects an average of 523 acres/year, almost doubling the rate of acquisition.

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

DNR's Conservation Easement Stewardship policy is to protect both the conservation values of the protected property and the state's investment in those interests. Stewardship elements include baseline property report creation, enforcement protocols, regular compliance monitoring, effective record keeping and reporting, and maintaining good working relationships with the easement landowners. Native Prairie Bank implements this policy by following DNR Operational Order 128 "Conservation Easement Stewardship" along with the "Ecological and Water Resources Division Conservation Easement Stewardship Plan and Guidelines", which call for annual landowner contact as well as on-the-ground monitoring once every three years. If a violation is found, annual site visits (or more frequently) are conducted until the violation is rectified. Budgeted into this proposal is funding to deposit into an account dedicated to the perpetual monitoring and enforcement of Native Prairie Bank easements acquired under this proposal.

Native Prairie Bank staff in partnership with the landowner will actively seek funding to execute the best on-going prairie management activities. These management activities, such as prescribed burning, invasive species control, woody control, etc., will be completed when feasible through a variety of funding sources.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
On-Going	Variety of Funding Sources (Landowner, ENRTF, OHF, Game & Fish, USDA Programs, etc.)	Native Prairie Bank staff in partnership with the landowner will actively seek funding to execute the best on-going prairie management activities. These management activities, such as prescribed burning, invasive species control, woody control, etc., will be completed when feasible.	-	-

Perpetually/Annually	Interest derived from dedicated Conservation Easement Stewardship Account established with this appropriation.	Ongoing landowner partnership, monitoring, reporting and easement stewardship as laid out in DNR Operational Order 128 and the Division of Ecological and Water Resources Conservation Easement Stewardship Division Guidelines.	-	-
FY28-35	OHF	As needed, restore any cropped acres present at time of acquisition to local-ecotype native prairie seed (estimated 5 acres).	-	-
FY28-31	OHF	Develop Baseline Property Report to be signed by both the landowner and DNR at time of closing.	Once easement closes, transfer funds to dedicated Conservation Easement Stewardship Account per OHF appropriation and accomplishment plan for long-term easement stewardship.	-

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

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. This project will benefit all communities throughout the entire state of Minnesota by permanently protecting ecosystem services that provide clean drinking water, productive habitat, clean air, carbon sequestration, and sedimentation/erosion control.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
The easement will be managed through a partnership of the Minnesota DNR, the landowner, and other conservation partners.

Who will be the easement holder?
The easement holder will be the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) Unit (Native Prairie Bank (NPB) Program).

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
We anticipate 4-5 easements will be acquired.

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

Will the eased land be open for public use?
No

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

> Minimal cropland acres (estimated 5 acres or less) may be acquired to "square up" or straighten the boundary lines of the native prairie parcels. These cropland acres would be restored to local-ecotype native prairie seed prior to the end of this appropriation.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Restore approximately 5 acres of prairie (inclusion cropped acres acquired with these funds)	06/30/2035
Enroll 180 acres of Native Prairie Bank Easements	06/30/2031

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2035

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	$145,000	-	-	$145,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$900,000	-	-	$900,000
Easement Stewardship	$100,000	-	-	$100,000
Travel	$22,800	-	-	$22,800
Professional Services	$100,000	-	-	$100,000
Direct Support Services	$20,200	-	-	$20,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,291,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,291,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Natural Resource Laborers/Student Workers	0.03	4.0	$10,000	-	-	$10,000
Natural Resource Specialist/Technician	0.31	4.0	$110,000	-	-	$110,000
Project/Acquisition Coordinators	0.05	4.0	$25,000	-	-	$25,000

Amount of Request: $1,291,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $165,200
As a % of the total request: 12.8%
Easement Stewardship: $100,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 11.11%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The Prairie Bank Program will accommodate the appropriation recommendation by proportionally reducing the target goal from protecting 500 acres down to 180 acres. $1,291,000 is approximately 36% of the original request of $3,575,000, therefore 180 acres is 36% of the original goal of 500 acres.

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?
This project is scalable and can be proportionately cut in most circumstances. Essentially, less funding allocated would mean less native prairie acres protected. There are efficiencies with acquiring more acres at one time, especially if neighboring sites can be coordinated together for landowner meetings, site visits, survey activities, etc.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel could be proportionately adjusted. DSS would be recalculated using DNR's Direct and Necessary Calculator to take into account the overall reduction in the budget, at 70% budget reduction, it appears DSS would recalculate to an approximately 65% reduction.

Personnel

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

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
Four to five easements are anticipated with $20,000-$25,000 per easement budgeted into this accomplishment plan for long-term stewardship. For each specific Native Prairie Bank easement, initial investment dollars are determined by using a DNR approved Conservation Easement Stewardship Calculator, which estimates the annual stewardship expenses and the investment needed to generate annual income sufficient to cover these expenses in perpetuity. Only the calculated amount, no more, will be invested. These dollars once deposited into the DNR's Conservation Easement Stewardship Account are dedicated to the perpetual monitoring and enforcement of conservation easements. The dedicated stewardship funds will provide the support needed for long-term, ongoing monitoring and minor enforcement activities of Native Prairie Bank easements acquired under this proposal.

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
Most DNR activities tied to this proposal, such as boundary posting, seed harvest, planting, weed control, etc. will require the use of DNR fleet equipment which has standard costs tied to the amount of usage needed. An estimated 70% of the travel costs will go to necessary traditional travel and 30% will go towards equipment costs.

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 DNR Direct & Necessary Cost Calculator was used to determine Direct Support Service costs. DNR's Direct & Necessary Costs ($20,221) pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated projects and calculated based on the specific demands of this project. Direct and necessary costs cover HR support ($3,784), Safety Support ($496), Financial Support ($2,053), Communication support ($2,086), IT Support ($10,259) and Planning Support ($1,543).

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	-	180	-	-	180
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**180**	**-**	**-**	**180**

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	150
Enhance	-
Total	**150**

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	-	$1,291,000	-	-	$1,291,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**$1,291,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,291,000**

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	-	35	5	140	-	180
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**35**	**5**	**140**	**-**	**180**

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	-	$251,100	$35,800	$1,004,100	-	$1,291,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**$251,100**	**$35,800**	**$1,004,100**	**-**	**$1,291,000**

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	-	$7,172	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	$7,174	$7,160	$7,172	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

Parcels

Parcel Information

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

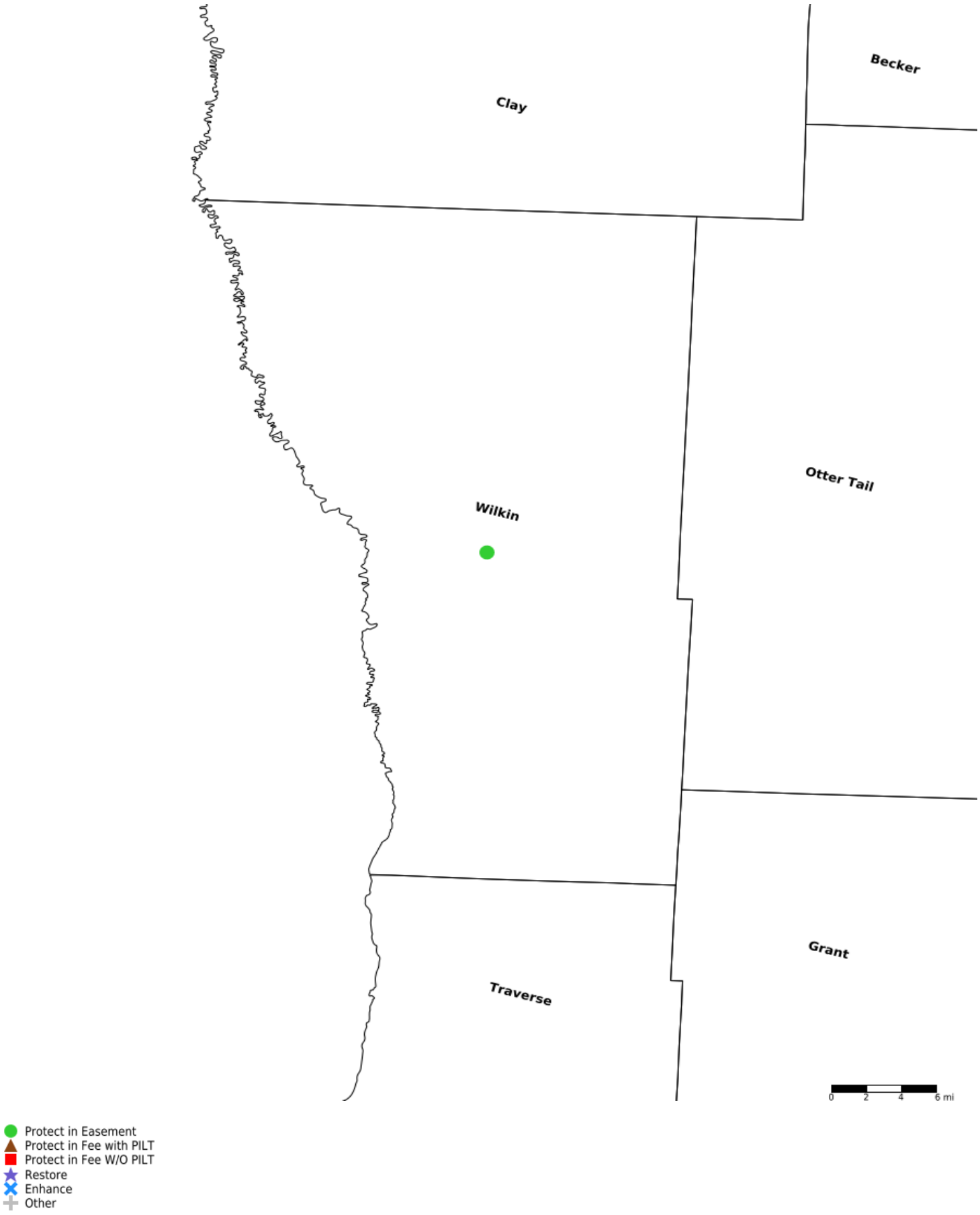
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Native Prairie Bank easements acquired through this proposal will be ranked and prioritized through the Native Prairie Bank acquisition evaluation process, which includes emphasis given to parcels within Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan and Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan identified landscapes.

The Native Prairie Bank acquisition evaluation process requires that each potential site be scored and selected based on criteria including, the diversity and quality of native prairie habitat as ranked by the Minnesota Biological Survey, size of the prairie, occurrence of or suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species and Species in Greatest Conservation Need, location relative to other native prairie or protected lands (includes Prairie Plan and Wildlife Action Plan target landscapes), potential for long-term management and other factors that would insure long-term benefits and sustainability for Minnesota's critical wildlife species. Native Prairie Bank's numerical scoring and prioritization process ensures that only the top-ranked prairie parcels are acquired. Please see the Native Prairie Bank scoring criteria uploaded as part of this proposal for detailed scoring information.

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Conservation easement acquisition will target protection of the last of Minnesota's high-quality remnant prairies with priority given to parcels in MN Prairie Conservation Plan and Wildlife Action Plan priority areas (please see attached map for more details). Specific parcels will be added to the parcel list as selected through the evaluation and ranking process described above.	-	13346221	180	$3,575,000	No

Parcel Map


Clay
Becker
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Traverse
Grant
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 Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection-Phase IX

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - DNR Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection-Phase IX
Organization: MN-DNR
Manager: Judy Elbert

Budget

Requested Amount: $3,575,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,291,000
Percentage: 36.11%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$400,000	-	$145,000	-	36.25%	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$2,500,000	-	$900,000	-	36.0%	-
Easement Stewardship	$250,000	-	$100,000	-	40.0%	-
Travel	$63,200	-	$22,800	-	36.08%	-
Professional Services	$300,000	-	$100,000	-	33.33%	-
Direct Support Services	$51,800	-	$20,200	-	39.0%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$10,000	-	$3,000	-	30.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,575,000**	**-**	**$1,291,000**	**-**	**36.11%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This project is scalable and can be proportionately cut in most circumstances. Essentially, less funding allocated would mean less native prairie acres protected. There are efficiencies with acquiring more acres at one time, especially if neighboring sites can be coordinated together for landowner meetings, site visits, survey activities, etc.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel could be proportionately adjusted. DSS would be recalculated using DNR's Direct and Necessary Calculator to take into account the overall reduction in the budget, at 50% budget reduction, it appears DSS would recalculate to an approximately 46% reduction.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This project is scalable and can be proportionately cut in most circumstances. Essentially, less funding allocated would mean less native prairie acres protected. There are efficiencies with acquiring more acres at one time, especially if neighboring sites can be coordinated together for landowner meetings, site visits, survey activities, etc.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel could be proportionately adjusted. DSS would be recalculated using DNR's Direct and Necessary Calculator to take into account the overall reduction in the budget, at 70% budget reduction, it appears DSS would recalculate to an approximately 65% reduction.

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	500	180	36.0%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$3,575,000	$1,291,000	36.11%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	500	180	36.0%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$3,575,000	$1,291,000	36.11%
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition, Phase XIV

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/06/2026

Project Title: DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition, Phase XIV

Funds Recommended: $3,375,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jeff Tillma
Title: Division of Fish and WIldlife Acqusition Coordinator
Organization: DNR
Address: 1201 E. Hwy 2
City: Grand rapids, MN 55744
Email: jeff.tillma@state.mn.us
Office Number: 218-328-8834
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Fillmore, Lincoln, Faribault, Jackson, Otter Tail, Chippewa and Yellow Medicine.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

Acquire approximately 300 acres of high priority habitat for designation as Wildlife Management Area or Scientific and Natural Area in the LSOHC Prairie Planning Section emphasizing Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Conservation That Works 3.0, WMA and AMA Acquisition & Management Strategic Plan and SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan with priority given to sites of high and outstanding biodiversity significance by the Minnesota Biological Survey. All lands will be open for public hunting and fishing (a limited number of SNA's are proposed for limited hunting for instance archery only or hunting but no trapping).

Design and Scope of Work

Approximately 300 acres of wildlife habitat will be protected through fee title acquisition and development as Wildlife Management Areas or Scientific & Natural Areas. While the state cannot promise leverage or match without first having funding appropriated, previous Outdoor Heritage appropriations to DNR for WMA and SNA acquisitions have been leveraged through donations, Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match, and Surcharge (a $6.50 surcharge on small game license sales).

Wildlife Management Areas. WMAs protect lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and provide for public hunting, fishing and trapping, wildlife viewing, hiking and other compatible outdoor recreation. While highly successful, the current WMA system does not meet all present and future needs for wildlife habitat, wildlife population management, hunter access and wildlife related recreation. This is notably true in the LSOHC Prairie Planning Section where public ownership in many counties is less than 5 percent. DNR Section of Wildlife uses a GIS-based tools to identify the highest priority tracts for potential WMA acquisitions. This quantitative approach scores and ranks acquisition proposals based on a set of weighted criteria and creates a standardized method for evaluating proposed acquisitions on a statewide level. Criteria are periodically reviewed and adapted to changing priorities.

Scientific & Natural Areas. The SNA Program will increase public hunting and fishing opportunities while protecting sites with outstanding natural values. Protection is targeted at high priority areas identified in the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan with emphasis on prairie core areas identified in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan. A quantitative system scores and ranks acquisition proposals based on a weighted set of six criteria. Priority is given to sites of high and outstanding biodiversity significance by the Minnesota Biological Survey, high quality native plant communities and habitat for endangered and threatened species. Larger parcels which adjoin other conservation lands, improve habitat management, are under imminent threat and are partially donated are also rated highly.

DNR strategic acquisition priorities include, but are not limited to, protection of:
- Prairies, Grasslands, and associated Wetlands
- Existing, high quality significant or rare natural resources
- Water resources
- Critical pollinator habitat essential for native species and agricultural crops
- Large blocks of habitat or natural intact communities, that improve riparian and terrestrial connectivity or maintain ecosystem services through protection of climate resilient, high biodiversity areas.

Potential acquisition opportunities from willing sellers are coordinated with stakeholders and partners to eliminate duplication and identify concerns and support. Properties acquired through this appropriation require County Board of Commissioners' written approval in the county of acquisition, will be designated as WMA or SNA

through a Commissioner's Designation Order, brought up to minimum DNR standards, and listed on the DNR website. Basic site improvements will include boundary and LSOHC acknowledgement signs and may include any necessary site cleanup, habitat restoration and parcel initial development.

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

Potential acquisitions for WMAs and SNAs are objectively scored for their wildlife habitat value. The DNR uses weighted criteria and prioritizes high scoring parcels for acquisition. For example, candidates for WMAs score higher with a prairie grouse lek, in a pheasant habitat complex, presence of shallow lakes, and occurrence of deer wintering areas; candidates for WMAs and SNAs score higher which contain threatened, endangered, and other rare species and species of greatest conservation need and protect high quality native plant communities which support wildlife.

Native plant communities with exceptional value as wildlife habitat proposed for protection through this proposal include Southern dry prairie, dry sand-gravel prairie, mesic prairie, dry hill prairie, mesic brush prairie, wet seepage prairie, and other priority plant communities.

The following species in greatest conservation need and rare species targeted in this proposal include but are not limited to: mammals– white-tailed jackrabbit, prairie vole, harvest mouse, northern grasshopper mouse, and western harvest mouse; birds – bobolink, grasshopper sparrow, oven bird, chestnut-collared longspur (endangered), upland sandpiper, American bittern, marbled godwit, Nelson's sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, black-throated blue warbler, red-shouldered hawk, Loggerhead shrike, cerulean warbler; reptiles/amphibians - wood turtle (threatened) and mudpuppy; Topeka shiner; invertebrates – regal fritillary, Dakota skipper, Iowa Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Pawnee Skipper, Poweshiek skipper, leadplant flowermoth, phlox moth, and plants/trees – small white lady's slipper and Western prairie fringed orchid, slender naiad, butternut.

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

This proposal aims to place under permanent protection key habitat types currently facing a range of urgent threats in Minnesota, from development to degradation.

Minnesota once had millions of acres of native prairie and wetlands as part of prairie grassland/wetland habitat complexes. Today, only a small percentage of those acres remain. And, each year additional acres of grassland and wetland habitat are lost to agriculture, drainage, development, and degradation due to invasive species. Retiring CRP acres further reduce grassland habitat. There is an urgent, and ongoing need to permanently protect what remains of our states grasslands and grassland/wetland habitat complexes.

Landowners interest in selling to DNR fluctuates with the real estate market and we currently have more quality parcels available for purchase than we have funding available and market conditions may change in the future.

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

The DNR uses GIS-based scoring systems to objectively rank potential acquisitions and develop statewide priority lists.

These systems incorporate scientific data giving priority to locations within and that add to: 1) an important habitat corridor or complex (such as identified by the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Pheasant Action Plan,

SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan, and the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan), 2) native plant communities and sites of outstanding and high biodiversity significance mapped by Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), and 3) parcels that adjoin existing units or other conservation lands.

The end result is the prioritization of acquisitions that protect larger blocks of habitat or natural intact communities, improve riparian and terrestrial connectivity or maintain ecosystem services through protection of climate resilient, high biodiversity areas.

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

Minnesota DNR Scientific and Natural Area's Long Range Plan

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

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:

Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife ~ *Acres of grassland/wetland habitat complexes acquired that support upland game birds, migratory waterfowl, big-game, and unique Minnesota species (e.g. endangered, threatened, and special concern species and Species in Greatest Conservation Need). Species lists (and numbers where available) of those species observed or documented.*

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 the DNR WMA and SNA acquisition program work to a level not attainable but for this appropriation.

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

According to WMA/AMA Directive on development standards, WMAs are developed to at least minimum standards within two years of acquisition for facility and habitat development that will provide basic asset preservation, public access and safety, environmental and cultural resource protection and soil and water resource conservation.

Initial development efforts can extend 2-3 years beyond the“minimum standard” time table to establish high quality native plant communities. All new WMA acquisitions require a WMA Initial Development Plan (IDP) be completed by the Area Wildlife Supervisor responsible for land management and approved by the Region.

SNAs have similar standards with site specific work being directed by each site’s Adaptive Management Plan. As part of the state outdoor recreation system, ongoing maintenance will be accomplished through routine management activities accomplished by our network of DNR offices. Periodic enhancements will be accomplished by staff, CCM crews, temporary project staffing, through vendor contract or by volunteers if appropriate.

Long-term management costs (e.g., invasive species treatments, prescribed fire, and monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination funding sources, including, but not limited to the Game and Fish Fund, ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund, federal grants, and small game surcharge.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2031 and beyond	Game and Fish Fund, Surcharge, other	Ongoing management to DNR standards for WMA and SNA units	-	-
2030	Outdoor Heritage, ML27	Boundary survey, parking area development, boundary signs and other sign posting	Additional initial site development	-
2031	Outdoor Heritage, ML27	Initial habitat development, native vegetation established, invasive species control, wetlands restored (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:

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 2020-22 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 county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**
Yes

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?
No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:
Some lands proposed for acquisition may contain a portion of protected land. In these cases, we will seek LSOHC approval, appraise protected acres separately and seek to have that value donated or pay for them using non-OHF funds.

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
WMA's are part of the State's Outdoor Recreation System established by State Statute 86A. Subdivision 8 of that statute defines the purpose of use of WMA's as, " A state wildlife management area shall be established to protect those lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and to develop and manage these lands and waters for the production of wildlife, for public hunting, fishing, and trapping, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses."

To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming on a small percentage of WMA's (<1%) specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife, recreation or reduce crop depredation from neighboring properties in agriculture-dominated landscapes with limited winter food sources.

Commonly planted crops include corn, soybeans, small grains and hay that can include alfalfa or a wildlife mix. Crops are chosen based on a particular wildlife or recreational need and follow crop rotations that adhere to soil health principles. Most food plots occupy a small portion of a particular tract and may include up to 5% of a particular parcel. Percentages are much lower considering the entire WMA system.

We don't have any plans to plant food plots on the parcels currently listed in this proposal. However, future management needs may change or additional parcels may be added later that may include food plots.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
All WMA lands to be acquired will be open for hunting and fishing with no variations from State of Minnesota regulations.

All SNAs acquired with this funding would be open to the most appropriate types of hunting for the particular parcels. Priority will be given to acquiring lands to be open to all hunting, trapping and fishing.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

SNA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
1 to 4

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

All parcels will be restored including prairie and wetland restorations using funds from this appropriation. We may use additional nonLSOHC funds if restoration costs exceed our appropriation budgets.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Develop acquired lands to minimum WMA/SNA standards including signage, parking areas, and native vegetation planting if necessary	6/30/2035
Acquire in fee 300 acres for designation as Wildlife Management Areas and Scientific and Natural Areas	6/30/2031

Date of Final Report Submission: 09/03/2035

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	$20,000	-	-	$20,000
Contracts	$245,000	-	-	$245,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$2,700,000	-	-	$2,700,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$10,000	-	-	$10,000
Professional Services	$80,000	-	-	$80,000
Direct Support Services	$31,700	-	-	$31,700
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$288,300	-	-	$288,300
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,375,000**	**-**	**-**	**$3,375,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
WMA Acquisition Coordinator	0.25	3.0	$20,000	-	-	$20,000

Amount of Request: $3,375,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $51,700
As a % of the total request: 1.53%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Project outputs and budget line items would be reduced proportionately

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?
Project outputs and budget line items (excluding personnel and DSS) would be reduced proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel would not be reduced. DSS would be recalculated to take into account the overall reduction in the budget.

Why?

1) WMA acquisition personnel are at part-time levels
2) DSS is determined by a calculator, not directly proportional to funding

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Includes anticipated needs related to habitat such as prairie and wetland restoration as well as site development to bring newly acquired parcels up to MN DNR WMA/SNA standards.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Title opinions, property and deed taxes, recording fees, and other legal services to secure easements and drainage agreement releases

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
1 to 4

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?

Direct Support Services is determined using the standard DNR Direct & Necessary Cost Calculator. Landowner payments and real estate transaction costs are deleted from the top before other parts of the calculator are applied.

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

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

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	15
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Easement	-
Enhance	-
Total	**15**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	$3,375,000	-	-	$3,375,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**$3,375,000**	**-**	**-**	**$3,375,000**

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	-	-	-	300	-	300
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	$3,375,000	-	$3,375,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,375,000**	**-**	**$3,375,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	$11,250	-	-
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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$11,250	-
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 DNR uses GIS-based scoring systems to objectively rank potential acquisitions and develop state wide priority lists.

These systems incorporate scientific data giving priority to locations within and that add to: 1) an important habitat corridor or complex (such as identified by the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Pheasant Action Plan, SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan, and the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan), 2) native plant communities and sites of outstanding and high biodiversity significance mapped by Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), and 3) parcels that adjoin existing units or other conservation lands.

In addition, scoring takes into account habitat containing endangered, threatened, and other rare species, watershed/wetland qualities as well as habitat management considerations and suitability for public access, hunting and fishing

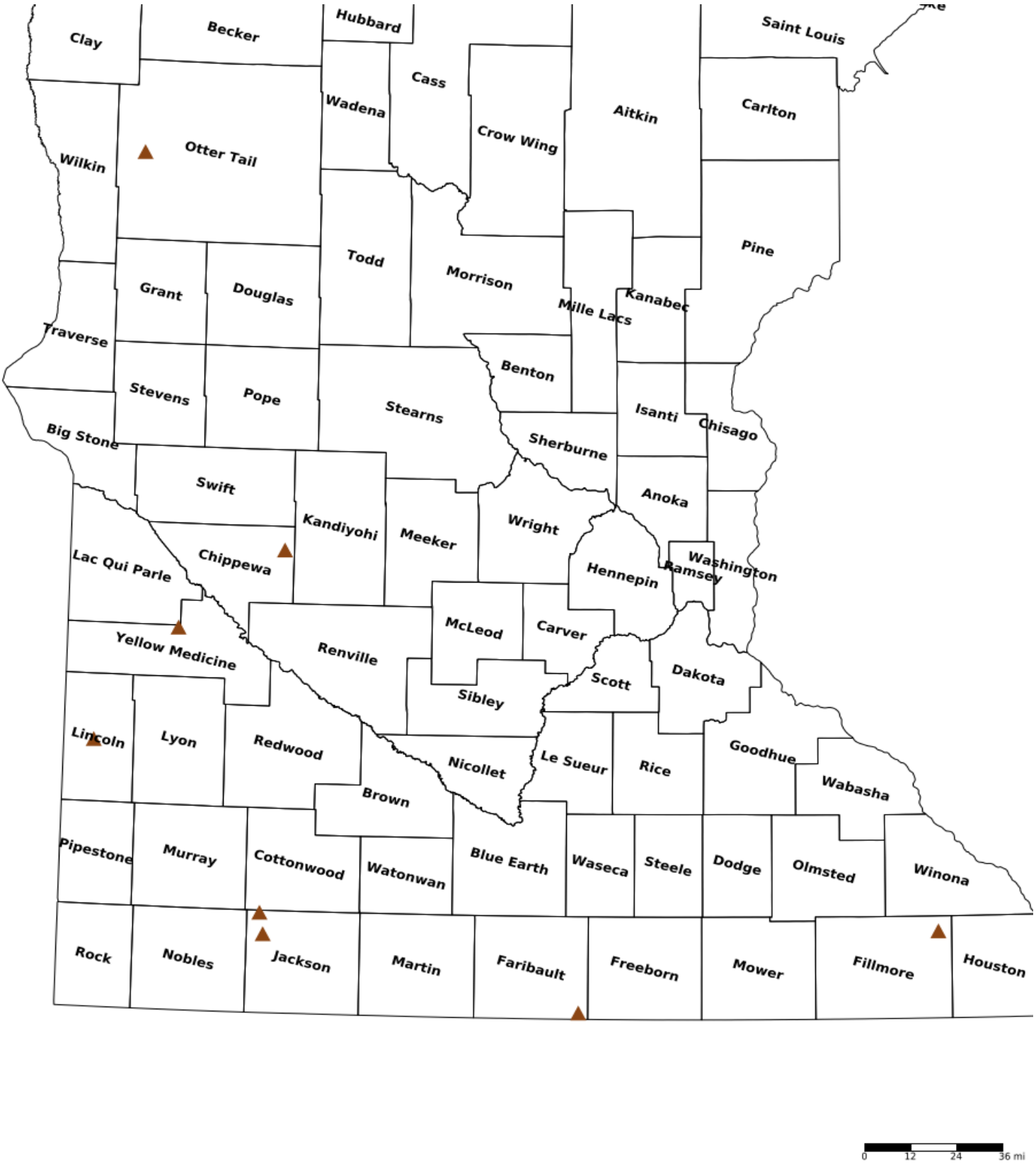
Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Cuka WMA Tract 7	Chippewa	11937234	160	$1,500,000	No
Brush Creek WMA Tract 27	Faribault	10124227	80	$750,000	No
Rushford Sand Barrens SNA	Fillmore	10408221	21	$114,515	No
Cotton Jack WMA Tract 8	Jackson	10438203	79	$550,000	No
Oxbow WMA Tract 22a	Jackson	10438235	197	$1,500,000	No
Herschberger WMA Tract 6	Lincoln	11145220	152	$1,160,000	No
Flinks Slough WMA Tracts 6a & 6C	Yellow Medicine	11542201	180	$1,500,000	No

Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Pelican River WMA Tracts 1-8	Otter Tail	13443220	322	$1,600,000	No	2	$30,000

Parcel Map



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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition, Phase XIV

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition, Phase XIV
Organization: DNR
Manager: Jeff Tillma

Budget

Requested Amount: $10,000,000
Appropriated Amount: $3,375,000
Percentage: 33.75%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$60,000	-	$20,000	-	33.33%	-
Contracts	$650,000	-	$245,000	-	37.69%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$8,100,000	$1,000,000	$2,700,000	-	33.33%	0.0%
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$50,000	-	$10,000	-	20.0%	-
Professional Services	$240,000	-	$80,000	-	33.33%	-
Direct Support Services	$36,600	-	$31,700	-	86.61%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$863,400	-	$288,300	-	33.39%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$10,000,000**	**$1,000,000**	**$3,375,000**	**-**	**33.75%**	**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?
Project outputs and budget line items (excluding personnel and DSS) would be reduced proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel would not be reduced. DSS would be recalculated to take into account the overall reduction in the budget.

Why?

1) WMA acquisition personnel are at part-time levels
2) DSS is determined by a calculator, not directly proportional to funding

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Project outputs and budget line items (excluding personnel and DSS) would be reduced proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel would not be reduced. DSS would be recalculated to take into account the overall reduction in the budget.

Why?

1) WMA acquisition personnel are at part-time levels
2) DSS is determined by a calculator, not directly proportional to 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	900	300	33.33%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$10,000,000	$3,375,000	33.75%
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	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	900	300	33.33%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$10,000,000	$3,375,000	33.75%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Great Prairie Lakes and Wetlands Restoration Initiative
Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/14/2026

Project Title: Great Prairie Lakes and Wetlands Restoration Initiative

Funds Recommended: $1,966,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: John F. Smeltzer
Title: President
Organization: Spirit Lake Protective Association
Address: P.O. Box 51
City: Spirit Lake, IA 51360
Email: Spiritlakeprotective@gmail.com
Office Number:
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: theSLPA.org

Partners Contact

Ducks Unlimited: Jake Chronister - jchronister@ducks.org - (507) 706-1904

Spirit Lake Protective Association: John F. Smeltzer - Spiritlakeprotective@gmail.com -

The Conservation Fund: Stacy Salvevold - ssalvevold@conservationfund.org -

Location Information

County Location(s): Jackson.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

The Great Prairie Lakes and Wetlands Restoration Initiative seeks $4.8 million to protect and restore prairie and wetland habitats in Jackson and Nobles counties, Minnesota. Led by the Spirit Lake Protective Association in partnership with Ducks Unlimited and The Conservation Fund, the project will convert marginal cropland into permanent conservation areas, improving water quality, reducing flooding, and enhancing habitat for fish, wildlife, and threatened species. By strategically expanding habitat complexes and corridors, the initiative aims to create lasting ecological benefits and public recreation opportunities while strengthening watershed resilience.

Design and Scope of Work

The Spirit Lake Protective Association strives to improve the health and resiliency of the great prairie lakes of Southern Minnesota and Northwest Iowa. We aim to do this by protecting and restoring prairie and wetland habitats in the watershed that have been drained and under plow for the last century. The great prairie lakes region is an eleven-lake chain of glacially formed lakes, including 7 of the biggest natural lakes in Iowa and 4 shallow lakes in Minnesota. The largest lake in the chain is Big Spirit Lake, and over 54% of the lake's watershed lies in Minnesota. This program is a partnership among Spirit Lake Protective Association (SLPA), The Conservation Fund (TCF), and Ducks Unlimited (DU), where SLPA leads the efforts by organizing and communicating to the community, finding willing sellers, and holding title to lands purchased. TCF's expertise in realty work for conservation will facilitate land protection by conducting all due diligence and closing work, and DU will lead habitat restoration activities. These restored habitats will be donated to US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) or to MN Department of Natural Resources as a State Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Over the last 50 years, as agriculture has intensified in the region, our prairie landscape has been transformed to one of drainage and plow. Only those lakes and wetlands too large to drain persist, and almost all are significantly degraded by agricultural runoff and drainage with sediment, nutrients, and chemical pollutants. Further, the extensive drainage into area lakes creates intense surges of water which would have historically been retained on the landscape. Our ecosystems are not adapted for this altered hydrology, causing degraded shorelines, turbid water, and decreased fish and wildlife populations. A recent study of the Great Lakes' watershed has decisively concluded that permanent restoration of prairie grasslands and wetlands in Minnesota are the most effective solution to decrease nutrient loading and flood events (Doyle et al, 2025).

We propose to protect and restore marginal cropland to create a protective sponge throughout Jackson and Nobles Counties, Minnesota, where all major lakes and streams are on the MN DNR's impaired waters list. At this scale we can build on existing habitat complexes, restore the most highly degraded croplands contributing significant sediment and nutrients downstream, and compound our investments by leveraging other funding sources without the pitfalls of a small focus area such as limited willing sellers or restricting and fatiguing leverage partners.

For nearly a century, the Spirit Lake Protective Association has spearheaded the preservation of habitat surrounding Spirit Lake by transforming vulnerable properties into permanent conservation strongholds. Recently, SLPA contributed $250,000 to the Moore Slough WPA project in Jackson County, where 195 acres were restored to prairie and a 76-acre shallow lake. As a result of this successful project, the momentum, energy, and excitement for local conservation is growing, and now is the time build on the support to return quality habitat and a quality way of life.

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

This proposal will increase and improve habitat in our focus area by protecting marginal croplands and restoring prairie grasslands and wetlands on these acres. Parcels adjacent to existing habitat complexes will be prioritized to have the most impactful benefits for wildlife. The downstream habitats will see indirect effects of reduced sediment and nutrient loading and reduced flood surge into area lakes and streams, which will improve those habitats for long term fish and wildlife benefit. 12 plant and animal species on state or federally threatened and endangered lists have known populations in our focus area.

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

SLPA has invested in habitat conservation in the Iowa portion of the watershed for decades. A recent study of the Iowa Great Lakes watershed has decisively concluded that permanent restoration of prairie grasslands and pothole wetlands in the Minnesota portion of the watershed are key to accomplishing our mission (Doyle et al, 2025). Because of these findings, we are focusing our major conservation efforts in Minnesota.

Recently, SLPA and conservation partners have completed a large, critical habitat restoration project in the heart of our MN focus area. Personal experience, new partnerships, and community momentum catalyze this group to be successful now.

Further, average MN farmland values have increased by 5,200% in the last half-century (FBN, 2026; USDA-NASS, 2018). Buying land for conservation will never be cheaper – Now is the time to act.

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

This funding will be used to protect and restore new acres of habitat strategically located adjacent to existing protected habitat, including critical shoreline protection when possible. Working with our MN DNR and US FWS partners, we have identified habitat complexes to build on and those which need a corridor between two existing patches. These enlarged complexes will provide important breeding habitat and quality stopover areas for migration. In summer 2026, SLPA, The Conservation Fund, and Ducks Unlimited will host a set of meetings consisting of local conservation leaders, local officials, and biologists to work together to identify long-term goals for community-supported priority areas that will generate the greatest fish, game and wildlife habitat benefits.

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

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Strategic Habitat Conservation Model

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:

Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *The plans referred to above for identifying, prioritizing, and selecting parcels also have measurable outcomes. Those plans outline monitoring efforts and measurable goals including acres of wetlands and grasslands required to meet the desired outcomes. The monitoring planned by partners in this region will drive conservation investment in this region. Moreover, we can complete detailed analysis of water retention and nutrient and sediment reduction of each completed project to map our progress toward larger watershed planning goals.*

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 will not supplant or substitute any previous funding not from the legacy fund.

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

These parcels will be donated to the US FWS or MN DNR as part of their public lands program. SLPA and other local individuals will continue to monitor restorations for invasive species and management needs and will donate funds or volunteer time to help manage as needed and available.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2028 and beyond	SLPA	monitor sites for invasives	raise funds, work with land mgmt partner	conduct invasive species removal

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

Nobles County is the 3rd most diverse county in Minnesota. Further, the city of Worthington, which is mostly included within our focus area, is a high poverty area according to the US Census Bureau. Lands protected and restored by this plan will increase available free, public recreation spaces within accessible distances of these communities. Further, the improved habitat and environmental services from these projects and associated downstream benefits will improve the quality of life for all residents nearby.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:
We will inform local governments of land acquisitions at least 30 days prior to closing. We have spoken to County Commissioners and they are supportive of our efforts.

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

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
Short term farming may be needed to best restore the uplands to native prairie habitats. This will be needed on agricultural conversions where herbicides with lag-times were used prior to our acquisition. We will use restrictive chemical farming practices to allow those residual herbicides to break down before planting our native prairie species.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
No variations are expected.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Federal

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

WPA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
1 or 2.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

We will use this appropriation and/or leveraged funds to complete restoration.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Transfer to MN DNR or USFWS	3-12 months following acquisition
Complete restorations	Following acquisitions 2028 - 2034
Design restoration	following acquisition 2027 - 2030
Conduct due-diligence for acquisition(s)	August 2027 - June 2030
Outreach to identified parcel owners	February 2026 - February 2028
Conduct community outreach/planning event	August - October 2026
Begin strategic parcel identification	Jan 2026 - April 2026

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2031

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.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$80,000	$45,000	DU, NAWCA, SLPA	$125,000
Contracts	$260,000	$20,000	DU, NAWCA	$280,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$688,400	-	-	$688,400
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$688,400	$250,000	-, USFWS	$938,400
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$10,400	$4,500	DU, NAWCA, SLPA	$14,900
Professional Services	$31,200	-	-	$31,200
Direct Support Services	$7,600	-	-	$7,600
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$45,000	-	-	$45,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,000	-	-	$4,000
Supplies/Materials	$130,000	-	-	$130,000
DNR IDP	$21,000	-	-	$21,000
Grand Total	**$1,966,000**	**$319,500**	**-**	**$2,285,500**

Partner: Ducks Unlimited

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$60,000	$20,000	DU, NAWCA	$80,000
Contracts	$260,000	$20,000	DU, NAWCA	$280,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$8,000	$2,000	DU, NAWCA	$10,000
Professional Services	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
Direct Support Services	$4,800	-	-	$4,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,000	-	-	$4,000
Supplies/Materials	$130,000	-	-	$130,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$472,800**	**$42,000**	**-**	**$514,800**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
DU Biologist & Engineers	0.5	1.9	$60,000	$20,000	DU, NAWCA	$80,000

Partner: Spirit Lake Protective Association

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	$25,000	SLPA	$25,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$688,400	-	-	$688,400
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$688,400	$250,000	USFWS	$938,400
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$2,500	SLPA	$2,500
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$45,000	-	-	$45,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	$21,000	-	-	$21,000
Grand Total	**$1,442,800**	**$277,500**	**-**	**$1,720,300**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Grant admin	0.25	4.0	-	$25,000	SLPA	$25,000

Partner: The Conservation Fund

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$20,000	-	-	$20,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,400	-	-	$2,400
Professional Services	$25,200	-	-	$25,200
Direct Support Services	$2,800	-	-	$2,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$50,400**	**-**	**-**	**$50,400**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MN TCF staff	0.1	4.0	$20,000	-	-	$20,000

Amount of Request: $1,966,000
Amount of Leverage: $319,500
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 16.25%
DSS + Personnel: $87,600
As a % of the total request: 4.46%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
We have scaled budgets back proportionately to complete acquisition and restoration of 120 acres.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
DU will work diligently to leverage OHF grant funds with additional sources, but OHF acquisition expense is typically needed first. SLPA will provide leverage through volunteer hours and travel costs at their own expense. USFWS has contributed $250,000 from towards the 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?
The number of acres would be reduced proportionally. At 50% reduction, we could protect and restore about 160 acres, or 1 project, as most parcels sell as a quarter section in Southern MN. We don't believe we could find many parcels to purchase for less than 50% of requested.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS are budgeted by number of projects in this program. A baseline amount of time and effort are needed for every project, regardless of size of the project. Therefore, personnel and DSS will not be adjusted at the same proportions as acres, contracts, and other categories.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Contracts are for private contractor charges to restore/enhance wetlands (earthmoving) and grasslands (native seeding) on lands acquired. Wetland restoration in Southern MN is very expensive and requires engineering due to intensive landscape drainage via complex networks of private/public tile/ditches that affect private neighbors and public roads.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Design/Engineering

Other : Environmental assessment surveys (contaminants, archeology)

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

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

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
DU - travel costs consist of in-state mileage and lodging for land manager, biologists, and engineering field staff. DU generally does not spend OHF grant funds on food.

TCF – Travel costs consist of rental car or mileage and lodging for TCF staff working directly on these projects. TCF generally does not spend OHF grant funds on food, fuel or per diem.

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?
Direct Support Services has been reviewed and approved by MN DNR grants staff and is determined using the approved and audited rate as the basis for calculating DSS as a percentage of the budgeted personnel costs.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Equipment and tools to facilitate restoration contracts such as wooden lath, tile marker flags, seeding equipment, tree removal tools.

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
Yes

Is Confirmation Document attached?
Yes, on file

In Kind : $250,000

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	12	48	-	-	60
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	12	48	-	-	60
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**24**	**96**	**-**	**-**	**120**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$196,600	$786,400	-	-	$983,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$196,600	$786,400	-	-	$983,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$393,200**	**$1,572,800**	**-**	**-**	**$1,966,000**

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	-	-	-	60	-	60
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	60	-	60
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**120**	**-**	**120**

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	-	-	-	$983,000	-	$983,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$983,000	-	$983,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,966,000**	**-**	**$1,966,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$16,383	$16,383	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$16,383	$16,383	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$16,383	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$16,383	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

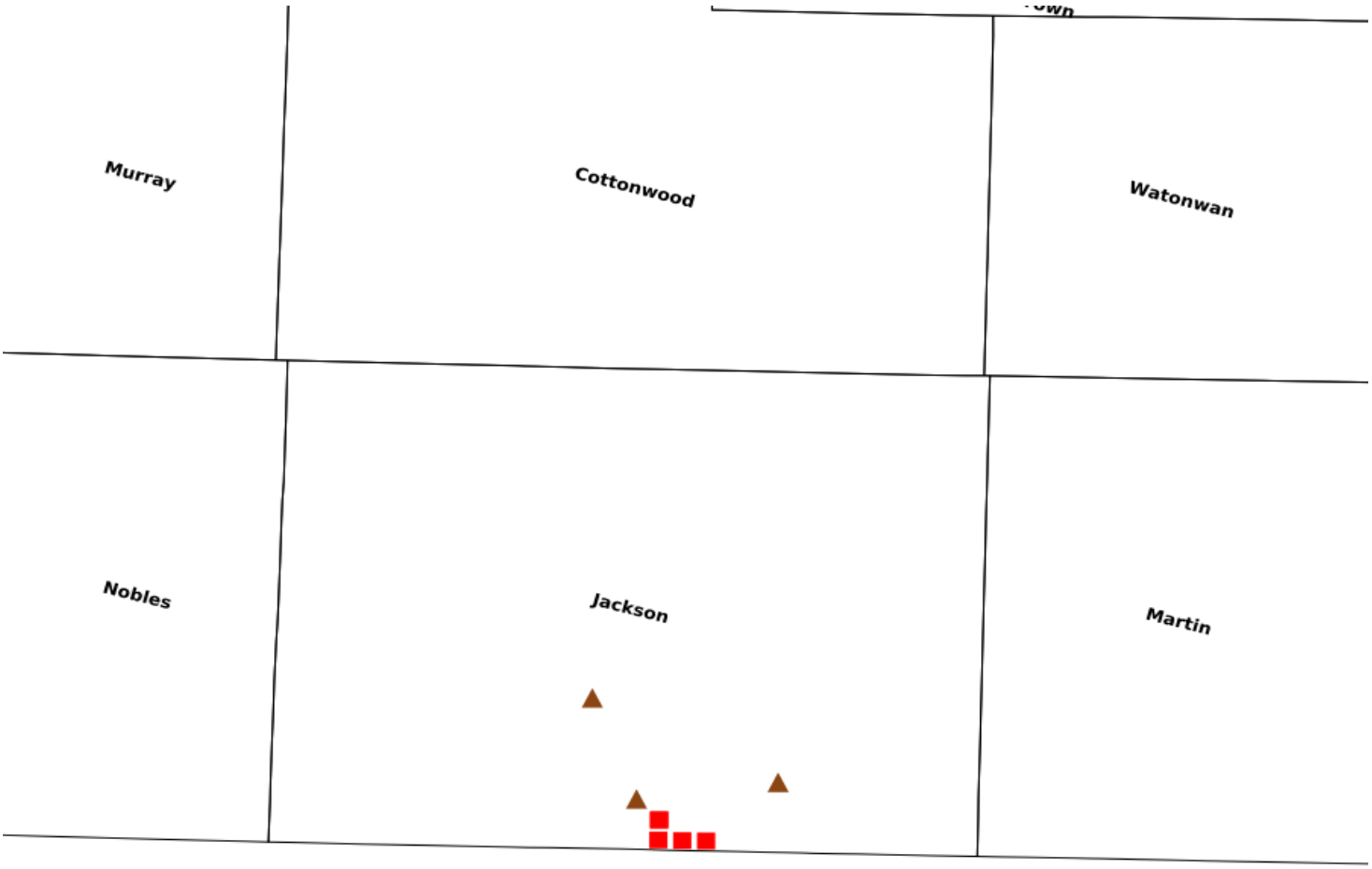
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
We worked with biologists from USFWS, MN DNR, and Ducks Unlimited to map parcels adjacent to existing habitat with high wetland restoration potential. Focus areas are further developed using multiple plans and studies to identify areas where conservation investments will do the most good for fish, wildlife and their habitats as well as people who depend on habitat and natural resources.

We will look for lands available from willing sellers within our priority resource areas and amend to this project when and as appropriate during the grant period beginning July 2027. Current parcels are not fully known, but our top priorities as of submission are listed below.

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Husen WMA - South Parcel	Jackson	10236229	80	$300,000	No
Moore Slough WPA - West Parcel	Jackson	10135231	365	$4,015,000	No
Pavelko WMA - North Parcel	Jackson	10135215	80	$300,000	No
Sangl WMA - East Parcel	Jackson	10136222	113	$1,243,000	No
Spirit Lake WPA - East Parcel	Jackson	10136236	120	$1,320,000	No
Spirit Lake WPA - Little Spirit Parcel	Jackson	10136235	75	$825,000	No
Spirit Lake WPA - Sec26 North	Jackson	10136226	80	$880,000	No
Spirit Lake WPA - Sec26 South	Jackson	10136226	62	$682,000	No

Parcel Map


Murray
Cottonwood
Watonwan
Nobles
Jackson
Martin
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

Great Prairie Lakes and Wetlands Restoration Initiative

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Great Prairie Lakes and Wetlands Restoration Initiative
Organization: Spirit Lake Protective Association
Manager: John F. Smeltzer

Budget

Requested Amount: $4,838,200
Appropriated Amount: $1,966,000
Percentage: 40.63%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$198,000	$75,000	$80,000	$45,000	40.4%	60.0%
Contracts	$650,000	$50,000	$260,000	$20,000	40.0%	40.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,760,000	-	$688,400	-	39.11%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$1,760,000	$250,000	$688,400	$250,000	39.11%	100.0%
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$26,000	$10,500	$10,400	$4,500	40.0%	42.86%
Professional Services	$78,000	-	$31,200	-	40.0%	-
Direct Support Services	$18,800	-	$7,600	-	40.43%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$60,300	-	$45,000	-	74.63%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$10,000	-	$4,000	-	40.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$325,000	-	$130,000	-	40.0%	-
DNR IDP	$27,900	-	$21,000	-	75.27%	-
Grand Total	**$4,838,200**	**$385,000**	**$1,966,000**	**$319,500**	**40.63%**	**82.99%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The number of acres would be reduced proportionally. At 50% reduction, we could protect and restore about 160 acres, or 1 project, as most parcels sell as a quarter section in Southern MN. We don't believe we could find many parcels to purchase for less than 50% of requested.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS are budgeted by number of projects in this program. A baseline amount of time and effort are needed for every project, regardless of size of that project. Therefore, personnel and DSS will not be adjusted at the same proportions as acres, contracts, and other categories.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The number of acres would be reduced proportionally, and we would target priority projects with funding available. With 30% of requested funding, we don't believe we could find many parcels to purchase in our focus area.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS are budgeted by number of projects in this program. A baseline amount of time and effort are needed for every project, regardless of size of the project. Therefore, personnel and DSS will not be adjusted at the same proportions as acres, contracts, and other categories.

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	160	60	37.5%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	160	60	37.5%
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$2,419,100	$983,000	40.63%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$2,419,100	$983,000	40.63%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	160	60	37.5%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	160	60	37.5%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$2,419,100	$983,000	40.63%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$2,419,100	$983,000	40.63%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Martin County WMA Acquisition Phase 11

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/13/2026

Project Title: Martin County WMA Acquisition Phase 11

Funds Recommended: $2,616,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Doug Hartke
Title: Grant Coordinator
Organization: Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.
Address: PO Box 212
City: Sherburn, MN 56171
Email: doughartke@gmail.com
Office Number:
Mobile Number: 507-236-1700
Fax Number:
Website: Foxlakeconservation.com

Partners Contact

Ducks Unlimited: Jake Chronister - jchronister@ducks.org - (507) 706-1904

Fox Lake Conservation League: Doug Hartke - doughartke@gmail.com - 507-236-1700

The Conservation Fund: Stacy Salvevold - ssalvevold@conservationfund.org - (651) 243-4149

Location Information

County Location(s): Watonwan and Martin.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

This program will continue our conservation partnership into Phase 11 to protect and restore diverse prairie and wetland habitat in areas that adjoin existing DNR WMA. Parcels are identified with representatives of local government, Windom area MN DNR, Ducks Unlimited (DU), The Conservation Fund (TCF), the Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc (FLCL), and other local partners. Wetland restoration and additional grasslands are needed to make our WMA habitats resilient and productive. We will optimize this process by utilizing real estate expertise of TCF, wetland restoration know-how of DU, and the local conservation efforts of FLCL.

Design and Scope of Work

This proposal will restore 200 acres of prairie wetlands and grasslands in Martin and Watonwan Counties. Our partnership brings together the expertise of three organizations with a strong history working in the area. The Conservation Fund (TCF) will negotiate the acquisition and lead the real estate process for properties targeted in this proposal. Fox Lake Conservation League will hold and monitor the properties during the restoration work, which will be completed by Ducks Unlimited. The completely restored lands will then be conveyed to the MN DNR for perpetual protection and management. All projects are done in partnership with neighboring landowners and without disruption to existing drainage of their lands.

Shallow lake and wetland restorations are top priority actions in all major conservation plans for Minnesota. Our work addresses the habitat goals identified in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan, and Minnesota's Duck Recovery Plan which calls for the active management of 1,800 shallow lakes and restoring 64,000 wetlands to Minnesota's landscape. This work is time-sensitive because complex shallow lake and wetland restoration projects take several years to design and implement. Additionally, grasslands surrounding these wetlands are critical to the prairie ecosystem but difficult to acquire in the agricultural landscape of Martin County. This proposal will best prepare the partnership to act when landowners are willing to sell their lands to conservation.

Priority land acquisition areas have been identified with considerations for proximity to existing protected lands (DNR Wildlife Management Areas), threatened and endangered species' key habitats, and important watersheds. Acquired lands will be restored using best management practices to accurately represent and manage for pre-settlement conditions. The extensive agricultural and drainage history of Southwest Minnesota has resulted in the loss of 90% of our prairie wetlands and 99% of the native prairie on the landscape. What remains of the lakes and wetlands are only those which were too deep to drain and have now become nutrient rich, invaded by exotic species, and are overall unproductive to wetland-dependent species. These factors have caused a significant decline in Minnesota's once diverse waterfowl population, and as a result, in Minnesota's rich waterfowling traditions.

Through this funding, TCF, FLCL, and DU will acquire and restore much needed habitats to the landscape where wetland-wildlife, prairie species, and people will flourish. Further, these sites will improve water quality, soil conservation, and water storage in the region.

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

This program protects and restores threatened habitats in Martin County. Native prairie and high-quality wetlands will be protected, buffered, and expanded upon. Restoration sites will provide the opportunity to expand populations of at-risk and threatened plant species that Martin SWCD has propagated and introduced into permanent protected sites. The FLCL is continuing work initiated by Martin County SWCD, by selecting locally rare, at-risk species for propagation and use on these and future habitat restoration projects to protect the local native seed source. While hundreds of Sullivant's milkweed (Asclepia sullivantii) and Tuberous Indian Plantain (Cacalia tuberosa) have been introduced into WMAs and other protected land, Small white lady's slipper (Cypripedium candidum) and Rattlesnake master (Eryngium yuccifolium) will continue to be propagated using local source plant material for use in this project. Parcels selected for this proposal expand habitat protection for the threatened Blanding's Turtle (Emydoidea blandigii) Perch Creek population that has been studied by the MN DNR and featured in the "MN Volunteer". In 2025, this partnership protected 307 acres at Perch Creek and Manyaska WMA's. This proposal is largely targeting parcels adjacent to those recent additions.

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

We continue to have great success with our previous funding by protecting over 2,500 acres to existing WMA's since phase 1 of this program. It can be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity when we find a willing seller that owns some of our highest priority native habitat and marginal agricultural lands in proximity to WMAs and other protected natural habitats. If we don't act immediately, these lands may never become available in the future or may be converted to other uses, with degradation or complete elimination of natural features and high-value resources that currently exist. Additionally, wind easements are quickly sweeping across Southwest Minnesota and directly compete with our interests and ability to protect affected lands. This proposal will financially prepare us to act quickly when parcels in our focus area become available.

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

Our "Martin County Conservation Alliance" has grown into a planning group that includes wildlife group representatives, NGO's, local government, and state agencies. There is a wide range of expertise and experience within the group. We utilized Historic information, the MN County Biological Survey, GIS spatial data, and local knowledge to identify areas where habitat restoration will be most beneficial. Expanding habitat complexes by protecting and restoring lands adjacent to existing high-quality native habitat and habitat already protected through public ownership or permanent conservation easements is our key focus. Parcels which will link or expand sites with threatened or endangered species and species-in-decline further narrowed our focus area. We additionally highlighted opportunities to protect and enhance habitat buffers along water courses and lake chains. On our parcel list, we have the following tracts that have areas of biodiversity significance as identified by the MN County Biological Survey:

Caron WMA: moderate level of biodiversity significance and has a Priority Shallow Lake as identified by DNR Wildlife. Caron WMA is also part of a Pheasant Habitat Complex.
Perch Creek WMA: High level of biodiversity significance.

Additionally, some of the targeted parcels occur in landscapes that are estimated to support 10-25 breeding ducks per square mile as per USFWS. Breeding pair accessibility will only increase with increased wetland restoration in these areas. One highlight of this program's work is increasing Perch Creek WMA complex to over the threshold of 40% grasslands and 20% wetlands. This is the scientifically recognized threshold at which waterfowl populations

can have an overall net gain in production. This habitat goal has been recognized in the MN Duck Recovery Plan, MN Prairie Conservation Plan, MN Working Lands Initiative, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, and others.

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

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

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:

Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife ~ *By adding these important parcels to the Martin County WMA complexes we are restoring valuable wetlands and grasslands to the WMAs of Southern Minnesota. These added diverse prairies will provide much needed habitat for many wildlife species. This program will also add valuable acres for public hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities with all of the fish, game, and rare species that will be found on this new public land.*

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 previous funding for the same purpose.

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

Initial restoration efforts focus on long term, low maintenance solutions to water control structures and native prairie plantings. Maintaining habitat and infrastructure after our restoration and donation to DNR is complete will be the responsibility of the MN DNR. However, local groups within the "Martin County Conservation Alliance" will be there to assist the DNR with future private dollars and partner ECP CPL grants, if and when available. Local partners will continue to install additional local source native plant species to enhance habitat to support more species, including pollinators. Local partner monitoring will assist in identifying invasive species threats and aid with eradication or control when necessary.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Ongoing	Local	Monitor and add local species	Monitor for invasive species	Treat and plant as needed
Ongoing	MN DNR Budget	Monitoring	Maintenance	Management

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

13.2% of Martin County is below the poverty line, according to the 2023 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Restoration of wetlands and grasslands will create high-quality habitat to support healthy wildlife populations in

the area for all people to enjoy with low-barrier recreation opportunities. These actions will help improve air quality, water quality, support pollinator populations, and help fight climate change and the disproportionate effects it has on BIPOC and low-income communities. These newly restored lands will be open to the public and will provide numerous opportunities for all people to enjoy through hunting, wildlife viewing, kayaking, canoeing, and various other forms of outdoor recreation and education. This proposal includes a shallow lake restoration just outside of Fairmont, which will provide recreation as well as improve drinking water supply and decrease flooding of this community.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:
Local governments will be informed at least 30 days prior to any sale using OHF funds in writing via email and/or paper copy.

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

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
Food Plots could be utilized by the MN DNR as part of their WMA management plans. Short-term farming may be necessary in the timetable to best restore the uplands to native habitats.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
All of these lands will be part the DNR WMA system.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
1-3

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Follow-up/Maintenance/Weed Control	2028 and Beyond
Plan Restoration	Winter 2027 - Winter 2031
Complete Restoration	2027-2032
Transfer to MN DNR	2027 - 2030
Acquire Parcel (s)	Summer 2027 - Summer 2030
Begin Parcel qualification and review	Summer and Fall 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 06/30/2032

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	$108,000	$20,000	-, DU, NAWCA	$128,000
Contracts	$242,000	$50,000	-, DU, NAWCA	$292,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,920,800	-	-	$1,920,800
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$26,400	$2,000	DU, NAWCA	$28,400
Professional Services	$47,400	-	-	$47,400
Direct Support Services	$10,400	-	-	$10,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$5,000	-	-	$5,000
Supplies/Materials	$161,000	-	-	$161,000
DNR IDP	$35,000	-	-	$35,000
Grand Total	**$2,616,000**	**$72,000**	**-**	**$2,688,000**

Partner: Ducks Unlimited

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$80,000	$20,000	DU, NAWCA	$100,000
Contracts	$242,000	$50,000	DU, NAWCA	$292,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$25,000	$2,000	DU, NAWCA	$27,000
Professional Services	$17,400	-	-	$17,400
Direct Support Services	$6,400	-	-	$6,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$5,000	-	-	$5,000
Supplies/Materials	$161,000	-	-	$161,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$536,800**	**$72,000**	**-**	**$608,800**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
DU Conservation Staff - Biologists and Engineers	0.33	3.0	$80,000	$20,000	DU, NAWCA	$100,000

Partner: Fox Lake Conservation League

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,920,800	-	-	$1,920,800
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	$35,000	-	-	$35,000
Grand Total	**$2,015,800**	**-**	**-**	**$2,015,800**

Partner: The Conservation Fund

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$28,000	-	-	$28,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$1,400	-	-	$1,400
Professional Services	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Direct Support Services	$4,000	-	-	$4,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$63,400**	**-**	**-**	**$63,400**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MN TCF staff	0.1	4.0	$28,000	-	-	$28,000

Amount of Request: $2,616,000
Amount of Leverage: $72,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 2.75%
DSS + Personnel: $118,400
As a % of the total request: 4.53%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
the number of acres and budgets will be reduced proportionately

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
DU will work diligently to leverage OHF grant funds with additional sources, but OHF acquisition expense is typically needed first.

FLCL will provide leverage through volunteer hours and travel costs at their own expense, which is estimated in the table above.

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 number of acres would be reduced proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS are budgeted by number of projects in this program. A baseline amount of time and effort are needed for every project, regardless of size. Therefore, personnel and DSS will not be adjusted at the same proportions as acres, contracts, and other categories.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Contracts are for private contractor charges to restore/enhance wetlands (earthmoving) and grasslands (native seeding) on lands acquired. Wetland restoration in Martin County is very expensive and requires engineering due to intensive landscape drainage via complex networks of private/public tile/ditches that affect private neighbors and public roads.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Soil investigations, county tile petition fees, Phase I environmental review

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?

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
DU - travel costs consist of in-state mileage and lodging for land manager, biologists, and engineering field staff. DU generally does not spend OHF grant funds on food.
TCF - Mileage or car rental with fuel and lodging are charged for project specific travel. TCF does not spend OHF grant funds on food.

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?
FLCL- we will not charge DSS.
TCF: Direct Support Services has been reviewed and approved by Minnesota DNR grants staff, and is determined using our Federally-approved and audited rate as the basis for calculating Direct Support Services as a percentage of the budgeted personnel costs.
DU: Minnesota DNR grants staff previously reviewed and approved DU accounting methodology for Direct Support Services, which are calculated and included in DU staff costs. DU Direct Support Services constitute approximately 8% of DU overall staff costs on average among DU conservation staff billing categories.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
GPS survey equipment for performing engineering wetland restoration survey work and engineering surveys of shallow lake and wetland projects, including survey equipment lease charges instead of actual outright equipment purchases to avoid buying equipment that becomes obsolete due to upgrades and advancements. Other examples include hand tools and other field equipment as needs arise.

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?
Beginning in 2027 via future NAWCA grants leveraged to help restore lands acquired via OHF. This first requires expenditures of state OHF grant funds on land acquisitions to leverage federal NAWCA grant funds to restore lands acquired.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	40	160	-	-	200
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**40**	**160**	**-**	**-**	**200**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$523,200	$2,092,800	-	-	$2,616,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$523,200**	**$2,092,800**	**-**	**-**	**$2,616,000**

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	-	-	-	200	-	200
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**200**	**-**	**200**

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	-	-	-	$2,616,000	-	$2,616,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,616,000**	**-**	**$2,616,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$13,080	$13,080	-	-
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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$13,080	-
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:
We utilized historic information, the MN County Biologic Survey, GIS spatial data, and local knowledge to identify areas where habitat restoration will be most beneficial. Expanding habitat complexes by protecting and restoring lands adjacent to existing high-quality native habitat and habitat already protected through public ownership or permanent conservation easements is our key focus. Parcels which will link or expand sites with threatened or endangered species and species-in-decline further narrowed our focus area. We additionally highlighted opportunities to protect and enhance habitat buffers along water courses and lake chains.

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Caron WMA Parcel 14	Martin	10333224	80	$900,000	No
Manyaska WMA	Martin	10232222	30	$400,000	No
Manyaska WMA	Martin	10232222	50	$680,000	No
Manyaska WMA	Martin	10232222	35	$450,000	No
Manyaska WMA	Martin	10232222	20	$325,000	No
Rooney Run WMA	Martin	10332228	80	$1,350,000	No
Perch Creek WMA	Watonwan	10530219	320	$3,370,200	No
Perch Creek WMA	Watonwan	10530231	80	$880,000	No
Perch Creek WMA Parcel 17A	Watonwan	10530230	140	$1,217,800	No

Parcel Map


Redwood
Brown
Nicollet
Le Su
Cottonwood
Watonwan
Blue Earth
Jackson
Martin
Faribault
0
3
6
9 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Martin County WMA Acquisition Phase 11

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Martin County WMA Acquisition Phase 11
Organization: Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.
Manager: Doug Hartke

Budget

Requested Amount: $12,972,000
Appropriated Amount: $2,616,000
Percentage: 20.17%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$512,000	$90,000	$108,000	$20,000	21.09%	22.22%
Contracts	$1,210,000	$400,000	$242,000	$50,000	20.0%	12.5%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$9,573,000	-	$1,920,800	-	20.06%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$132,000	$12,000	$26,400	$2,000	20.0%	16.67%
Professional Services	$234,000	-	$47,400	-	20.26%	-
Direct Support Services	$47,700	-	$10,400	-	21.8%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$287,200	-	$60,000	-	20.89%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$25,000	-	$5,000	-	20.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$805,000	-	$161,000	-	20.0%	-
DNR IDP	$146,100	-	$35,000	-	23.96%	-
Grand Total	**$12,972,000**	**$502,000**	**$2,616,000**	**$72,000**	**20.17%**	**14.34%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The number of acres would be reduced proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS are budgeted by number of projects in this program. A baseline amount of time and effort are needed for every project, regardless of size. Therefore, personnel and DSS will not be adjusted at the same proportions as acres, contracts, and other categories.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The number of acres would be reduced proportionately and we would target priority projects with funding available.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS are budgeted by number of projects in this program. A baseline amount of time and effort are needed for every project, regardless of size. Therefore, personnel and DSS will not be adjusted at the same proportions as acres, contracts, and other categories.

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	835	200	23.95%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$12,972,000	$2,616,000	20.17%
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	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	835	200	23.95%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$12,972,000	$2,616,000	20.17%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP)

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP)

Funds Recommended: $3,541,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Dusty Van Thuyne
Title: Easement Program Coordinator
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Fax Number:
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Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

This program will use the Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP) partnership to protect and restore approximately 360 acres of previously drained wetlands, uplands, and riparian areas on approximately 6 easements. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will utilize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement program in partnership with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to restore high priority habitat within the 66 county MN CREP area. The program will utilize a ranking and selection process and be implemented locally by SWCD staff with assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Design and Scope of Work

This program will utilize funds to the greatest extent possible by leveraging federal funding through MN CREP. The MN CREP is a partnership between the USDA and BWSR that provides voluntary conservation easement opportunities for landowners. MN CREP focuses on protecting environmentally sensitive land across 66 counties in southern and western Minnesota. Through this program, farmers and agricultural landowners establish and maintain permanent conservation practices, ensuring long-term environmental benefits.

How it works:

- Landowners enroll in the federally funded Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for 14-15 years. Administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA), CRP repurposes agricultural land for conservation rather than farming or ranching.
- The same land is also enrolled in a state-funded perpetual conservation easement through the RIM program, managed by BWSR. Landowners retain private ownership while the land is permanently restored and enhanced for conservation benefits.

MN CREP will protect the highest-priority areas across 66 counties by:

- Targeting riparian areas and marginal agricultural land for conservation.
- Enhancing habitat for wildlife, pollinators, and non-game species.
- Restoring hydrology, improving water infiltration, and mitigating flood risks.
- Reducing nitrate contamination in drinking water supplies.

MN CREP focuses on four main Conservation Practices (CPs) that have been identified the MN CREP Agreement:

- CP2 Native Grasses
- CP21 Filter Strips
- CP23 Wetland Restoration, Floodplain
- CP23A Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain

MN CREP is a local-state-federal partnership delivered locally by SWCDs and BWSR. In addition, the MN CREP partnership is possible through collaboration among many local, state and federal partners including the USDA-

FSA, USDA-NRCS, Pheasants Forever (PF), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and over 70 supporting organizations and agencies.

BWSR staff will coordinate with federal partners on the overall MN CREP process and program oversight. In addition, BWSR staff will be responsible for easement acquisition. Local staff will promote CRP contracts and RIM easements, assist with easement processing and provide key essential technical assistance and project management services.

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

An expansion of wetland, prairie, and riparian habitat availability through this program may alleviate pressure on those species that are most sensitive to habitat changes occurring on the landscape. This proposal targets wetlands, prairies, and buffers, some of the most important habitats used by the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). "A statewide look at the species-habitat relationships show that prairies, rivers, and wetlands are the three habitats used by the most SGCN. These are the habitats that have also experienced some of the greatest loss and degradation in the state." (Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare, p.30). MN CREP will help protect and restore these habitats.

Of the over 2,000 known wildlife species in Minnesota, 543 species, or approximately 27%, are at risk because they are rare, their populations are declining, or they face serious threats that may cause them to decline. Examples of SGCN in the MN CREP area include the Common Five-lined Skink (state status = species of special concern), Twospotted Skipper, Northern Pintail, American Black Duck, Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Sedge Wren, Dickcissel, and Western Grebe. In addition to the SGCN, the threatened or endangered species targeted in this proposal include the Dakota Skipper (state status = endangered; federal status = threatened), Poweshiek Skipper (state and federal status = endangered), and Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (federal status = endangered).

Diverse vegetation, access to a water resource, and protection from pesticides are important to Minnesota's native pollinator species. BWSR's native vegetation guidelines and pollinator initiative have outlined the RIM program's commitment to protecting native pollinators. Complexes and corridors targeted through MN CREP provide areas that are safe from pesticides and are natural passageways for pollinators. Targeted pollinator species include the Monarch Butterfly and solitary bee species including Leafcutter Bees, Mason Bees, and Yellow-faced Bees.

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

This proposal has the opportunity to leverage federal funding through CRP. CRP is USDA’s flagship conservation program, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2025.

Minnesota continues to see a loss of grasslands and CRP acres each year. This exodus is being driven by high land prices and increased pressure for alternative uses. CRP contracts continue to expire (275,672 acres with a contract expiring in Minnesota during federal fiscal years 2027 - 2030) and farming pressure leads to more habitat fragmentation and agricultural fields within the floodplain. It is critical to retain as many acres of habitat in the most important locations. A combination of permanent protection with RIM and re-enrollment of CRP, when possible, will reduce this impact from habitat loss.

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

Through a combination of targeted outreach, eligibility screening, and a scoring and ranking process, each site is considered on its benefits to the surrounding landscape, as well as the site-specific features.

During the application process, a review of adjacent permanent habitat and easement size is conducted to evaluate a site's importance as a corridor or extension to an existing habitat complex. Applications are awarded points based on the adjacency of permanently protected land, including publicly accessible land, or another RIM easement; with the highest number of points being awarded to applications creating the largest habitat complex size or with the most number of permanently protected land, including publicly accessible land, or another RIM easement within 1.5 miles. The lowest number of points are awarded to applications that do not create large habitat complexes are have little permanently protected land, including publicly accessible land, or another RIM easement within 1.5 miles.

As we implement this project, we will utilize similar science-based considerations that have been historically used by the RIM programs.

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

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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

Metro / Urban

Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

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

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 forest-prairie transition region:

Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife. This would have a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these areas are restored.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife. This would have a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these areas are restored.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors ~ *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife. This would have a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these areas are restored.*

Programs in prairie region:

Expiring CRP lands are permanently protected ~ *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife. This would have a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these areas are restored.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Rivers, streams, and surrounding vegetation provide corridors of habitat ~ *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife. This would have a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these areas are restored.*

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 funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

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

BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement of RIM easements. BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry out oversight, monitoring and inspection of conservation easements. Easements are inspected every year for the first five years beginning the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs document findings and report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations are identified.

Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027 - Ongoing	Stewardship Account	Inspections every year for the first five years; then every third year.	Corrective actions of any violations.	Enforcement action taken by MN Attorney General's office.
2027 - Ongoing	Landowner Responsibility	Maintain compliance with easements.	-	-

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

Generally, RIM priority areas are focused on rural communities across the state due to the nature of the program and payment rates. Review of the Environmental Justice map produced by the MPCA shows RIM easement programs overlap with many identified environmental justice areas across the state, particularly those areas that are identified by lower than state median incomes. Lower annual income areas of the state benefit from RIM in several ways, including financial benefits for landowners through easement payments. The individual program may also require seeding and wetland restoration work by local contractors. The work by SWCD staff also includes outreach, monitoring and maintenance which helps maintain and grow rural jobs and economies.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
The State of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will be the responsible party for monitoring and enforcing easements with assistance from the appropriate SWCD for monitoring.

Who will be the easement holder?
The State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
6; the actual number will depend on the cost of easements.

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
In certain circumstances, wildlife food plots are an allowable use on RIM easements as part of an approved Conservation Plan. Annual or perennial food plots may be allowed at the owner's expense. Food plots must be maintained annually. If a food plot is discontinued, it must be immediately replanted to appropriate high-quality, permanent native vegetative cover and the associated establishment cost is the responsibility of the landowner(s). Food plot size and the number of food plots allowed are based on the size of the easement. Food plots will not exceed more than 10% of the easement area or will not exceed a maximum acreage depending on the size of the easement.

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

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

Describe the expected public use:
RIM easements do not require that private land is open for public use; however, this question is also evaluated on public benefit and RIM easements do provide a significant public benefit; often expanding wildlife habitat near public lands; and do not limit the potential for the land to be open to the public through other programs. SWCD and other partner staff who work with landowners on RIM easements are also usually the staff who enroll landowners into the DNR Walk-In Access (WIA) program. The WIA program is available in 54 counties, all of which are eligible for RIM. Conversations about WIA between the SWCDs and interested landowners occur at the time the landowner submits an easement application. BWSR's Conservation Easement Application includes a question for a landowner to indicate if they are interested in enrolling in WIA if eligible.

RIM's statutory language requires restriction of building and agricultural activities on an easement. If RIM also required public access, the landowner would be retaining almost no private rights to the land and still paying property taxes. RIM easement land is still in private ownership and the landowner still pays property taxes and is still consistent with the statutory goals of the Outdoor Heritage Fund of protection and restoration of habitat. Minnesota Statute 97A.056 states ". . . the fund must be expended to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife." and "The council shall make recommendations . . . that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie."

Criteria in RIM program scoresheets used to evaluate and prioritize parcels funded include proximity of the easement land to lands that are in public ownership and/or open to public hunting. Parcels immediately adjacent to public land or that would connect or expand larger existing habitat areas receive additional points in the scoring and ranking process than a parcel that does not provide that benefit. Wildlife do not follow property lines; therefore protected private lands adjacent to and near public lands create complexes of public and private land that provide high quality habitat supporting wildlife, including recreationally hunted species, allowing them to thrive on and off public lands. Protected private lands also add visual and noise buffers that allow users of public land to better enjoy their experiences.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?

Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Though uncommon, new trails may be developed if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (fire breaks, berm maintenance, forest stewardship) and are noted on the conservation plan. Narrow mowed trails for personal use are allowed for landowner access on RIM easements. Unauthorized trails are a violation of the easement.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

Under the terms of the easement, a conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement and the conservation plan. BWSR, in cooperation with SWCDs, implements a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms and the conservation plan.

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?

Yes

Vegetative and wetland restoration is planned to occur and these restoration costs are included in the Easement Acquisition line of the budget table.

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

Yes

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Restorations completed	June 30, 2035
Easements recorded	June 30, 2031

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2035

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	$242,100	-	-	$242,100
Contracts	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$3,119,800	$3,119,800	USDA - Farm Service Agency	$6,239,600
Easement Stewardship	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Travel	$6,200	-	-	$6,200
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$71,300	-	-	$71,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$8,900	-	-	$8,900
Supplies/Materials	$2,700	-	-	$2,700
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,541,000**	**$3,119,800**	**-**	**$6,660,800**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Engineering	0.13	4.0	$81,900	-	-	$81,900
Easements	0.28	4.0	$160,200	-	-	$160,200

Amount of Request: $3,541,000
Amount of Leverage: $3,119,800
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 88.11%
DSS + Personnel: $313,400
As a % of the total request: 8.85%
Easement Stewardship: $60,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 1.92%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
A reduction in funding reduced outputs (acres/activities) almost proportionately.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
January 17, 2017, Governor Dayton signed a $500 million MN CREP Agreement with the USDA, which consists of approximately $350 million from USDA. Governor Walz extended the agreement on January 2, 2025. CRP soil rental rates on easements secured through MN CREP contribute to the amount of federal leverage achieved.

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?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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 contracts line amount will be used for payments to SWCD staff for easement acquisition. Estimated restoration costs are included in the easements acquisition line.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
6 easements at $10,000 per easement; the actual number will depend on the cost of easements. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship covers costs of the BWSR and local government unit staff time, travel costs, and other costs for easement monitoring, encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations, and legal enforcement.

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
The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs.

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?
BWSR annually reviews and updates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Steel posts, hardware, and signs to mark the easement boundaries.

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
Yes

Is Confirmation Document attached?
Yes, on file

Other : The $500 million agreement utilizes $150 million in state funding leveraging $350 million in federal funding. Landowners enrolling into the CRP program receive annual contract payments, sign-up incentive payments, practice incentive payments, and receive cost-share for practice installation. The exact dollar amount is dependent on the CRP contract size (acres), enrollment type (new land or re-enrollment), and type of restoration needed.

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	72	288	-	-	360
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**72**	**288**	**-**	**-**	**360**

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	$708,200	$2,832,800	-	-	$3,541,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$708,200**	**$2,832,800**	**-**	**-**	**$3,541,000**

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	24	24	24	270	18	360
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**24**	**24**	**24**	**270**	**18**	**360**

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	$236,100	$236,100	$236,100	$2,655,700	$177,000	$3,541,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$236,100**	**$236,100**	**$236,100**	**$2,655,700**	**$177,000**	**$3,541,000**

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	$9,836	$9,836	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$9,837	$9,837	$9,837	$9,835	$9,833
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

3,727 feet

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:
Through a combination of eligibility screening followed by a scoring and ranking process, this program evaluates each application on the potential to restore ecological functions and values; optimizing wildlife habitat benefits and providing other benefits including water quality. Each site is evaluated on its benefits to the surrounding landscape and any site-specific features that are important for permanent protection of habitat.

During the application process, a review of adjacent permanent habitat and easement size is conducted to indicate a site's usefulness as an extension of an existing habitat complex.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP)

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP)
Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources
Manager: Dusty Van Thuyne

Budget

Requested Amount: $10,000,000
Appropriated Amount: $3,541,000
Percentage: 35.41%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$710,900	-	$242,100	-	34.06%	-
Contracts	$85,000	-	$30,000	-	35.29%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$8,810,200	$8,810,200	$3,119,800	$3,119,800	35.41%	35.41%
Easement Stewardship	$170,000	-	$60,000	-	35.29%	-
Travel	$17,500	-	$6,200	-	35.43%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$173,900	-	$71,300	-	41.0%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$25,000	-	$8,900	-	35.6%	-
Supplies/Materials	$7,500	-	$2,700	-	36.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$10,000,000**	**$8,810,200**	**$3,541,000**	**$3,119,800**	**35.41%**	**35.41%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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?
A 30% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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	1,020	360	35.29%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$10,000,000	$3,541,000	35.41%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	1,020	360	35.29%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$10,000,000	$3,541,000	35.41%
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Minnesota River Watershed Habitat Conservation Program Phase 2

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Minnesota River Watershed Habitat Conservation Program Phase 2

Funds Recommended: $2,681,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Todd Rexine
Title: Conservation Director
Organization: Great River Greening
Address: 251 Starkey Street, Suite 2200
City: Saint Paul, MN 55107
Email: trexine@greatrivergreening.org
Office Number:
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: www.greatrivergreening.org

Partners Contact

Great River Greening: Todd Rexine - trexine@greatrivergreening.org -

Minnesota Land Trust: Wayne Ostlie - wostlie@mnland.org - (651) 917-6292

Location Information

County Location(s): Chippewa, Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Big Stone, Redwood, Nicollet and Brown.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Activity types:

Enhance

Protect in Easement

Restore

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Habitat

Prairie

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

Funding for conservation in the Minnesota River watershed has been applied unevenly to date, with some priorities receiving significant funding resulting in enormous conservation outcomes; others far less. The Minnesota River Watershed Habitat Conservation Program brings a holistic approach to conservation action within the watershed, targeting resources/actions where they are needed most – priorities insufficiently funded. Great River Greening and Minnesota Land Trust will target action within priority areas identified in Minnesota's Wildlife Action Network, emphasizing Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), protecting 169 acres through conservation easements and in fee, and restoring/enhancing 274 acres of priority habitat.

Design and Scope of Work

The Minnesota River watershed covers 20% of the state's land area, stretching from the South Dakota and Iowa borders to the Twin Cities Metro area. Historically, the watershed traversed a great variety of ecosystems ranging from grasslands and prairie pothole regions to Big Woods and oak savanna. Scattered throughout these major systems were over three million acres of wetlands and lakes.

That historic natural landscape has greatly diminished. While prairie once covered one-third of Minnesota, only 1% remains today. Over 90% of wetlands have been drained, 80-85% of the historic Big Woods are lost, and rock outcrops in the region were targeted for mineral extraction. This loss of habitat has had profound impacts on Minnesota's native species. More than 140 SGCN are known or expected to occur within the watershed.

Protecting these habitats, improving the condition of what remains, and rebuilding connectivity between remnants is key for ensuring the long-term viability of these systems and Minnesota's SGCN. This is the goal of our program.

To date, significant investment through the Outdoor Heritage Fund has been delivered to portions of the Minnesota River watershed. The Metro Big Rivers partnership has achieved significant outcomes in the lower reaches of the Minnesota River near the Twin Cities. A variety of funded programs – led by Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota Land Trust and others – have been successful in delivering conservation in the western portions of the watershed.

Building off momentum from Phase 1, program partners Great River Greening (GRG) and Minnesota Land Trust

(MLT) will bring their respective expertise to bear in elevating conservation impacts across the watershed with added focus in the central portion of the watershed where OHF and other sources of conservation investments have remained insufficient in comparison to needs. Greening will work with the MN DNR, county municipalities, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to undertake targeted habitat improvement projects. Greening will address the greatest present threats to protected lands within the watershed - cedar and invasive woody encroachment and lack of diversity to support SGCN. Greening will restore and enhance 274 acres on three state Wildlife Management Areas and one wildlife refuge across three counties.

The Land Trust will protect 169 acres of wetlands, rock outcrops, riparian forest, prairies, prairie streams and associated upland habitat through conservation easements and fee acquisition. Using MLT's uniquely flexible conservation easement, priority parcels within Minnesota's Wildlife Action Network or that build off prior conservation investments will be targeted. The Land Trust will use its market-based approach to conservation easements that incentivizes landowner contribution of easement value as leverage to funding through the OHF. MLT will collaborate with the DNR and other conservation partners to acquire lands in fee that add to existing habitat complexes. The goal with this program is to add needed capacity to the fee acquisition work already underway.

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

The Minnesota River Watershed Habitat Conservation Program directly benefits SGCN and other important game and non-game species by minimizing the potential threats to their habitat caused by agricultural practices, residential or commercial development, mining, and other land management activities. Habitat complexes targeted through this proposal will include prairies, wetlands, woodlands, and rock outcrops. Priority projects will include high- or outstanding-quality habitat as identified in Minnesota Biological Survey data or otherwise located within priority areas of Minnesota's Wildlife Action Network. We will seek to build off prior conservation investments, prioritizing projects located near other protected lands to create larger habitat complexes for the benefit of SGCN.

The vast majority of this landscape is in private ownership. For that reason, working with private landowners on land protection strategies is key to successful conservation in this region. We will work closely with conservation partners in the region to identify those habitat complexes where private land protection can make a significant contribution to existing conservation investments.

We will work to improve lower-quality habitats on federal, state, and county parcels, to the benefit of SGCN. Some examples:

- While protected, some public lands are in need of cedar or buckthorn control, and lack the diversity of vegetation needed for SGCNs, including skipper butterflies, grasshopper and Henslow's sparrow, western meadowlarks, and more.
- The Swan Lake wildlife management complex will receive invasive tree and shrub removal and understory enhancement of big woods habitat.
- Prairie-wetland specialist species are in rapid decline due to tree encroachment, invasive species, and habitat fragmentation. GRG will remove trees on 274 acres on Wildlife Management Areas in the Prairie Pothole Region.
- Acquisition of one parcel for addition to the Bergo WMA will permanently protect native prairie and add to the matrix of lands available to the public in the Minnesota River Valley.
- Acquisition of a conservation easement adjacent to the Picnic Rock WMA will expand on the public investment along the Blue Earth River by creating a large block of permanent habitat benefiting SGCN.

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

Land prices have skyrocketed in recent years, and along with that an increasing demand for agricultural land, mineral deposits, and housing sites. With natural habitat within the Minnesota River watershed already minimized through historic land uses, these demands are placing an inordinate pressure on those that remain. It is more important than ever to protect what remains of the prairies, wetlands, savannas, and forests in the Minnesota River watershed. A short window of opportunity exists to permanently protect previously unavailable parcels as current land ownership is transitioning from one generation to the next.

Insufficient financial investment into some priority areas for restoration and enhancement is also having an impact. Cedar coverage has increased by 200-300% in just ten years on many rock outcrops and prairies with costs to remove them correlating with the coverage; their expansion continues to reduce habitat quality for SGCNs.

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

This program is focused on procuring conservation easements and restoring prairie, woodland, rock outcrop, and wetland habitats within priority complexes of habitat as guided by Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan and Prairie Plan.

The Land Trust's protection work will build upon past conservation investments in the program area, expand the footprint of existing protected areas (WMAs, WPAs, etc.), facilitate the protection of habitat corridors, and reduce the potential for fragmentation of existing habitats by providing landowners with alternatives to land uses that degrade or destroy habitat. Specific parcels available for easement acquisition are evaluated relative to each other, with priorities given to those that are adjacent or in close proximity to existing protected lands (among other factors).

Many of the remaining native prairies, forests, and wetlands of the watershed where Greening will perform restoration and enhancement activities are concentrated around unique landforms and steep slopes in the river valleys such as on rock outcrops and ridges making these habitats priority protection and enhancement areas within an existing corridor. Fragmentation created by invasive and woody species like reed canary grass and red cedar further leads to an urgent need for enhancement and natural disturbance management to restore those corridors. Great River Greening also utilizes the Wildlife Action Network and Minnesota County Biological Survey data and proximity to known populations of SGCN to identify priorities for enhancement and restoration work. Within the watershed are 6 of the 36 Conservation Focus Areas identified by Minnesota's Wildlife Action Network in Minnesota, and 6 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) identified by Audubon. Activities on the prioritized sites will improve and expand high-value habitat.

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

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for migratory and unique Minnesota species ~ *Parcels are prioritized relative to their benefit to SGCN (among other factors). Success will be determined based on the acreage of lands protected, restored, and enhanced.*

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 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?

Land protected through MLT conservation easements will be sustained through state-of-the-art standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

In addition, MLT will assist landowners in the development of comprehensive habitat management plans to help ensure that the land will be managed for its wildlife and water quality benefits. MLT (as easement holder) will work with landowners on an ongoing basis to provide habitat plans and technical expertise to undertake enhancement and ongoing management of these properties.

Lands acquired in fee will be transferred to the DNR and will be maintained as public lands.

For Restoration and Enhancement (R/E) on protected land, site-specific resource management plans will be developed/adopted to guide effective long-term management. All land managers benefiting from R/E must commit to the long-term maintenance of these sites. A principal goal for each site is to elevate its ecological condition so that on-going management is financially feasible after a grant closes.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2031 and in perpetuity	MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of easements in perpetuity	Enforcement as necessary	-
2031 and in perpetuity	MLT- OHF- DNR	MLT - Transfer to DNR DNR - Initial Development Plan	DNR - Monitoring and maintenance	DNR - Additional habitat restoration as needed
2029	GRG - OHF	Continue R/E and begin stewardship. Target actions to maintain habitat.	Restorative action to correct damage as needed	Evaluate progress and determine if additional actions are needed
2028	GRG - OHF	Initiate R/E	Continue R/E depending on appropriate methods and time of year	Continue R/E and begin stewardship as needed using appropriate methods and dependent on time of year

2027	GRG-OHF	Perform site evaluation and assessment in collaboration with DNR	Develop R/E plan for property. Begin monitoring	Initiate site preparation from R/E work. Continue monitoring

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

Protecting, restoring, and enhancing diverse and resilient habitat benefits all Minnesotans. It keeps our air and water cleaner, mitigates the impacts of climate change, and conserves the biological diversity that belongs to everyone. Public land provides an opportunity for recreation and health to those who do not have access to private natural lands, whether that be for hunting, fishing, hiking, or other outdoor pursuits.

Great River Greening involves, engages, and seeks to benefit diverse communities through focused events that leverage Outdoor Heritage Funds in their programs. Our partners actively encourage residents who live near habitat restoration sites and create programs specifically for people from diverse backgrounds opening up opportunities such as GRG's Engaging a Diverse Population Program.

One of the MLT's core public values is a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have been engaged in a multi-year-long process to assess how the conservation community—and the Minnesota Land Trust in particular—can better address these issues. To date, we have demonstrated this commitment, when possible, given the funding parameters and our unique role in working with private landowners, including numerous projects to protect the camps and nature centers that serve a diversity of Minnesota youth and a long-term partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa on wild rice restoration.

Going forward, GRG and MLT intend to build on this engagement using diversity, equity, and inclusion as a lens to seek out new partnerships, listening to those partners, and collaborating on actions that advance the goals of conserving the best of Minnesota's remaining habitats. We are eager to expand this important work in a way that more directly, and authentically, engages diverse communities and partners in an equitable and just manner.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
Minnesota Land Trust

Who will be the easement holder?
Minnesota Land Trust

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
2-3

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

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Refuge Lands

County/Municipal

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
The purpose of the MLT's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. We restrict agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases where there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either exclude the agricultural area from the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to exclude those areas. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement. These lands will be available for traditional agriculture unless otherwise restricted by the easement.

As for food plots, although MLT prefers no food plots in our easements, we do recognize that these are important to some landowners; an outright restriction against them would greatly diminish our ability to protect quality habitat in some of our program areas. As such, we do allow a limited number of them over small areas when that's the case. Food plots constitute a very small percent of our total land area protected through conservation easement. Our practice is to limit the area of food plots to no more than 3% of the total easement area of a property, with a preference for less than more. Exceptions to this practice will be very limited. Per our stated policy, MLT will prohibit the use of neonicotinoid-treated seed in the planting

of food plots, prohibit the planting of invasive species, and require the landowner to submit seed tags to MLT's Stewardship Team on an annual basis after the planting of food plots.

State Wildlife Management Areas are part of the State's Outdoor Recreation System established by State Statute 86A. Subdivision 8 of that statute defines the purpose of use of WMA's as, " -A state wildlife management area shall be established to protect those lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and to develop and manage these lands and waters for the production of wildlife, for public hunting, fishing, and trapping, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses."

To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming on a small percentage of WMA's (<1%) specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife, recreation or reduce crop depredation from neighboring properties in agriculture-dominated landscapes with limited winter food sources. Commonly planted crops include corn, soybeans, small grains and hay that can include alfalfa or a wildlife mix. Crops are chosen based on a particular wildlife or recreational need and follow crop rotations that adhere to soil health principles. Most food plots occupy a small portion of a particular tract and may include up to 5% of a particular parcel. Percentages are much lower considering the entire WMA system.

DNR does not have any plans to plant food plots on the parcels currently listed in this proposal. However, future management needs may change or additional parcels may be added later that may include food plots.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
No variation from state regulations.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

County

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
1-2

Will the eased land be open for public use?
No

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
No

Initial restoration activities will be conducted by the MN DNR through DNR IDP. The Land Trust will assess the R/E needs of each parcel protected through this appropriation. Should R/E needs exist, funding for those projects will be built into a forthcoming proposal.

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?
No

Explain how and when the restoration/enhancement work will be completed and identify the source of funding:
The Land Trust will assess the R/E needs of each parcel protected through this appropriation. Should R/E needs exist, funding for those projects will be built into a forthcoming proposal.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Restoration and enhancement completed	June 30, 2032
Acquisitions in fee completed	June 30, 2031
Conservation easements completed	June 30, 2031
Finalize restoration and enhancement plans	June 30, 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.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$340,000	$12,500	Private	$352,500
Contracts	$913,000	-	-	$913,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$500,000	-	-	$500,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$454,000	$45,000	-, Landowners	$499,000
Easement Stewardship	$112,000	-	-	$112,000
Travel	$27,000	-	-	$27,000
Professional Services	$88,000	-	-	$88,000
Direct Support Services	$107,000	$65,000	Private	$172,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
Supplies/Materials	$98,000	-	-	$98,000
DNR IDP	$21,000	-	-	$21,000
Grand Total	**$2,681,000**	**$122,500**	**-**	**$2,803,500**

Partner: Great River Greening

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$165,000	$12,500	Private	$177,500
Contracts	$899,000	-	-	$899,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$21,000	-	-	$21,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$59,000	$65,000	Private	$124,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$5,000	-	-	$5,000
Supplies/Materials	$58,000	-	-	$58,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,207,000**	**$77,500**	**-**	**$1,284,500**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Personnel	0.43	5.0	$165,000	$12,500	Private	$177,500

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$175,000	-	-	$175,000
Contracts	$14,000	-	-	$14,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$500,000	-	-	$500,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$454,000	$45,000	Landowners	$499,000
Easement Stewardship	$112,000	-	-	$112,000
Travel	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
Professional Services	$88,000	-	-	$88,000
Direct Support Services	$48,000	-	-	$48,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
Supplies/Materials	$40,000	-	-	$40,000
DNR IDP	$21,000	-	-	$21,000
Grand Total	**$1,474,000**	**$45,000**	**-**	**$1,519,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Staff, including CEO; Directors of Land Protection, Development & Communications, Finance & Operations, and Stewardship; General Counsel; and various Sr. Managers, Managers, and others	0.4	4.0	$175,000	-	-	$175,000

Amount of Request: $2,681,000
Amount of Leverage: $122,500
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 4.57%
DSS + Personnel: $447,000
As a % of the total request: 16.67%
Easement Stewardship: $112,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 24.67%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
MLT and GRG funding and project outputs were reduced by 72%, resulting in 2-3 proposed easement acquisitions

delivering ~ 99 acres and 1-2 fee acquisitions delivering ~ 70 acres. Landowning partners have assisted in identifying 274 acres across 4 parcels of highest priority R/E needs.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
MLT encourages landowners to fully or partially donate the value of conservation easements. The leverage amount is a conservative anticipated estimate we expect to see donated by landowners.

Greening has $77,500 of committed leverage. Ongoing discussions with various regional conservation groups is raising awareness and Greening anticipates additional leverage.

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?
Acre scaling will be reduced moderately greater than proportional due to fixed costs and other factors. Activities will be curtailed, but greater than proportional, as some activities are fixed and necessary for program success.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS will be scaled, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Greening's contract line includes restoration/enhancement contracts by service providers.

MLT - Habitat management plan preparation, landowner outreach, etc.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Phase 2 Environmental Assessments, Mapping, Mineral Reports, etc.

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

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

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
2 -3 easements anticipated. $28,000 per easement for stewardship. Land protected through MLT conservation easements will be sustained through state-of-the-art standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

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?
Greening - DSS rate has been approved by the DNR in September 2019, 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.

MLT - In a process approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, MLT's DSS rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. This is similar to the MLT's proposed federal indirect rate. MLT will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Hand tools, saws, brush cutters, GPS devices, safety gear 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	12	34	-	-	46
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	70	70
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	99	99
Enhance	-	228	-	-	228
Total	**12**	**262**	**-**	**169**	**443**

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	20
Enhance	-
Total	**20**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	$50,000	$100,000	-	-	$150,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$675,000	$675,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$799,000	$799,000
Enhance	-	$737,000	$320,000	-	$1,057,000
Total	**$50,000**	**$837,000**	**$320,000**	**$1,474,000**	**$2,681,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	46	-	46
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	70	-	70
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	99	-	99
Enhance	-	-	-	228	-	228
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**443**	**-**	**443**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$150,000	-	$150,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$675,000	-	$675,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$799,000	-	$799,000
Enhance	-	-	-	$1,057,000	-	$1,057,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,681,000**	**-**	**$2,681,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	$4,166	$2,941	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$9,642
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$8,070
Enhance	-	$3,232	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	$3,260	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$9,642	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$8,070	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$4,635	-

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:
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, SGCN, size, and location), congruence with existing plans and priority areas, willing and committed landowners (demonstrated through leveraged match), and leveraging opportunities. The following table includes state WMA, county, and easement parcels.

The Land Trust uses a competitive, market-based approach through an RFP process to identify interested landowners and prioritize parcels for conservation easement acquisition. All proposals submitted by landowners are evaluated and ranked relative to their ecological significance based on three primary factors: 1) size of habitat on the parcel; 2) condition of habitat on the parcel; and 3) the context (both in terms of amount/quality of remaining habitat and protected areas) within which the parcel lies. We also ask the landowner to consider contributing all or a portion of fair market value to enable our funds to make a larger conservation impact (see attached sign-up criteria).

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
GRG - Big Stone NWR	Big Stone	12145201	24	$320,000	Yes	Locust removal, Siberian elm removal
GRG - Williams Nature Center	Blue Earth	10827216	0	$0	Yes	0
GRG - Rosenau-Lambrecht WMA	Brown	11031217	97	$295,000	Yes	prairie and wetland enhancement. woody invasive removal, RX burn and seeding
GRG - Vogel WMA	Brown	10835203	56	$146,000	Yes	Tree removal on grassland and around wetlands
GRG - Lake Washington Regional Park	Le Sueur	10926212	0	$0	Yes	-
GRG - Ney Nature Center	Le Sueur	10926201	0	$0	Yes	0
GRG - Swan Lake WMA Complex	Nicollet	10928228	97	$446,000	Yes	Tree, shrub, and invasives removal across 97 acres of forest/oak savanna including cedar and Siberian elm removal
GRG - Delhi WMA	Redwood	11336225	0	$0	Yes	-
GRG - Two Rivers WMA	Redwood	10938202	0	$0	Yes	-

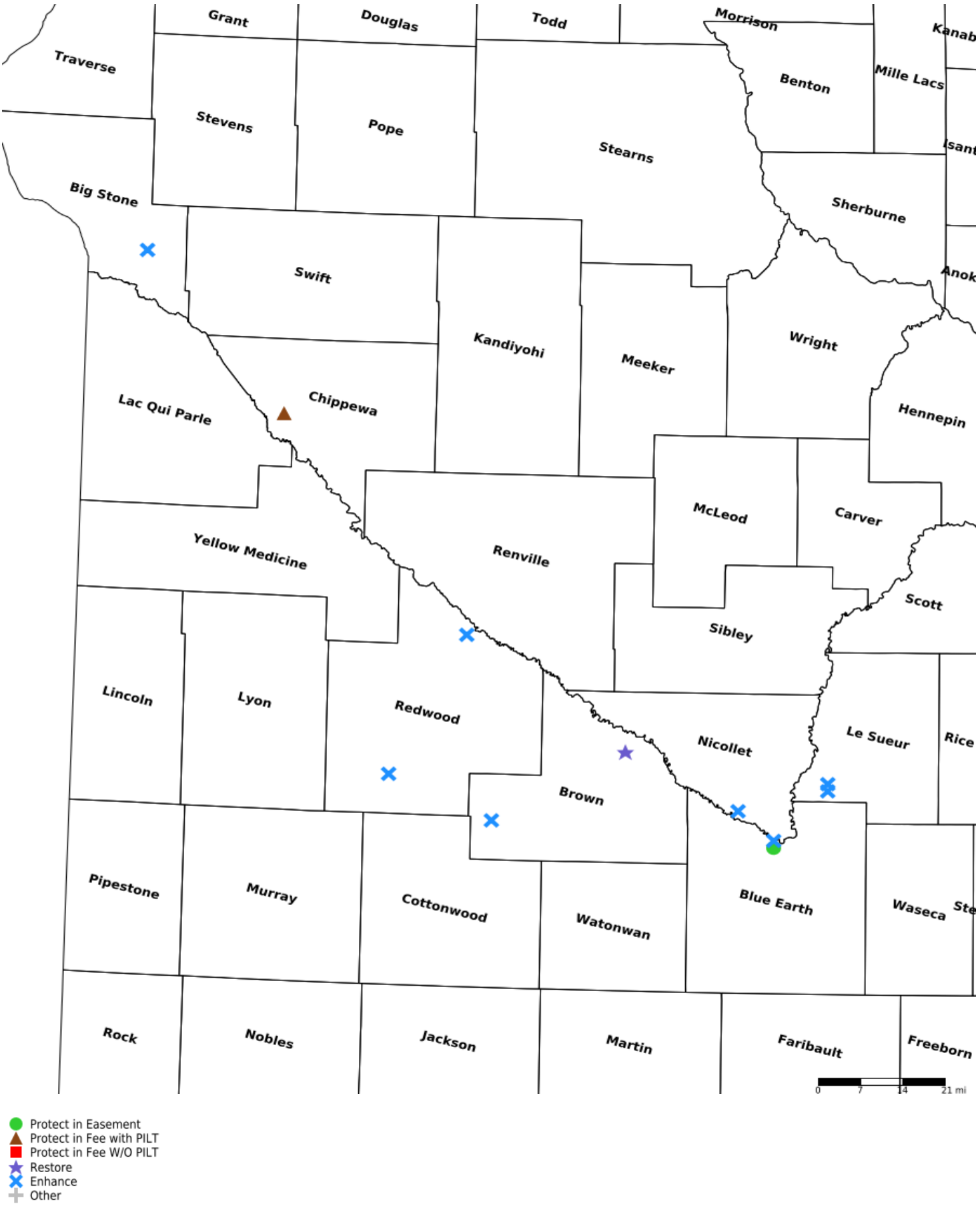
Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
MLT - Bergo WMA	Chippewa	11841226	58	$200,000	No

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
MLT - Blue Earth River - Picnic Rock	Blue Earth	10827221	155	$1,300,000	No

Parcel Map


Grant
Douglas
Todd
Morrison
Traverse
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Benton
Mille Lacs
Big Stone
Swift
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Sherburne
Wright
Lac Qui Parle
Chippewa
Hennepin
McLeod
Carver
Yellow Medicine
Renville
Sibley
Scott
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Nicollet
Le Sueur
Rice
Brown
Pipestone
Murray
Cottonwood
Watonwan
Blue Earth
Waseca
Rock
Nobles
Jackson
Martin
Faribault
Freeborn
0
7
14
21 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Minnesota River Watershed Habitat Conservation Program Phase 2

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Minnesota River Watershed Habitat Conservation Program Phase 2
Organization: Great River Greening
Manager: Todd Rexine

Budget

Requested Amount: $9,680,000
Appropriated Amount: $2,681,000
Percentage: 27.7%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$879,000	$12,500	$340,000	$12,500	38.68%	100.0%
Contracts	$3,493,000	-	$913,000	-	26.14%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,500,000	-	$500,000	-	33.33%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$2,500,000	$250,000	$454,000	$45,000	18.16%	18.0%
Easement Stewardship	$224,000	-	$112,000	-	50.0%	-
Travel	$84,000	-	$27,000	-	32.14%	-
Professional Services	$366,000	-	$88,000	-	24.04%	-
Direct Support Services	$275,000	$170,000	$107,000	$65,000	38.91%	38.24%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$45,000	-	$15,000	-	33.33%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$16,000	-	$6,000	-	37.5%	-
Supplies/Materials	$277,000	-	$98,000	-	35.38%	-
DNR IDP	$21,000	-	$21,000	-	100.0%	-
Grand Total	**$9,680,000**	**$432,500**	**$2,681,000**	**$122,500**	**27.7%**	**28.32%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Acre scaling will be reduced moderately greater than proportional due to fixed costs and other factors. Activities will be curtailed, but greater than proportional, as some activities are fixed and necessary for program success.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS will be scaled, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Acre scaling will be moderately greater than proportional due to fixed costs and other factors. Activities will be curtailed, but greater than proportional, as some activities are fixed and necessary for program success.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS will be scaled, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	60	46	76.67%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	120	70	58.33%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	550	99	18.0%
Enhance	1,031	228	22.11%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$256,000	$150,000	58.59%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$1,766,000	$675,000	38.22%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$3,519,000	$799,000	22.71%
Enhance	$4,139,000	$1,057,000	25.54%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	60	46	76.67%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	120	70	58.33%
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Enhance	$4,139,000	$1,057,000	25.54%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MN Prairie Recovery Program

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: MN Prairie Recovery Program

Funds Recommended: $3,791,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

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

Location Information

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

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

The Nature Conservancy continues to advance the protection, restoration, and enhancement goals for increasingly rare prairie, grassland, and wetland habitats as described in the 2018 MN Prairie Conservation Plan and builds on the highly successful model established by prior MN Prairie Recovery Program Phases. In Phase 16, we will protect a total of 160 acres in Fee to be held by The Nature Conservancy or MNDNR, enhance 7,000 acres of permanently protected grasslands, and restore 75 acres of prairie and wetland habitat. Projects will contribute toward state climate goals by sequestering 75,000 metric tons CO2 equivalent.

Design and Scope of Work

Protect - An estimated 160 acres of prairie, wetlands, grasslands, and savanna will be permanently protected through fee-title acquisition from willing sellers in priority prairie core/corridor landscapes as identified in the 2018 MN Prairie Conservation Plan. Acquired lands will be prioritized using LSOHC approved criteria that include: native prairie percentage on the parcel, proximity to permanently protected areas, habitat quality, species diversity, and public recreation suitability. Protected acres without PILT will be held by The Nature Conservancy subject to a recorded notice of funding restrictions. Protected acres with PILT will be transferred to MNDNR. Recent costs to acquire properties in fee-title are averaging around $5,000 per acre as land prices have been increasing over the past years.

Enhance - An estimated 7,000 acres of grassland/wetland complex will be enhanced on permanently protected lands, including lands purchased with OHF funds and held by the Nature Conservancy; MN DNR Management Units including Wildlife Management Areas, Scientific & Natural Areas, and Native Prairie Bank easements; and USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas, Refuges, and select habitat easements. The primary objectives of these enhancement activities are increasing native species diversity and improving critical wildlife habitat. A variety of techniques will be implemented to accomplish these objectives: prescribed fire; tree and woody species removal; invasive species control including mechanical, biological, and chemical control; over-seeding degraded grasslands with native seed; and conservation grazing, mowing, or haying. The work will be conducted through contracts with local vendors, Conservation Corps of MN & IA, Student Conservation Association crews, and Nature Conservancy permanent and seasonal staff. Prairie Recovery Biologists, stationed in five landscapes within the Prairie region, are responsible for the entire life cycle of enhancement/restoration projects including: identifying, prioritizing, and designing projects in collaboration with agency land managers; managing bidding, vendor selection, due diligence, and overseeing contracted work; and directing TNC seasonal staff & CCMI crews. Biologists also participate in and leading Prairie Plan Local Technical Teams to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of grassland conservation program delivery by multiple partners at the landscape level.

Restore - Approximately 75 acres of cropland and low diversity grassland will be restored to diverse local-ecotype grassland/wetland complexes. The majority of these prairie restorations include a combination of vendor purchased and locally harvested seed.

Results to Date - Through previous Phases of the MN Prairie Recovery Program, we protected 8,982 acres of prairies, wetlands, grasslands, and savannas, enhanced over 220,000 acres of permanently protected grasslands and restored 2,765 acres with diverse local ecotype native seed. All parcels protected contributed to the functional integrity of existing habitat complexes. Our enhancement projects have accelerated the implementation of prescribed fire, woody vegetation removal, conservation grazing infrastructure development, and treatment of invasive species. Recent costs for enhancement and restoration have averaged around $200 per acre. Contract costs have increased due to inflation and MN Prevailing Wage requirements.

Collectively these projects have captured approximately 1.8 million metric tons CO2 equivalent and will continue to hold that carbon in prairie soils.

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

Temperate grasslands are the most endangered and least protected habitat type on earth, and Minnesota's prairies are no exception. Activities identified in this proposal directly reflect implementation strategies identified in the MN Prairie Conservation Plan. Properties targeted for acquisition are identified and prioritized using MN Biological Survey Rare Element Occurrences and Biodiversity Significance. The geographies we work within, in addition to being Prairie Plan Core areas, reflect areas with the highest density and highest quality remaining prairie systems left in the state. By focusing our work in these particular landscapes we increase the functionality of the prairie/grassland/wetland complexes, including increasing water retention and surface water quality, improving breeding and nesting habitat and augmenting migratory corridors. Land protection and restoration efforts produce watershed benefits such as eliminating nutrient loads after rainfall, preventing pesticide runoff, and improving fisheries. While our work focuses on expanding and maintaining habitat functionality, a number of individual species and suites of SGCN will directly benefit from this program including:

Insects - Federally-endangered rusty patched bumble bees and Poweshiek skipperlings, federally-threatened Dakota skipper butterflies and declining regal fritillary butterflies. Hundreds of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators rely on prairie habitat and scientists have observed declines in these populations due to habitat fragmentation, habitat degradation, land use, pesticide drift, and many other anthropogenic factors.

Birds - Grassland dependent birds have experienced precipitous population decline across Minnesota and the northern Great Plains, largely due to habitat loss of breeding grounds. This program will provide permanently protected and enhanced habitat for a suite of grassland and wetland nesting birds, most notably the Meadowlark, Bobolink, Dickcissel, Grasshopper sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, Upland sandpiper, Black tern, Northern pintail, Greater Prairie-chicken, Sharp-tail grouse, and many others.

Reptiles - Hognose snake (primarily Lac qui Parle, Big Stone, Yellow Medicine Counties), 5-lined skink (Upper MN River Valley rock outcroppings).

Mammals - American badger (an indicator species requiring intact blocks of quality habitat), elk (for herd management in NW MN).

The expansion of habitat protection, prescribed fire, conservation grazing, invasive species control, woody removal, and high diversity prairie restorations are key strategies for supporting prairie species.

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

Approximately 1% of Minnesota's native prairies remain and of these only about half are currently protected. The rest remain at risk for conversion to other uses including row-crop production, gravel mining, alternative energy development, and urban development. It is imperative that we permanently protect remaining native prairie and grassland buffers to improve prairie connectivity and resilience. The MN Prairie Conservation Plan sets an ambitious goal of protecting all of our remaining native prairies and annually enhancing significant acres of grassland habitat over the next 15 years. This program represents one tool designed to help the conservation community meet these goals. This program greatly accelerates habitat improvement on public lands and TNC OHF tracts by bringing additional resources to bear: completing prairie restorations to support wildlife, enabling the treatment of rapidly expanding invasive species and woody encroachment, and developing infrastructure that facilitates future management using either conservation grazing or prescribed fire.

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

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

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

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

Prairie

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

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

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

Programs in prairie region:

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

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

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

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

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

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

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

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

The MN Prairie Recovery landscapes are located near a number of cities with diverse communities (St. Cloud, Willmar, Fargo/Moorhead) in addition to many small rural communities with low and moderate income households. Diverse, low-moderate income communities often experience disproportionate access to nature on private lands. Open and accessible public lands and publicly accessible TNC lands are crucial resources for inspiring people from all backgrounds to become the next generation of hunters, anglers, nature photographers, writers, artists, nature enthusiasts, and biologists. Work proposed through the MN Prairie Recovery Program will add to the quantity and quality of public lands available to all Minnesotans.

In addition to the on-the-ground conservation benefits, the MN Prairie Recovery Program serves as a vehicle for training the next generation of conservation professionals through a robust seasonal employee hiring program. Our seasonal staff is largely comprised of young and aspiring conservationists looking to gain practical hands-on experience, either through short-term summer, or longer-term "1st job in the field" employment. Our recruitment practices are rooted in our Mission and guided by our Values, which includes a Commitment to Diversity and Respect for People, Communities, and Cultures. We know we will only achieve our Mission by hiring and engaging a diverse workforce that reflects the communities in which we work. Hiring Teams must follow TNC's inclusive hiring practices for all positions. Through these efforts, we have seen more diverse candidate pools resulting in a subsequent diversification of our workforce.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

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

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

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?
Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?
Yes

Where does the activity take place?

WMA

WPA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Refuge Lands

Other : TNC owned lands purchased with OHF dollars.

SNA

AMA

State Recreation Areas

County/Municipal

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted Best Management Practice for preparing sites for prairie restoration. For example: short-term use of soybeans or other commercial crops can be used for restorations in order to control weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seed bank. Neonicotinoid and/or fungicide treated seed will not be used. We do not expect agricultural crop use to exceed 3 years on any given OHF-acquired property. We do not anticipate establishing any food plots on parcels protected through this program. We continue to explore the viability of alternative restoration techniques to minimize the need to farm restoration sites.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
All tracts kept in TNC ownership and all WMA lands acquired will be open for hunting and fishing with no variations from State of Minnesota regulations.

SNAs acquired with this funding would be open to the most appropriate types of hunting for the particular parcels. Priority will be given to acquiring lands to be open to all hunting, trapping, and fishing.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

NGO

State of MN

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

SNA

Other : Other: Addition to TNC Natural Areas Preserve Network

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

We anticipate closing on 1-2 acquisitions with this appropriation. Final number of transactions will vary depending on size of individual acquisitions, physical location within the state, and corresponding land costs.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

> Yes, to the best of our ability. Additional restoration and enhancement costs may occur in future phases of the program (if allocated) to provide the best outcomes for wildlife habitat and effectively use available funds without holding appropriations open for extended periods of time.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
75 acres restored to native prairie/wetland	June 2032
2,500 acres enhanced	June 2032
2,500 acres enhanced	June 2031
2,000 acres enhanced	June 2030
40 acres protected in Fee w/ PILT	June 2031
40 acres protected in Fee w/out PILT	June 2031
40 acres protected in Fee w/ PILT	June 2030
40 acres protected in Fee w/out PILT	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	$794,000	-	-	$794,000
Contracts	$1,565,000	-	-	$1,565,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$405,000	-	-	$405,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$405,000	$81,000	TNC Private Funds	$486,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$185,200	-	-	$185,200
Professional Services	$39,600	-	-	$39,600
Direct Support Services	$207,900	$460,000	TNC Private Funds	$667,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Capital Equipment	$22,000	-	-	$22,000
Other Equipment/Tools	$91,200	-	-	$91,200
Supplies/Materials	$47,100	-	-	$47,100
DNR IDP	$14,000	-	-	$14,000
Grand Total	**$3,791,000**	**$541,000**	**-**	**$4,332,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Contract Specialist	0.25	1.0	$16,900	-	-	$16,900
Program Management	0.65	1.0	$43,300	-	-	$43,300
Protection Specialist	1.0	1.0	$72,000	-	-	$72,000
Science Staff	0.05	1.0	$4,100	-	-	$4,100
Prairie Recovery Biologists	4.0	1.0	$309,900	-	-	$309,900
Habitat Crews	5.0	1.0	$347,800	-	-	$347,800

Capital Equipment

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
UTV	$22,000	-	-	$22,000

Amount of Request: $3,791,000
Amount of Leverage: $541,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 14.27%
DSS + Personnel: $1,001,900
As a % of the total request: 26.43%
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 deliver proportionally fewer acres across the Protection, Enhancement, and Restoration categories respectively.

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

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

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

Personnel

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

Contracts

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

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
We anticipate 1-2 fee title acquisition transactions. Final number of transactions will vary depending on size of individual acquisition parcels, physical location within the state, and corresponding land costs.

Travel

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

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
Traditional travel costs are approximately 20% of the travel line item.
The travel line item also includes long-term truck lease costs for the Prairie Recovery Biologists; short term vehicle lease/rental costs, primarily for Habitat Crews seasonally and for Project Coordinator on an infrequent basis; and long-term leases and utilities for Habitat Crew housing.
Includes travel to in-state trainings and meetings necessary to the implementation of the stated restoration and enhancement goals including prescribed fire training, R/E methods trainings, field tours to learn best management practices, and partnership coordination meetings such as Local Technical Team meetings.

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

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?
DSS is based on The Nature Conservancy's Federal Negotiated Rate (FNR) as proposed and approved by the US Dept. of Agriculture on an annual basis. In this proposal we are requesting reimbursement of 7.5% of eligible base costs as determined by our annual FNR and based on suggestions from the Council in prior years' hearings. The amount requested for reimbursement represents 40% of the total reimbursable costs allowed under the FNR. Examples of expenses included in the FNR include services from in-house legal counsel, finance, human resources, grant specialists, and information technology support, all of which contribute directly to the implementation of the program. The FNR is not applied to capital equipment over $50,000 or land acquisition. The remaining cost for DSS that is not reimbursable through OHF is listed as leverage in the budget table.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Equipment and tools run the gamut of necessary field supplies for restoration and enhancement project implementation. Examples include small machines, chainsaws, brushsaws, herbicide application equipment, personal protective equipment for fire and other activities, fire tools and pumps, atvs, trailers, and fencing/watering materials for conservation grazing. The equipment line item also includes replacement parts and service for existing equipment to reduce the need to fully replace supplies, equipment, and tools purchased in earlier Prairie Recovery Program phases.

Federal Funds

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

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	5	70	-	-	75
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	10	70	-	-	80
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	10	70	-	-	80
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	500	6,500	-	-	7,000
Total	**525**	**6,710**	**-**	**-**	**7,235**

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

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	30
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	30
Protect in Easement	-
Enhance	2,500
Total	**2,560**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	$20,000	$120,000	-	-	$140,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$50,000	$425,000	-	-	$475,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$50,000	$425,000	-	-	$475,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$240,000	$2,461,000	-	-	$2,701,000
Total	**$360,000**	**$3,431,000**	**-**	**-**	**$3,791,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	35	-	40	-	75
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	40	-	40	-	80
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	40	-	40	-	80
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	3,300	-	3,700	-	7,000
Total	**-**	**3,415**	**-**	**3,820**	**-**	**7,235**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	$70,000	-	$70,000	-	$140,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	$235,000	-	$240,000	-	$475,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	$235,000	-	$240,000	-	$475,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$1,260,000	-	$1,441,000	-	$2,701,000
Total	**-**	**$1,800,000**	**-**	**$1,991,000**	**-**	**$3,791,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	$4,000	$1,714	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$5,000	$6,071	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$5,000	$6,071	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$480	$378	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	$2,000	-	$1,750	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	$5,875	-	$6,000	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	$5,875	-	$6,000	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$381	-	$389	-

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:
Parcel selection for Protection projects with and without PILT obligations are prioritized according to the goals within the MN Prairie Conservation Plan and specifically using the attached criteria. Parcels that The Nature Conservancy will own and manage are located within core portfolio sites. Protection parcels are not exactly specified because we want to be able to act swiftly when opportunities with willing landowners in key landscapes arise. Maintaining anonymity of parcels is an important consideration for the organization in order to protect landowner privacy rights and to maintain the integrity of good faith negotiations. Specific protection parcels will be submitted to LSOHC for approval prior to pursuing acquisition through an Accomplishment Plan amendment change request.

Enhancement and Restoration parcels consist of permanently protected grasslands primarily on USFWS WPAs and Refuges; TNC OHF tracts; and MN DNR WMAs and SNAs. Project sites are selected for funding in close consultation with the partner responsible for ultimate management. This parcel list is illustrative of the areas in which our work will be conducted and the types of projects that we will implement. Specific restoration and enhancement parcels will be submitted to LSOHC for approval prior to implementation through an Accomplishment Plan amendment change request.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
NA	Becker	13942227	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Becker	13942227	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Becker	14043225	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Becker	13942227	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Big Stone	12447210	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Big Stone	12447210	150	$75,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Big Stone	12246224	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Big Stone	12447210	650	$50,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Chippewa	11939228	650	$50,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Chippewa	11939228	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Chippewa	11939228	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Chippewa	11739213	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Clay	14245204	150	$75,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Clay	14245204	550	$40,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Clay	14245204	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Clay	14145208	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Cottonwood	10535215	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Cottonwood	10737220	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Douglas	12739218	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Douglas	13039212	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Grant	13044218	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Grant	13041204	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Jackson	10137227	195	$20,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Jackson	10436206	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Kandiyohi	12035210	150	$75,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Kandiyohi	12035210	500	$30,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire

NA	Kandiyohi	12035210	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Kandiyohi	12233215	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Kittson	16045206	375	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Kittson	16246224	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Kittson	16045206	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Kittson	16045206	1,100	$75,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Lac qui Parle	11746224	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Lac qui Parle	12044236	650	$50,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Lac qui Parle	12044236	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Lac qui Parle	12044236	375	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Lincoln	11345217	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Lincoln	11244228	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Lincoln	11345217	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Lincoln	11345217	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Lyon	10942211	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Lyon	10942211	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Lyon	10942211	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Lyon	11243218	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Mahnomen	14642215	375	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Mahnomen	14642215	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Mahnomen	14642215	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Mahnomen	14641230	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Marshall	14642208	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Marshall	14642208	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Marshall	14642208	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Marshall	15746214	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Murray	10740232	375	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Murray	10740232	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Murray	10740232	325	$190,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Murray	10841225	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Nobles	10439225	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Nobles	10442215	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Nobles	10439225	325	$175,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Nobles	10439225	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Norman	14644220	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Norman	14644220	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Norman	14645203	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Norman	14644220	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Otter Tail	13244210	400	$20,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Otter Tail	13244216	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Pennington	15345230	400	$20,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Pennington	15445232	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Pipestone	10744222	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Pipestone	10744222	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Pipestone	10744222	325	$175,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Pipestone	10846219	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Polk	14844201	650	$50,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Polk	14844201	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Polk	14844201	355	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Polk	15244215	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Pope	12336214	800	$65,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Pope	12336214	150	$75,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Pope	12336214	375	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal

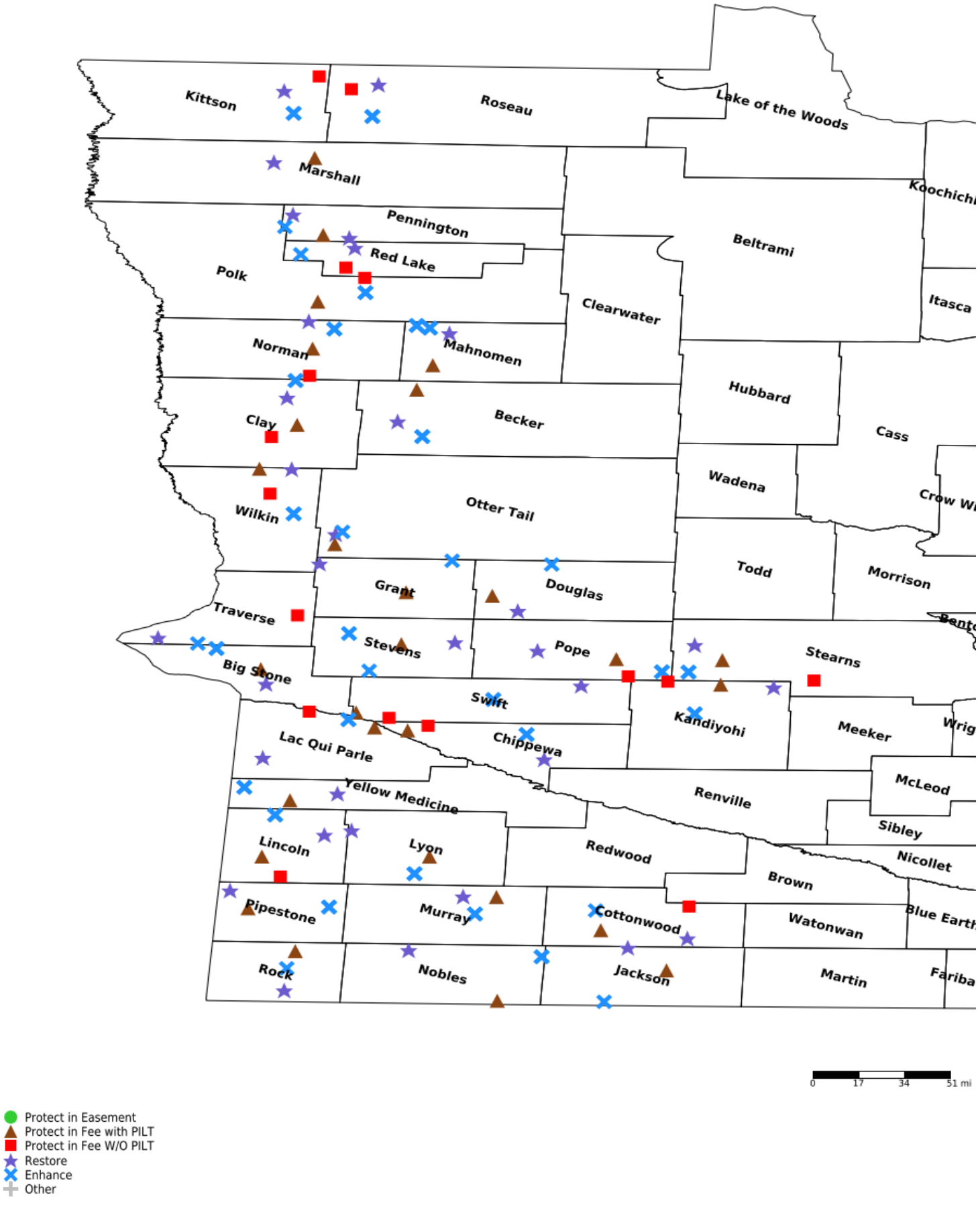
NA	Pope	12439203	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Red Lake	15144202	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Red Lake	15145221	375	$20,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Rock	10345227	400	$20,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Rock	10145210	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Roseau	16043207	1,100	$75,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Roseau	16043207	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Roseau	16043207	375	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Roseau	16243205	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Stearns	12335216	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Stearns	12335216	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Stearns	12335216	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Stearns	12535222	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Stevens	12343221	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Stevens	12544201	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Stevens	12544201	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Stevens	12541222	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Swift	12140215	400	$30,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Swift	12140215	150	$70,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Swift	12140215	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Swift	12238214	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Traverse	12547232	400	$20,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Traverse	12548220	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Wilkin	13345204	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Wilkin	13345204	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Wilkin	13345204	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Wilkin	13645205	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Yellow Medicine	11546221	400	$25,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Yellow Medicine	11546221	150	$65,000	Yes	Invasive Control
NA	Yellow Medicine	11546221	325	$195,000	Yes	Woody Removal
NA	Yellow Medicine	11544235	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
TBD WMA Addition	Becker	14242221	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Big Stone	12346223	15	$90,000	No
Chippewa Prairie Addition	Chippewa	11942212	15	$90,000	No
Lac qui Parle WMA Addition	Chippewa	11942221	15	$90,000	No
Bluestem Prairie Addition	Clay	13946235	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Clay	13945204	15	$90,000	No
Red Rock Prairie Addition	Cottonwood	10735210	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Cottonwood	10637233	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Douglas	12840216	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Grant	12842208	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Jackson	10335219	15	$90,000	No
Leif Mountains Addition	Kandiyohi	12236201	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Kandiyohi	12234208	15	$90,000	No
Wallace C Dayton Addition	Kittson	16345223	15	$90,000	No
Lac qui Parle WMA Addition	Lac qui Parle	11943215	15	$90,000	No
Plover Prairie Addition	Lac qui Parle	12045213	15	$90,000	No
Hole in the Mountain Addition	Lincoln	10945221	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Lincoln	11046212	15	$90,000	No

TBD WMA Addition	Lyon	11041206	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Mahnomen	14442235	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Marshall	15745202	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Murray	10840226	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Nobles	10140225	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Norman	14545235	15	$90,000	No
Twin Valley Prairie Addition	Norman	14345226	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Otter Tail	13144204	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Pennington	15245212	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Pipestone	10746227	15	$90,000	Yes
Mentor Prairie Addition	Polk	14943206	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Polk	14845226	15	$90,000	No
Ordway Prairie Addition	Pope	12337225	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Pope	12437222	15	$90,000	No
Marcoux Prairie Addition	Red Lake	15044215	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Rock	10445223	15	$90,000	No
Wallace C Dayton Addition	Roseau	16244215	15	$90,000	No
Roscoe Prairie Addition	Stearns	12332234	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Stearns	12434220	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Stevens	12542229	15	$90,000	No
Chippewa Prairie Addition	Swift	12043225	15	$90,000	No
Lac qui Parle WMA Addition	Swift	12043218	15	$90,000	No
Miller Prairie Addition	Traverse	12745234	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Wilkin	13646204	15	$90,000	No
Western Prairie Addition	Wilkin	13546226	15	$90,000	No
TBD WMA Addition	Yellow Medicine	11445215	15	$90,000	No

Parcel Map


Kittson
Roseau
Lake of the Woods
Marshall
Koochichi
Pennington
Red Lake
Beltrami
Polk
Clearwater
Itasca
Norman
Mahnomen
Hubbard
Becker
Clay
Cass
Wadena
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Crow Wi
Todd
Morrison
Grant
Douglas
Traverse
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Big Stone
Swift
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Wrig
Lac Qui Parle
Chippewa
McLeod
Yellow Medicine
Renville
Sibley
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Nicollet
Brown
Pipestone
Murray
Cottonwood
Watonwan
Blue Earth
Rock
Nobles
Jackson
Martin
Fariba
0
17
34
51 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MN Prairie Recovery Program

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - MN Prairie Recovery Program
Organization: The Nature Conservancy
Manager: Liz Beery

Budget

Requested Amount: $14,040,000
Appropriated Amount: $3,791,000
Percentage: 27.0%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$2,935,300	-	$794,000	-	27.05%	-
Contracts	$5,800,000	-	$1,565,000	-	26.98%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,500,000	-	$405,000	-	27.0%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$1,500,000	$300,000	$405,000	$81,000	27.0%	27.0%
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$237,000	-	$185,200	-	78.14%	-
Professional Services	$147,400	-	$39,600	-	26.87%	-
Direct Support Services	$770,200	$1,150,000	$207,900	$460,000	26.99%	40.0%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$60,000	-	$15,000	-	25.0%	-
Capital Equipment	$80,000	-	$22,000	-	27.5%	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$698,400	-	$91,200	-	13.06%	-
Supplies/Materials	$259,200	-	$47,100	-	18.17%	-
DNR IDP	$52,500	-	$14,000	-	26.67%	-
Grand Total	**$14,040,000**	**$1,450,000**	**$3,791,000**	**$541,000**	**27.0%**	**37.31%**

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

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We would anticipate delivering proportionally fewer acres across the Protection, Enhancement, and Restoration categories respectively.

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

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	300	75	25.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	300	80	26.67%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	300	80	26.67%
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	26,250	7,000	26.67%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$500,000	$140,000	28.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$1,800,000	$475,000	26.39%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$1,800,000	$475,000	26.39%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$9,940,000	$2,701,000	27.17%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	300	75	25.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	300	80	26.67%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	300	80	26.67%
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	26,250	7,000	26.67%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$500,000	$140,000	28.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$1,800,000	$475,000	26.39%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$1,800,000	$475,000	26.39%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$9,940,000	$2,701,000	27.17%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley - Phase XIII

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/08/2026

Project Title: Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley - Phase XIII

Funds Recommended: $3,100,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Sabin Adams
Title: MN State Coordinator
Organization: Pheasants Forever
Address: 1783 Buerkle Circle
City: St. Paul, MN 55110
Email: sadams@pheasantsforever.org
Office Number: 320-250-6317
Mobile Number: 3202506317
Fax Number:
Website: www.pheasantsforever.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Norman, Wilkin and Becker.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

The Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society in partnership with Pheasants Forever seek to protect and restore parcels within the Minnesota prairie chicken range. Focus will be on parcels that will specifically benefit prairie chickens, a species of special concern. Acquisitions will be located in the prairie or prairie/forest planning regions with an emphasis in the primary prairie chicken range. Parcels will be transferred to either the MN DNR as WMA's or the USFWS as WPA's and will be open to the public.

Design and Scope of Work

Greater prairie chickens are a grassland dependent species found largely in the beach ridges of Glacial Lake Agassiz in western Minnesota. Grassland complexes composed of various successional stages (i.e. age of habitat resulting in changing plant community), and at least 320 acres in size are required by this species. Loss of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres and conversion from grassland to row crop agriculture are the two major factors reducing quality or the habitat available to prairie chickens. As a charismatic upland gamebird, prairie chickens serve as flagship or ambassador for other grassland dependent species. Protection and restoration of habitat for the benefit of prairie chickens will, in turn, positively benefit other species such as the chestnut-collared longspur and Dakota Skipper (both species listed by the MN DNR as endangered).

The focus of this partnership is to permanently protect native and restored prairies and associated wetland habitats to both increase and stabilize prairie chicken populations in western Minnesota. This is done by focusing on remnant prairies within core and corridor areas of the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan (MNPCP). Proposed tracts, with willing sellers who value wildlife habitat, are ranked based on the following criteria: 1) distance to the nearest prairie chicken lek, 2) location in or outside of a core area from the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan (MPCP), 3) distance to the nearest public hunting land (WPA or WMA), 4) tract size, 5) current grassland type (native prairie, restored prairie, brome, or row crop), and 6) wetland density and predicted waterfowl breeding pairs (wetlands can provide important habitat for prairie chickens over their annual life cycle). Purchased tracts will be restored and/or enhanced to their fullest potential using grant funds. When appropriate, tracts will be transferred to the MN DNR as Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) or to the USFWS as Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) and will be responsible for future management.

This proposal delivers numerous stateside conservation plan goals by protecting, restoring, and enhancing grasslands and wetlands in strategic areas. The MPCP specifically states that an ecosystem measure of success is stable or growing prairie chicken populations in Minnesota. The MPCP is ideally suited for greater prairie chicken management with core areas containing large contiguous blocks of grassland and smaller grassland patches serving as corridors allowing birds to maintain populations outside the core areas as well as move across the landscape. Additional benefits of this work is protection and restoration of the extensive wetland systems encompassed by these tracts. Water storage sequestering and storing carbon, water quality, diversity of flora and fauna, and reducing erosion are among the many benefits of fully functional wetland systems.

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

PF actively engages in conservation priority discussions with state and government agencies, to determine what areas are the highest priority for adding permanently protected lands in the prairie, prairie/forest transition, and metro planning areas. High priority is given to parcels whose restoration and protection benefit rare, threatened, & endangered species. Often the only locations where many threatened and endangered species are found is on

existing habitat complexes. This proposal builds upon those complexes allowing for expansion and increased populations of those species.

When selecting projects for this proposal, PF uses the latest GIS data and works with DNR and USFWS staff to identify locations that benefit species of greatest conservation need. Additionally, species of greatest conservation need are considered and can influence restoration plans after the land is permanently protected. By increasing the amount, functionality, and productivity of grassland landscapes for these species, we aim to slow population decline.

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

Prairie chickens exhibit high sight fidelity, returning to the same leks (booming grounds) in the spring to perform courtship displays and nesting in the same areas on an annual basis. This characteristic makes prairie chickens extremely sensitive to habitat loss. The ability to purchase critical tracts as they become available is imperative to the success of this species as it is more difficult to establish breeding areas than it is to maintain them.

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

As this proposal is fully integrated into the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan (MPCP), its focus is on acquisition and restoration in and around core habitat and corridors. Selection of tracts include proximity to known prairie chicken habitat, leks, and presence of other rare features identified by the MN County Biological Survey. Presence of prairie chickens are highly correlated with large expanses of grassland, which are most often large complexes made up of WMA's and WPA's. For this reason, many of the tracts selected build on these large complexes. In protecting and restoring large portions of habitat, we reduce both habitat fragmentation and reduce the cost of future management.

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

Grassland Conservation Plan for Prairie Grouse

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

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 ~ *Strategic parcels that increase the functionality of existing habitat will be acquired and restored to functioning wetlands with diverse upland prairie to serve as habitat for pollinators, resident and*

migratory game and non game species. Lands will be protected to provide accelerated wildlife habitat and public access, monitored by Minnesota DNR of United States FWS. Protected and restored acres will be measured against goals outlined in the "Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years" and "Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan".

Programs in prairie region:

Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife ~ *Strategic parcels that increase the functionality of existing habitat will be acquired and restored to functioning wetlands with diverse upland prairie to serve as habitat for pollinators, resident and migratory game and non game species. Lands will be protected to provide accelerated wildlife habitat and public access, monitored by Minnesota DNR of United States FWS. Protected and restored acres will be measured against goals outlined in the "Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years" and "Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan".*

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 supplements past investments and is aimed at accelerating the protection and restoration of strategic parcels.

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

All lands will be enrolled into the WMA or WPA system and will be managed in perpetuity by the MNDNR or USFWS, respectively. All acquisitions will be restored and/or enhanced to as high quality as practicable, with the knowledge that quality and comprehensive restorations utilizing native species result in lower management costs. In addition, local PF chapter members and volunteers maintain significant interest in seeing the habitat and productivity of acquired parcels are high. MPCS, PF, MNDNR and USFWS will develop an ecological restoration and management plan for each parcel. Grant and partner dollars will be used for the initial site development and restoration/enhancement work.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Post Transfer	State of MN/Federal	Monitoring	Maintainance	Habitat Management

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

The goal of this program is to protect and restore wildlife habitat and make these areas accessible to all Minnesotans, regardless of cultural background or fiscal standing. Properties acquired under this program will be free and open to access by all. These properties can be recreated on by all levels of income from free hiking/wildlife watching to expensive hunting practices. Some acquisitions will be nearby areas with diverse or low-income communities. This program engages with everyone who wants to participate in public lands and the outdoors.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:
At minimum, we will notify local government in writing of the intent to acquire and donate lands to the state and follow up with questions prior to the acquisition. In cases where there is interest, we will also indicate our willingness to attend or ask to attend county or township meetings to communicate our interest in the projects and seek support.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?
No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:
Because we are working within priority habitat areas, it is possible that parcels could have perpetual easements on a portion of them. If a parcel has a perpetual easement and is deemed a high priority by the partners, we will follow guidance established by the Outdoor Heritage Fund to proceed, or use non-state funding to acquire the protected portion of the property.

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
This proposal may include initial development plans or restoration plans to utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest to prepare the seedbed for native seed planting. In these restorations, PF's policy is to use non neonicotinoid treated seed and no herbicides other than glyphosate. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources. There are no immediate plans to use farming for winter food on any of the parcels in this proposal.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
No variation from State of MN regulations for WMA acquisitions. All WPA acquisitions will be open to the public taking of fish and game during the open season according to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, United States Code, title 16, section 668dd, et seq.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Federal

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

WPA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
2

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

All acquired parcels will be restored with the contract and materials lines of the budget.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Restoration complete	6/30/2035
Close	1/1/2030
Purchase agreements	9/1/2029
Contract appraisals ordered	4/1/2029
Re-evaluate tract priorities	2/15/2029
Purchase agreements	2/1/2029
Contract appraisals ordered	9/1/2028
Identify priority acquisitions	7/1/2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 06/30/2035

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	$187,900	-	-	$187,900
Contracts	$493,000	-	-	$493,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,053,200	-	-	$1,053,200
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$1,056,400	-	-	$1,056,400
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
Professional Services	$70,400	-	-	$70,400
Direct Support Services	$66,700	-	-	$66,700
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$35,000	-	-	$35,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$105,600	-	-	$105,600
DNR IDP	$30,800	-	-	$30,800
Grand Total	**$3,100,000**	**-**	**-**	**$3,100,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF FIELD STAFF	1.08	6.0	$172,500	-	-	$172,500
PF GRANT STAFF	0.1	6.0	$15,400	-	-	$15,400

Amount of Request: $3,100,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $254,600
As a % of the total request: 8.21%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
All line items were prorated down proportionally EXCEPT DNR land acquisition costs which were increase due to the cost of SRAs

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?
If this project is reduced by 50% we would scale down all acres/activities and dollar amounts proportionately.

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

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
We anticipate that all of the contract funding will be used for restoration, enhancement, and initial development of the protected acres and $42,000 for adjacent protected lands. This could include but is not limited to wetland/grassland restoration, tree removal, prescribed fire, building removal, posts, signs, and other development

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Acquisition Contractors hired by PF to obtain necessary documentation.

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
With the proposed budget, we anticipate approximately 2 fee title acquisition transactions

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?

PF utilizes the Total Modified Direct Cost method. This methodology is annually approved by the U.S. Department of Interior's National Business Center as the basis for the organization's Indirect Cost Rate agreement. PF's allowable direct support services cost is 15%. In this proposal, PF has discounted its rate to 7.5% of the sum of personnel, contracts, professional services, and
travel. We are donating the difference in-kind.

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?

7/1/2028

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	176	-	-	176
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	176	-	-	176
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**352**	**-**	**-**	**352**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	$1,550,000	-	-	$1,550,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	$1,550,000	-	-	$1,550,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**$3,100,000**	**-**	**-**	**$3,100,000**

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	-	70	-	106	-	176
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	70	-	106	-	176
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**140**	**-**	**212**	**-**	**352**

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	-	$620,000	-	$930,000	-	$1,550,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	$620,000	-	$930,000	-	$1,550,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**$1,240,000**	**-**	**$1,860,000**	**-**	**$3,100,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	$8,806	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	$8,806	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	$8,857	-	$8,773	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	$8,857	-	$8,773	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

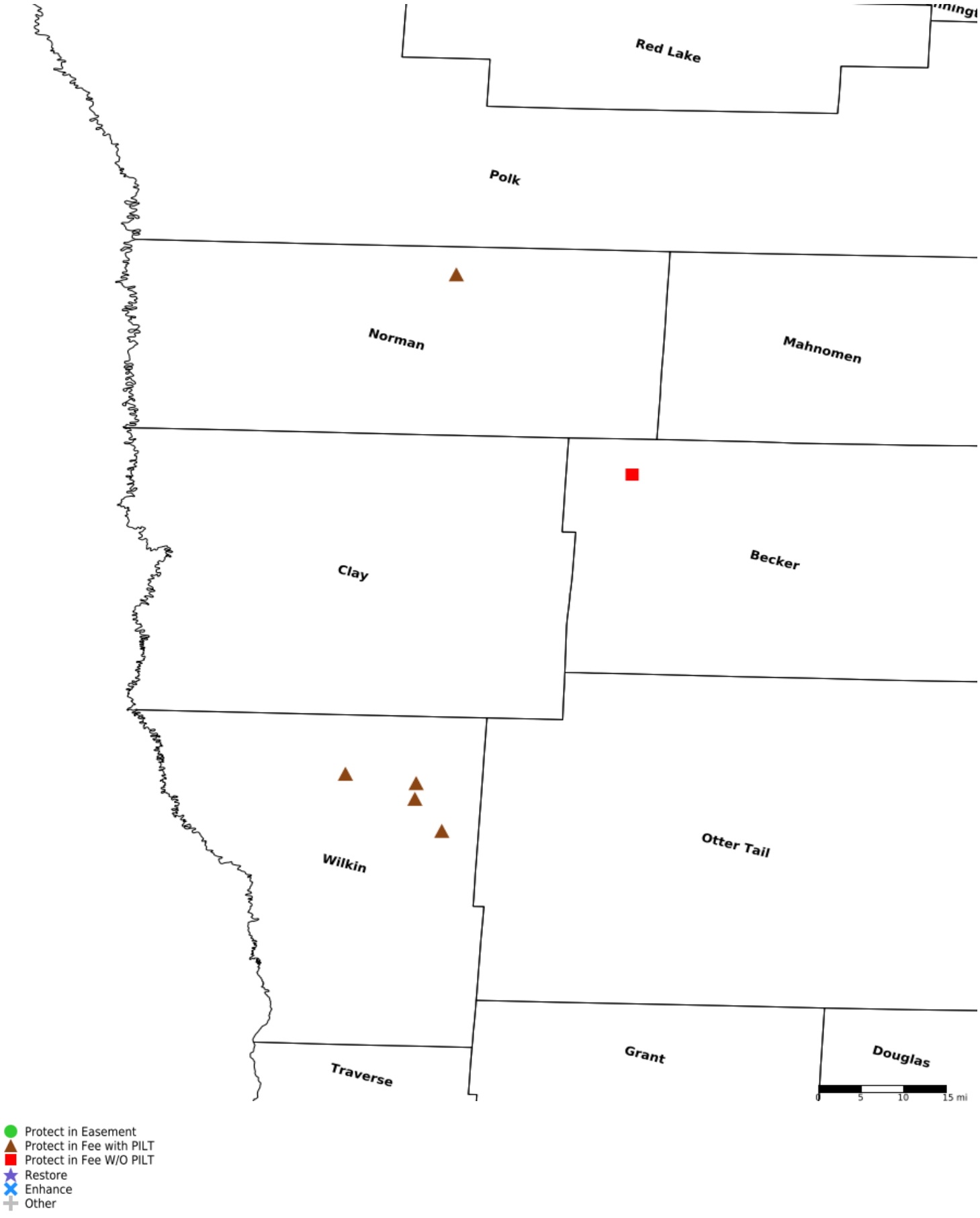
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Parcels are identified and strategically prioritized using the best science and decision support tools (e.g. Prairie Conservation Plan Maps) available. Preference is given to project sites that both help deliver the goals of other recognized conservation initiatives and that build habitat in critical prairie chicken areas. Data layers (i.e. MN Biological Survey, Natural Heritage Database, MN Wildlife Action Plan, Wellhead Protection Areas, Pheasant Action Plan, existing protected land, etc.) are used to help justify projects and focus areas as well as to inform decisions on top priorities for protection and restoration efforts.

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Hellicksen Prairie WPA Addn	Becker	14243226	160	$1,040,000	No
Agassiz Olson WMA Addn	Norman	14645222	160	$1,040,000	No
Akron WMA ADDN	Wilkin	13445215	40	$260,000	No
Rothsay WMA Addn	Wilkin	13546209	530	$3,445,000	No
Rothsay WMA Addn	Wilkin	13545229	322	$2,093,000	No
Rothsay WMA Addn	Wilkin	13545217	404	$1,400,000	No

Parcel Map


Red Lake
Polk
Norman
Mahnomen
Clay
Becker
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Traverse
Grant
Douglas
0
5
10
15 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley - Phase XIII

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley - Phase XIII
Organization: Pheasants Forever
Manager: Sabin Adams

Budget

Requested Amount: $10,564,400
Appropriated Amount: $3,100,000
Percentage: 29.34%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$640,500	-	$187,900	-	29.34%	-
Contracts	$1,680,000	-	$493,000	-	29.35%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$3,600,000	-	$1,053,200	-	29.26%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$3,600,000	$750,000	$1,056,400	-	29.34%	0.0%
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$3,500	-	$1,000	-	28.57%	-
Professional Services	$240,000	-	$70,400	-	29.33%	-
Direct Support Services	$227,400	$227,400	$66,700	-	29.33%	0.0%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$108,000	-	$35,000	-	32.41%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$360,000	-	$105,600	-	29.33%	-
DNR IDP	$105,000	-	$30,800	-	29.33%	-
Grand Total	**$10,564,400**	**$977,400**	**$3,100,000**	**-**	**29.34%**	**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?
If this project is reduced by 50% we would scale down all acres/activities and dollar amounts proportionately.

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If this project is reduced by 70% we would scale down all acres/activities and dollar amounts proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS will be scaled down 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	600	176	29.33%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	600	176	29.33%
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$5,282,200	$1,550,000	29.34%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$5,282,200	$1,550,000	29.34%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	600	176	29.33%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	600	176	29.33%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$5,282,200	$1,550,000	29.34%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$5,282,200	$1,550,000	29.34%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water - Phase XIII

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water - Phase XIII

Funds Recommended: $1,458,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Dusty Van Thuyne
Title: Easement Programs Coordinator
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Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Southeast Forest

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Buffers program will restore and protect riparian and floodplain areas across the state to improve and enhance water quality and wildlife habitat, permanently protecting approximately 105 acres on 2 easements. The focus of this funding will be land with crop history within a mapped floodplain or a riparian area. Hydrology will be restored to the extent possible. This program will continue utilizing a science-based ranking and selection process and be implemented locally, working with Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff in targeted areas in the state.

Design and Scope of Work

Riparian corridors containing healthy buffer and floodplain areas contribute to clean water and provide critical wildlife habitat and travel corridors. By focusing on the floodplain scale, we can create significantly better wildlife habitat while achieving multiple benefits, such as accommodating flooding issues. This partnership program between Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF), Clean Water Fund (CWF), and potentially the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), would establish permanent riparian areas that provide both critical water quality improvements and improved habitat.

Criteria used to evaluate and prioritize parcels funded under this program include frequency of inundation or crop loss, proximity to lands open to public access, existing CRP contracts, proximity to other permanently protected habitat, prioritization of One Watershed, One Plans or other comprehensive water plans, type of water resource being buffered, proximity to threatened and endangered species, and overall size. A competitive application process for landowners will be used. The goal for this project will be funding from both OHF and CWF as well as United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), when possible, under existing or new CRP enrollment. Wider riparian areas provide long-term water quality treatment and increased habitat. Buffers that are established in proximity to other grasslands also function at a higher level within the landscape for grassland nesting birds and other wildlife.

The RIM Buffers program delivery will be supported by SWCDs and administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

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

Buffers are commonly viewed as simply a water quality practice, but buffers have positive impacts on wildlife due to their unique upland and riverine habitat interaction. This is especially true for expanded width buffers enrolled through this program. Not only are grasslands protected or restored, detrimental impacts to stream-reliant biota are reduced. Many species of amphibians, such as the Northern Cricket Frog (endangered) rely on aquatic habitat during the breeding season and then spend most of their lives in upland habitat. In southeastern MN, reptiles such

as the Blanding's Turtle (threatened) rely on meandering streams, rivers, and adjacent lands.

The Sedge Wren, a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) most commonly associated with grassland habitat, is encountered in buffer areas. Bird use is influenced by buffer width with greater widths experiencing greater abundance and diversity of birds and grassland species. However, bird use is negatively associated by the amount of edge exposure. In an effort to limit edge exposure, sites that may serve as corridors or expand current complexes receive higher weight using this program's scoring and ranking process.

Diverse vegetation, access to a water resource, and protection from pesticides are important to Minnesota's native pollinator species. BWSR's native vegetation guidelines and pollinator initiative have outlined the RIM program's commitment to protecting native pollinators. Complexes and corridors targeted through RIM Buffers provide areas that are safe from pesticides and are natural passageways for pollinators. Targeted pollinator species include the Monarch Butterfly and solitary bee species including Leafcutter Bees, Mason Bees, and Yellow-faced Bees.

SGCN in the RIM Buffers area include the Common Five-lined Skink (state status = species of special concern), Two-spotted Skipper, Northern Pintail, American Black Duck, Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Sedge Wren, Dickcissel, and Western Grebe. In addition to the SGCN, the threatened or endangered species targeted in this proposal include the Dakota Skipper (state status = endangered; federal status = threatened), Poweshiek Skipper (state and federal status = endangered), and Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (federal status = endangered).

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

Minnesota continues to see a loss of grasslands and CRP acres each year. This exodus is being driven by high land prices and increased pressure for alternative uses. CRP contracts continue to expire (275,672 acres with a contract expiring in Minnesota during federal fiscal years 2027 - 2030) and farming pressure leads to more habitat fragmentation and agricultural fields within the floodplain. It is critical to retain as many acres of habitat in the most important locations. A combination of permanent protection with RIM and re-enrollment of CRP, when possible, will reduce this impact from habitat loss. Additionally, CRP is nearing the national acreage cap within the federal farm bill, which may limit CRP enrollment opportunities for landowners interested in restoring marginal agricultural lands. RIM Buffers provides another opportunity for landowners interested in restoring and permanently protecting these riparian acres should CRP enrollment become limited.

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

Through a combination of targeted outreach, eligibility screening, and a scoring and ranking process, each site is considered on its benefits to the surrounding landscape, as well as the site-specific features.

During the application process, a review of adjacent permanent habitat and easement size is conducted to evaluate a site's importance as a corridor or extension to an existing habitat complex. Applications are awarded points based on the adjacency of permanently protected land, including publicly accessible land, or another RIM easement; with the highest number of points being awarded to an application that has permanently protected land, including publicly accessible land, or another RIM easement on both ends of the land offered in an application. Zero points are awarded if permanently protected land, including publicly accessible land, or another RIM easement is not within a half mile on the same watercourse/water body as the land offered in an application.

As we implement this project, we will utilize similar science-based considerations that have been historically used by the RIM Buffers program.

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

Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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

Metro / Urban

Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

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 expiring CRP lands

Southeast Forest

Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced aspen parklands and riparian areas ~ *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife. This would have a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these areas are restored.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife. This would have a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these areas are restored.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors ~ *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife. This would have a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these areas are restored.*

Programs in prairie region:

Expiring CRP lands are permanently protected ~ *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife. This would have a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these areas are restored.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Rivers, streams, and surrounding vegetation provide corridors of habitat ~ *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes. An increase of native grassland habitat is expected to increase the carrying capacity of grassland-dependent wildlife. This would have a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these areas are restored.*

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 funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

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

BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement of RIM easements. BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry out oversight, monitoring and inspection of conservation easements. Easements are inspected every year for the first five years beginning the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs document findings and report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time, travel costs, and other costs for easement monitoring, encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations, and legal enforcement.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027-Ongoing	Landowner Responsibility	Maintain compliance with easement terms.	-	-
2027-Ongoing	Stewardship Account	Inspections every year for the first five years; then every third year.	Corrective actions of any violations.	Enforcement action taken by MN Attorney General's office.

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

Generally, RIM priority areas are focused on rural communities across the state due to the nature of the program and payment rates. Review of the Environmental Justice map produced by the MPCA shows RIM easement programs overlap with many identified environmental justice areas across the state, particularly those areas that are identified by lower than state median incomes. Lower annual income areas of the state benefit from RIM in several ways, including financial benefits for landowners through easement payments. The individual program may also require seeding and wetland restoration work by local contractors. The work by SWCD staff also includes outreach, monitoring and maintenance which helps maintain and grow rural jobs and economies.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
The State of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will be the responsible party for monitoring and enforcing easements with assistance from the appropriate SWCD for monitoring.

Who will be the easement holder?
The State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
2; the actual number will depend on the cost of easements.

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
In certain circumstances, wildlife food plots are an allowable use on RIM easements as part of an approved Conservation Plan. Annual or perennial food plots may be allowed at the owner's expense. Food plots must be maintained annually. If a food plot is discontinued, it must be immediately replanted to appropriate high-quality, permanent native vegetative cover and the associated establishment cost is the responsibility

of the landowner(s). Food plot size and the number of food plots allowed are based on the size of the easement. Food plots will not exceed more than 10% of the easement area or will not exceed a maximum acreage depending on the size of the easement.

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

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

Describe the expected public use:
RIM easements do not require that private land is open for public use; however, this question is also evaluated on public benefit and RIM easements do provide a significant public benefit; often expanding wildlife habitat near public lands; and do not limit the potential for the land to be open to the public through other programs. SWCD and other partner staff who work with landowners on RIM easements are also usually the staff who enroll landowners into the DNR Walk-In Access (WIA) program. The WIA program is available in 54 counties, all of which are eligible for RIM. Conversations about WIA between the SWCDs and interested landowners occur at the time the landowner submits an easement application. BWSR's Conservation Easement Application includes a question for a landowner to indicate if they are interested in enrolling in WIA if eligible.

RIM's statutory language requires restriction of building and agricultural activities on an easement. If RIM also required public access, the landowner would be retaining almost no private rights to the land and still paying property taxes. RIM easement land is still in private ownership and the landowner still pays property taxes and is still consistent with the statutory goals of the Outdoor Heritage Fund of protection and restoration of habitat. Minnesota Statute 97A.056 states ". . . the fund must be expended to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife." and "The council shall make recommendations . . . that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie."

Criteria in RIM program scoresheets used to evaluate and prioritize parcels funded include proximity of the easement land to lands that are in public ownership and/or open to public hunting. Parcels immediately adjacent to public land or that would connect or expand larger existing habitat areas receive additional points in the scoring and ranking process than a parcel that does not provide that benefit. Wildlife do not follow property lines; therefore protected private lands adjacent to and near public lands create complexes of public and private land that provide high quality habitat supporting wildlife, including recreationally hunted species, allowing them to thrive on and off public lands. Protected private lands also add visual and noise buffers that allow users of public land to better enjoy their experiences.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:
Though uncommon, new trails may be developed if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (e.g., fire breaks, berm maintenance, forest stewardship) and are noted on the conservation

plan. Narrow mowed trails for personal use are allowed for landowner access on RIM easements. Unauthorized trails are a violation of the easement.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?
Under the terms of the easement, a conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement and the conservation plan. BWSR, in cooperation with SWCDs, implements a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms and the conservation plan.

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

Vegetative restoration is planned to occur and these restoration costs are included in the Easement Acquisition line of the budget table.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Activity 1 – easements recorded	June 30, 2031
Activity 2 – restorations completed, and final report submitted	June 30, 2035

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2035

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	$95,100	-	-	$95,100
Contracts	$7,500	-	-	$7,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,301,600	-	-	$1,301,600
Easement Stewardship	$20,000	-	-	$20,000
Travel	$2,600	-	-	$2,600
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$26,500	-	-	$26,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$3,600	-	-	$3,600
Supplies/Materials	$1,100	-	-	$1,100
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,458,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,458,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Engineering	0.04	4.0	$23,000	-	-	$23,000
Easements	0.13	4.0	$72,100	-	-	$72,100

Amount of Request: $1,458,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $121,600
As a % of the total request: 8.34%
Easement Stewardship: $20,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 1.54%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
A reduction in funding reduced outputs (acres/activities) almost proportionately.

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?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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 contracts line is used for payments to SWCD staff for easement acquisition and technical assistance, as appropriate. Estimated restoration costs are included in the easement acquisition line.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
2 easements at $10,000 per easement. The total stewardship amount will ultimately be dependent on the cost of easements and if the proposed easement number is reached. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

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
The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs.

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?
BWSR annually reviews and updates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done and the program staff time involved.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Steel posts and signs to mark the easement boundaries.

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	26	79	-	-	105
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**26**	**79**	**-**	**-**	**105**

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	$361,000	$1,097,000	-	-	$1,458,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$361,000**	**$1,097,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,458,000**

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	5	5	11	79	5	105
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**5**	**5**	**11**	**79**	**5**	**105**

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	$69,400	$69,400	$152,800	$1,097,000	$69,400	$1,458,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$69,400**	**$69,400**	**$152,800**	**$1,097,000**	**$69,400**	**$1,458,000**

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	$13,884	$13,886	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$13,880	$13,880	$13,890	$13,886	$13,880
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

1,539 feet

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:
Through a combination of eligibility screening followed by a scoring and ranking process, the RIM Buffers program evaluates each application on the potential to restore ecological functions and values; optimizing wildlife habitat benefits and providing other benefits including water quality. Each site is evaluated on its benefits to the surrounding landscape and any site-specific features that are important for permanent protection of habitat.

During the application process, a review of adjacent permanent habitat and easement size is conducted to indicate a site's usefulness as a corridor or as an extension of an existing habitat complex.

BWSR will continue to utilize similar science-based considerations as have been historically used by the RIM Buffers Program.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water - Phase XIII

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water - Phase XIII
Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources
Manager: Dusty Van Thuyne

Budget

Requested Amount: $5,000,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,458,000
Percentage: 29.16%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$329,200	-	$95,100	-	28.89%	-
Contracts	$22,500	-	$7,500	-	33.33%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$4,477,300	-	$1,301,600	-	29.07%	-
Easement Stewardship	$60,000	-	$20,000	-	33.33%	-
Travel	$8,800	-	$2,600	-	29.55%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$85,900	-	$26,500	-	30.85%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$12,500	-	$3,600	-	28.8%	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,800	-	$1,100	-	28.95%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$5,000,000**	**-**	**$1,458,000**	**-**	**29.16%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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?
A 30% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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	360	105	29.17%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$5,000,000	$1,458,000	29.16%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	360	105	29.17%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$5,000,000	$1,458,000	29.16%
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Western Minnesota Prairie and Wetland Protection Program

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Western Minnesota Prairie and Wetland Protection Program

Funds Recommended: $2,591,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Wayne Ostlie
Title: Director of Land Protection
Organization: Minnesota Land Trust
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Location Information

County Location(s): Lac qui Parle and Chippewa.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Wetlands

Habitat

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

The Western Minnesota Prairie and Wetland Habitat Protection program focuses on advancing conservation of high priority prairie and wetland complexes within Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Region to benefit waterfowl and Species in Greatest Conservation Need. This program will consolidate the Land Trust's protection work under its prior Wetlands and Southwest Minnesota programs under a single program, bringing efficiency and flexibility in meeting landowner demand for permanent conservation in this region. This program will permanently protect 411 acres of high-quality habitat, 371 through conservation easements and 40 through fee acquisition, targeting lands in fee within scientifically prioritized habitat complexes.

Design and Scope of Work

The plight of prairies and wetlands in western Minnesota is well-documented; less than 2% of native prairies remain, and in southwest Minnesota, 90% of wetlands have been lost. Habitat loss and degradation threaten wildlife populations and contribute to the decline of Species in Greatest Conservation Need that utilize the wetlands, shallow lakes, and prairies across the region. Since the inception of Minnesota's Prairie Plan in 2010, targeted land protection by a large number of conservation organizations and agencies has resulted in significant conservation gains across western Minnesota.

To better align our work in western Minnesota, the Accelerating Habitat Conservation in Southwest Minnesota and Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program have been consolidated in this single grant proposal. In close collaboration with partners across the region, this new proposal will focus solely on land protection, both in easement and in fee. This new proposal allows the Land Trust to respond to the level of demand throughout the region, ensuring that resources are available where and when they are needed. Through all previous phases of protection activity in this program area, the Land Trust has procured 55 conservation easements protecting 7,508 acres of habitat and 78 miles of shoreline.

The Land Trust will build on past success in protecting native prairie, Topeka shiner prairie streams, and building prairie complexes across western Minnesota with this Western Minnesota Prairie and Wetland Habitat Protection program, extending along the vast glacial moraine system in western Minnesota that form the eastern prairie pothole region. This prairie pothole country is the core of Minnesota's "duck factory" and is central to one of North America's most important flyways for migratory birds. Protecting prairie and wetland complexes will be the target across the program area but more specifically, north of the Minnesota River the focus will lie heavily on protecting wetland and shallow lake complexes, while south of the Minnesota River, protecting prairie waterways and remaining unprotected rock outcrops will be the targets.

Wetlands, shallow lakes, and their corresponding upland prairie habitat provide the essential backbone for the survival of waterfowl and other important wildlife species. In fact, more than 50% of Minnesota's Species in

Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) use wetlands during their life cycle. The Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan, and other data sets/plans guide our land protection work, identifying important wetland and prairie complexes based on the nexus of high-quality habitat, existing protected areas, and restorable agricultural lands.

The Land Trust will employ its criteria-based ranking system and market-based approach to the acquisition of conservation easements. This strategic approach targets projects that help fill gaps in existing public ownership, are of the highest ecological value, and provide the greatest leverage to the state's funding investment. The Land Trust will seek donated easements whenever possible but may also fully purchase easements that help complete key complexes as necessary. Fee acquisitions will be undertaken in direct collaboration with DNR land acquisition staff

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

This program addresses LSOHC priorities by protecting shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, prairie streams, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for Minnesota's wildlife, especially its migratory waterfowl and associated species. Minnesota's wetlands are essential to our wildlife health and diversity. This program directly benefits SGCN and other important game and non-game wildlife species by minimizing the potential threats to their habitat caused by habitat conversion and detrimental land use practices.

Wetland and prairie habitat complexes will be targeted through the ranking system will include a mosaic of wetlands, grasslands and woodlands.

Priority projects will include high or outstanding habitat as identified in Minnesota Biological Survey data or that provide habitat for state- and federally listed species, like the Topeka shiner. Projects will also be located near other protected lands to help build larger habitat complexes comprised of both public and private lands. The vast majority of this landscape is in private ownership. For that reason, working with private owners on land protection strategies is key to successful conservation in this region. Finally, we will work closely with partners in the region to identify those habitat complexes where private land protection can make a significant contribution to existing conservation investments.

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

Although much conservation activity has taken place in this landscape for more than 10 years, we now have a unique opportunity to fill a conservation gap and increase landscape-level impacts to protect important wetland and grassland complexes. With an aging landowner population, high land prices placing pressure from conversion on remaining habitat, organizational momentum, and strong local partnerships, the time to amplify this important conservation niche across the region is now. To focus our work, we have completed an analysis to identify important wetland/grassland complexes in this landscape based on the nexus of high-quality habitat, existing protected areas and restorable agricultural lands. These complexes include a mosaic of wetland, prairie/grassland, and forest habitats, as well as agricultural land.

This proposal aims to capitalize on strong landowner interest we have secured from years of successful land protection activities and outreach, now at a point where landowner interest outweighs funding.

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

This program is focused on procuring conservation easements and acquiring lands in fee within priority complexes of wetlands and associated upland habitats, as guided by the State Wildlife Action Plan, Duck Plan and Prairie Plan. Specific parcels available for easement acquisition are evaluated relative to each other to identify priorities among the pool of applicants. This relative ranking is based on three primary ecological factors [1) amount of habitat on the parcel (size) and abundance of SGCN; 2) the quality or condition of habitat; and 3) the parcel's context relative to other natural habitats and protected areas] in addition to cost. The program serves to build upon past conservation investments in the program area, expand the footprint of existing protected areas (WMAs, WPAs, etc.), facilitate the protection of habitat corridors and reduce the potential for fragmentation of existing habitats.

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?

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:

Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need ~ *This program will permanently protect 190 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes, and prairie in the forest-prairie transition region. Measure: Acres protected.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *This program will permanently protect 71 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes in the northern forest region. Measure: Acres protected.*

Programs in prairie region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Remnant native prairies and wetlands are perpetually protected and adequately buffered ~ This program will permanently protect 150 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes in the prairie region. Measure: Acres protected.*

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.

Funding procured by MLT through the Outdoor Heritage Fund through this proposal will not supplant or substitute any previous funding from a non-Legacy fund used for the same purpose.

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

Land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through state-of-the-art standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in cases of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

In addition, MLT will assist landowners in the development of comprehensive habitat management plans to help ensure that the land will be managed for its wildlife and water quality benefits. MLT (as easement holder) and USFWS (as easement holder and fee owner of respective properties) will work with landowners in an ongoing basis to provide habitat restoration plans, resources and technical expertise to undertake restoration, enhancement and ongoing management of these properties.

All fee-title lands will be transferred to the MN-DNR and enrolled into the WMA system to be managed perpetually by the MNDNR. All acquisitions will be restored and enhanced by the DNR as high quality as practicable, with knowledge that quality and comprehensive restorations utilizing native species result in lower management costs.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2031 and in perpetuity	Outdoor Heritage Fund - LSOHC	MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of easements in perpetuity	Enforcement as necessary

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

One of the MLT's core public values is a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have been engaged in a multi-year-long process to assess how the conservation community—and the Minnesota Land Trust in particular—can better address these issues. To date, we have demonstrated this commitment, when possible, given the funding parameters and our unique role in working with private landowners, including numerous projects to protect the camps and nature centers that serve a diversity of Minnesota youth and a long-term partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa on wild rice restoration.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

Who will manage the easement?

Who will be the easement holder?
Minnesota Land Trust

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
The Minnesota Land Trust anticipates accomplishing 5 to 7 easements with this appropriation.

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
The purpose of the Minnesota Land Trust's conservation easements is to protect and restore/enhance existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. We restrict agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases where there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either exclude the agricultural area from the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may target agricultural lands for restoration purposes.

As for food plots, although MLT prefers no food plots in our easements, we do recognize that these are important to some landowners; an outright restriction against them would greatly diminish our ability to protect quality habitat in some of our program areas. As such, we do allow a limited number of them over small areas when that's the case. In conservation easements MLT has completed since 2020, food plot acres account for less than 1% of the total acres protected. Our practice is to limit the area of food plots to no more than 3% of the total easement area of a property, with a preference for less than more. Exceptions to this practice will be very limited. Per our stated policy, MLT will prohibit the use of neonicotinoid-treated seed in the planting of food plots, prohibit the planting of invasive species, and require the landowner to submit seed tags to MLT's Stewardship Team on an annual basis after the planting of food plots.

State Wildlife Management Areas are part of the State's Outdoor Recreation System established by State Statute 86A. Subdivision 8 of that statute defines the purpose of use of WMA's as, "A state wildlife management area shall be established to protect those lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and to develop and manage these lands and waters for the production of wildlife, for public hunting, fishing, and trapping, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses."

To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming on a small percentage of WMA's (<1%) specifically

to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife, recreation or reduce crop depredation from neighboring properties in agriculture-dominated landscapes with limited winter food sources. Commonly planted crops include corn, soybeans, small grains and hay that can include alfalfa or a wildlife mix. Crops are chosen based on a particular wildlife or recreational need and follow crop rotations that adhere to soil health principles. Most food plots occupy a small portion of a particular tract and may include up to 5% of a particular parcel. Percentages are much lower considering the entire WMA system.

The DNR does not have any plans to plant food plots on the parcels currently listed in this proposal. However, future management needs may change or additional parcels may be added later that may include food plots.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
None.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
The Land Trust anticipates accomplishing 5 to 7 easements and 1 to 2 fee acquisitions with this appropriation (a total of 6 to 9 closed acquisitions).

Will the eased land be open for public use?
No

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
No

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?
No

Explain how and when the restoration/enhancement work will be completed and identify the source of funding:

The Land Trust will assess the R/E needs of each parcel protected through this appropriation. Should R/E needs exist, funding for those projects will be built into a forthcoming proposal. Restoration/enhancement work on lands acquired in fee through this proposal will be undertaken by the DNR.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Fee acquisitions completed	June 30, 2031
Conservation easements completed	June 30, 2031

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2031

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	$250,000	-	-	$250,000
Contracts	$39,000	-	-	$39,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$400,000	-	-	$400,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,356,000	$134,000	Landowner donation	$1,490,000
Easement Stewardship	$196,000	-	-	$196,000
Travel	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Professional Services	$223,000	-	-	$223,000
Direct Support Services	$68,000	-	-	$68,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
Supplies/Materials	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
DNR IDP	$21,000	-	-	$21,000
Grand Total	**$2,591,000**	**$134,000**	**-**	**$2,725,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Staff	0.56	4.0	$250,000	-	-	$250,000

Amount of Request: $2,591,000
Amount of Leverage: $134,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 5.17%
DSS + Personnel: $318,000
As a % of the total request: 12.27%
Easement Stewardship: $196,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 14.45%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
MLT funding and project outputs were reduced by 69%, resulting in 5 to 7 proposed easement acquisitions and 1 to 2 fee acquisitions. This should enable us to deliver ~ 371 easement acres and ~ 40 fee acres.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Anticipated leverage is from landowner donation of easement value.

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?
Acres and activities will be curtailed modestly (reduced 55-65%) from proportional reductions due to fixed costs and other factors.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS will be scaled, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Funds in the contract line are for the writing of habitat management plans for protected easement properties and for conducting landowner outreach within the program area via contractors, and through direct mailing, landowner events, social media, development of landowner databases, etc.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments, Mapping, Mineral Reports, etc.

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
Up to 2 transactions.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
Minnesota Land Trust's budget is based on the closing of 5 to 7 conservation easements, depending on project cost and size. The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is $28,000, although under extraordinary circumstances additional funds may be warranted. This figure is derived from MLT's detailed stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates to this cost analysis with LSOHC staff.

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
Land Trust staff occasionally rent vehicles for grant-related purposes, which is a significant cost savings over use of personal vehicles.

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?
In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We applied this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services requested through this grant.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Safety gear, GPS units, etc.

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	-	40	-	-	40
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	150	150	71	-	371
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**150**	**190**	**71**	**-**	**411**

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

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	20
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Easement	20
Enhance	-
Total	**40**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	$581,000	-	-	$581,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$812,000	$813,000	$385,000	-	$2,010,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$812,000**	**$1,394,000**	**$385,000**	**-**	**$2,591,000**

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	-	40	-	-	-	40
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	150	-	150	71	371
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**190**	**-**	**150**	**71**	**411**

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	-	$581,000	-	-	-	$581,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	$812,000	-	$813,000	$385,000	$2,010,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**$1,393,000**	**-**	**$813,000**	**$385,000**	**$2,591,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	$14,525	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$5,413	$5,420	$5,422	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	$14,525	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	$5,413	-	$5,420	$5,422
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

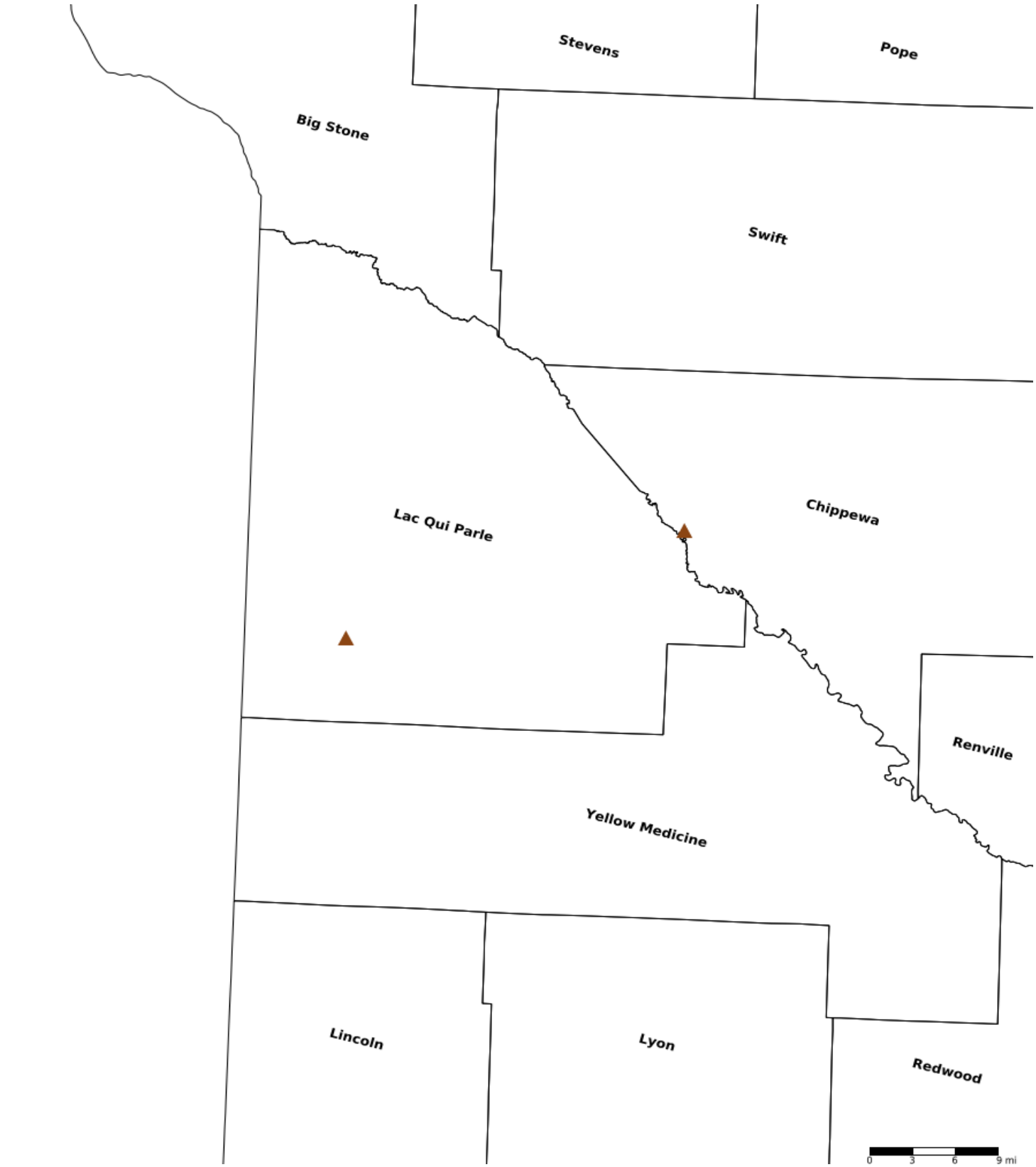
Sign-up Criteria?
Yes - Sign up criteria is attached

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
The Land Trust uses a competitive, market-based approach through an RFP process to identify interested landowners and prioritize parcels for conservation easement acquisition. All proposals submitted by landowners are evaluated and ranked relative to their ecological significance based on three primary factors: 1) size of habitat on the parcel; 2) condition of habitat on the parcel; and 3) the context (both in terms of amount/quality of remaining habitat and protected areas) within which the parcel lies. We also ask the landowner to consider contributing all or a portion of fair market value to enable our funds to make a larger conservation impact (see attached sign-up criteria). Fee acquisition parcels are chosen in coordination with MNDNR land acquisition staff.

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Minnesota River Bottom	Chippewa	11841229	40	$200,000	No
Florida Creek WMA	Lac qui Parle	11645205	40	$200,000	No

Parcel Map



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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Western Minnesota Prairie and Wetland Protection Program

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Western Minnesota Prairie and Wetland Protection Program
Organization: Minnesota Land Trust
Manager: Wayne Ostlie

Budget

Requested Amount: $8,340,000
Appropriated Amount: $2,591,000
Percentage: 31.07%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$450,000	-	$250,000	-	55.56%	-
Contracts	$146,000	-	$39,000	-	26.71%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,500,000	-	$400,000	-	26.67%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$5,000,000	$500,000	$1,356,000	$134,000	27.12%	26.8%
Easement Stewardship	$448,000	-	$196,000	-	43.75%	-
Travel	$23,000	-	$15,000	-	65.22%	-
Professional Services	$572,000	-	$223,000	-	38.99%	-
Direct Support Services	$122,000	-	$68,000	-	55.74%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$45,000	-	$15,000	-	33.33%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$2,000	-	$2,000	-	100.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$11,000	-	$6,000	-	54.55%	-
DNR IDP	$21,000	-	$21,000	-	100.0%	-
Grand Total	**$8,340,000**	**$500,000**	**$2,591,000**	**$134,000**	**31.07%**	**26.8%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Acres and activities will be curtailed modestly (reduced 55-65%) from proportional reductions due to fixed costs and other factors.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS will be scaled, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Acres and activities will be curtailed modestly (reduced ~75-80%) from proportional reductions due to fixed costs and other factors.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS will be scaled, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

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	120	40	33.33%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	1,400	371	26.5%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$1,778,000	$581,000	32.68%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$6,562,000	$2,010,000	30.63%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	120	40	33.33%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	1,400	371	26.5%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$1,778,000	$581,000	32.68%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$6,562,000	$2,010,000	30.63%
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands - Phase X

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/08/2026

Project Title: Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands - Phase X

Funds Recommended: $3,265,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Sabin Adams
Title: MN State Coordinator
Organization: Pheasants Forever
Address: 1783 Buerkle Circle
City: St. Paul, MN 55110
Email: sadams@pheasantsforever.org
Office Number: 320-250-6317
Mobile Number: 3202506317
Fax Number:
Website: www.pheasantsforever.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Marshall, Douglas, Clay, Lac qui Parle, Cottonwood, Nobles, Yellow Medicine, Grant, Stevens, Lincoln, Becker, Blue Earth, Jackson, Traverse, Sibley, Watonwan, Pope, Murray, Chisago, Otter Tail, Wilkin, Rock, Lake of the Woods, Polk, Roseau, Mower, Martin, Mahnomen, Redwood, Todd, Swift, Kandiyohi, Wright, Chippewa, Faribault, Carver, Meeker, Fillmore, Renville, Freeborn and Big Stone.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Metro / Urban

Prairie

Activity types:

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

In this phase of the Enhanced Public Lands - Grassland program, Pheasants Forever (PF) will enhance or restore 6,000 acres of upland and wetland habitat. The goal of this program is to improve habitat on existing WMAs, WPAs, SNAs, and National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) that are open to public hunting. PF does this by working with agency partners to develop restoration and enhancement plans and hiring local, private contractors to complete work. Examples of habitat improvements include restoring wetlands, removing invasive trees, conducting conservation grazing, and seeding grasslands with high-diversity native seed mixes.

Design and Scope of Work

Grassland-wetland ecosystems require regular disturbance to preserve their functionality and quality to positively impact fish, wildlife, and the public. Lack of disturbance on native and restored prairies has resulted in degraded habitats characterized by low plant diversity, presence of non-native or invasive species, and the spread of voluntary trees into open prairie. Wetlands embedded in these grasslands require restoration to achieve their fullest functionality, or have structures that need repair. The Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan (MPCP) identifies restoration and enhancement as two strategies to combat these issues. In accordance with this plan, Pheasants Forever has created the Enhanced Public Lands - Grasslands program to restore and enhance grassland and wetland habitats on existing WMAs, SNAs, WPAs, and NWRs (many of which were purchased in sub-optimal conditions) in the prairie, forest/prairie transition, and metro regions. Pheasants Forever will utilize a previously developed Request for Proposals (RFP) and process to evaluate projects submitted by agency partners.
Restoration and enhancement activities include the following:
1) Wetland restoration/enhancement: Tools used to accomplish this include removing drain tile, constructing/repairing earthen dams and/or water control structures, removing sediment and invasive narrow leaf cattail control. Wetlands targeted for enhancement are vital to providing food, cover, and the space required for breeding waterfowl while being essential to and landscape resiliency in the face of climate change.
2) Upland Enhancement: We will use a site-specific combination of techniques (e.g. cultivation, tree removal, herbicide, and prescribed fire) to bring back productivity to these public lands. In close collaboration with the land managers, we will seed a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs that are well adapted to site conditions and are ideal for upland nesting bird production and success of pollinator species. Mowing will be used as needed to manage annual weed pressure to ensure establishment.
3) Prescribed burning: This is the primary tool for managing grassland habitat as it is cost effective, increases vigor by removing built up litter, and sets back invasive woody species.
4) Conservation Grazing: This is an important enhancement tool for sites that are difficult to conduct prescribed fires or need to target specific enhancement needs (e.g. cool season grass suppression, tree invasion, etc.). Permanent infrastructure with a lifespan of 30+ years will be installed to conduct conservation grazing plans written to benefit wildlife.

5) Tree Removal: Research has shown that invasive trees are detrimental to prairie/grassland wildlife and thus will be removed with this proposal. These trees reduce nesting success by providing perches for aerial predators, dens for mammalian predators, and increases predator efficiency by creating habitat edges and fragmenting habitat. Predators are highly effective at predating both nests and nesting birds, especially in fragmented low quality habitat.

Restoring or enhancing habitat to its highest function in these areas will not only greatly benefit fish and wildlife populations, but also reduce future management costs (by creating robust, better self-regulating ecosystems), and improve the enjoyment of the area by the public.

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

In line with the goals of the MPCP, this program directly addresses the loss of quality habitat on reconstructed and native prairies through restoration and enhancement best practices. By increasing the quality of existing remnant and reconstructed prairie habitat we benefit numerous species that are of special concern, threatened, or endangered. This proposal targets grassland species, including but not limited to, greater prairie chickens, ring-necked pheasants, monarch butterflies, honey bees and Dakota skippers.

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

Without frequent disturbance grasslands naturally degrade over time. This phenomenon is termed grassland succession. As grassland succession progresses, the cost to correct it increases . This program allows PF to consistently enhance public lands at maximum capacity for the benefit of wildlife and the public.

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

This proposal improves habitat within corridors and complexes which increases their usability by wildlife. For instance, large expanses of low-quality habitat provide little value to wildlife species who are not generalist, effectively reducing the size of the complex. Enhancing and restoring habitat within these complexes increases the usable area for a greater number of species. A characteristic of low-quality habitat is an increase in habitat edges, which is a type of habitat fragmentation. Rows of trees, and drastic changes in vegetative cover (e.g. visible transition from a stand of smooth brome to Kentucky bluegrass) create edges for predators to navigate and increases their efficiency when hunting. By removing trees and restoring grasslands to high-diversity mixes of grasses and forbs, we reduce the amount of habitat fragmentation within the greater complex.

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

Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

Metro / Urban

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

Prairie

Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Increased waterfowl and upland bird migratory and breeding success ~ *Outcomes will be measured by resource professionals and evaluated by using the best science available to land managers.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Other ~ *Outcomes will be measured by resource professionals and evaluated by using the best science available to land managers.*

Programs in prairie region:

Improved condition of habitat on public lands ~ *Outcomes will be measured by resource professionals and evaluated by using the best science available to land managers.*

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 supplements past investments and is focused on accelerating the protection and restoration of strategically selected parcels.

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

The enhancements completed under this phase will generally allow the unit to be managed more effectively by either the USFWS or MNDNR. Limited station/area funds, constant pressure from invasive species (i.e. grasses, forbs, and trees), water quality decline, aging grasslands, climate change and other factors increase the difficulty of maintaining these enhancements; therefore, we expect continued opportunity to supplement local agency efforts. While it's difficult for a third party like PF to provide an analysis of future costs on existing public land, according to the Long-Range Budget Analysis of Land Management Needs, the cost of long-term management ranges from $11-16/acre annually. We expect the average need to be the same for the parcels enhanced or restored under this program.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Post Project Completion - NWR	USFWS - Federal	Monitoring	Maintience	-
Post Project Completion - WPA	USFWS - Federal	Monitoring	Maintience	-
Post Project Completion - WMA	MN DNR - Game and Fish Funds	Monitoring	Maintience	-

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

The goal of this program is to enhance and restore wildlife habitat on public lands open to all Minnesotans, regardless of cultural background or fiscal standing. WPAs, WMAs, and NRWs eligible for this program are free and open to access by all. This program spans all of the Prairie, Forest-Prairie, and Metro regions. Some acquisitions will be nearby areas with diverse or low-income communities. This program engages with everyone who wants to participate in public lands and the 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?

WMA

WPA

Refuge Lands

SNA

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 all enhancement/restoration work	6/30/2032
Re-evaluate project status/budget and solicit additional projects as needed	12/31/2028
Enhancement/restoration work begins	5/31/2028
Select projects for completion and hire contractors to complete habitat work	1/31/2028
Review project RFP's with project selection committee	11/30/2027
Distribute project Request for Proposals (RFP) to area land managers	9/1/2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 06/30/2032

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	$210,600	-	-	$210,600
Contracts	$2,707,800	$75,200	PF/State/Federal	$2,783,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$11,300	-	-	$11,300
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$94,700	$94,700	PF	$189,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$225,600	-	-	$225,600
DNR IDP	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Grand Total	**$3,265,000**	**$169,900**	**-**	**$3,434,900**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF GRANT STAFF	0.1	4.0	$13,200	-	-	$13,200
PF FIELD STAFF	1.44	4.0	$197,400	-	-	$197,400

Amount of Request: $3,265,000
Amount of Leverage: $169,900
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 5.2%
DSS + Personnel: $305,300
As a % of the total request: 9.35%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
All line items are scaled down proportionally.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Leverage is expected from multiple sources including but not limited to federal sources, land value donations, contractor donations and PF. Not every source is 100% confirmed at this point. However, PF has an exemplary track record of delivery and over-achievement of match commitments that further stretch OHF fundin

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?
This proposal's budget at 100% of the request is based on the average acres that are enhanced and restored per appropriation. If this project is reduced by 50% we would scale down all acres/activities and dollars amounts proportionately.

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

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
We anticipate that all of the contract funding will be used for restoration and enhancement activities.

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?
PF utilizes the Total Modified Direct Cost method. This methodology is annually approved by the U.S. Department of Interior's National Business Center as the basis for the organization's Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. PF's allowable direct support services cost is 15%. In this proposal, PF has discounted its rate to 2.5% of the sum of personnel, contracts, professional services, and travel. We are donating the difference-in-kind.

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?
7/1/2029

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	225	0	-	-	225
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	0	2,030	-	-	2,030
Total	**225**	**2,030**	**-**	**-**	**2,255**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	$326,500	-	-	-	$326,500
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$2,938,500	-	-	$2,938,500
Total	**$326,500**	**$2,938,500**	**-**	**-**	**$3,265,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	22	67	-	136	-	225
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	203	609	-	1,218	-	2,030
Total	**225**	**676**	**-**	**1,354**	**-**	**2,255**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	$32,700	$98,000	-	$195,800	-	$326,500
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$293,900	$881,600	-	$1,763,000	-	$2,938,500
Total	**$326,600**	**$979,600**	**-**	**$1,958,800**	**-**	**$3,265,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	$1,451	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$1,447	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	$1,486	$1,462	-	$1,439	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$1,447	$1,447	-	$1,447	-

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:
Requests for proposals will be sent to MN public land managers and PF chapters within the prairie, prairie/forest transition, and metro regions. PF evaluates projects based on proximity to and size habitat complex, benefit to T/E and SGCN, and alignment with existing conservation plans. Projects will be accepted until all funds have been spent.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

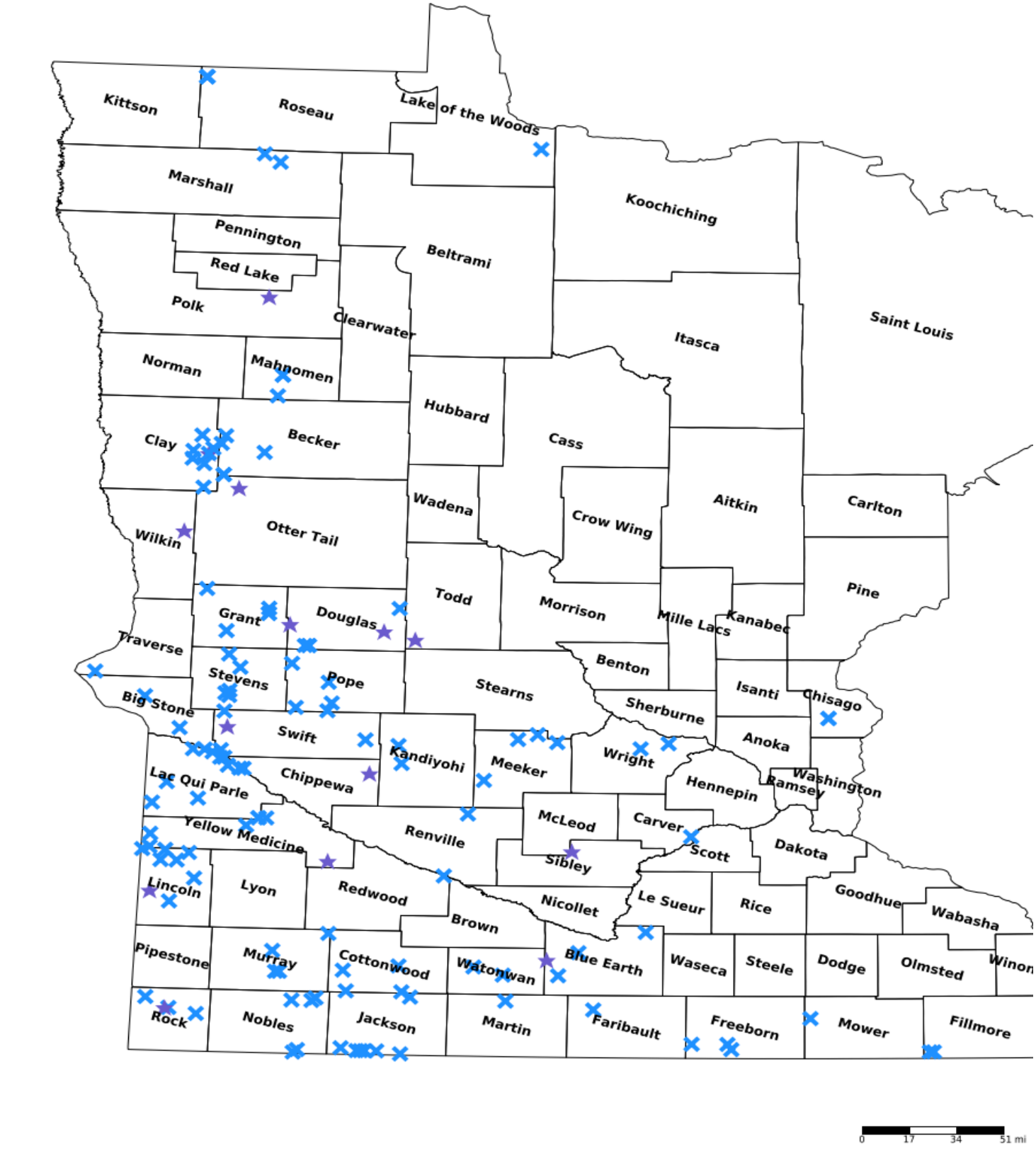
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Arneson WPA	Becker	13942213	1	$2,573	Yes	Brush Mowing/Shearing
Larson WPA	Becker	13843232	93	$70,000	Yes	Conservation Grazing
Larson WPA	Becker	13843232	3	$18,500	Yes	Tree Removal
Marks WPA	Becker	14043217	48	$75,500	Yes	Tree Removal
Stinking Lake WPA	Becker	14043231	2	$18,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Hillman WPA	Big Stone	12145210	75	$50,000	Yes	Conservation Grazing, Tree Removal,
Karsky WPA	Big Stone	12346207	68	$17,550	Yes	Tree Removal
Evans Slough WMA	Blue Earth	10629227	100	$25,310	Yes	Tree Removal
Gilfillan Lake WMA	Blue Earth	10925232	195	$7,500	Yes	Tree Removal
Howard Farm WPA	Blue Earth	10728209	400	$12,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Pauley WPA	Blue Earth	10729230	35	$33,501	Yes	Wetland, Upland Restoration WITHOUT seed, Tree Removal
Rapids Lake North NWR	Carver	11523230	300	$9,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Cuka WMA	Chippewa	11937234	114	$36,424	Yes	Wetland
Carlos Avery WMA	Chisago	03421226	60	$165,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Carlos Avery WMA	Chisago	03421226	60	$165,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Carlson WPA	Clay	13945213	31	$34,108	Yes	Tree Removal
Christiansen WPA	Clay	13844209	12	$40,348	Yes	Conservation Grazing
Doran Lake WPA	Clay	13945236	135	$35,257	Yes	Conservation Grazing
Haugtvedt WPA	Clay	13744228	42	$68,954	Yes	Conservation Grazing
Hoykens WPA	Clay	14044217	269	$7,720	Yes	Brush Mowing/Shearing
Olson WPA	Clay	13944211	38	$31,500	Yes	Brush Mowing/Shearing
Rushfeldt WPA	Clay	13944222	46	$79,026	Yes	Wetland
Rushfeldt WPA1	Clay	13944222	30	$320,321	Yes	Tree Removal, Brush Mowing/Shearing, Conservation Grazing
Clear Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10538235	302	$37,875	Yes	Conservation Grazing
Long Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10638222	106	$28,116	Yes	Diversity Seeding
Swan Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10636212	149	$29,175	Yes	Conservation Grazing
Wolf Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10535231	71	$150,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Ellingson WPA	Douglas	12840218	28	$32,500	Yes	Tree Removal, Wetland,
Hegg Lake WMA	Douglas	12740226	7	$35,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Peterson WPA	Douglas	12836230	9	$182,000	Yes	Wetland Restoration, Tree Removal,
Roger Holmes WMA	Douglas	12936211	475	$224,323	Yes	Conservation Grazing, Prescribed Fire, Diversity Seeding
Sabolik WPA	Douglas	12740225	16	$60,000	Yes	Tree Removal

Thompson WPA	Douglas	12740225	17	$80,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Rice Lake WMA	Faribault	10427231	95	$55,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Beaver Creek WMA	Fillmore	10113221	27	$19,717	Yes	Diversity Seeding
Beaver Creek WMA	Fillmore	10113220	275	$112,520	Yes	Tree Removal, 112520,
Goose Creek WPA	Freeborn	10122213	75	$130,000	Yes	Tree Removal, Upland Restoration,
Mansfield WMA	Freeborn	10123205	76	$80,000	Yes	Diversity Seeding
Twin Lake WPA	Freeborn	10122202	37	$90,000	Yes	Diversity Seeding, Tree Removal,
Berskow WMA	Grant	12941217	7	$32,500	Yes	Tree Removal
Blakesly WMA	Grant	12843233	3	$15,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Jenson WMA	Grant	12941229	72	$28,800	Yes	Tree Removal
Jenson WMA	Grant	12941229	72	$28,800	Yes	Tree Removal
Kube Swift WMA: West Unit	Grant	13044210	8	$40,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Christiania WPA	Jackson	10435209	165	$105,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Howard K. Vincent WPA	Jackson	10135231	185	$77,322	Yes	Upland Restoration
Illinois Lake WMA	Jackson	10138222	70	$30,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Little Sioux River WPA	Jackson	10136230	182	$5,460	Yes	Tree Removal
Sioux Valley WMA	Jackson	10137228	13	$30,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Skunk Creek WPA - CCM	Jackson	10137229	1	$36	Yes	Tree Removal
Skunk Lake WMA	Jackson	10137227	171	$40,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Gopher Ridge WMA	Kandiyohi	11936212	5	$16,010	Yes	Wetland
Shakopee Creek WPA	Kandiyohi	12036202	55	$250,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Flinks Slough WMA	Lac qui Parle	11642236	53	$62,000	Yes	Tree Removal, Upland Restoration,
Flinks WMA	Lac qui Parle	11642236	62	$178,925	Yes	Upland Restoration, Tree Removal, Seed Purchase
Hamlin WMA	Lac qui Parle	11744228	19	$25,000	Yes	Upland Restoration
Hastad WPA (North-W1/2W1/2)	Lac qui Parle	11943205	230	$29,900	Yes	Tree Removal
Hegland WPA	Lac qui Parle	11943204	88	$16,080	Yes	Tree Removal
Lac Qui Parle WMA- Louisburg	Lac qui Parle	12044222	77	$47,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Lac qui Parle WMA, Engebretson Tract	Lac qui Parle	11942229	612	$140,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Lac qui Parle WMA, Hamre Tract	Lac qui Parle	11942230	227	$200,000	Yes	Tree Removal,
Lac qui Parle WMA, Nygard Tract	Lac qui Parle	12044225	15	$49,500	Yes	Tree Removal, 49500,
Lac qui Parle WMA, Shelstad Tract	Lac qui Parle	11943222	17	$27,000	Yes	Upland Restoration, 23000, 3
Lac qui Parle WMA, Simonson Soderberg Tract	Lac qui Parle	12044219	236	$178,100	Yes	Tree Removal, 169000, 7
NE Four Corners WMA	Lac qui Parle	11845230	20	$27,000	Yes	Upland Restoration
Taylor WPA	Lac qui Parle	11646204	77	$15,500	Yes	Tree Removal
Morris Mow- LOW State Forest	Lake of the Woods	15930221	35	$29,279	Yes	Brush Mowing
Archerville WMA	Lincoln	11345206	184	$220,800	Yes	Tree Removal
Collinson WMA	Lincoln	11045217	50	$114,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Kragh Farms WPA	Lincoln	11146228	8	$124,290	Yes	Wetland, Tree Removal,
MinnKota WMA	Lincoln	11346206	135	$45,700	Yes	Fencing
Richard Doerer WMA	Lincoln	11346225	70	$25,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Rook WPA	Lincoln	11345227	162	$45,000	Yes	Conservation Grazing, Tree Removal,

Rost WMA	Lincoln	11244232	100	$60,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Vista Prairie WMA	Lincoln	11344207	25	$20,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Sandy Lake WPA	Mahnomen	14441215	106	$50,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Sandy Lake WPA	Mahnomen	14441215	60	$65,000	Yes	Conservation Grazing
Squirrel Lake WPA	Mahnomen	14341228	50	$83,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Thief Lake WMA- Lakeshore Burn Units	Marshall	15841228	121	$96,300	Yes	Prescribed Fire
Thief Lake WMA- Savanna Units	Marshall	15842211	181	$109,800	Yes	Prescribed Fire, Prescribed Fire, Prescribed Fire
Gleam WMA	Martin	10431216	77	$40,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Clear Lake WPA	Meeker	12130210	8	$120,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Kingston WMA	Meeker	12129228	200	$100,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Rosendale WPA	Meeker	11832209	36	$50,000	Yes	Upland Restoration, Seed Purchase,
Tyrone Flats WPA	Meeker	12131223	40	$48,000	Yes	Upland Restoration
Schamber WPA	Mower	10318217	30	$85,000	Yes	Tree Removal
5-Mile Corner WPA	Murray	10741215	135	$60,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Big Slough WPA	Murray	10641225	335	$40,250	Yes	Conservation Grazing
Big Slough WPA	Murray	10641226	63	$40,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Pell Creek NWR	Murray	10839212	73	$25,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Graham Lake WPA	Nobles	10439220	15	$20,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Lake Bella WMA	Nobles	10140234	17	$500	Yes	Tree Removal
Lone Tree WMA	Nobles	10440221	34	$15,000	Yes	Tree Removal, 15000,
Watcher WMA	Nobles	10140226	9	$3,000	Yes	Tree Removal, 3000,
West Graham WMA	Nobles	10439216	192	$20,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Putnam WPA (Tingelstad tract)	Otter Tail	13743225	115	$115,300	Yes	Upland Restoration
Clarke WPA	Polk	14941218	71	$300,000	Yes	Wetland Restoration
Benson Lake WPA	Pope	12339213	28	$9,800	Yes	Tree Removal
Chippewa River WMA	Pope	12340228	24	$297,500	Yes	Wetland Restoration, Tree Removal, Diversity Enhancement
Froland WPA	Pope	12439202	40	$12,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Gust Prairie NTGP (South)	Pope	12640232	103	$15,725	Yes	Tree Removal
Hoffman (NTGP)	Pope	12339235	70	$13,650	Yes	Tree Removal
Cedar Mountain WMA	Redwood	11234214	130	$13,500	Yes	Diversity Seeding, Tree Removal,
Cream City WPA	Renville	11633214	215	$258,000	Yes	Upland Restoration, Tree Removal,
Bartels NWR	Rock	10446220	58	$23,312	Yes	Conservation Grazing
Champepadan Creek NWR	Rock	10344221	1	$7,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Touch the Sky Prairie NWR	Rock	10345208	187	$42,425	Yes	Conservation Grazing
Touch the Sky Prairie NWR1	Rock	10345207	125	$126,825	Yes	Upland Restoration, Tree Removal,
Roseau River WMA	Roseau	16344217	259	$59,570	Yes	Brush Mowing/Shearing
Roseau River WMA	Roseau	16344217	259	$59,570	Yes	Brush Mowing/Shearing
Roseau River WMA	Roseau	16344217	259	$59,570	Yes	Brush Mowing/Shearing
Roseau River WMA	Roseau	16344217	259	$59,570	Yes	Brush Mowing/Shearing
High Island WPA2	Sibley	11428230	132	$134,400	Yes	Upland Restoration, Wetland,
Alberta WMA: North Unit	Stevens	12443233	28	$12,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Alberta WMA: South East Unit	Stevens	12343203	8	$40,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Kill WPA	Stevens	12643215	40	$5,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Mathison WMA	Stevens	12443227	5	$22,500	Yes	Tree Removal
Miller WPA	Stevens	12542207	50	$15,050	Yes	Tree Removal
Bengtson WPA	Swift	12137228	130	$44,850	Yes	Tree Removal
Lac Qui Parle WMA- Szabo	Swift	12043220	300	$60,250	Yes	Tree Removal
Lubenow WPA	Swift	12143203	2	$5,000	Yes	Wetland

Spring Lake WPA	Swift	12243204	115	$19,000	Yes	Tree Removal
West Union WMA	Todd	12735209	73	$200,000	Yes	Tree Removal, Upland Restoration,
Metz WMA: East Unit	Traverse	12548230	4	$17,500	Yes	Tree Removal
Curry WMA	Watonwan	10632207	13	$7,265	Yes	Tree Removal
Rosendale WMA	Watonwan	10631229	17	$20,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Akron WMA	Wilkin	13445222	20	$30,000	Yes	Upland Restoration
Angus Lake WPA	Wright	12026201	114	$253,052	Yes	Upland Restoration, Tree Removal, Seed Purchase
Pelican Lake WPA	Wright	12124230	105	$159,750	Yes	Tree Removal
Bohemian Marshes WMA	Yellow Medicine	11446233	231	$91,000	Yes	Tree Removal, Prescribed Fire, Upland Restoration
Dakota WPA	Yellow Medicine	11446204	35	$65,000	Yes	Tree Removal, Conservation Grazing,
Posen WMA	Yellow Medicine	11339224	16	$16,400	Yes	Upland Restoration
Stony Run WMA	Yellow Medicine	11641232	80	$54,000	Yes	Tree Removal
Tyro WMA	Yellow Medicine	11542216	95	$30,000	Yes	Tree Removal

Parcel Map



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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands - Phase X

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands - Phase X
Organization: Pheasants Forever
Manager: Sabin Adams

Budget

Requested Amount: $8,681,700
Appropriated Amount: $3,265,000
Percentage: 37.61%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$560,000	-	$210,600	-	37.61%	-
Contracts	$7,200,000	$200,000	$2,707,800	$75,200	37.61%	37.6%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$30,000	-	$11,300	-	37.67%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$251,700	$251,700	$94,700	$94,700	37.62%	37.62%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$600,000	-	$225,600	-	37.6%	-
DNR IDP	$40,000	-	$15,000	-	37.5%	-
Grand Total	**$8,681,700**	**$451,700**	**$3,265,000**	**$169,900**	**37.61%**	**37.61%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This proposal's budget at 100% of the request is based on the average acres that are enhanced and restored per appropriation. If this project is reduced by 50% we would scale down all acres/activities and dollars amounts proportionately.

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If this project is reduced by 70% we would scale down all acres/activities and dollars amounts proportionately.

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

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	600	225	37.5%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	5,400	2,030	37.59%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$868,200	$326,500	37.61%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$7,813,500	$2,938,500	37.61%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	600	225	37.5%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	5,400	2,030	37.59%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$868,200	$326,500	37.61%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$7,813,500	$2,938,500	37.61%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Restoring Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Ecosystem - Phase 1

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Restoring Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Ecosystem - Phase 1

Funds Recommended: $2,938,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Wayne Ostlie
Title: Director of Land Protection
Organization: Minnesota Land Trust
Address: 2356 University Avenue W Suite 240
City: Saint Paul, MN 55114
Email: wostlie@mnland.org
Office Number: 651-917-6292
Mobile Number: 651-894-3870
Fax Number:
Website: www.mnland.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Grant, Otter Tail, McLeod, Wadena, Becker, Big Stone, Stevens, Pope, Swift and Douglas.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Northern Forest

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The Restoring Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Ecosystem's objective is to restore an additional 10,000 acres of high priority wetlands and associated uplands in North America's most important flyway by 2034. This work is designed specifically to benefit important waterfowl, migratory birds in decline and pollinators in Minnesota's prairie pothole region. We prioritize building complexes of quality habitat primarily in Prairie Core Areas with the highest waterfowl production indices. We propose this project in 5 phases. This first phase will complete 1,052 acres of restoration and enhancement.

Design and Scope of Work

This is a new proposal that builds on the success of the restoration partnership between the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Wildlife (USFWS-PFW) program previously included in MLT's Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program and Accelerating Habitat Conservation in Southwest Minnesota Program. Thanks to the support of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, this partnership has restored 15,000 acres through the Outdoor Heritage Fund and the Conservation Partners Legacy program.

In this proposal, the MLT continues to serve as the OHF Project Manager and the USFWS-PFW leads the project restoration design. Together, we complete restorations utilizing local small business construction contractors and vendors. MLT and USFWS-PFW closely coordinate with other public agencies and non-profit organizations to ensure strategic conservation delivery. MLT and USFWS-PFW will develop additional projects as part of this proposal. All restoration projects on land permanently protected either in fee title or conservation easements held by the USFWS or MLT.

The majority of the sites included in this proposal are protected with Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF), or "Duck Stamp" dollars. These funds are primarily generated through Federal Duck Stamp sales and are earmarked for acquisition to benefit waterfowl conservation. These funds, however, cannot be used for restoration, and the Outdoor Heritage Fund plays an integral role elevating the conservation investment in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) landscape – through habitat restoration. Other projects included in this proposal occur on properties protected with previous OHF funds.

All proposed project sites occur within Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Region, extending from the Canadian border to Iowa along the glacial moraine system of western Minnesota. Projects are selected and prioritized using USFWS's landscape-scale spatial models and other science-based tools. These models are used to identify upland cover and prairie-wetland complexes for nesting waterfowl and other species. Each project design directly improves small shallow wetlands and associated grassland habitats to maximize breeding habitat for waterfowl and grassland dependent species. Wetlands are restored only where a combination of imagery, topographic features, or soil

conditions identify the historic presence of basins. Restorations include various combinations of the following activities:

Wetland basin restorations include sub-surface drainage tile removal, sediment removal via surface grading, ditch plug and dike construction, or a combination of these practices. In the uplands, prairie restorations occur on sites where a land manager wants to sunset a crop field and plant native prairie species, reconstructing the prairie. Enhancement activities for prairie and wetland work can include a combination of prescribed burning, grassland inter-seeding, wetland vegetation removal, tree and invasive species removal, and infrastructure for conservation grazing.

Our intention is to restore 25,000 acres of prairie pothole wetlands and grasslands by the conclusion of the 2008 Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment. This equals 40 square miles of new habitat for 2400 breeding waterfowl pairs, which we estimate could produce an additional 10,000 ducks every year to Minnesota's waterfowl populations.

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

This project benefits SGCN and other important game and non-game wildlife species directly by restoring and enhancing habitats degraded by past land use practices. Our objective is to rebuild shallow wetlands and associated grassland complexes in areas of maximum benefit.

Our Restoring Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Ecosystem proposal relies heavily on Minnesota's Prairie Plan, the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV), and science from USFWS. These plans provide a solid scientific basis calling for extensive wetland and grassland restoration and enhancement in Minnesota's prairie pothole region to provide critical habitat for wildlife, especially migratory waterfowl, pollinators and grassland birds.

The USFWS's Habitat Population Evaluation Team's "Thunderstorm Map" is a tool developed to identify and prioritize upland nesting cover for breeding waterfowl. The map uses a combination of National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) wetland data, waterfowl pair per wetland relationship models, and distances that hen mallards, blue-winged teal, northern pintails, gadwall, and northern shovelers commonly travel from wetlands to upland nesting sites. USFWS-PFW uses the results of this model to prioritize our restoration and enhancement projects.

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

More than 90% of the millions of historic "potholes" in Minnesota have been ditched, drained or otherwise degraded by land use practices. The PPJV calls for the restoration of 100,000's of acres to recover stable populations of waterfowl. Meeting this need calls for immediate, intensive coordinated action.

Currently, the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) allocates approximately 70% of its revenue toward the acquisition of wetland and grassland habitats (fee title and easements) within the PPR. While this allocation may shift over time, MBCF resources remain dedicated exclusively to habitat acquisition.

By accelerating the pace of restoration and leveraging these federal investments within the PPR, this proposal enhances both the quality and quantity of high-value wetland and grassland habitats. Importantly, the timing of this effort positions Minnesota to demonstrate exceptional land stewardship, reinforcing the value of continued MBCF investment in Minnesota's portion of the PPR.

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

This proposal serves to build upon past conservation investment in the program area, expand the footprint of quality habitat, facilitate the creation of high-quality habitat corridors, and reduce the potential for fragmentation. This proposal focuses on restoring prairie and wetland habitats on protected lands within priority prairie core complexes guided primarily by the Minnesota Prairie Plan, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture and the USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team.

The Prairie Plan and other data sets have identified core areas for coordinated action among conservation partners. These landscape-scale Prairie Cores enhance the conservation outcomes by combining important wetland complexes with other high-quality habitat, existing protected areas and working conservation lands. These core areas with highly adjacent diverse habitat types at a landscape scale enable each species to more readily adapt to changing land cover and climatic conditions maximizing survival and productivity.

We work closely with other conservation partners in the region to coordinate help build large habitat core areas comprised of both public and private protected lands. Project selection and development is based on the amount of existing habitat on the property, the potential for adding quality habitat and the project's context relative to nearby habitats.

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

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

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

Metro / Urban

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

Northern Forest

Restore and enhance habitat on existing protected properties, with preference to habitat for rare, endangered, or threatened species identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey

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 ~ *Additional and improved nesting and foraging habitat for migratory waterfowl, upland birds, and pollinators ~ We estimate approximately 16% of the work proposed will occur in the Forest-prairie transition region. This proposal includes 170 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes that could yield 22 breeding pairs of waterfowl. If we assume 5 fledged young/pair this will increase annual productivity by 110 waterfowl/year.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna ~ *Additional and improved nesting and foraging habitat for migratory waterfowl, upland birds, and pollinators ~ We estimate 5% of the work proposed will occur in the metro region. This proposal includes 14 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes that could yield 18 breeding pairs of waterfowl. If we assume 5 fledged young/pair this will increase annual productivity by 90 waterfowl/year.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Additional and improved nesting and foraging habitat for migratory waterfowl, upland birds, and pollinators ~ We estimate 19% of the work proposed will occur in the Forest region. This proposal includes 200 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes that could yield 19 breeding pairs of waterfowl. If we assume 5 fledged young/pair this will increase annual productivity by 95 waterfowl/year.*

Programs in prairie region:

Remnant native prairies and wetlands are perpetually protected and adequately buffered ~ *Additional and improved nesting and foraging habitat for migratory waterfowl, upland birds, and pollinators ~ We estimate 60% of the work proposed will occur in the prairie region. This proposal includes 630 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes that could yield 60 breeding pairs of waterfowl. If we assume 5 fledged young/pair this will increase annual productivity by 300 waterfowl/year.*

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.

Funding procured by MLT through the Outdoor Heritage Fund through this proposal will not supplant or substitute any previous funding from a non-Legacy fund used for the same purpose.

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

The USFWS and MLT (as easement holders on respective properties) will work with landowners on an ongoing basis to provide habitat restoration plans, resources, and technical expertise to undertake restoration, enhancement, and ongoing management of these properties.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
-	-	-	-	-
Every 4 to 6 years post construction	USFWS, Landowners, MLT	Prescribed fire, tree control, invasive species control 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:

One of MLT's core values is a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We work to demonstrate this commitment whenever possible across our work. Included in this proposal is a project to restore a property of importance to the Yankton Sioux near Pipestone National Monument.

MLT continues to use diversity, equity, and inclusion as a lens in project, partner, and contractor selection. We will continue to listen and seek out potential, authentic partnerships that can advance our goals of conserving the best of Minnesota's remaining habitats and, at the same time, being a more inclusive organization. To that end, we intentionally build relationships and work collaboratively with diverse communities throughout the state, such as summer camps for youth, Tribal Nations, rural farmers, and multi-generational families.

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

Other : Public 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
Restoration and enhancement projects completed	June 30, 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	$254,700	$40,000	FWS-PFW In-Kind	$294,700
Contracts	$2,600,000	-	-	$2,600,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	$850,000	USFWS Migratory Bird Conservation Fund	$850,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$8,500	-	-	$8,500
Professional Services	$5,000	-	-	$5,000
Direct Support Services	$68,800	-	-	$68,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$500	-	-	$500
Supplies/Materials	$500	-	-	$500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,938,000**	**$890,000**	**-**	**$3,828,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
FWS-PFW Biologist	0.1	5.0	-	$40,000	FWS-PFW In-Kind	$40,000
Project Staff	0.5	5.0	$254,700	-	-	$254,700

Amount of Request: $2,938,000
Amount of Leverage: $890,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 30.29%
DSS + Personnel: $323,500
As a % of the total request: 11.01%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The acres to be delivered have been proportionally reduced to reflect the recommended appropriation. The program was recommended for 42% of its proposed request. Acre outputs were reduced to 42%. Personnel was reduced to 42% of request.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
USFWS will provide $850,000 in leverage in the form of newly acquired permanent conservation easements

funded by the USFWS and the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, plus $40,000 of in-kind leverage for staff time, contracts and supplies for restoration and enhancement projects. All are confirmed.

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 number of R/E projects to best meet scaling requirements. Output acres would be reduced 40% to 60% depending on individual project costs. We would submit our phase 2 proposal next year instead of 2 years out.

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

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Restoration and enhancement construction accounts for 100% of the contracts line amount.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Other : Vegetation surveys, bird surveys to inform project design.

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
Land Trust staff rents vehicles for grant-related purposes when it is a significant cost savings over use of personal vehicles.

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?
Minnesota Land Trust has a direct support services rate approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017. We applied this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses included in this proposal to determine the total amount of direct support services requested through this grant.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
GPS/tablet devices, R/E tools, Personal Protective Equipment.

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
Yes

In Kind : $40,000

Other : 850,000 USFWS easement acquisition (Migratory Bird Conservation Fund)

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	19	-	-	33	52
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	890	-	110	1,000
Total	**19**	**890**	**-**	**143**	**1,052**

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	96
Total	**96**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	$53,100	-	-	$92,100	$145,200
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$2,485,600	-	$307,200	$2,792,800
Total	**$53,100**	**$2,485,600**	**-**	**$399,300**	**$2,938,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	14	-	-	38	-	52
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	170	-	630	200	1,000
Total	**14**	**170**	**-**	**668**	**200**	**1,052**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	$39,100	-	-	$106,100	-	$145,200
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$474,800	-	$1,759,400	$558,600	$2,792,800
Total	**$39,100**	**$474,800**	**-**	**$1,865,500**	**$558,600**	**$2,938,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	$2,794	-	-	$2,790
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$2,792	-	$2,792

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	$2,792	-	-	$2,792	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$2,792	-	$2,792	$2,793

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

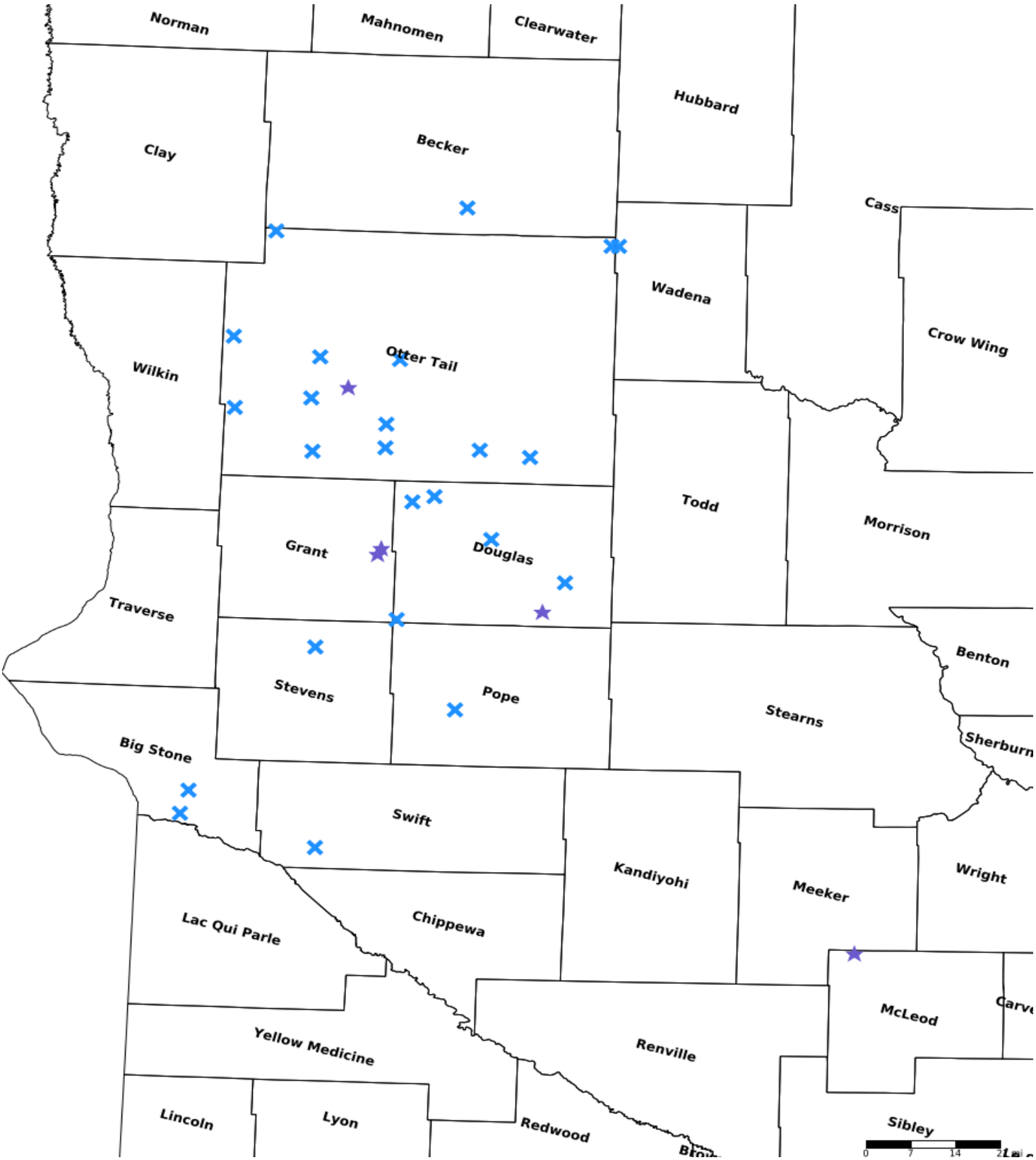
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
The projects included in the parcel list were identified as priorities for restoration/enhancement by USFWS and MLT biologists utilizing FWS priority mapping tools and adjacency to other protected habitats.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
HuLa	Becker	13839210	40	$100,000	Yes	Prairie
AndC	Big Stone	12145220	200	$425,000	Yes	Prairie
Smit	Big Stone	12245233	40	$85,000	Yes	Prairie
CKBett	Douglas	12938220	110	$250,000	Yes	Prairie
ClVi	Douglas	12837225	37	$115,625	Yes	Prairie
DiSc	Douglas	12737221	9	$125,000	Yes	Habitat
LeTo	Douglas	12740231	40	$125,000	Yes	Prairie
MiOlEPh2	Douglas	13040213	20	$125,000	Yes	Prairie
MiSt	Douglas	13040221	70	$187,500	Yes	Prairie
DaFr	Grant	12941235	33	$156,250	Yes	Habitat
ToBo	Grant	12841203	5	$50,000	Yes	Wetland
LFRM	McLeod	11730203	13	$25,000	Yes	Wetland
BoPr	Otter Tail	13137207	30	$93,750	Yes	Prairie
DaRe	Otter Tail	13743205	30	$75,000	Yes	Prairie
DiLi	Otter Tail	13139201	100	$187,500	Yes	Habitat
ErFaP2	Otter Tail	13736212	365	$625,000	Yes	Prairie
FFFGCOrSo	Otter Tail	13244205	55	$187,500	Yes	Prairie
HLJo	Otter Tail	13141202	160	$375,000	Yes	Prairie
JaRu	Otter Tail	13444205	25	$87,500	Yes	Prairie
LaLe	Otter Tail	13442220	45	$218,750	Yes	Prairie
MiLa	Otter Tail	13142207	75	$187,500	Yes	Prairie
PaSt	Otter Tail	13342230	30	$125,000	Yes	Habitat
RoCl	Otter Tail	13241214	100	$250,000	Yes	Prairie
RoNoPh2	Otter Tail	13342213	30	$250,000	Yes	Habitat
TLBen	Otter Tail	13440219	20	$62,500	Yes	Prairie
Feig	Pope	12439216	60	$127,500	Yes	Prairie
Pric	Stevens	12642229	20	$42,500	Yes	Prairie
FlaE	Swift	12042217	116	$246,500	Yes	Prairie
ErFaP3	Wadena	13735207	229	$437,500	Yes	Prairie

Parcel Map


Norman
Mahnomen
Clearwater
Hubbard
Clay
Becker
Cass
Wadena
Crow Wing
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Todd
Morrison
Grant
Douglas
Traverse
Benton
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Sherburn
Big Stone
Swift
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Wright
Lac Qui Parle
Chippewa
McLeod
Yellow Medicine
Renville
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Sibley
0
7
14
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Restoring Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Ecosystem - Phase 1

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Restoring Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Ecosystem - Phase 1
Organization: Minnesota Land Trust
Manager: Wayne Ostlie

Budget

Requested Amount: $6,960,000
Appropriated Amount: $2,938,000
Percentage: 42.21%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$600,000	$52,500	$254,700	$40,000	42.45%	76.19%
Contracts	$6,172,000	-	$2,600,000	-	42.13%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	$2,000,000	-	$850,000	-	42.5%
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$20,000	-	$8,500	-	42.5%	-
Professional Services	$5,000	-	$5,000	-	100.0%	-
Direct Support Services	$162,000	-	$68,800	-	42.47%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$500	-	$500	-	100.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$500	-	$500	-	100.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$6,960,000**	**$2,052,500**	**$2,938,000**	**$890,000**	**42.21%**	**43.36%**

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 number of R/E projects to best meet scaling requirements. Output acres would be reduced 40% to 60% depending on individual project costs. We would submit our phase 2 proposal next year instead of 2 years out.

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

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 number of R/E projects to best meet scaling requirements. Output acres would be reduced 70% to 80% depending on individual project costs. We would submit a larger phase 2 proposal next year instead of 2 years out to include delayed projects.

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

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	443	52	11.74%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	2,057	1,000	48.61%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$1,233,300	$145,200	11.77%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$5,726,700	$2,792,800	48.77%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	443	52	11.74%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	2,057	1,000	48.61%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$1,233,300	$145,200	11.77%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$5,726,700	$2,792,800	48.77%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase 11

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/12/2026

Project Title: Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase 11

Funds Recommended: $1,855,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Tim Terrill
Title: Executive Director
Organization: Mississippi Headwaters Board
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Email: timt@mississippiheadwaters.org
Office Number: 218-824-1189
Mobile Number: 218-838-8563
Fax Number:
Website: http://www.mississippiheadwaters.org

Partners Contact

BWSR: Darren Mayers - darren.mayers@state.mn.us - (218) 290-8384

MHB: Tim Terrill - timt@mississippiheadwaters.org - (218) 838-8563

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project (MHHCP) is a partnership of the Mississippi Headwaters Board, Trust for Public Land, and BWSR. Fee-title acquisitions and conservation easements on private lands adjacent to public land create/expand permanently protected aquatic and upland wildlife habitat complexes along the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River and major tributaries. This request is only for BWSR conservation easements and MHB program management. 450 acres of critical habitat will be placed in permanent conservation easements to benefit fish, wildlife, and migratory waterfowl and reduce forest fragmentation. Additionally, public recreation and drinking water quality is enhanced.

Design and Scope of Work

This phase of the Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project (MHHCP) will continue to provide aquatic and upland game habitat protection and food and shelter for migratory waterfowl along the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River (its headwaters) and tributaries. Work is focused on private land on or adjacent to the river or land on or near major tributaries within the 8 headwaters' counties of Clearwater, Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Crow Wing, Aitkin, and Morrison. In addition to the 13,000 acres and 72 miles of shoreland already protected, this phase will permanently protect an additional 450 acres and 2+ miles of shoreland by creating and enlarging protected habitat complexes and corridors. Additionally, public recreational opportunities are enhanced for fishing, hunting, passive recreation and drinking water quality is ensured for millions downstream.

The 8-County headwaters are home to a variety of game fish and their adjacent lands are home to over 350+ species of animals and birds, including most of the endangered and threatened species in Minnesota. Development pressure along the river and its tributaries is increasing as people seek to live near water. Private land development can lead to fragmentation of forests that threaten wildlife and aquatic habitats. Public lands adjacent to developable private lands are in danger of losing habitat connectivity as private lands are increasingly developed resulting in destruction of wild rice beds, aquatic and upland habitat and fragmentation of forestlands, grasslands, and wetlands that dominate the Mississippi headwaters.

The MHHCP provides fish and wildlife habitat protection by targeting private lands adjacent to already protected public land for fee-title acquisition or conservation easements to create permanently protected habitat complexes. This proposal is only requesting funds for BWSR to complete conservation easements and for MHB project management; TPL has remaining funds available for fee-title acquisition and does not require additional funding at this time.

The MHHCP partners (MHB, BWSR, and TPL) realize there is critical conservation work to conduct yet future work needs to be strategic about where protection happens to ensure the highest rate of return on the OHF investment. A map was created to identify strategic areas for future protection using advanced GIS technology, recently updated land use information from the 8 headwaters' counties, and priorities from 1Watershed/1Plans from 6 major watersheds. The map will guide partners to priority areas for future land protection efforts and aid in

developing targeted landowner outreach.

As a partnership, The Mississippi Headwaters Board provides program administration and coordination. Trust for Public Land acquires fee-title to priority lands and conveys permanent ownership to a public entity (MN DNR or LGU). BWSR completes RIM conservation easements on private lands with local SWCD assistance. A Technical Team of project partners, 8 SWCDS and representatives from the DNR and The Nature Conservancy review and approve all projects using a ranked evaluation of habitat and biodiversity, urgency and opportunity for protection, size of the parcel, amount of shoreland and other critical habitat features. Strong local government involvement is unique to this program.

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

The Mississippi Headwaters is host to over 350 species of mammals, birds and fish, including most of Minnesota's endangered and threatened species. The MHHCP protects those species by creating permanently protected habitat complexes and corridors along the river and its major tributaries that provide upland wildlife with food, shelter, and protection from predators and clean water habitat for fish survival and spawning.

A strategic planning process recently began to identify priority aquatic and upland areas within the headwaters on which to prioritize future program activity. A qualitative analysis of the benefits of wildlife protection at a watershed scale was contracted to Peter C. Jacobsen, DNR Fisheries Scientist whose former fisheries research demonstrated that a minor watershed is considered permanently protected for water quality when a threshold of 75% land protection (public, private, and SFIA lands) is achieved. His recent research demonstrated the 75% threshold in a minor watershed also applies for upland wildlife protection. His report," Wildlife Habitat Benefits of Watershed Protection," demonstrated highly sensitive areas may need a higher threshold than 75% for adequate habitat protection.

Three wildlife assessment and prioritization data sets were used in the report: 1) Minnesota DNR Wildlife Action Network; 2) Minnesota DNR Watershed Health Assessment Framework Terrestrial Habitat Scores; and 3) The Nature Conservancy's Resilient and Connected Lands Network data. A map of wildlife land protection priorities within the 8-county headwaters was created by combining the three data sets with recent protected lands data provided by the 8 headwaters counties. The map pinpoints priority areas of high wildlife value on which to focus future landowner outreach to reach or exceed the 75% watershed protection value. (see the map on the project illustration). The priority areas correspond to a spreadsheet of landowner data in minor watersheds.

Parcels in priority areas are identified and assessed using a science-based tool (RAQ), where "R" is the riparian nature, "A" is adjacency to already protected land, and "Q" is the habitat quality established using various state and national databases. Outreach is then directed to landowners of high RAQ-value land.

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

Previously appropriated funds (ML24 and ML25) for conservation easements are spent or parcels have been approved by the Technical Committee for submission to BWSR and are in various processing stages. There are interested landowners waiting for availability of additional conservation easement funding, several with large parcels.

Because inland lakes are highly developed, there is increasing interest in developing along the river and its tributaries. There is urgency to protect high priority lands for fish and wildlife habitat protection because development pressures are threatening forest fragmentation and disturbance of shoreland and upland habitats.

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

The MHHCP focuses on creating and expanding permanently protected aquatic and upland wildlife habitat complexes/corridors by acquiring priority private land (via fee-title or easement acquisition) adjacent to already protected land (county, state, or federal land or land already under easement) to expand existing or create new habitat complexes. These large habitat corridors/complexes provide the essential elements of good upland habitat continuity for wildlife that includes food, a place to raise their young, cover from predators, and mobility for wildlife during various life stages and adaptation as needed to climate change. They also provide aquatic habitat (clean water) for fish survival and spawning and food and shelter for migratory waterfowl along the Mississippi Flyway. These complexes limit future development that could disrupt forest complexes and fragment fish and wildlife habitat.

Using the previously described map of priority habitat protection areas and the RAQ science-based parcel prioritization process, high priority private parcels are identified next to already protected lands (public or private in easement). Connecting these acquired parcels to already protected land enlarges or creates habitat protection complexes. Multiple habitat complexes along the river or its tributaries create safe corridors of protected land for wildlife to move around and/or protected and undeveloped shoreland for high quality fish habitat.

The Indian Jack WMA habitat complex featured on the project illustration is an example of the program's successful approach of using fee-title and easement acquisitions connected to already protected land to create a large habitat complex. Two fee-title acquisitions in Crow Wing County created the new 299-acre DNR Indian Jack WMA, which combined with two adjacent RIM conservation easements and other state and county land, created a habitat complex of 594+ contiguous acres, 2.5 miles of Indian Jack Lake shoreland, and 3 miles of Mississippi River shoreland, on which the DNR is adding a new public access. In addition to habitat protection for both wildlife and fisheries, this forested complex provides enhanced public recreation opportunities for fishing, hunting, bird watching and river access.

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

Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Plan

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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

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 ~ *Conservation easements in this region have been funded in past appropriations. Those funded with an ML 27 appropriation will be placed on parcels on or near the main stem Mississippi River and/or along, near major Mississippi tributaries in the region, or in or around large habitat complexes. In the eastern portion of the region, parcels are mostly forested. Easement outcomes will be measured by the number of acres protected and shoreland feet and evaluated against set program criteria and goals. Easements will be evaluated into perpetuity through yearly monitoring by SWCDs in the 8 headwaters' counties.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors ~ *With permanent land protection via conservation easements forests will remain intact and less fragmented to maintain the forest integrity necessary for wildlife and fisheries habitat protection. Placement of projects will focus on private land that can connect with adjacent public or already protected private lands to create or expand habitat corridors. Outcomes will be measured by acres and shoreland miles protected and evaluated against program goals and criteria. Easements will be monitored annually into perpetuity by BWSR and the SWCD for the county in which the easement is located.*

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 a substitution for any previous Legacy funding used for the same purpose.

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

BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement of RIM easements. BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry out oversight, monitoring and inspection of conservation easements. Easements are inspected every year for the first five years beginning the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs document findings and report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations are identified. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027-2031	OHF	Work with project partners to determine fish and game habitat protection priorities; develop tools for prioritizing lands for acquisition (fee title or easement); provide outreach assistance to SWCDs: and develop/ maintain trusting relationships with local government for project support	The Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) provides project coordination among project partners and other supporting organizations, including responsibility for status reports, outreach assistance to SWCDs, developing prioritization tools for project selection, facilitation of regular meetings of the Project Technical Committee to review and approve participating landowner projects, and project representation to regional conservation collaborative efforts. MHB also promotes ongoing relationships and training as needed for the 8 Headwaters County Boards.	-
2027-2031	OHF	Work with project partners and landowners to determine interest in a fee-title acquisition and seek state or local government permanent land ownership.	The Trust for Public Land will acquire parcels for fee-title acquisition (with or without PILT) and transfer to the appropriate public entity.	Permanent public entity owners of acquired lands (state or local government) will follow the monitoring and land management policies of their organization.
2027-2031	OHF	Work with project partners and landowners to determine RIM conservation easement interest and develop long-term fish and game habitat protection priorities.	Work with BWSR and County SWCDs to conduct landowner outreach and acquire conservation easements	BWSR and SWCDs will perform ongoing onsite inspections and monitoring and enforce conditions of the recorded easement into perpetuity.

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

MHHCP partner organizations have programs funded through different sources that focus primarily on engaging Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities as well as diverse economic communities. A meeting of multiple conservation agencies and organizations was held with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) to

discuss mutual conservation goals. LLBO is invited to participate in the MMHCP Technical Team that reviews and approves all projects in an effort to be more inclusive in the program's land protection work.

Generally, RIM priority areas are focused on rural communities across the state due to the nature of the program and payment rates. Review of the Environmental Justice map produced by the MPCA shows RIM easement programs overlap with many identified environmental justice areas across the state, particularly those areas that are identified by lower than state median incomes. Lower annual income areas of the state benefit from RIM in several ways, including financial benefits for landowners through easement payments. The individual program may also require seeding and wetland restoration work by local contractors. The work by SWCD staff also includes outreach, monitoring and maintenance which helps maintain and grow rural jobs and economies.

Conservation easements benefit all Minnesotans. They help to keep our air and water clean for fish habitat, provide upland habitat protection, help to ensure high-quality drinking water downstream of the headwaters, and help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
The Board of Water and Soil Resources will manage the easement with the assistance of the local SWCD for processing and perpetual monitoring.

Who will be the easement holder?
The MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
6 easements, depending on size and cost.

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

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

Describe the expected public use:
RIM easements do not require that private land is open to the public; however, this question is also

evaluated on public benefit and RIM easements do provide a significant public benefit; often expand wildlife habitat near public lands; and do not limit the potential for the land to be open to the public through other programs. SWCD partners, who work with landowners on easement application, can enroll landowners into the DNR Walk-In Access (WIA) program upon easement application. The WIA program is available in 54 counties, all of which are eligible for RIM.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?

No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?

No

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

No

Explain how and when the restoration/enhancement work will be completed and identify the source of funding:

No restoration or enhancement work will be done on conservation easements funded with this program.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Under contract to BWSR, SWCDs do annual monitoring of acquired easements	Ongoing
SWCDs do landowner outreach according to established parcel priorities, works with landowner to submit easement application, assists BWSR with processing due diligence, and records the final easement. SWCD's are paid a set standard fee by BWSR for processing assistance.	2031
MHB provides project administration and coordination, assists with development of parcel prioritization tools and outreach, convenes the Technical Review Committee, and does project reporting	2031
BWSR approves and processes landowner applications that have been approved by the Project Technical Committee and is responsible for ongoing monitoring of completed easements.	2031; stewardship ongoing

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2031

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.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$143,800	-	-	$143,800
Contracts	$25,000	-	-	$25,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,582,000	-	-	$1,582,000
Easement Stewardship	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Travel	$3,200	-	-	$3,200
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$31,100	-	-	$31,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,500	-	-	$4,500
Supplies/Materials	$5,400	-	-	$5,400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,855,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,855,000**

Partner: BWSR

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$107,800	-	-	$107,800
Contracts	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,582,000	-	-	$1,582,000
Easement Stewardship	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Travel	$3,200	-	-	$3,200
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$31,100	-	-	$31,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,500	-	-	$4,500
Supplies/Materials	$1,400	-	-	$1,400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,805,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,805,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Easement Staff	0.2	4.0	$107,800	-	-	$107,800

Partner: MHB

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$36,000	-	-	$36,000
Contracts	$10,000	-	-	$10,000
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	$4,000	-	-	$4,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$50,000**	**-**	**-**	**$50,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Administrator	0.2	4.0	$36,000	-	-	$36,000

Amount of Request: $1,855,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $174,900
As a % of the total request: 9.43%
Easement Stewardship: $60,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 3.79%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

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?
A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

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

Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced; however not exactly proportionately as program administration, coordination, development and oversight costs remain consistent. A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively consistent regardless of appropriation

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
MHB will utilize the funding to contract with professionals that can perform research or develop tools to help administer the program more effectively. BWSR contract funds are for direct SWCD assistance.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
6 easements at $10,000 per easement for stewardship. The total stewardship amount will ultimately be dependent on the cost of easements and if the proposed easement number is reached. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. The value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

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?
BWSR annually reviews and updates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done and the program staff time involved.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Signage for completed projects.

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	-	-	-	450	450
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**450**	**450**

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	-	-	-	$1,855,000	$1,855,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,855,000**	**$1,855,000**

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	-	50	-	-	400	450
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**50**	**-**	**-**	**400**	**450**

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	-	$100,000	-	-	$1,755,000	$1,855,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**$100,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,755,000**	**$1,855,000**

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	-	-	-	$4,122
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	$2,000	-	-	$4,387
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2+ miles of streambank

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:
Because Trust for Public Land (TPL) is not requesting funds with this proposal, there are no fee-title parcels listed. This funding will provide for conservation easements held by BWSR. The parcels selected are submitted by the SWCDs in the 8 County headwaters and then vetted against program criteria by the Technical Committee for approval/disapproval to submit a BWSR application. The Technical Team ranking sheet is attached for a potential easement parcel evaluation When the easement is recorded it will be added to the Accomplishment Plan parcel list by BWSR.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase 11

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase 11
Organization: Mississippi Headwaters Board
Manager: Tim Terrill

Budget

Requested Amount: $5,000,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,855,000
Percentage: 37.1%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$340,500	-	$143,800	-	42.23%	-
Contracts	$76,000	-	$25,000	-	32.89%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$4,288,500	-	$1,582,000	-	36.89%	-
Easement Stewardship	$180,000	-	$60,000	-	33.33%	-
Travel	$8,700	-	$3,200	-	36.78%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$86,200	-	$31,100	-	36.08%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$12,400	-	$4,500	-	36.29%	-
Supplies/Materials	$7,700	-	$5,400	-	70.13%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$5,000,000**	**-**	**$1,855,000**	**-**	**37.1%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced; however not exactly proportionately as program administration, coordination, development and oversight costs remain consistent. A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively consistent regardless of appropriation

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced; however not exactly proportionately as program administration, coordination, development and oversight costs remain consistent. A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively consistent regardless of appropriation

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	1,375	450	32.73%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$5,000,000	$1,855,000	37.1%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	1,375	450	32.73%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$5,000,000	$1,855,000	37.1%
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MN Forests of the Future Phase XI South East Blufflands to Northern Forests Protection
Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/12/2026

Project Title: MN Forests of the Future Phase XI South East Blufflands to Northern Forests Protection

Funds Recommended: $2,541,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Andy Kernan
Title: Forest Legacy Program Coordinator
Organization: MNDNR Division of Forestry
Address: 500 Lafayette Rd.
City: St. Paul, MN 55155
Email: andrew.kernan@state.mn.us
Office Number: 612-500-6315
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Hubbard, Isanti, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Winona, Wabasha, Fillmore, Crow Wing and Todd.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Southeast Forest

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

The MN Forests for the Future Program focuses on protecting high conservation value forest lands and will acquire and steward 3,326 acres of working forest conservation easements on priority forest and riparian habitat in the SE bluffland and Northern forest regions across nine counties focused on private in-holdings and land adjacent to public land. Protecting large blocks of private forest achieves multiple benefits: conserving critical habitat, forested land cover essential for high water quality/quantity, building climate resilience and sustaining the forested landscape critical for local jobs in tourism and timber.

Design and Scope of Work

MN Forests for the Future Ph. XI protects forest/riparian habitat in the Southeast, Central, and Northwest; strategically targeting large forest blocks threatened by conversion and fragmentation. Nearly 7.5 million acres (44%) of MN's forests are privately-owned and at risk of fragmentation or conversion. Since 2008, MN has experienced some of the highest conversion rates in the U.S., with the highest located in North Central MN. This program protects forests through acquiring permanent working forest conservation easements. Protection work achieves multiple benefits by conserving critical habitat, maintaining forested land cover essential for high water quality/quantity, building climate resilience and by sustaining the forested landscape critical for recreation and local jobs in tourism and timber. This work is crucial to conserving wildlife that require large intact forests and provides perpetual protection for fish, game and wildlife that inhabit these forested landscapes.

This proposal focuses on the SE blufflands and Northern forest areas building on existing protection and utilizing strong partnerships including local governments and citizen groups. Private in-holdings and land adjacent to publicly owned land are prioritized leveraging larger blocks of protected forest habitat, more protection against fragmentation, multiplying the effects of climate refugia and resilience, and providing habitat corridors especially important for wildlife movement. Land cover and land use directly impacts water quality/quantity; by protecting forests in key areas, this program will also protect drinking water, recharge aquifers, reduce nutrient and sediment to lakes and streams, protect floodplains, sustain fisheries and further mitigate climate change. Protection of forested land is critical for local economies including tourism, timber and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Acquisition of permanent conservation easements will protect 3,326 acres of intact high conservation value forests and keep them in private ownership. Work is strategically focused to build on existing protection, address private in-holdings, address regional conservation and management goals and meet private landowner demand.

Program guidelines have been developed and implemented for >15 years ensuring protection work is strategically located and stewardship sound and efficient. A forest management plan is included with each conservation easement and updates required regularly; the plans make the land eligible for DNR forest stewardship including technical assistance and cost-sharing for forest BMPs and many conservation easement landowners choose to participate in these programs to better conserve and manage their privately-owned forested habitat. Ongoing stewardship includes annual landowner meetings and on-site monitoring. Local government communication occurs so projects are supported and can continue to grow. Discussions/partnership with conservation organizations & citizen groups are on-going making protection efforts informed and efficient.

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

The predominant threat for wildlife Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and protected species is habitat degradation, loss and fragmentation. Maintaining intact and healthy forest habitat, especially large contiguous tracts, reduces stressors on these populations. Permanently protecting parcels in this proposal as conservation easements maintains core forested areas and connectivity, increasing the resilience to a changing climate, invasive

species and other habitat threats. The proposed project uses science-based targeting methods to leverage and expand existing habitat corridors and complexes, reduce fragmentation and protect areas identified as priorities in several plans and conservation initiatives, including the MN County Biological Survey. DNR's GIS-based Strategic Land Asset Management metrics are used by an inter-disciplinary team of experts from different Divisions to prioritize and select all acquisitions, including conservation easements. The priority tracts of forest land and habitat targeted for protection have some, if not all, of the following traits: are currently unprotected inholdings; large tracts identified by the MN County Biological Survey (including sites of high quality biodiversity significance); habitat identified by the State Wildlife Action Plan as significant; presence of rare species and SGCN or the habitat that support those species; located in a strategic habitat complex and adjacent to other protected land so that complexes can be protected and management improved. In addition, we consult with local and regional watershed/landscape planning efforts: TNC's Multiple Benefit Analysis and Resilient Lands Mapping Tool, DNR's Forest Action Plan, PCA's watershed plans, One Watershed One Plans, MFRC's Regional Landscape Plans, and Landscape Stewardship Plans. Targeted habitats include: upland forests, forested/non-forested wetlands and stream and lake shoreline. Protection of these lands provides critical habitat for key forest game species including upland birds, white-tail deer, moose, black bear, fisher, pine marten and waterfowl as well as songbird and other non-game wildlife species. In total, this proposal supports habitat protection with significant value for over 200 SGCN. SE Blufflands contain 156 SGCN, most of all subsections in the state, of these 82 species are endangered/threatened/special concern; 9 are mammals which are 41% of all mammal SGCN in the state.

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

This proposal will permanently protect strategically important large forest blocks threatened by conversion and fragmentation. Since 2008, MN's forests have experienced some of the highest conversion rates in the U.S. with the highest occurring in North Central MN. Each year, more forest habitat is lost and degraded due to conversion, development, and fragmentation. There is an urgent need to permanently protect our remaining large blocks of high conservation value forest. Nearly 7.5 million acres (44%) of MN's forests are privately-owned. Our proposal is based on working with private landowners who are currently willing to protect strategic high conservation value forest with permanent conservation easements. We may not have another chance to protect these lands in the future so we must act now while we can, working with willing conservation landowners, before it is too late.

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

A serious and significant threat to MN's SE blufflands and northern forests is conversion for other uses: the MN Forest Resources Council has identified parcelization as "the single most important policy issue affecting the economic and ecological health of the state's forests". The OHF: 25 Year Framework cites that "forest land has been converted to other uses…at a rate of 3,600 acres per year". The MN Forest Vision recommends that the "forest land base is enlarged and protected through permanent conservation easements and fee title acquisition" & "contiguous forest complexes should be protected and enlarged...and there should be focus to protect areas with high game populations and high levels of biodiversity". The State Wildlife Action Plan reports that "activities that fragment or degrade habitats can independently or in conjunction with invasive species reduce biological diversity" & "Habitat degradation, loss, and fragmentation are the predominant stressors impacting SGCN populations. Habitats with higher biological diversity and that are less fragmented are expected to have greater climate change resiliency than are systems with lower biological diversity and greater fragmentation." Protection of proposed lands reduces habitat loss/fragmentation & maintains forest habitat complexes. This project would expand permanently protected habitat complexes & avoid habitat conversion/development/fragmentation/degradation. The MN Forests for the Future program provides enhanced connectivity between conservation lands by protecting privately-owned properties linking public land. A key strategy for climate change mitigation is providing corridors/connectivity between different biomes/microclimates allowing species to migrate to find suitable

habitats that replace former habitats lost as the climate changes. However, many species may not be able to migrate over developed/cultivated land; providing habitat corridors for species movement benefits their ability to relocate. The MN Statewide Conservation & Preservation Plan says "forest fragmentation reduces resiliency and habitat quality for wildlife including species such as bears and wolves which need large tracts of undeveloped land". The Plan identifies the need to increase forest ecosystem resilience by maintaining large blocks of forested land. This requires protection of forestlands against conversion to other uses, and conservation of working forestland resources through sustainable management."

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

Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans

Other : Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Northern Forest

Provide access to manage habitat on landlocked public properties or protect forest land from parcelization and fragmentation through fee acquisition, conservation or access easement

Southeast Forest

Protect forest habitat though acquisition in fee or easement to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *We conduct in person monitoring of the easements on as annual basis to determine if the easement is in compliance, connect with the landowner to develop relationships, and make management suggestions based on current conditions on the ground.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Forestlands and savannas are protected from parceliazation and fragmentation and accessible for resource management purposes ~ *We conduct in person monitoring of the easements on as annual basis to determine if the easement is in compliance, connect with the landowner to develop relationships, and make management suggestions based on current conditions on the ground.*

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 will fund new projects that would not otherwise be implemented but for this appropriation.

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

All land protected through permanent conservation easements will be sustained through set guidelines for conservation easement stewardship that have been developed and implemented for more than 15 years through the MN Forests for the Future Program and the MN Forest Legacy Program. Easement monitoring is conducted annually and stewardship is on-going; according to Department and Division policies and guidelines. Stewardship

and conservation easement enforcement is discussed bi-monthly at DNR inter-divisional stewardship team and enforcement panel meetings. Land in conservation easement is required to be covered by a DNR-certified Woodland Stewardship Plan and updated at least every 10 years. Funding for easement stewardship is included in this proposal.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Annually/Perpetually	OHF-DNR easement Stewardship Account	Monitor easements annually and enforce easement terms through annual landowner contact and on-site monitoring	Annually review forest management activities and review and update Forest Stewardship Plans periodically	-

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 will benefit all communities throughout the entire state of Minnesota by permanently protecting ecosystem services that provide clean drinking water, productive habitat, clean air, climate change mitigation, and sedimentation/erosion control. Specific project scoring and implementation efforts benefit BIPOC and diverse communities through recreational opportunities that are close-to-home, culturally responsive and accessible to Minnesotans of all abilities. The Environmental Protection Agency has developed an environmental justice mapping and screening tool. This tool indicates several of the proposed parcels fall within areas identified as environmental justice areas of concern. Demographic indicators used are: percent low-income, percent people of color, less than high school education, linguistic isolation, age under 5 and over 64. Protecting these lands mitigates some of the environmental justice concerns for at-risk populations. The DNR has diversity, equity and inclusion strategies that benefit all Outdoor Heritage Fund projects including: public engagement that seeks out BIPOC voices and involves diverse communities, outreach and marketing of projects has this focus as well; and partnerships are at the center of all projects.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
MN DNR Division of Forestry stewards the easement; landowner manages the land in easement.

Who will be the easement holder?
MN DNR Division of Forestry

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
4-8

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

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

Describe the expected public use:
Public access may be allowed only with the approval of the landowner and will be written into the easement language.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
No

Funds will only be used for acquisition, professional services, and direct and necessary costs.

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?
No

Explain how and when the restoration/enhancement work will be completed and identify the source of funding:
No, if any restoration or enhancement work is done, it will be done by the landowners.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Develop conservation easement monitoring plans, forest stewardship plans, dedicate easement stewardship	June 30, 2031

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2031

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	$150,000	$50,000	USFS Federal grant/RIM funding	$200,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,925,900	$500,000	variety of private/public sources	$2,425,900
Easement Stewardship	$200,000	-	-	$200,000
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$240,000	-	-	$240,000
Direct Support Services	$24,100	-	-	$24,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,541,000**	**$550,000**	**-**	**$3,091,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Forest Legacy Coordinator	0.5	4.0	$150,000	$50,000	USFS Federal grant/RIM funding	$200,000

Amount of Request: $2,541,000
Amount of Leverage: $550,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 21.65%
DSS + Personnel: $174,100
As a % of the total request: 6.85%
Easement Stewardship: $200,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 10.38%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
We will scale down the total number of acres acquired and proceed with the projects that most fulfill our program goals with the funds available.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Our leverage comes from USFS administrative grants as well as RIM grant funding.

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?
Number of conservation easements acquired (and therefore acres protected) would be reduced according to priority based on highest conservation value and available funding.

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

Personnel

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

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Closing costs; Recording fees

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
There are nineteen conservation easements prioritized as high conservation value on our project list waiting for funding. Of these, it is too early to anticipate which will be cut because of the reduced funding. There is a wide range of geographic areas covered with this proposal with a wide range of land values. Therefore, the actual amount of stewardship funding used per easement will be determined as the projects are developed and prioritized.

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 Direct and Necessary Cost Calculator

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
Yes

Cash : $50,000

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	3,326	-	3,326
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**3,326**	**-**	**3,326**

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	-	-	$2,541,000	-	$2,541,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**$2,541,000**	**-**	**$2,541,000**

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	-	-	830	-	2,496	3,326
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**830**	**-**	**2,496**	**3,326**

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	-	-	$1,541,000	-	$1,000,000	$2,541,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**$1,541,000**	**-**	**$1,000,000**	**$2,541,000**

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	-	-	$763	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

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

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	$1,856	-	$400
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

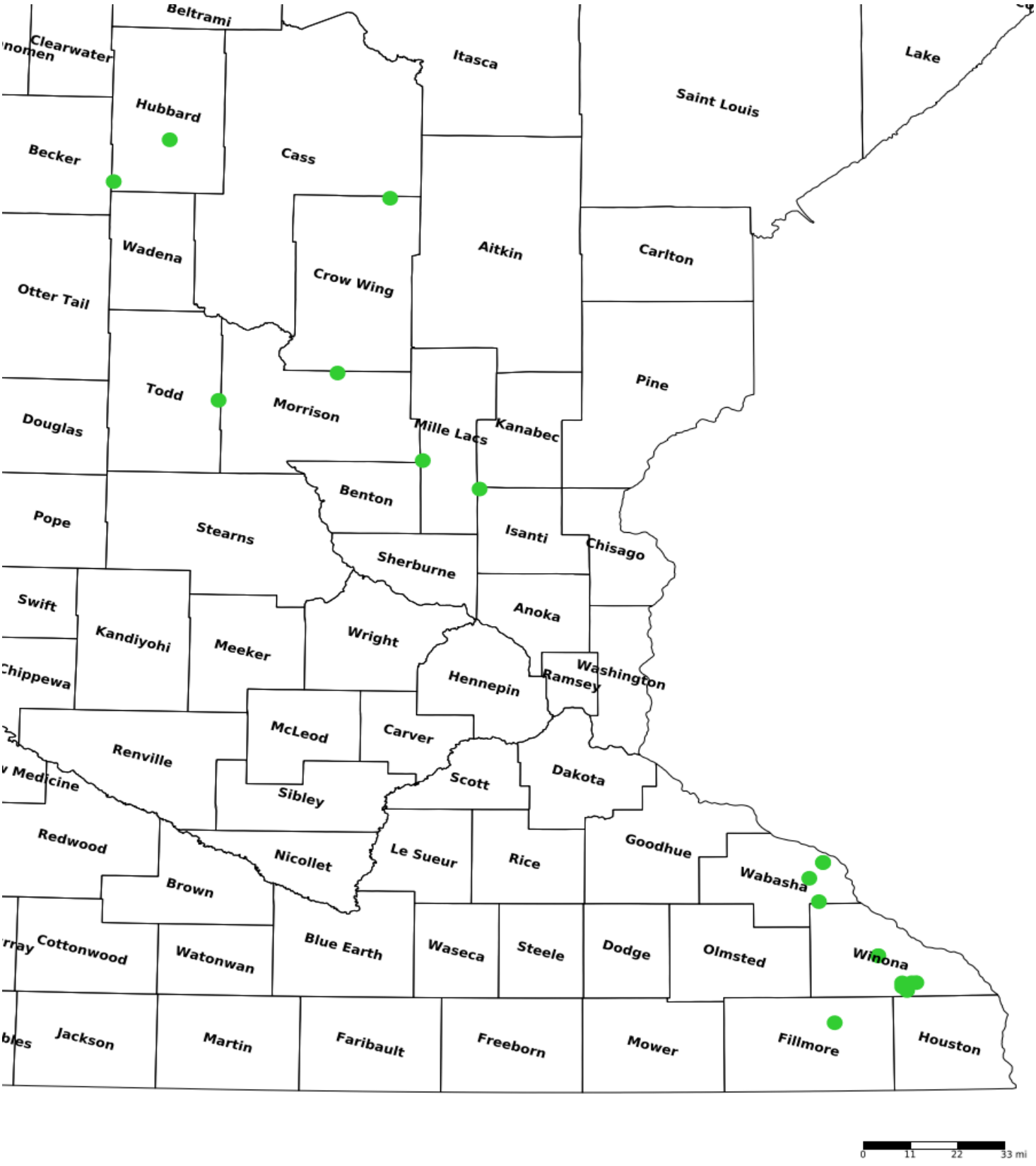
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Applications to the MN Forests for the Future Program are made by interested willing landowners. The Program uses GIS analysis to expand protection of large habitat blocks and corridors. DNR's GIS-based Strategic Land Asset Management metrics are used by an inter-disciplinary team of experts from different Divisions to prioritize and select all acquisitions, including conservation easements. The tracts of forest land targeted for protection with this Program have some, if not all, of the following traits: are currently unprotected inholdings; large tracts that have been identified by the MN County Biological Survey (including identified sites of high quality biodiversity significance); corridors and habitat identified by the State Wildlife Action Plan as significant; presence of rare species and Species in Conservation Need or the habitat that support those species; are located in a strategic habitat complex and are adjacent to other protected land so that complexes can be protected and management improved. In addition, we consult with local and regional watershed and landscape planning efforts such as The Nature Conservancy's Multiple Benefit Analysis and Resilient Lands Mapping Tool, DNR's Forest Action Plan and Assessment of Need, PCA's watershed planning efforts, BWSR's and local SWCD's One Watershed One Plan efforts, the MFRC's Regional Landscape Plans, and the DNR/BWSR Landscape Stewardship Plans.

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Pike	Crow Wing	13826201	80	-	-
Jane Peck	Fillmore	10310201	55	-	-
Miller	Hubbard	14133230	291	-	-
Weber	Hubbard	13935219	150	-	-
Anderson	Isanti	03725206	60	-	-
Roehl	Mille Lacs	03927231	155	-	-
Eagle Ranch	Morrison	04230204	1,640	-	-
Little Elk 6-Jim Parent	Todd	13032225	120	-	-
Arrow Head bluffs	Wabasha	11010209	45	-	-
Earnest Walters	Wabasha	11011236	85	-	-
Main street Developments	Wabasha	11010209	24	-	-
Mark Dittrich	Wabasha	10910232	46	-	-
Andrew Beebe	Winona	10507215	20	-	-
Gerald Mueller	Winona	10507228	153	-	-
High Ridge Tree Farm	Winona	10608209	40	-	-
Johnny Michael	Winona	10608209	68	-	-
Kevin O'Brian	Winona	10507220	36	-	-
Wiscoy Community	Winona	10507214	215	-	-
Zephyr Community	Winona	10507217	40	-	-

Parcel Map



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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MN Forests of the Future Phase XI South East Blufflands to Northern Forests Protection

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - MN Forests of the Future Phase XI South East Blufflands to Northern Forests Protection
Organization: MNDNR Division of Forestry
Manager: Andy Kernan

Budget

Requested Amount: $8,000,000
Appropriated Amount: $2,541,000
Percentage: 31.76%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$150,000	$50,000	$150,000	$50,000	100.0%	100.0%
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$6,399,900	$500,000	$1,925,900	$500,000	30.09%	100.0%
Easement Stewardship	$665,000	-	$200,000	-	30.08%	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$760,000	-	$240,000	-	31.58%	-
Direct Support Services	$24,100	-	$24,100	-	100.0%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$1,000	-	$1,000	-	100.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$8,000,000**	**$550,000**	**$2,541,000**	**$550,000**	**31.76%**	**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?
Number of conservation easements acquired (and therefore acres protected) would be reduced according to priority based on highest conservation value and available funding.

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Number of conservation easements acquired (and therefore acres protected) would be reduced according to priority based on highest conservation value and available funding.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
DSS expenses would be proportionately reduced; personnel expenses would be 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	3,326	3,326	100.0%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$8,000,000	$2,541,000	31.76%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	3,326	3,326	100.0%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$8,000,000	$2,541,000	31.76%
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Pine and Leech Watershed Phase IV Forest Habitat Protection

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/14/2026

Project Title: Pine and Leech Watershed Phase IV Forest Habitat Protection

Funds Recommended: $1,815,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Melissa Barrick
Title: District Manager
Organization: Crow Wing SWCD
Address: 322 Laurel St Ste 22
City: Brainerd, MN 56401
Email: melissa@cwswcd.org
Office Number: 2188286197
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: www.cwswcd.org

Partners Contact

BWSR: Sharon Doucette - sharon.doucette@state.mn.us - (651) 539-2527

Crow Wing SWCD: Melissa Barrick - melissa@cwswcd.org - 2188286197

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

Hubbard, Crow Wing, and Cass Counties, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) will partner to protect 360 acres of high-quality private forest, wetlands, and two miles of shoreline in the Northern Forest Ecological Section under BWSR RIM easements. This project will be successful because of the parcel selection scoring process, proven outreach tactics, SWCD landowner relationships, and partnerships. Forest fragmentation seriously threatens cisco, golden-winged warbler, northern long-eared bat, Blanding's turtles, and over 125 unique, rare, endangered, and threatened species that live in these watersheds' uplands, lowlands, and mature forests (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) Rare Species).

Design and Scope of Work

This project will build on the success of the previous Lessard Sam's Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Grant with the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easements on targeted private forests, wetlands, and shorelines within the Leech Lake and Pine River Major Watersheds (hydrologic unit codes (HUCs) 07010102 and 7010105). These grant funds will meet 6 percent of our remaining 6000-acre watershed protection goals.

These watersheds contain:

- 775 lakes (public waters over 10 acres for a total of 255,000 acres), which cover 400 square miles (sq mi), the same size as Benton County, MN (408 sq mi).
- 125 lakes with High (5) or Outstanding (120) Biological Significance (MN DNR).
- 306,788 acres or 6,993 parcels of private forest land over 20 acres that need protection.
- 204 wild rice lakes and 70 miles of streams.
- 29 cisco lakes.
- 17 native muskie lakes.

The MN DNR Fisheries Unit developed the 75 percent watershed protection goal as part of the 2013 MN DNR Fish Habitat Plan (Jacobson et al. 2016). The Leech Lake and Pine River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans (CWMP) adopted the 75 percent protection goal and pinpointed private woodlands as essential to preservation. The CWMPs identified issues and concerns and developed a targeted and measurable 10-year implementation plan. Both CWMPs recognized conservation easements as a critical tool for protecting priority groundwater, habitat, and surface water. The team developed a methodology for targeting specific large-tract private forested parcels. The process is called RAQ (Riparian, Adjacent, Quality); each watershed parcel is scored on a 0-10 scale for the three elements:

Riparian: parcel on a river or lake.

Adjacency: to protected lands, i.e., county, state, or federal land.

Quality: wild rice, cisco, and biodiversity (among other criteria).

The most significant risks to private forestland and lakeshore are development and fragmentation of large habitat complexes. The RAQ tool prioritizes private parcels adjacent to state or federal lands (protected lands in the model). This will create extensive, long-lasting habitat complexes. The CWMPs selected the Headwaters, Whitefish Lake, Lower Pine, Little Pine River, Woman Lake, Steamboat River, and Kabekona River Watersheds (7 of 12 minor watersheds) for habitat protection. The RAQ scores were computed on 306,788 acres and prioritized by priority minor watersheds. SWCD staff will sort RAQ scores by highest score, estimated cost, and other criteria, and

complete outreach only to specific parcels.
The total property values for priority CWMPs subwatersheds are worth over $10 billion (2025 County Assessors Data). The tourism industries within Hubbard, Cass, and Crow Wing Counties (CWC) generate over $957 million in economic impact, $93.8 million in state and local taxes, and have over $590 million in visitor spending (Explore Minnesota 2024). Cass and CWCs are the 5th- and 4th-highest in second-home values among 87 counties, totaling over $80 million. The private lands within these watersheds deserve protection strategies. This project will secure 4 easements to ensure the habitat remains intact and to protect the local tourism economy and tax base of the Leech Lake and Pine River Watersheds.

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

The MN DNR rare species guide indicated that Leech Lake and Pine River Watersheds contain over 125 rare species of fish, invertebrates, plants, reptiles, and mammals. These species depend on fringe wetlands, forested corridors, high-quality lakes, and shoreland vegetative habitats.

Blanding's Turtles require both upland and wetlands to complete their life cycle. This habitat includes calm, shallow water bodies (types 1-3 wetlands), essential amphibian and invertebrate breeding grounds, and food sources for the Blanding's turtle. The turtles nest on undeveloped land in open grassy or brushy sand.

Wild rice provides some of Minnesota's most important habitats for migrating and breeding waterfowl. More than 17 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) use wild rice areas as habitats for breeding, migration, and foraging. They include common loon, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, American Bittern, least bittern, red-necked grebe, sora rail, Virginia rail, yellow rail, black tern, rusty blackbird, sedge wren, lesser scaup, northern pintail, and American black duck. Wild rice grows in shallow lakes, rivers, and shallow bays of deeper lakes.

In 2022, the northern long-eared bat was added to the federal threatened species list due to loss of roosts. The MN DNR and the US Fish and Wildlife Service identified over 12 locations in Hubbard, Cass, and CW Counties that contain mature roost trees for the northern long-eared bat. The population size in the Pine River Watershed is estimated at 104 (MN DNR Conservation Explorer).

The MN DNR identified the golden-winged warbler as a SGCN because its population has declined by 60 percent across the United States and Canada. Minnesota's critical upland, lowland, and mature forest habitats support over 47 percent of the species' breeding population. This golden-winged warbler is a Minnesota icon and symbol of private land stewardship. These unprotected remote forests and upland habitats are a mecca for all these species. This project will protect these crucial habitats.

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

The 2024 U.S. Census data indicates that over 3.9 million people live in the Twin Cities and Fargo. These people are within two hours of the Pine River and Leech Lake Watersheds. According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, from 1990 to 2024, the populations of Hubbard, Cass, and CWCs increased by 50 percent (an average of 1,211 people per year). Family-owned cabins are transforming into lake homes. The cabin footprint increased by 378 percent, from the 1940s to 1990s (700 to 3,350 square feet (WIDNR). Vegetative buffers have been converted to manicured lawns re-contoured toward the lake. These changes significantly affect bird nesting, fish spawning, frog populations, rare and endangered species, forest health, and water quality. The cost will increase, and opportunities will be fewer if we wait to protect these critical habitats. This program seeks to protect these sensitive areas before they are lost.

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

This project will utilize CWMPs minor watersheds science-based targeting to expand important habitat corridors and complexes on private lands. The goal is to protect private forest land adjacent to public land to create larger forest habitat complexes. To do that, partners utilize the RAQ methodology to score individual private, forested parcels in the following manner:

- Riparian (R) is whether the parcel is next to a priority water resource (1-3 points).
- Adjacency (A) is whether it is next to existing state, county, or federal land (1-3 points).
- Quality (Q) is aquatic and terrestrial habitat elements (4 points), i.e., trout/cisco lakes, wild rice lakes and streams, exceptional fish IBI scores, medium or high or high Wildlife Action Network scores, old growth forest, rare species, high or outstanding biodiversity, and drinking water and source water protection areas.

The CWMPs provided: 62,000 RAQ scores for all private parcels; RAQ score maps; databases; landowner outreach tables; percent of protected land; rare and unique species; species of concern; cisco and wild rice; and an easement acre goal for each subwatershed. This data targets RIM easements at the parcel level, allowing us to hand-select the best parcels for habitat value and to prevent future fragmentation across the entire watershed. The local government units will utilize CWMPs to complete the following items:

- Filter the outreach database to identify parcel RAQ scores of five or above within prioritized HUC 10 sub-watersheds adjacent to selected high-quality lakes.
- Review selected parcels and scores.
- Develop individual maps for each landowner showing the specific easement boundary and the associated price.
- Mail information on the RIM easement program and map to selected landowners.
- Rank and score RIM applications with an internal scoring sheet.
- Host an interagency committee meeting to review all applications.
- Initiate the RIM easement application process with BWSR.

The Crow Wing SWCD has utilized this process and has protected over 23 miles of shoreline and 3,800 acres of habitat through RIM easements. These acres are adjacent to public waters and land and have created or expanded larger habitat complex which prevents future forest fragmentation.

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

Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Northern Forest

Provide access to manage habitat on landlocked public properties or protect forest land from parcelization and fragmentation through fee acquisition, conservation or access easement

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *This project will measure the number of acres of forestland and wetlands enrolled in RIM easements. The number of miles of shoreline protected and the protection percentage for the individual minor watersheds. The other evaluation will include a scoring sheet for*

each conservation easement, anecdotal information from landowners on species on their land and habitat value, and may also include cultural resource protection. This project will employ lessons learned from past easement programs, including excellent communication, clear and accurate landowner responsibility information, maps, standard payment rate, direct mailing, and quarterly partner meetings to ensure funding and work are completed.

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 funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

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

BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcing RIM easements. BWSR partners with local SWCDs to oversee, monitor, and inspect conservation easements. Easements are inspected every year for the first five years beginning the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are conducted every three years, and compliance checks are conducted in the other two years. SWCDs document findings and report to BWSR on each site inspection. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations are identified. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027Ongoing	Stewardship Accounts	Inspections every year for the first five years; then every third year.	Corrective actions to address violations.	Enforcement action taken by MN Attorney General's office.

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

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe tribal land contains 45 percent of the Leech Lake River Watershed area (387,132 acres). Hubbard and Cass Counties have working relationships with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The SWCD staff meets with the tribal leaders and communicates regularly with the division of resources management. Through the BWSR One Watershed One Plan program, the SWCDs, counties, and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe have worked together to have a better understanding of each other's roles within the watershed. They will keep the contacts and connections updated on this project. Wild rice, or manoomin (good seed) in Ojibwe, is reserved as a special gift from the Creator. The MN DNR identifies over 200 wild rice lakes, totaling 192,000 acres and 70 miles of wild rice streams in these watersheds and that hydrology changes, water-based recreation, and shoreline development impact the plants and its reproduction ability (MN DNR 2008 Legislative Report). On September 20, 2022, the Associated Press released an article titled “Minnesota Ojibwe harvest sacred, Climate-Imperiled Wild Rice”. The article discusses the connection of wild rice to the Ojibwe community and its importance to future generations (see link below). This project will also protect the existing wild rice on lakes and rivers within the Pine River and Leech Lake Watersheds. Wild rice is one of the quality factors in the RAQ score. All the Pine River and Leech Lake Watershed lands are part of the 1855 Land Cession Treaty Area. According to a Leech Lake News article titled “On This Day: 1855 Treaty Signed between United States and Ojibwe Bands,” the 1837 and 1854 treaties included stipulations that the Ojibwe would retain their hunting and fishing rights in the ceded territory. This project will benefit the 1855 Treaty area by maintaining wild rice and protecting fisheries, land, and aquatic habitat that are important for hunting and fishing (See attachments for 1855 Treaty Area). Website citations:https://www.leechlakenews.com/2018/02/22/day-1855-treaty-signed-united-states-ojibwe-bands/

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/fish_wildlife/wildlife/wildrice/natural-wild-rice-in-minnesota.pdf (pages 1 and 2)
https://apnews.com/article/religion-minnesota-lakes-6caa0dd5f0842d922841cea34708e2f3tr

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
The individual landowner will manage the easement lands according to the BWSR RIM Policy. A conservation plan and/or a Forest Stewardship Plan will be developed to assist the landowner in management within the easement boundaries. Communication with the landowner and SWCD is required before a landowner begins a conservation project.

Who will be the easement holder?
The Board of Water and Soil Resources holds the easement. The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Resources Law of 1986, Minnesota Statutes, sections 103F.505 to 103F.531, and subsequent amendments, established the RIM conservation easement program.

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
The partnership anticipates that we will complete 4 to 6 conservation easements depending on the acre size and price per acre.

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

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

Describe the expected public use:
RIM easements do not require that private land is open to the public; however, this question is also evaluated on public benefit and RIM easements do provide a significant public benefit; often expand wildlife habitat near public lands; and do not limit the potential for the land to be open to the public through other programs. SWCD and other partner staff who work with landowners on RIM easements are also usually the staff who enroll landowners into the DNR Walk-In Access (WIA) program. The WIA program is available in 54 counties, all of which are eligible for RIM. Conversations about WIA between the SWCDs and interested landowners occur when the landowner submits an easement application. BWSR's Conservation Easement Application includes a question for a landowner to indicate if they are interested in

enrolling in WIA if eligible.

RIM's statutory language requires the restriction of building and agricultural activities on an easement. If RIM also required public access, the landowner would retain almost no private rights to the land and would still pay property taxes. RIM easement land is still in private ownership, and the landowner still pays property taxes, which is consistent with the statutory goals of the Outdoor Heritage Fund of protection and restoration of habitat. Minnesota Statute 97A.056 states ". . .the fund must be expended to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife." and "The council shall make recommendations . . . that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie."

Criteria in all RIM program scoresheets used to evaluate and prioritize parcels funded include proximity of the easement land to lands that are in public ownership and/or open to public hunting. Parcels immediately adjacent to public land or that would connect or expand larger existing habitat areas receive more points in the scoring and ranking process than a parcel that does not provide that benefit. Wildlife do not follow property lines; therefore protected private lands adjacent to and near public lands create complexes of public and private land that provide high quality habitat supporting wildlife, including recreationally hunted species, allowing them to thrive on and off public lands. Protected private lands also add visual and noise buffers that allow users of public land to better enjoy their experiences. Additionally, easement lands allow for an interim step before public ownership, likely making public purchase more affordable in the future.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?

Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Though uncommon, new trails may be developed if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (fire breaks, berm maintenance, forest stewardship) and are noted on the conservation plan. Narrow mowed trails for personal use are allowed for landowner access on RIM easements. Unauthorized trails are a violation of the easement

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

Under the terms of the easement, a conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement and the conservation plan. BWSR, in cooperation with SWCDs, implements a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms and the conservation plan.

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?

No

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

No

Explain how and when the restoration/enhancement work will be completed and identify the source of funding:

If the landowner would like to make enhancements to their property, we encourage them to complete a

forest stewardship plan. Once the landowner has a forest stewardship plan, the SWCD would work with them to develop a project plan for their property. The SWCD has cost-share funds available to assist with conservation projects.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Rank Score Applications/Interagency Team Meetings.	July - October 2027
Work with BWSR and Landowners to complete RIM Easements	January 2028 - 2030
Outreach and Mailing for specific parcels.	September 2027
Prioritize RAQ scores 7-10 within a specific HUC 10 subwatershed adjacent to selected high-quality lakes.	August 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2031

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.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$162,700	-	-	$162,700
Contracts	$55,000	-	-	$55,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,500,000	-	-	$1,500,000
Easement Stewardship	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Travel	$800	-	-	$800
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$30,200	-	-	$30,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$5,300	-	-	$5,300
Supplies/Materials	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,815,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,815,000**

Partner: BWSR

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$112,700	-	-	$112,700
Contracts	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,500,000	-	-	$1,500,000
Easement Stewardship	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Travel	$500	-	-	$500
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$30,200	-	-	$30,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,300	-	-	$4,300
Supplies/Materials	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,723,700**	**-**	**-**	**$1,723,700**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Easement	0.21	4.0	$112,700	-	-	$112,700

Partner: Crow Wing SWCD

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$50,000	-	-	$50,000
Contracts	$40,000	-	-	$40,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$300	-	-	$300
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$91,300**	**-**	**-**	**$91,300**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Adminstration	0.06	4.0	$25,000	-	-	$25,000
Outreach	0.08	3.0	$25,000	-	-	$25,000

Amount of Request: $1,815,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $192,900
As a % of the total request: 10.63%
Easement Stewardship: $60,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 4.0%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The BWSR and SWCD have reduced our budgets accordingly to reflect the 42% grant reduction. Crow Wing SWCD staffing decreased because we moved $ 40,000 to contracts for Hubbard and Cass SWCD for outreach. Crow Wing SWCD will agree with BWSR and subaward the money.

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?
If we receive less funding, we will reduce the number of easements and the number of acres protected.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Staff time will be reduced, but it is needed to implement the program. Staff time may be reduced at a different ratio. Doing outreach and completing the RIM easement process takes time. Staff time would be based on the number of easements and the final workplan outcomes.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
The contract line includes costs covered under the SWCD MJPA, $2,500 for staff time per easement acquisition.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
The partnership anticipates completing 4-6 conservation easements. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff to monitor landowner relations and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship covers the SWCD regular monitoring costs, BWSR oversight, and any necessary enforcement.

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
The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs for mileage and food.

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?
BWSR calculates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Signs and stakes to stake the easement boundaries. Other tools are needed to complete the easement work.

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	72	-	288	-	360
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**72**	**-**	**288**	**-**	**360**

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	$363,000	-	$1,452,000	-	$1,815,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$363,000**	**-**	**$1,452,000**	**-**	**$1,815,000**

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	-	-	-	-	360	360
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**360**	**360**

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	-	-	-	-	$1,815,000	$1,815,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,815,000**	**$1,815,000**

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	$5,041	-	$5,041	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	$5,041
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

4,435

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 CWMPs provided: 62,000 RAQ scores for all private parcels; RAQ score maps; databases; landowner outreach tables; percent of protected land; rare and unique species; species of concern; cisco and wild rice; and an easement acre goal for each subwatershed. The local government units will utilize CWPs to complete the following items:
Step 1: Filter the outreach database to identify parcel RAQ scores of 7-10 within prioritized HUC 10 sub-watersheds adjacent to selected high-quality lakes.
Step 2: Review selected parcels and scores.
Step 3: Develop individual maps for each landowner showing the specific easement boundary and the associated price.
Step 4: Mail information on the RIM easement program and map to selected landowners.
Step 5: Rank and score RIM applications with an internal scoring sheet.
Step 6: Host an interagency committee meeting to review all applications.
Step 7: Complete the RIM easement process with BWSR.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Pine and Leech Watershed Phase IV Forest Habitat Protection

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Pine and Leech Watershed Phase IV Forest Habitat Protection
Organization: Crow Wing SWCD
Manager: Melissa Barrick

Budget

Requested Amount: $4,290,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,815,000
Percentage: 42.31%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$446,600	-	$162,700	-	36.43%	-
Contracts	$35,000	-	$55,000	-	157.14%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$3,566,600	-	$1,500,000	-	42.06%	-
Easement Stewardship	$140,000	-	$60,000	-	42.86%	-
Travel	$9,200	-	$800	-	8.7%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$71,200	-	$30,200	-	42.42%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$10,300	-	$5,300	-	51.46%	-
Supplies/Materials	$11,100	-	$1,000	-	9.01%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,290,000**	**-**	**$1,815,000**	**-**	**42.31%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If we receive less funding, we will reduce the number of easements and the number of acres protected.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Staff time will be reduced, but staff time is needed to implement the program, so some costs will remain the same within the partnership.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If we receive less funding, we will reduce the number of easements and the number of acres protected.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Staff time will be reduced, but it is needed to implement the program. Staff time may be reduced at a different ratio. Doing outreach and completing the RIM easement process takes time. Staff time would be based on the number of easements and the final workplan outcomes.

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	840	360	42.86%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$4,290,000	$1,815,000	42.31%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	840	360	42.86%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$4,290,000	$1,815,000	42.31%
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Statewide Forest Enhancement-Phase 7

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: DNR Statewide Forest Enhancement-Phase 7

Funds Recommended: $1,514,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Ted Dick
Title: Forest Habitat Supervisor
Organization: DNR
Address: 1201 East Highway 2
City: Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3296
Email: ted.dick@state.mn.us
Office Number: 218-328-8869
Mobile Number: 218-395-3577
Fax Number:
Website: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location Information

County Location(s): Pine, Cass, Morrison, Benton, Chippewa, Wilkin, Todd, Norman, Houston, Fillmore, Winona, St. Louis, Roseau, Cook, Hubbard, Lake, Aitkin and Beltrami.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Forest / Prairie Transition

Southeast Forest

Prairie

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

Forest and brushland habitats in Minnesota require restoration and enhancement work to expand their value to wildlife and fish species. Activities such as shearing, prescribed fire, planting to increase species diversity, and invasive species treatment increase the quality of critical wildlife habitat (e.g., deer and moose thermal habitat). This project will also benefit water quality and outdoor recreation. The DNR Conservation Agenda, Wildlife Action Plan, Forest Action Plan, and Fish Habitat Plan will guide habitat enhancements in this proposal to meet the objectives put forth in these plans.

Design and Scope of Work

Minnesota's forest habitats include many native plant communities in different growth stages. Forests include riparian areas along rivers and lakes, upland forests, wet forests, and conifer forests. Each of these habitats are home to a wide array of game and non-game species, including multiple Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Forests provide outdoor recreation, timber products, and support to local communities. Forests protect water quality and sequester carbon. However, forests face increasing stress from invasive species, climate change, critical habitat loss, conversion to non-forest, and fragmentation. Beyond more traditional forest management activities, some sites require vital enhancements to maximize diversity of trees, shrubs, and ground vegetation for fish and wildlife. For example, reintroduction of 'good fire' on the landscape provides needed biological legacies that enhance habitat for birds, pollinators, mammals and amphibians. The use of fire is also a tool that helps reduce the need for herbicide and mechanical treatments in forest habitat enhancement and invasive species control efforts.

Healthy, diverse forests increase water retention and filtration and store and sequester carbon and also are more resilient and provide other ecosystem services. We will accomplish strategic and targeted forest enhancements using contractors to conduct activities that support healthy, diverse, and resilient habitats. Activities may include:

1) Controlling invasive vegetation, woody vegetation removal, and prescribed fire
2) Assisting oak regeneration through seeding and tree planting to provide important mast for forage
3) Maintaining wet forest ecosystems by increasing tree species diversity ahead of emerald ash borer (EAB)
4) Enhancing spruce budworm-damaged forest habitat by establishing and tending diverse, long-lived conifer stands to provide thermal cover
5) Restoring ecologically beneficial fire to Minnesota's State Forests

DNR land managers collaborate with other state, federal, and county agencies and many conservation organizations to take a landscape view of forests and manage across administrative units. For example, DNR managers are working together with U.S. Forest Service managers to maintain and enhance vegetation to provide forage and mast for a variety of wildlife. Traditional timber harvest is an important tool for improving habitat, but the activities proposed here are in addition to logging and often require different activities to achieve habitat improvements.

This request seeks funding to enhance 15,586 acres of habitat on public lands, primarily but not limited to, Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Aquatic Management Areas (AMA), state forests, and county lands. Strategic and

targeted work will be accomplished through the added capacity of contractors hired to conduct activities that support healthy, diverse, and resilient habitats.

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

All ages of forests require investment and management. Some sites, with heightened value to key wildlife and aquatic species, need additional efforts to maximize habitat benefits. Prescribed fire in mature forests helps clear underbrush and allows sunlight penetration to the ground to boost tree regeneration. Fire is especially important to both maintain and regenerate oak and pine forests. Oak forests are important habitat and establishing and tending young oak forests will keep oak on the landscape into the future. The proposed project would expand the use for prescribed fire on State Forest land. The reintroduction of 'good fire' on the landscape will provide needed biological legacies that enhance habitat for birds, pollinators, mammals and amphibians. The use of fire is also a tool that helps reduce the need for herbicide and mechanical treatments in forest regeneration and invasive species control efforts.
Shearing brushland helps create open lands that provide critical habitat for American woodcock, yellow rails, and sharp-tailed grouse, which are SGCN species. Shearing maintains brushlands for sharp-tailed grouse and provides small forest openings critical to many species of birds, including golden-winged warblers. Finally, planting conifers provides thermal cover for multiple wildlife species and creates shade and protects sources of ground water for native brook trout streams threatened by climate change.

Each of the practices mentioned will benefit a wide range of game and non-game species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, as well as pollinating insects.

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

Pressures on Minnesota forests are increasing. It is more effective to enhance critical habitat for wildlife species and conserve SGCN species now rather than having to restore habitat in the future. Planting trees on acres affected by large spruce budworm infestations helps to diversify forests while providing habitat for wildlife. Diversifying balsam fir forests will make them more resilient to future spruce budworm and other insect outbreaks that are predicted to increase with a warming climate. Current DNR plans provide the opportunity to address these habitat needs, and funding will accelerate implementation of these plans. Increased management of brushland habitats is a particularly urgent need. Early detection and swift control of invasive species is more cost-effective than trying to manage established and widespread invasive species populations.

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

DNR's Conservation Agenda, Wildlife Action Plan, Forest Action Plan, Fish Habitat Plan, along with specific site management plans will guide activities. These plans incorporate the best information and science to identify goals and strategies. DNR strives to base all habitat management on science. Restoring and enhancing habitat expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation, and directly applies research to on the ground projects.

The habitat needs of many forest species, including mature forest species such as marten and fisher and young forest species like woodcock and golden-winged warblers, are well documented. Many wildlife species require mature forests during some point in their lives. Research conducted in Minnesota will be used to apply these funds to enhance and restore habitats in the forested areas of the state.

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?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, restore, and enhance habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need

Northern Forest

Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

Prairie

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

Southeast Forest

Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

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 ~ *A number of species are tied to brushland and young aspen forests in these region, including elk, golden-winged warblers, and sharp-tailed grouse. Ongoing surveys and research on these species will allow the DNR to track local and regional responses to these and related efforts.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *The DNR and partner agencies conduct a number of wildlife surveys, including moose, deer, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, woodcock, and songbird surveys.*

Programs in prairie region:

Improved condition of habitat on public lands ~ *These efforts will help manage forests in this region to benefit a range of wildlife species, both game and non-game. Ongoing surveys, especially among songbirds, will track long-term changes in bird populations in this region.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Large corridors and complexes of biologically diverse wildlife habitat typical of the unglaciated region are restored and protected ~ *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.*

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 for additional enhance/restoration work beyond what MN DNR is already conducting, and do not supplant or substitute. This request includes funding for prescribed burns designed to improve habitat. Other funds designed to fight wildfire and reduce fuels are not eligible for habitat improvement burns.

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

We will select and implement projects to achieve high quality and enduring benefits. Projects have variable lifespans depending on project type, weather, and other environmental conditions. Many of the projects are meant to endure for decades, at which point regular forest management activity can resume. DNR staff and staff from partner agencies/non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will monitor project sites to gauge habitat response and determine when additional enhancement may be needed. Work will be sustained through other DNR funds, forest management practices, and future requests from the OHF and related external funding.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2026	listed above and future OHF requests	monitor results	document results	develop budget for additional work with internal and external funds
2027 and beyond	listed above and future OHF requests	continue monitoring	adapt results	seek additional funding

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

We have in the past and will continue to consult and coordinate with diverse communities and tribal partners into the project planning and work we do to enhance fish and wildlife habitats for all citizens of the state of Minnesota.

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

State Forests

Other : national forest, Con-Con lands, school trust lands.

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
continued monitoring and follow-up management and enhancements	ongoing
implement enhancements	spring 2031

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	$352,600	-	-	$352,600
Contracts	$1,004,200	-	-	$1,004,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$79,000	-	-	$79,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$48,200	-	-	$48,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,514,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,514,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Fire Foresters	0.25	2.0	$52,600	-	-	$52,600
FAW Contracrt Coord.	1.0	2.0	$300,000	-	-	$300,000

Amount of Request: $1,514,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $400,800
As a % of the total request: 26.47%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Staff are planning for less funding by scaling down acres in our budget estimates' and we reduced some of the fire personnel funding to two years instead of three. After discussing with Council staff, we have left plan sites as original but reduced accomplishments and spending in outputtable.

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?
Fewer acres could be accomplished, the majority of these projects are scalable.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The personnel costs (RX burn specialists and Contract Administrator) are not proportionally reduceable consistent with previous OHF forest enhancement appropriations.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
We employee private contractors to implement all of the projects (local or regional companies who offer the best price and agree to meet bid specifications and standards). In cases where DNR staff are working, this is to pay overtime so they can employee their unique, specialized skills and certifications.

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
$79,000 is fleet cost to use DNR vehicles.

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 budget office has approved our spending and Direct and Necessary line. Project dollars are appropriately channeled to a dedicated account and spending is monitored continuously.

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	-	-	1,802	-	1,802
Total	**-**	**-**	**1,802**	**-**	**1,802**

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	-	-	$1,514,000	-	$1,514,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**$1,514,000**	**-**	**$1,514,000**

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	-	307	940	24	531	1,802
Total	**-**	**307**	**940**	**24**	**531**	**1,802**

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	-	$311,500	$571,800	$132,900	$497,800	$1,514,000
Total	**-**	**$311,500**	**$571,800**	**$132,900**	**$497,800**	**$1,514,000**

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	-	-	$840	-

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	-	$1,014	$608	$5,537	$937

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

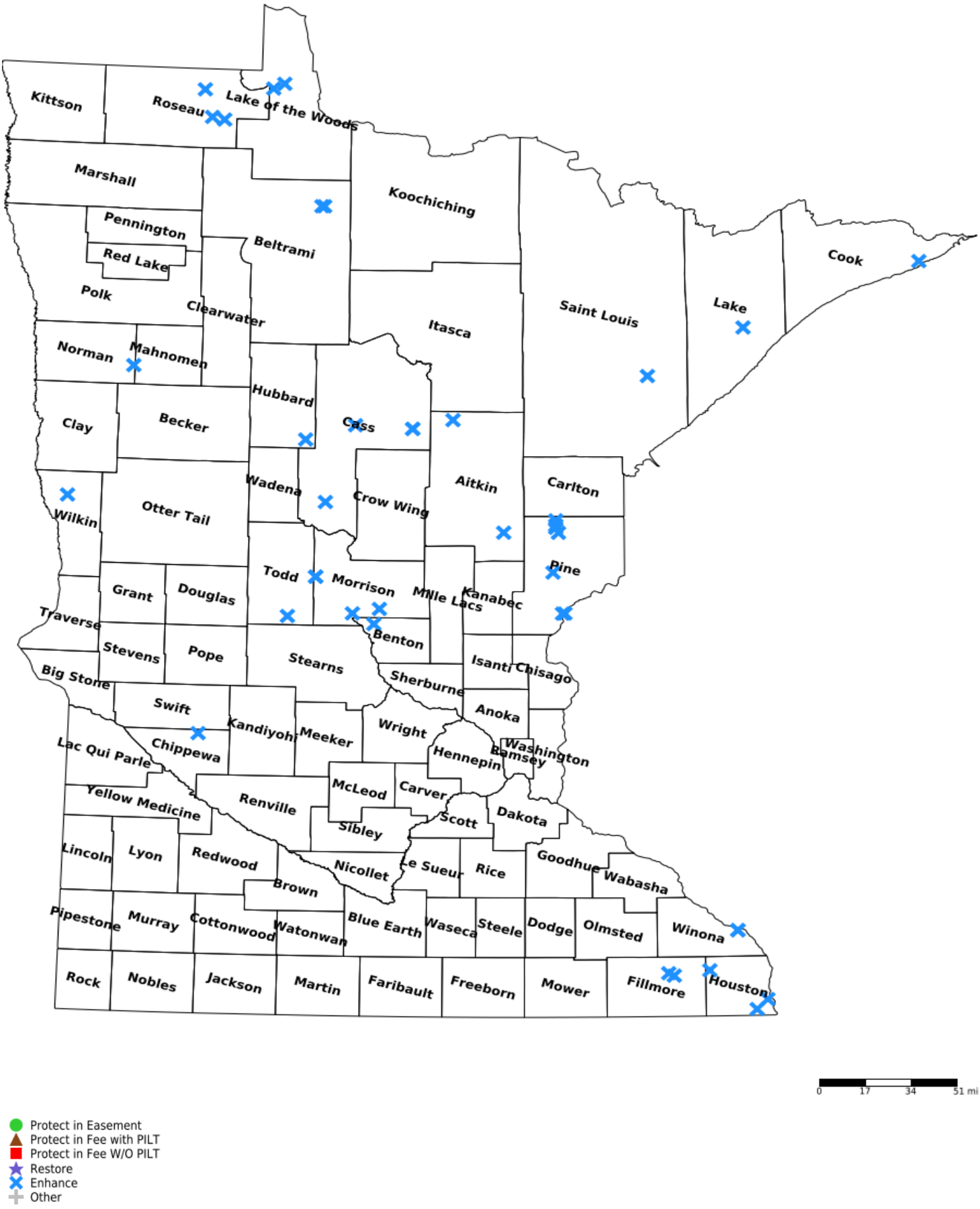
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
We evaluated forest habitat needs not funded through other sources, considering staff capacity from DNR Fish and Wildlife/Forestry divisions to implement and complete within grant timeline.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Aitkin (01004000) - Aitkin County, Aitkin WMA: Main Unit, Aitkin WMA: South Unit, Cedar Lake WMA, Grayling Marsh WMA, Hay Point WMA, Hill River SF, Kimberly Marsh WMA: Main Unit, Little Willow River WMA: Main Unit, Moose Willow WMA, Newstrom Lake WMA: South Unit, Pliny WMA, Rabbit Lake WMA, Ripple Lake AMA (Aitkin), Ripple River WMA: Access Unit, Ripple River WMA: East Unit, Ripple River WMA: West Unit, Roberts-Wickstrom WMA: East Unit, Roberts-Wickstrom WMA: West Unit, Salo Marsh WMA: Main Unit, Savanna SF, Solana SF, Waukenabo SF, Wealthwood SF, Wold WMA, Woross WMA	Aitkin	04423202	1,000	$295,000	Yes	Forest stand improvement
Hill Lake WMA: North Unit, Hill Lake WMA: South Unit	Aitkin	05226223	24	$60,000	Yes	buckthorn treatment
LUP land, Red Lake WMA: Supplement Unit	Beltrami	15531228	-	-	Yes	-
Red ake WMA	Beltrami	15531229	-	-	Yes	-
McDougall WMA	Benton	03831215	-	-	Yes	-
Rice Area Sportsmens Club WMA	Benton	03931213	-	-	Yes	-
Centennial State Forest 45755	Cass	14029216	17	$9,775	Yes	Oak regeneration
Land o' Lakes State Forest 88370	Cass	14026224	55	$31,625	Yes	Oak regeneration
Land o' Lakes State Forest 88370	Cass	14026224	55	$31,625	Yes	Oak regeneration
Meadow Brook WMA	Cass	13531222	-	-	Yes	-
Shakopee WMA	Chippewa	11938207	20	$60,000	Yes	invasive species control
Pat Bayle SF 11975	Cook	06204208	262	$222,176	Yes	Spruce Budworm Enhancement
RJ Dorer State Forest 36811	Fillmore	10310202	51	$40,800	Yes	Stand Habitat Improvement
RJ Dorer State Forest 36857	Fillmore	10309207	19	$15,200	Yes	Stand Habitat Improvement
Ferndale Ridge WMA	Houston	10407232	50	$135,000	Yes	Forest stand improvement
RJ Dorer State Forest	Houston	10204235	20	$24,000	Yes	Invasive shrub management
RJ Dorer State Forest 90907	Houston	10104219	53	$42,400	Yes	Stand Habitat Improvement
Badoura State Forest 0076	Hubbard	13932216	43	$48,000	Yes	Prescribed burn
Finland SF 0792	Lake	05808216	184	$156,032	Yes	Spruce Budworm Enhancement

Little Elk WMA	Morrison	13031219	21	$58,800	Yes	forest stand imrpovement
Little Elk WMA	Morrison	13031219	154	$490,000	Yes	forest stand improvement
Sartell WMA	Morrison	03932229	138	$110,500	Yes	Rx burns, oak improvement
Faith WMA	Norman	14443225	1	$1,500	Yes	grassland managment
Chengwatana State Forest 0135	Pine	03919219	82	$27,000	Yes	Prescribed burn
Chengwatana State Forest 75259	Pine	03919220	202	$151,500	Yes	Conifer Release
General CC Andrews State Forest 0056	Pine	04419206	30	$18,000	Yes	Conifer Release
General CC Andrews State Forest 0138	Pine	04520224	9	$5,700	Yes	Conifer Release
General CC Andrews State Forest 0163	Pine	04520225	16	$9,600	Yes	Conifer Release
Moose Lake WMA	Pine	04520212	-	-	Yes	-
Sandstone WMA	Pine	04220226	-	-	Yes	-
Bear Creek WMA, Cedar Bend WMA	Roseau	16138234	188	$75,200	Yes	forest stand improvement
Beltrami Island State Forest	Roseau	16037205	250	$150,000	Yes	Stand Habitat Improvement
Enstrom WMA, R.C. #3 WMA	Roseau	16238206	195	$87,750	Yes	brushland managment
Roseau River WMA	Roseau	16334232	-	-	Yes	-
Roseau River WMA	Roseau	16334224	24	$106,800	Yes	tree protection
Cloquet Valley State Forest	St. Louis	05514222	6	$4,800	Yes	Invasive shrub management
Grey Eagle WMA	Todd	12733209	40	$112,000	Yes	Invasive species control
Manston Marsh WMA	Wilkin	13547224	24	$38,400	Yes	forest openings
RJ Dorer State Forest 0008	Winona	10606212	266	$87,000	Yes	Prescribed burn
RJ Dorer State Forest 0008	Winona	10606212	266	$87,000	Yes	Prescribed burn

Parcel Map


Kittson
Roseau
Lake of the Woods
Marshall
Pennington
Red Lake
Polk
Clearwater
Beltrami
Koochiching
Itasca
Saint Louis
Lake
Cook
Norman
Mahnomen
Hubbard
Clay
Becker
Cass
Aitkin
Carlton
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Wadena
Crow Wing
Pine
Grant
Douglas
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Traverse
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Benton
Isanti
Chisago
Big Stone
Swift
Sherburne
Anoka
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Wright
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
17
34
51 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Statewide Forest Enhancement-Phase 7

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - DNR Statewide Forest Enhancement-Phase 7
Organization: DNR
Manager: Ted Dick

Budget

Requested Amount: $4,451,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,514,000
Percentage: 34.01%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$405,300	-	$352,600	-	87.0%	-
Contracts	$3,570,500	-	$1,004,200	-	28.12%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$158,000	-	$79,000	-	50.0%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$84,100	-	$48,200	-	57.31%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$233,100	-	$30,000	-	12.87%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,451,000**	**-**	**$1,514,000**	**-**	**34.01%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Fewer acres could be accomplished, the majority of these projects are scalable.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
All costs including contracts/supplies/materials for the majority of the projects can be proportionally reduced.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Number of projects and acres accomplished can be reduced accordingly to meet a 30% funding level. Fund smaller projects that do not need to be scaled down to meet funding.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The personnel costs (RX burn specialists and Contract Administrator) are not proportionally reduceable consistent with previous OHF forest enhancement appropriations.

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	15,586	1,802	11.56%

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	$4,451,000	$1,514,000	34.01%

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	15,586	1,802	11.56%

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	$4,451,000	$1,514,000	34.01%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Enhancing Black Ash Forests for Resilience and Habitat

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/16/2026

Project Title: Enhancing Black Ash Forests for Resilience and Habitat

Funds Recommended: $2,138,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Dale Gentry
Title: Director of Conservation
Organization: Audubon Upper Mississippi River
Address: 2355 Highway 36 West - Suite 400
City: Saint Paul, MN 55113
Email: dale.gentry@audubon.org
Office Number: 6517399332
Mobile Number: 6512741073
Fax Number:
Website: https://www.audubon.org/umr

Location Information

County Location(s): Becker, Itasca, Cass and Aitkin.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

We propose to enhance black ash wetland forests in north-central Minnesota by planting diverse, native, flood-tolerant tree species before emerald ash borer causes widespread tree loss. By maintaining forest cover, hydrology, and structural complexity, the project sustains critical habitat for migratory and breeding birds within a globally important bird area. Working in partnership with county, state, federal and tribal partners, it implements proactive, landscape-scale forest management across high-priority areas. The effort preserves biodiversity, supports climate resilience, and maintains long-term ecosystem function while generating scalable approaches for adapting forested wetlands to invasive species impacts.

Design and Scope of Work

The forested habitats of north central Minnesota provide critical migratory stopover and breeding habitat for birds. The region includes the Chippewa Plains Globally Important Bird Area, which encompasses a vast landscape of large lakes, rivers, and streams interspersed with extensive upland and lowland forests. The Mississippi River forms the backbone of this ecosystem and is complemented by numerous smaller river systems throughout the region. A total of 244 bird species have been documented here, including 22 breeding warbler species and many species of waterfowl. Northern Minnesota also provides critical stopover habitat for long-distance migrants traveling to the boreal forest and supports among the highest diversity of breeding forest birds in the United States. While much of these habitats are on public lands, there are still threats to habitat quality. For this project, we are concerned about the impact the emerald ash borer is expected to have on black ash forested wetlands in northern Minnesota. Audubon Upper Mississippi River is committed to conserving these vital habitats, both as breeding areas and as part of the broader Mississippi River migration flyway.

Birds and other wildlife in this region depend on a diverse mosaic of lakes, rivers, wetlands, and upland forests. The mixed forest landscape includes aspen, paper birch, red oak, sugar and red maple, alongside coniferous species like red pine, white pine, balsam fir, and black spruce. Northern Minnesota also contains abundant black ash (Fraxinus nigra), more than any other state. Black ash is the northern most native ash in North America and it grows in areas that are frequently or continually flooded or areas where soils remain wet for much of the year. Most of Minnesota's black ash forests have not yet been impacted by the invasive emerald ash borer, but when they are, there is typically > 90% mortality, and we predict that black ash will be severely reduced in presence and ecological impact. Interestingly, the hydrology of the wetlands where black ash grows is partially regulated by the trees themselves. Plants conduct water from the soil, through their tissues, and into the atmosphere; a process called transpiration. When black ash die, less water is transpired into the atmosphere and water levels in these swamp systems can rise, creating conditions that make forest regeneration less likely. To maintain these systems as forested wetlands and high quality habitat, tree species that tolerate wet soils must be established before the mature ash are lost. Audubon will partner with land managers to proactively manage stands containing a significant component of black ash, ensuring these forested wetlands continue to be forest in order to sustain critical bird habitat and maintain the carbon currently stored in this special forest ecosystem.

This project is focused four critical areas: The Chippewa Plains Global Important Bird Area, the Tamarac NWR and McGregor Important Bird Areas, and the surrounding regions identified in Audubon's LCCMR migratory bird pitstop mapping project that includes areas within Beltrami, Itasca, Aitkin, Cass, Hubbard, Becker and Clearwater counties.

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

Underplanting young tree seedlings beneath the existing canopy of a mature forest in black ash wetlands helps protect and enhance habitat by maintaining the key features that wildlife depend on, forest cover and structural complexity. Black ash are a keystone species with a disproportionate impact on biodiversity. They shape the hydrology of the landscape and provide habitat in areas that are too wet for many trees. Black ash forests tend to contain trees across all size and age classes. This structure provides habitat variability that is reflected in the diversity of wildlife species, including species preferring younger or more mature forest cover and everything in between. Recent studies of the wildlife community in black ash habitats in Minnesota found over 50 bird breeding bird species including the state species of Special Concern Red-shouldered Hawk, American Goshawk and seven species of greatest conservation need: Veery, Least Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Canada Warbler, Winter Wren, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Ovenbird. Black ash woodlands contained more species in total and housed more unique species than nearby upland forests and also provided important habitat to amphibians and small mammals. Given the important habitat provided by black ash and their unique niche in northern forests, they are identified as a keystone species.

While we are almost assured to lose black ash as a dominant species because of the emerald ash borer, recent research show that we don't have to lose forest cover in these wetlands. Underplanting of other Minnesota native species such as swamp white oak, silver maple, red maple, and American elm, before the black ash die, has been tested at numerous sites with positive results. Most of this underplanting is happening in trials and just beginning to be widely implemented. We propose to begin underplanting on a larger scale to help maintain long-term forest cover and structural complexity, which research shows is key to conserving overall wildlife diversity.

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

The emerald ash borer beetle that is killing native ash trees is continuing to be detected further and further north in Minnesota. The DNR confirmed emerald ash borer in Cass County in 2023 and Aitkin and Itasca counties in 2025. It is assumed that they are spreading through these counties and into others. Black ash are ecosystem engineers that influence hydrologic function in their wet soils. When black ash die, less water is transpired through their leaves into the atmosphere and water levels rise, which negatively influences the probability of tree regeneration. Because black ash influence not only habitat but hydrology, it is important that this work be initiated as soon as possible so trees can get established before the trees are lost. Therefore, if action is not taken, some of these sites could lose forest cover permanently.

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

This proposal expands habitat corridors and reduces fragmentation by maintaining and enhancing large, interconnected forested wetland systems across north-central Minnesota. The project is strategically situated within a region that already functions as a critical landscape-scale complex of lakes, rivers, wetlands, and upland forests, particularly within the Chippewa Plains Globally Important Bird Area and the broader Mississippi River flyway. These systems collectively support a high diversity of migratory and breeding birds and provide essential stopover habitat.

A central component of this effort is proactive management of black ash–dominated wetlands that are at high risk of degradation and conversion following emerald ash borer infestation. Without intervention, widespread ash loss can lead to hydrologic shifts, increased water levels, and failure of forest regeneration, ultimately fragmenting once-continuous forested wetland habitats. By planting flood-tolerant tree species and promoting structural and

species diversity before ash decline occurs, the project maintains these areas as closed-canopy forests rather than allowing transition to open or non-forested conditions. In doing so, the project sustains and strengthens habitat continuity across the landscape. Rather than restoring isolated parcels, it reinforces existing forest blocks embedded within a broader matrix of connected habitats, helping preserve functional movement corridors for migratory birds and other wildlife. This is especially important for species that depend on large, unfragmented forest tracts during migration and breeding like the Red-shouldered Hawk and American Goshawk.

Additionally, by partnering with public land managers and tribes, the project leverages coordinated, cross-boundary implementation that enhances connectivity at a landscape scale. This collaborative approach ensures that management actions are aligned across ownerships, further reducing fragmentation and supporting resilient, contiguous forest habitat complexes over time.

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

Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Plans

Other : Chippewa National Forest, Ash Diversification Project, Environmental Assessment

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Northern Forest

Restore and enhance habitat on existing protected properties, with preference to habitat for rare, endangered, or threatened species identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

Improved availability and improved condition of habitats that have experienced substantial decline ~
Outcomes will be meaured by the total number of acres enhanced by contracts paid for by this grant.

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 funding request is not supplanting or substituting for any previous non-Legacy Fund funding used for the same purpose. The proposed work represents new or expanded conservation activities and does not replace prior funding sources.

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

This project is designed to establish self-sustaining forests that will persist beyond the Outdoor Heritage Fund investment. By underplanting diverse, site-appropriate tree species beneath existing ash canopies, we are initiating succession pathways that will continue to develop with minimal long-term intervention once seedlings are successfully established.

Long-term stewardship will be supported through ongoing partnerships with federal, state and country agencies, tribes, local land managers, and conservation organizations already engaged in black ash wetland management. These partners have a demonstrated commitment to maintaining restored sites through periodic monitoring, invasive species management, and, where necessary, supplemental planting or protection.

We will incorporate project sites into existing forest inventory and monitoring efforts to track survival, growth, and habitat outcomes over time. This ensures that maintenance needs are identified early and can be addressed through partner programs and future funding opportunities.

In addition, this project will generate transferable methods, species selection guidance, and performance data that inform broader adaptation efforts. By building local capacity and integrating this work into long-term management plans, we ensure that investments made through OHF continue to deliver ecological benefits well into the future.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2030	USFS	Seedling survival monitoring	Assessment of need for follow up treatment	Follow up management if necessary

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

This program is intentionally designed to engage diverse communities across Minnesota, including tribal nations, rural communities, and low- and moderate-income households, while recognizing the deep cultural significance of black ash wetlands. A central component of the project is collaboration with tribes and public land managers to steward bottomland hardwood forests in north-central Minnesota. Black ash is culturally vital to Ojibwe communities, who have long relied on these wetlands for traditional practices, including basketmaking and other cultural uses. By working to maintain black ash wetlands as functioning forested systems, rather than allowing them to transition to open, waterlogged conditions following emerald ash borer impacts, this program helps sustain the ecological foundation that supports these cultural traditions. In this way, the project honors and reinforces the relationship between the Ojibwe people and black ash ecosystems, recognizing that protecting habitat is also a form of cultural respect and continuity. The program also prioritizes inclusive engagement and equitable access to conservation benefits. Much of the work occurs on public lands and in rural northern Minnesota landscapes, where communities may have fewer resources to respond to large-scale forest health threats. By securing public funding and coordinating restoration activities such as tree planting and forest management, the program ensures that ecological and economic benefits, such as improved forest resilience, wildlife habitat, hunting lands, and potential local contracting opportunities, are broadly shared and not limited to higher-resourced landowners. In addition, the project's focus on maintaining forest cover to support migratory birds contributes to the protection of a globally significant flyway that connects communities across geographic and cultural boundaries. Overall, this program advances a model of conservation that is both ecologically impactful and culturally responsive; supporting biodiversity, strengthening partnerships with tribal nations, and ensuring that the benefits of Minnesota's natural heritage are shared inclusively across 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?

Other : National Forests

County/Municipal

State Forests

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
Complete all habitat enhancements on public and tribal lands.	June 2031
Implement a portion of the Habitat Management Action Plans for restoration and enhancement recommendations on public and tribal lands to benefit targeted bird species.	June 2028
Hire new forest ecologist as project manager	September 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2031

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	$311,800	-	-	$311,800
Contracts	$1,585,000	-	-	$1,585,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$194,400	$301,100	Audubon Private Funds	$495,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$40,800	-	-	$40,800
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,138,000**	**$301,100**	**-**	**$2,439,100**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservation Director	0.02	4.0	$13,600	-	-	$13,600
Conservation Manager	0.08	4.0	$35,600	-	-	$35,600
Grant Specialist	0.05	4.0	$26,600	-	-	$26,600
Forest Ecologist	0.75	4.0	$236,000	-	-	$236,000

Amount of Request: $2,138,000
Amount of Leverage: $301,100
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 14.08%
DSS + Personnel: $506,200
As a % of the total request: 23.68%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
We reduced the salaries for all the staff but reduced the Conservation Director and Conservation Manager the most and reduced the acres and associated expenses for contracts, supplies and travel proportional to the percentage reduced.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Leverage is provided from Direct Source Service costs. Audubon is also leveraging state funds with private funds contributed to Audubon. These funds are used to offset un-recovered DSS.

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?
This project is scalable; the number of acres could be reduced proportionally. Acres of enhancement projects would be reduced if the project received 50% of requested funding.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Based on our experiences with other LSOHC supported projects, personnel and dedicated support staff are important to project success and more difficult to scale down, though they could be reduced but not eliminated. We will attempt to scale proportionally but scaling will not be even for all personnel.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
The contract line item is directed to enhancement projects. We will use Minnesota-based contractors and CCMI for aspects of project work, including any heavy equipment work, site preparation, tree management, invasive species management, tree and shrub plantings and seedings.

Travel

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

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
All the travel costs are for mileage, food and lodging for habitat projects, and coordination and site visit meetings with partner and regional forest conservation groups.

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?
Our Direct Support Services is based on Audubon's federally negotiated indirect rate of 24.66%. In this proposal, we are requesting reimbursement of 10% of eligible costs from LSOHC and matching 14.66%. The indirect cost rate only applies to the first $25,000 of the Contracts line item. Please see attachment for documentation.

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	-	-	900	-	900
Total	**-**	**-**	**900**	**-**	**900**

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	-	-	$2,138,000	-	$2,138,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**$2,138,000**	**-**	**$2,138,000**

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	-	-	-	-	900	900
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**900**	**900**

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	-	-	-	-	$2,138,000	$2,138,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,138,000**	**$2,138,000**

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	-	-	$2,375	-

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	-	-	-	-	$2,375

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:
Sites were selected within north-central Minnesota, focusing on the Chippewa Plains Global Important Bird Area, and the Tamarac and McGregor Important Bird Areas and surrounding high-priority migratory stopover areas within Beltrami, Itasca, Aitkin, Cass, Hubbard, Becker, and Clearwater counties. Site identification prioritized forested wetland systems dominated by black ash that are at high risk of emerald ash borer infestation and subsequent hydrologic change. Within this geography, we worked with public land managers, tribes, and agency partners to identify stands with a significant black ash component, intact forest structure, and strong potential to maintain forested conditions if underplanted in advance of ash mortality.

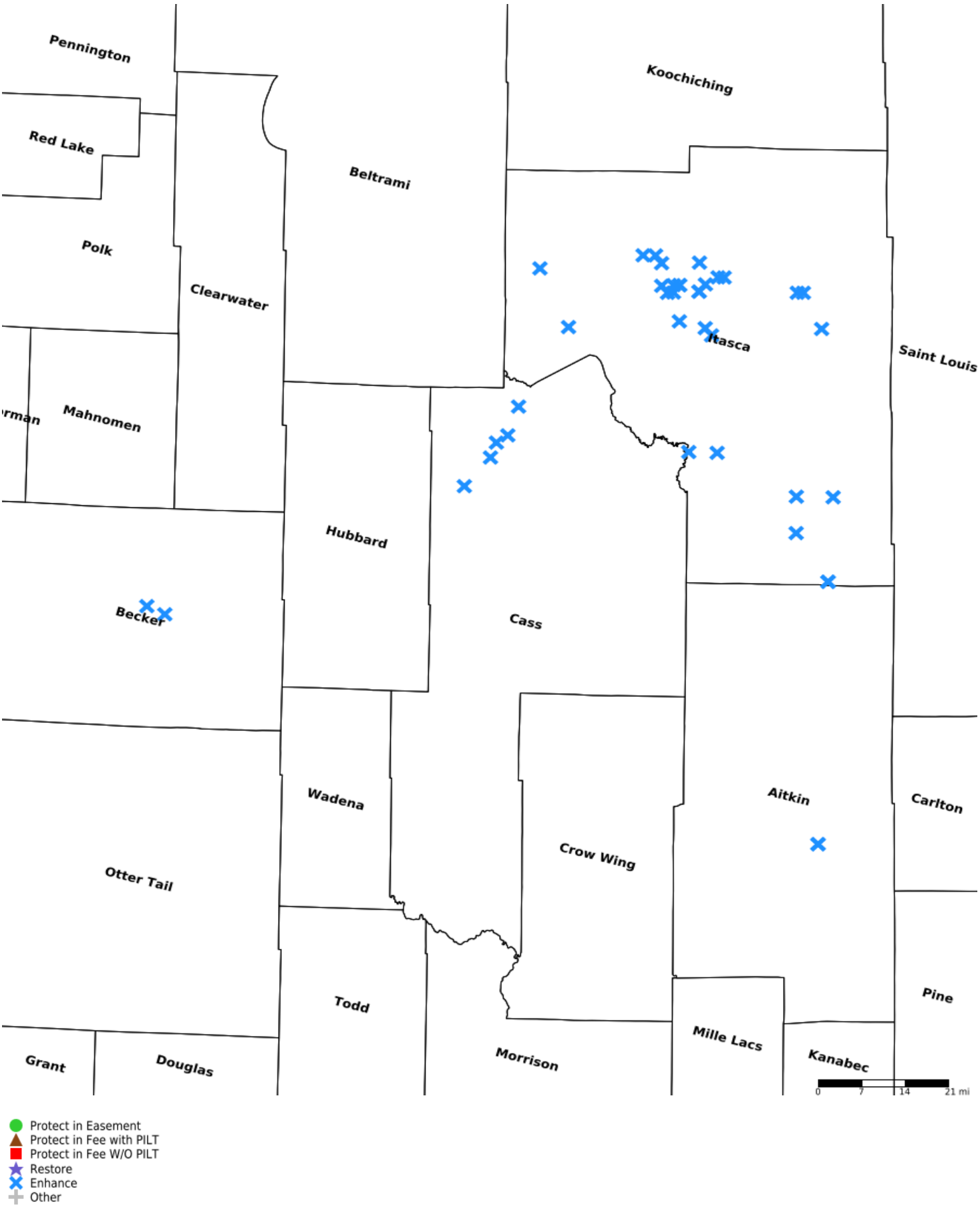
We prioritized sites embedded within larger, contiguous wetland and forest complexes to maximize landscape-scale habitat benefits, maintain connectivity, and support migratory bird use. Additional considerations included accessibility for planting, existing management interest, and suitability for establishing flood-tolerant, site-adapted tree species based on local hydrology and soils.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
RLNWR 02	Aitkin	04724236	166	$415,000	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
RLNWR 05	Aitkin	04724236	349	$872,500	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
TNWR 01	Becker	14039208	25	$37,500	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
TNWR 05	Becker	14039214	19	$28,500	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 02	Cass	14430222	13	$16,951	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 03	Cass	14429206	10	$13,156	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 09	Cass	14529216	9	$11,638	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 14	Cass	14331212	6	$6,957	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 22	Cass	14430211	11	$14,168	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 01	Itasca	14825228	34	$43,389	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 04	Itasca	14825223	12	$15,686	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 05	Itasca	05927201	3	$4,301	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 06	Itasca	06027223	3	$4,301	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 07	Itasca	14825222	5	$6,325	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 10	Itasca	14725214	11	$13,535	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes

CNF 11	Itasca	05927211	3	$3,795	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 12	Itasca	14825223	4	$5,313	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 13	Itasca	14825205	9	$11,511	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 15	Itasca	14925231	6	$7,830	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 16	Itasca	14728223	12	$14,775	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 17	Itasca	06026232	5	$6,325	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 18	Itasca	14825227	17	$21,505	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 19	Itasca	14926235	20	$24,667	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 20	Itasca	14825220	11	$13,535	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 21	Itasca	06026233	4	$5,566	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 23	Itasca	05827201	17	$21,125	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 24	Itasca	05927211	3	$3,921	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
CNF 25	Itasca	05826207	12	$15,053	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
Itasca Co 03	Itasca	05323232	72	$91,080	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
Itasca Co 08	Itasca	05823206	7	$8,855	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
Itasca co 01	Itasca	05627233	35	$44,528	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
Itasca co 02	Itasca	05424228	12	$15,686	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
Itasca co 03	Itasca	05323232	72	$91,080	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
Itasca co 04	Itasca	05524233	19	$24,541	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
Itasca co 06	Itasca	05523233	32	$40,353	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
Itasca co 07	Itasca	14829212	43	$54,268	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
Itasca co 09	Itasca	05924209	11	$13,788	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
Itasca co 10	Itasca	05924210	5	$6,704	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes
Itasca co 11	Itasca	05626232	37	$46,172	Yes	site prep, planting, staking, tree tubes

Parcel Map


Pennington
Red Lake
Polk
Clearwater
Beltrami
Koochiching
Itasca
Saint Louis
Mahnomen
Hubbard
Becker
Cass
Wadena
Crow Wing
Aitkin
Carlton
Otter Tail
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Pine
Grant
Douglas
0
7
14
21 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Enhancing Black Ash Forests for Resilience and Habitat

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Enhancing Black Ash Forests for Resilience and Habitat
Organization: Audubon Upper Mississippi River
Manager: Dale Gentry

Budget

Requested Amount: $4,164,000
Appropriated Amount: $2,138,000
Percentage: 51.34%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$582,000	-	$311,800	-	53.57%	-
Contracts	$3,093,000	-	$1,585,000	-	51.24%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$11,000	-	$6,000	-	54.55%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$375,000	$500,000	$194,400	$301,100	51.84%	60.22%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$103,000	-	$40,800	-	39.61%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,164,000**	**$500,000**	**$2,138,000**	**$301,100**	**51.34%**	**60.22%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This project is scalable; the number of acres could be reduced proportionally. Acres of enhancement projects would be reduced if the project received 50% of requested funding.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Based on our experiences with other LSOHC supported projects, personnel and dedicated support staff are important to project success and more difficult to scale down, though possible. We will attempt to scale proportionally but scaling will not be even for all personnel.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This project is scalable; the number of acres could be reduced proportionally. Acres of enhancement projects would be reduced if the project received 30% of requested funding.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Based on our experiences with other LSOHC supported projects, personnel and dedicated support staff are important to project success and more difficult to scale down, though they could be reduced but not eliminated. We will attempt to scale proportionally but scaling will not be even for all personnel.

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	1,774	900	50.73%

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	$4,164,000	$2,138,000	51.34%

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	1,774	900	50.73%

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	$4,164,000	$2,138,000	51.34%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Metro Forests for Minnesota Wildlife and Communities

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/14/2026

Project Title: Metro Forests for Minnesota Wildlife and Communities

Funds Recommended: $1,294,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Rebecca Tucker
Title: Twin Cities Metro Program Manager
Organization: Great River Greening
Address: 251 Starkey Street Suite 2200
City: Saint Paul, MN 55107
Email: rtucker@greatrivergreening.org
Office Number: 651-272-3982
Mobile Number: 651-272-3982
Fax Number:
Website: https://www.greatrivergreening.org/

Location Information

County Location(s): Hennepin, Washington, Ramsey and Anoka.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

Metro Forests for Minnesota Wildlife and Communities, led by Great River Greening, will work with three public landowners to restore 100 acres of permanently protected woodlands across three sites in Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties. These shovel-ready projects address the most urgent threat to metro forest health – low native plant diversity – and solve this problem through invasive species control and native tree and understory plant establishment. Forests will be restored to support Species of Greatest Conservation Need, pollinator forage, and wildlife habitat diversity with conservation outcomes publicly showcased for the more than three million Minnesotans in the region.

Design and Scope of Work

Forests in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Region serve as an increasingly rare refuge for both local and migratory wildlife. City expansion and rapidly changing rural land use has degraded the forested acres across the seven-county metropolitan area. These remaining forested acres have been impacted by lack of upfront initial restoration funding and required staff capacity, allowing invasive plant species to suppress native species diversity. However, public ownership has preserved the overall habitats from development, maintaining the structure for healthy environments given a targeted investment in vegetative restoration.

Great River Greening has partnered with three public landowners to prioritize 100 acres of forested uplands, oak woodlands, and floodplain forests on three sites in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Region. All are publicly accessible with shovel-ready restoration projects planned or potential cash (or in-kind) match. At every site, work includes invasive tree and shrub removal as well as native plant establishment, with species and methods tailored to each site's target habitat goals.

East River Flats and Mississippi River Bluffs, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board and Saint Paul: 28 and 22 acres, respectively, of connected habitat along four miles of the Mississippi River. Floodplain and savanna woodlands in Minneapolis lead to river bluffs in Saint Paul which require invasive removal for diverse native habitats and erosion control.

These three priority OHF sites strengthen the network of restored forest habitat spanning three counties, multiple watershed systems, and the most densely populated conservation landscape in Minnesota. Greening brings 30 years of metro forest restoration experience, established crew capacity, and active relationships with each of these partners to uniquely deliver this work at scale starting July 2027.

Bayport South WMA, MNDNR: 50 acres of oak woodland represents a WMA close to urban cities, rare in this region. Requires invasive species and preventative actions to ensure the longevity and natural regeneration of this forest within the larger WMA.
Locke Park, Fridley: Oak and mesic woodlands encompassing along Rice Creek. The Ramsey County Rice Creek West Regional Trail connects remnant oak pockets to the 31,000 residents. Requires invasive tree and shrub control to prevent further homogenization of habitat.

Marsh Lake Phase 2, Bloomington: Oak woodland and mixed forest on the Marsh Lake wetland complex along Nine Mile Creek. Extends current habitat restoration efforts (20 acres), connecting a two-mile-long upland corridor.

River Park, Brooklyn Park: Greenspace along the Mississippi River. Extends current city habitat restoration efforts by adding native trees to developing prairies and preparing woodland edges for diverse understory plantings.

Chatham Trails, Arden Hills: Floodplain forest connects city and county parks through a larger regional open space complex. Expands efforts by city volunteers on the initial invasive removal on partial sections to the full woodland.

Sunrise Confluence and Houle Parcels, Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District: Upland and mesic forests along connected wetlands and the Sunrise River in Forest Lake. Connects adjacent restoration efforts by the Watershed District through concurrent efforts on these parcels.

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

Restoring forest habitat (structured canopy, native ground layer, snag retention) directly improves the breeding, foraging, and migratory stopover habitat these species depend on. Additionally, multiple sites impact riparian habitats, where forest restoration stabilizes banks, reduces sediment delivery, and supports aquatic habitats in the Mississippi, Nine Mile Creek and Rice Creek systems. Metro Forests for Minnesota Wildlife and Communities projects will improve habitats needed by wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Many of Minnesota's forest SGCNs are migratory. Wildlife habitat in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Region intersects with the primary mid-continent migratory corridor along and adjacent to the central Mississippi flyway.

Activities will include extensive invasive tree and shrub removal using standard practices as well as newer tested practices such as targeted, growing-season hand cutting which reduces the need for herbicide use in biologically sensitive areas. The subsequent wood waste from these deliberate activities can then be converted into biochar on-site to reduce carbon emissions, prevent soil scarring, and improve soil health. These actions prime the area for native plant reintroduction and establishment which will be achieved through planting and seeding of species that will be sustainable by the landowners and beneficial to the unique wildlife needs of each site. This mosaic of forested habitats and corridors within the urbanized portion of the state provides crucial resources for species navigating through and existing in a human developed landscape.

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

While protected, these public lands need robust initial forest restoration which these partners have identified as critical and time-sensitive opportunities to begin during this funding period.

Ecologically, invasive species do not pause between grant cycles. Every year without treatment advances understory canopy closure, increases the non-native seed bank, and raises the cost of restoration. Several sites have partners who have already begun limited volunteer and locally funded work, enough to confirm the need and demonstrate commitment, but not enough to reverse the decline at these sites alone. Delay makes restoration less realistic and more expensive in the future.

Practically, partners have confirmed match commitments, approved defined project scopes, and known staff ready to assist during this period. This alignment is the result of years of relationship-building and it does not hold indefinitely. Great River Greening has the project management capacity, crews, and the partner relationships to begin work July 2027.

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

Forest habitat in the Metro region exists almost entirely as fragments; publicly owned open space separated by development, roads, and infrastructure connected at the landscape level through corridors and habitat complexes.

The OHF's own 25-year framework confirms the scale of the challenge, stating at the time of writing, the Metropolitan Urbanizing Section contained only 12 percent permanently protected habitat, accounting for just 3 percent of the state's permanently protected acres, despite being home to more than half its public population. Invasive and non-native plant species accelerate the decline of these limited fragments from within by closing the canopy, eliminating the native ground layer, and reducing habitat function.

Great River Greening's sites address fragmentation at two scales. At the site scale, restoration converts degraded forest into functioning diverse ecosystem with a sustainable canopy, native ground layer, and the structural complexity that supports movement, foraging, and breeding habitat for wildlife. At the landscape scale, sites distributed across four counties reinforce existing protected land networks rather than creating isolated restoration patches. Community restoration work at these publicly accessible sites reaches Minnesota's densest concentration of residents, turning active restoration into visible entry points for a broader conservation ethic that sustains habitat corridors over time. With 30 years of experience and more than 8,000 members of the public engaged annually, Great River Greening brings proven capacity to connect diverse metro communities to the restoration work happening in their own backyards.

In addition to the woodland species listed previously that will directly benefit from this proposal, other wildlife that are crucial to the health of these larger habitats will gain temporary nesting or migratory refuges in these woodlands through the mosaic of habitat in the metro. These species include the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee, Blanding's and wood turtles, and other wildlife common in the metro but dependent upon healthy woodland habitats for survival.

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 from long-term or permanent endangerment from invasive species

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

A forest land base that contributes to the habitat picture ~ *Restored and enhanced acreage will be reported for each of the sites. Habitat quality will be evaluated by reporting the diversification of native plant species (numbers and acres planted). Community engagement will be measured by counts of volunteer participation, attendance at outreach events, and tracked public communications throughout the grant. Together these metrics will document improved forest health across project sites, measurable restored habitat, and expanded community awareness of and investment in conservation in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Region.*

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 any 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?

All public partners are committed to maintaining the restoration of habitat improvements. Greening ecologists work throughout the course of the project with partner agency staff to create documentation of adaptive management techniques to ensure restoration success beyond the funding cycle. For each restoration project, site-specific resource management plans will be developed/adopted to guide effective long-term management. All land managers benefiting from R/E must commit to the long-term maintenance of these sites. A principal goal for each site is to elevate its ecological condition so that on-going management is financially feasible after a grant closes. For the 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
Ongoing	Great River Greening, Local Partners, Private Landowners	Assessment and stewardship of restoration projects	Target maintenance actions, engage local partners and landowners	Take restorative action to correct any damaged or degraded habitat

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

Great River Greening believes Minnesota's high quality natural areas should be accessible to all Minnesotans. Historic and present-day inequities have created real barriers to green space, outdoor education, and conservation careers for communities of color, Indigenous peoples, and low- and moderate-income households. Addressing those disparities shapes where we work and how we design our projects. The seven-county metro is home to 31% Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) residents, the most diverse conservation landscape in Minnesota. Several of the sites in this proposal are in or directly adjacent to communities with high concentrations of BIPOC residents and low- to moderate-income households. Restoring habitat quality to publicly owned forests in these neighborhoods does not require residents to travel to access it. It improves the natural areas already in their communities. Great River Greening removes barriers to participation through volunteer events designed to welcome busy families.

Community volunteer events are open to the public to engage in the restoration process, where appropriate and beneficial to the restoration process, with outreach prioritized to adjacent neighborhoods. With over 30 years of community centered conservation in Minnesota, Great River Greening has built a diverse public stewardship program which last year engaged more than 8,000 community members, 40% of whom identified as BIPOC. Our strong volunteer base and active community partnerships mean that engagement does not end when the restoration crew leaves. Every acre restored through this proposal is on publicly owned land open to all. Communities that work alongside Great River Greening staff become invested in these places. The public that sees the impacts of the restoration efforts supported by these funds experience the benefits directly. That investment builds locally rooted stewardship capacity that no grant can fully fund but every grant should support.

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

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
Provide landowners with project documentation, restoration results and proposed continued management activities for continued stewardship.	June 2032
Restore 100 acres of metro forest habitat.	June 2032
Release, award, and initiate habitat restoration contractors with external vendors.	June 2028
Record initial vegetative conditions, finalize timeline and plan and begin community outreach.	December 2027
Initiate cooperative agreements and initial designs of planned restoration projects.	December 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	$154,000	$30,000	Landowning Partners	$184,000
Contracts	$991,500	-	-	$991,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$67,000	$60,300	GRG	$127,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$3,500	$5,000	GRG	$8,500
Supplies/Materials	$75,000	-	-	$75,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,294,000**	**$95,300**	**-**	**$1,389,300**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Staff	0.39	5.0	$154,000	$30,000	Landowning Partners	$184,000

Amount of Request: $1,294,000
Amount of Leverage: $95,300
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 7.36%
DSS + Personnel: $221,000
As a % of the total request: 17.08%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The total program acres were reduced on scalable projects and reductions were made to the proposed scope of work on the original acres while still completing allowable outcomes that are maintainable by the landowning partner. Total number of project sites were reduced to match appropriation.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Great River Greening, landowning partners, and foundations are sources of leverage to assist with Personnel, Equipment/Tools, and DSS costs.

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?
If required, this program will reduce the number of acres it will complete on scalable projects or will reduce the proposed scope of work on the original acres while still completing allowable outcomes that are maintainable by the landowning partner.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses are scalable, but not proportionately, due to grant management, landowner and contractor coordination, implementation of the Great River Greening crew, and other fixed costs.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Restoration contracts with 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
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?
As approved by the DNR in September 2023, 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.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Hand tools, saws, brush cutters, GPS devices, safety gear 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	-	-	100	-	100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**100**	**-**	**100**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	$1,294,000	-	$1,294,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**$1,294,000**	**-**	**$1,294,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	100	-	-	-	-	100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**100**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**100**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	$1,294,000	-	-	-	-	$1,294,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$1,294,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,294,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	$12,940	-
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	$12,940	-	-	-	-
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

0

Parcels

Parcel Information

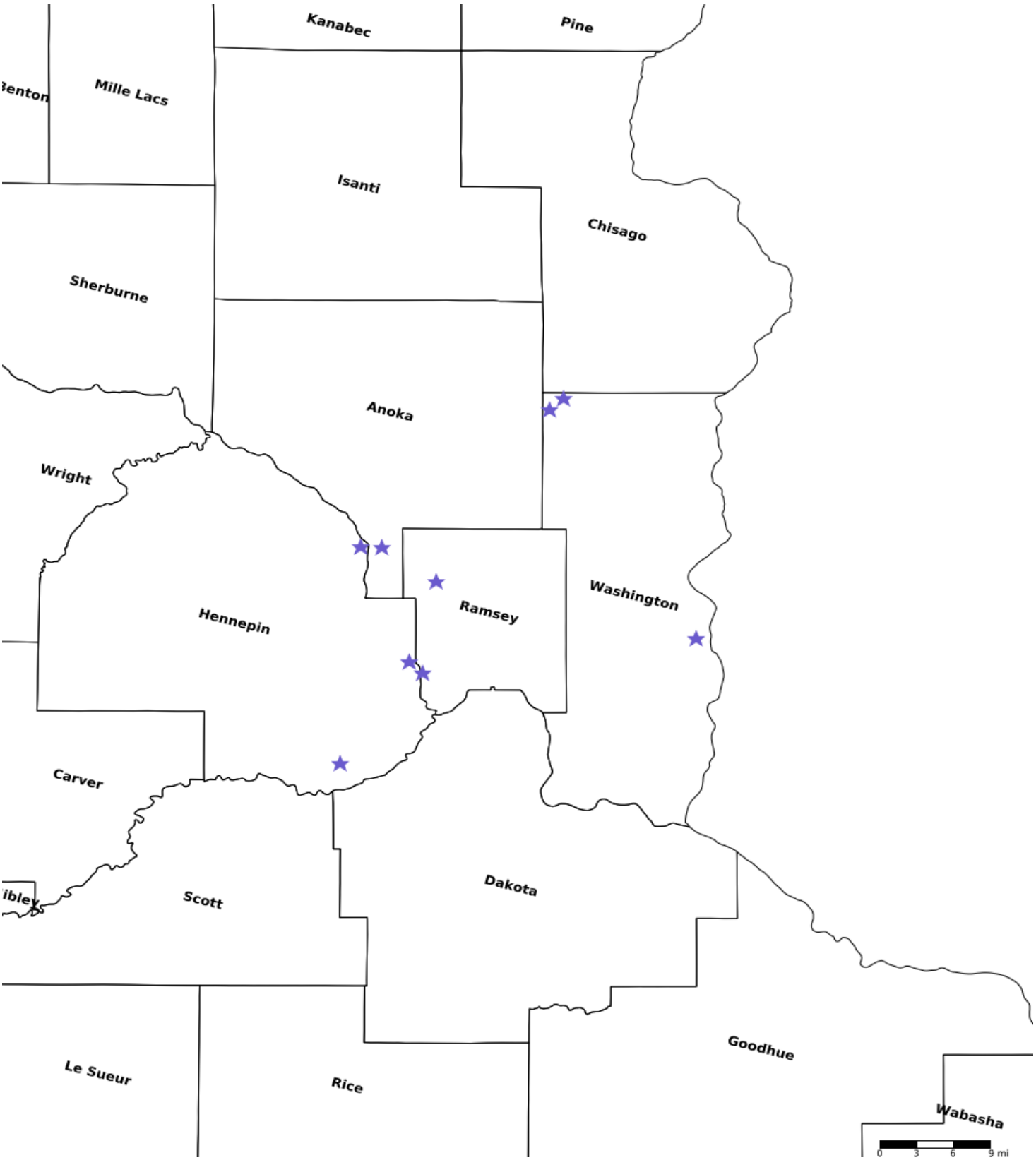
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Great River Greening works with our public partners and other interested stakeholders to identify priority projects and areas. Criteria include ecological and habitat value and potential (biodiversity, size and location), congruence with existing plans and priority areas, adjacency and connectedness to other public and protected lands and complexes, willing and committed landowners and leveraged opportunities.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Locke Park	Anoka	03024211	0	$0	Yes	Upland and lowland forest along Rice Creek
East River Flats	Hennepin	02923231	28	$338,500	Yes	Restore 28 acres of mesic, floodplain, oak woodland and mesic forest along the Mississippi River
Marsh Lake Phase 2	Hennepin	02724217	0	$0	Yes	Oak woodland on the upland edge of the Marsh Lake wetland complex along Nine Mile Creek
River Park	Hennepin	11921224	0	$0	Yes	Woodland and savanna on the upland of the Mississippi River
Chatham Trails	Ramsey	03023228	0	$0	Yes	Floodplain forest in the Valentine Lake wetland complex
Mississippi River Bluffs	Ramsey	02823205	22	$457,000	Yes	Restore 22 acres of bluff forests along the Mississippi River
Bayport South WMA	Washington	02920222	50	$498,000	Yes	Restore 50 acres of oak woodland habitat within one mile of the St. Croix River
Houle Property	Washington	03221207	0	$0	Yes	Upland forest and tamarack woodland on a wetland complex
Sunrise Confluence	Washington	03221205	0	$0	Yes	Upland forest along the Sunrise River

Parcel Map


Kanabec
Pine
Mille Lacs
Isanti
Chisago
Sherburne
Anoka
Wright
Hennepin
Ramsey
Washington
Carver
Scott
Dakota
Le Sueur
Rice
Goodhue
Wabasha
0 3 6 9 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Metro Forests for Minnesota Wildlife and Communities

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Metro Forests for Minnesota Wildlife and Communities
Organization: Great River Greening
Manager: Rebecca Tucker

Budget

Requested Amount: $2,968,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,294,000
Percentage: 43.6%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$369,200	$110,000	$154,000	$30,000	41.71%	27.27%
Contracts	$2,249,900	$10,000	$991,500	-	44.07%	0.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$11,000	-	$3,000	-	27.27%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$145,100	$156,600	$67,000	$60,300	46.18%	38.51%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$11,000	$5,000	$3,500	$5,000	31.82%	100.0%
Supplies/Materials	$181,800	-	$75,000	-	41.25%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,968,000**	**$281,600**	**$1,294,000**	**$95,300**	**43.6%**	**33.84%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If required, this program will reduce the number of acres it will complete on scalable projects or will reduce the proposed scope of work on the original acres while still completing allowable outcomes that are maintainable by the landowning partner.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses are scalable, but not proportionately, due to grant management, landowner and contractor coordination, implementation of the Great River Greening crew, and other fixed costs.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If required, this program will reduce the number of acres it will complete on scalable projects and will reduce the proposed scope of work on the original acres while still completing allowable outcomes that are maintainable by the landowning partner.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses are scalable, but not proportionately, due to grant management, landowner and contractor coordination, implementation of the Great River Greening crew, and other fixed costs.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	264	100	37.88%
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	$2,968,000	$1,294,000	43.6%
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	264	100	37.88%
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	$2,968,000	$1,294,000	43.6%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Minnesota Forest Recovery Project

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/14/2026

Project Title: Minnesota Forest Recovery Project

Funds Recommended: $4,027,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Chris Dunham
Title: Associate Director of Resilience Forestry
Organization: The Nature Conservancy
Address: 1101 West River Parkway, Suite 200
City: Minneapolis, MN 55415
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Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): St. Louis, Cook, Lake, Itasca, Cass, Beltrami, Pine, Todd, Morrison, Aitkin, Mahnomen, Koochiching, Clearwater, Becker, Crow Wing and Carlton.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

Through Phase IV of the Forest Recovery Project, we will enhance northern forest habitat at a scale and with long term durability that makes a difference for species of greatest conservation need. The size and severity of threats to forest habitat are increasing. Fortunately, our partnerships with land managers like DNR, counties, USFS, and tribes have proven our ability to address these threats. Across 5740 acres of eligible lands, we will reforest after wildfires, treat hazardous fuel loads, enhance long stretches of riparian forests, and restore tree species diversity to lessen the risk of future forest health declines.

Design and Scope of Work

Wildfires are becoming more damaging, windstorms, flooding, and ice damage more frequent, and native and introduced pests are affecting more acres. These growing threats impact habitat in different ways and present numerous opportunities for habitat enhancements that will help make the future forest less vulnerable.

For example, we have lost the shade of conifers along trout streams and we need to plant trees. Other work restores the forest after disturbances like spruce budworm, where increasing tree species diversity will provide a legacy of better resistance to the next insect outbreak.

To address these threats, the Forest Recovery Project uses a collaborative, landscape-scale approach to scale up appropriate enhancements. Phases 1-3 of the project enhanced 29,000 acres of forest, complemented by an additional 116,000 acres of enhancements conducted with other funds since Phase I began in 2019. In Phase 4 of the project, we're poised to accelerate this work through 5740 acres of enhancements.
Enhancement categories and treatments include:

- Recovery after recent wildfires: reforestation treatments to guide the future forest on a path that provides habitat diversity and future resilience.
- Treatment of spruce budworm affected forests: planting a diversity of tree species in regenerating forests to prevent future problems associated with low diversity forests.
- Prescribed burning and mechanical or hand treatment of hazardous fuels areas in ways that provide habitat enhancement and protect communities and habitats (including carbon storing peatlands) from wildfire.
- Secure and enhance riparian forest habitat along our streams and lakes. These waters and their adjacent forests are icons of MN's Northwoods and reflect our care and stewardship of the land.
- Bemidji windstorm recovery: important areas of habitat outside the realm of traditional reforestation will be planted and protected from deer browse.
- Emerald ash borer impacts will be reduced by establishing diverse tree species anticipated to have the best chance of persisting as the invasive insect kills ash trees.
- Ensuring survival of successful past tree planting: Habitat enhancement is a long-term investment. We have thousands of acres where we've been successful in getting diverse tree species established and need to protect them from encroaching vegetation or deer browse to ensure they will continue their growth and be a part of the mature forest.

We'll accomplish this work on state, county, tribal, and federal lands, setting priorities and treatment strategies in close coordination with land managers. Through these partnerships, TNC has developed an ability to work at a scale that makes a difference, routinely treating over 20,000 acres per year and planting over 3 million trees in 2026 alone. This OHF project is a cog at the center of a large body of collaborative work with many partners and

funding sources, representing a modernized and effective approach for maintaining habitat values in an era of landscape-level and ownership-crossing threats to forests.

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

This proposal addresses habitat enhancement for fish, game and wildlife in several main ways. First, it increases or improves habitats that have declined or have been degraded. Second, it helps prevent future degradation and habitat loss. And finally, it enhances habitat connectivity.

Examples of degraded forests include spruce budworm impacted stands and large areas of birch decline along the North Shore. The degradation of these stands results in overall loss of forest cover and structural diversity that are important for wildlife, often getting stuck in brushy conditions that do not regenerate well without new disturbance and planting. Our treatments help re-establish long-lived conifers that benefit species of greatest conservation need such as:

- Evening Grosbeak
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Spruce Grouse
- Purple Finch
- Connecticut Warbler
- Black-backed Woodpecker
- Winter Wren
- Moose
- Boreal Owl
- Canada Lynx

Many spruce-budworm-impacted stands can be found in riparian areas along North Shore trout streams. A loss of forest cover is detrimental to trout and other cold-water species, because shade from trees helps keep these waters cold. This is especially important in a warming climate. In addition, maintaining forest cover along streams is important for habitat structure and connectivity for many terrestrial species. Species that benefit from our riparian forest treatments include:

- Veery
- Black-billed Cuckoo
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Common Merganser
- Winter Wren
- Four-toed salamander
- Eastern red-backed salamander
- Coaster Brook Trout
- Lake Sturgeon

Another example of degraded forests are those with excessive fuel buildup. These stands are at risk of fire and often lack open, younger forest conditions. Mechanical treatments and prescribed fire reduce catastrophic fire risk and create younger forest conditions that benefit wildlife such as:

- Golden-winged Warbler

- Veery
- American Woodcock
- Moose
- Whitetail deer
- Ruffed Grouse

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

A recent analysis conducted by The Nature Conservancy found that about 30% of forests in Northern Minnesota need enhancement to improve habitat and resilience. Our current pace of action to enhance and protect Minnesota's iconic Northwoods forests is being out matched and over-run by insects, diseases, the effects of a declining workforce, and changes to markets for forest products. Many of the negative predictions about our forest health and integrity are coming true and then some. Fortunately, the strength and effectiveness of partnerships between public agencies, NGOs, tribes, and forest industry are also stronger and more effective than what might have been predicted 10 years ago. We have many of the answers and tools in place to get ahead of the threats to the Northwoods. Investing now will make a difference and can set forests up to require less investment in the future.

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

We are using The Nature Conservancy's Resilient and Connected Network data, developed in collaboration with hundreds of state, federal, and academic scientists to create a continental network of lands and waters that are resilient and will allow nature to adapt to a changing climate. Northern Minnesota, and Great Lakes forests in general, are a key continental priority in that network. We will prioritize among those parcels with the other data mentioned above including MN Biological Survey data.

For our enhancement work, we continually seek opportunities to create larger complexes of habitat by combining treatments across landowner boundaries. Riparian corridors are some of the most important elements of connectivity on the landscape which is why our proposal targets them specifically for enhancement. TNC is uniquely positioned to improve habitat corridors and connectivity due to our constant communication and partnership with public agencies and with our large volume of annual reforestation work. We have proven our ability to erase ownership lines and work across the landscape, applying enhancement work where it can be most effective, while tracking our actions and funds across parcels with a GIS database.

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

Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

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

Northern Forest

Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

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 ~ *Outcomes will be measured through tree regeneration measurements and habitat monitoring paid for with non-OHF funds. We visit enhancement projects in the field recording tree and shrub species, survival, growth, and other habitat values. We record any problems or needs and use the information to schedule necessary follow up treatment to ensure the durability of enhancement work. This monitoring is either conducted by TNC or our agency partners and recorded in a GIS database.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Improved availability and improved condition of habitats that have experienced substantial decline ~ *Outcomes will be measured through tree regeneration measurements and habitat monitoring paid for with non-OHF funds. We visit enhancement projects in the field recording tree and shrub species, survival, growth, and other habitat values. We record any problems or needs and use the information to schedule necessary follow up treatment to ensure the durability of enhancement work. This monitoring is either conducted by TNC or our agency partners and recorded in a GIS database.*

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?

This project will strengthen and support the many collaborative efforts across the forested region by mobilizing efforts to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration and enhancement. Through this effort, we are developing consistent methodologies and approaches that can be institutionalized through a collaborative process, thus ensuring a long-term commitment that follows ecological need and urgency. When possible, Outdoor Heritage funds will be used to leverage federal and private funds to expand restoration and enhancement efforts to the most critically needed locations.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Beyond 2045	Landowner responsibility	Check stand condition	Treat as appropriate	-
2040-2045	We will seek a mix of private and public funds	Monitor seedling survival, burn success	Repeat burns on appropriate sites	2nd pruning of white pines for blister rust
2035-2040	We will seek a mix of private and public funds	Browse protection, 2nd release to cut competing brush	Monitor seedling survival, burn success, repeat burns on appropriate sites	Prune white pines for blister rust
2027-2035	We will seek a mix of private and public funds	Browse protection using budcaps, tree shelters	1st release to cut competing brush	Monitor seedling survival, burn success

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

Phases1-3 of the project already includes the Leech Lake Band of the Ojibwe as a partner through their Division of Resource Management (DRM), with several projects emphasizing interests of the band within the Leech Lake

Reservation and its overlap with the Chippewa National Forest. These include prescribed fire to enhance pine woodland systems, blueberry regeneration and associated open habitats, and enhancing diversity in black ash stands. These are reservation interests that were initiated by the Leech Lake DRM. TNC recently updated a Memorandum of Understanding with the Leech Lake Division of Resource Management that provides a mechanism for further collaboration on mutual goals. Our Tribal Nations & Indigenous Communities Partnership Director continues to strengthen relationships between TNC and Tribes, and is developing connections between the Forest Recovery Project and Tribal conservation efforts. Over the past several years, TNC has also strengthened its overall capacity to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of our work, especially in the area of hiring practices. We are starting to see a more diverse seasonal and permanent work force that is essential for engaging with diverse communities throughout Minnesota.

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

SNA

AMA

County/Municipal

State Forests

Other : US Forest Service lands, tribal lands, state parks.

State Recreation Areas

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 annual prescribed burns	Thru June 2031
Complete third season of release from competing vegetation	September 2030
Complete third season of tree planting	June 2030
Complete third season of browse protection	November 2029
Complete third season of site preparation and fuels treatments	July-December 2029
Complete second season of release from competing vegetation	September 2029
Complete second season of tree planting	June 2029
Complete second season of browse protection	November 2028
Complete second season of site preparation and fuels treatments	July-December 2028
Complete first season of release from competing vegetation	September 2028
Complete first season of tree planting	June 2028
Complete first season of browse protection	November 2027
Complete first season of site preparation and fuels treatments	July-December 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	$415,400	$20,500	TNC private donations	$435,900
Contracts	$2,839,800	$246,000	TNC private donations	$3,085,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$15,400	-	-	$15,400
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$282,200	$421,800	TNC private donations	$704,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$474,200	-	-	$474,200
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,027,000**	**$688,300**	**-**	**$4,715,300**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Forester, Coordination Support, Protection Staff	1.5	3.0	$415,400	$20,500	TNC private donations	$435,900

Amount of Request: $4,027,000
Amount of Leverage: $688,300
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 17.09%
DSS + Personnel: $697,600
As a % of the total request: 17.32%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
All budget items will be reduced proportionately based on the appropriation recommendation.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
TNC private funds support confirmed, committed, and anticipated leverage. We expect additional leverage through federal, state, and private funds beyond the total.

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 anticipate delivering 50% of proposed enhancement acres (7,000 vs. 14,000 acres).

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

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
The entire contracts line is dedicated to enhancement work. Typical contractors include vendors that provide hand crews or heavy equipment operators. This proposal includes adjustments to account for state of MN prevailing wage requirements which result in higher cost per acre than the industry standard for forestry work.

Travel

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

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
Where it is more cost-effective than paying mileage reimbursement, we have budgeted for car rental and fuel reimbursement.

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

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?
DSS is based on The Nature Conservancy's Federal Negotiated Rate (FNR) as proposed and approved by the US Dept. of Agriculture on an annual basis. In this proposal we are requesting reimbursement of 7.5% of eligible base costs as determined by our annual FNR and based on suggestions from the Council in prior years' hearings. The amount requested for reimbursement represents 38% of the total reimbursable costs allowed under the FNR (our FNR is currently 19.5%). Examples of expenses included in the FNR include services from in-house legal counsel; finance, human resources; and information technology support, all of which contribute directly to the implementation of the project. The FNR is not applied to capital equipment over $50,000 or land acquisition. The remaining cost for DSS that is not requested through OHF is listed as leverage in the budget table.

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	-	-	5,740	-	5,740
Total	**-**	**-**	**5,740**	**-**	**5,740**

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	-	-	$4,027,000	-	$4,027,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**$4,027,000**	**-**	**$4,027,000**

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	-	820	-	-	4,920	5,740
Total	**-**	**820**	**-**	**-**	**4,920**	**5,740**

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	-	$164,000	-	-	$3,863,000	$4,027,000
Total	**-**	**$164,000**	**-**	**-**	**$3,863,000**	**$4,027,000**

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	-	-	$701	-

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	-	$200	-	-	$785

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

22 miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
For our enhancement work, we drew from a large pool of sites that TNC and partners identified as in need of habitat enhancement. To narrow this pool to the set of submitted parcels, we used a coarse-filter approach that considered partner priorities, geographic distribution across landscapes, distribution across partners, and overlap with TNC's Resilient and Connected Network (which incorporates MN Biological Survey Data and the Minnesota Wildlife Action Network). The resulting parcel list is representative of enhancement need and opportunity, but is not intended to be exact. Upon initiation of Phase IV of this project, we will revisit and revise the parcel list and consider new, pertinent information. This information will include the actual budget in the accomplishment plan, new input from partners on priorities and opportunities, information on insect damage or other disturbances, and any changes in management. This process allows for substitution of sites to adjust for environmental change or new opportunities (e.g., disturbance, new opportunities to leverage other funding).

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Aitkin Forestry - Dirt Bike	Aitkin	04323225	22	$3,740	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Aitkin Forestry - Malmo Oak	Aitkin	04425236	52	$8,840	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Aitkin Forestry - Nuthatch Unit 2	Aitkin	04625216	26	$4,420	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Nuthatch AMA	Aitkin	04625210	18	$2,700	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
n/a	Becker	14240214	1	$170	Yes	Placeholder site
Bemidji Blowdown 1	Beltrami	14632227	35	$38,150	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 10	Beltrami	14631217	11	$11,990	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 11	Beltrami	14631217	10	$10,900	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 12	Beltrami	14631215	6	$6,540	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 13	Beltrami	14631216	31	$33,790	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 14	Beltrami	14631217	5	$5,450	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 15	Beltrami	14631215	17	$18,530	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 16	Beltrami	14631221	28	$30,520	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 17	Beltrami	14631221	13	$14,170	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation

Bemidji Blowdown 18	Beltrami	14631216	28	$30,520	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 19	Beltrami	14632209	189	$206,010	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 2	Beltrami	14632227	30	$32,700	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 20	Beltrami	14632209	5	$5,450	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 21	Beltrami	14632215	26	$28,340	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 22	Beltrami	14632209	1	$1,090	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 23	Beltrami	14635226	168	$183,120	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 24	Beltrami	14634203	26	$28,340	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 25	Beltrami	14635212	59	$64,310	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 26	Beltrami	14635234	38	$41,420	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 27	Beltrami	14634202	14	$15,260	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 28	Beltrami	14635214	222	$241,980	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 29	Beltrami	14635234	6	$6,540	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 3	Beltrami	14632234	17	$18,530	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 4	Beltrami	14632234	17	$18,530	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 5	Beltrami	14632234	43	$46,870	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 6	Beltrami	14632234	3	$3,270	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 7	Beltrami	14632235	75	$81,750	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Bemidji Blowdown 8	Beltrami	14631216	23	$25,070	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation

Bemidji Blowdown 9	Beltrami	14631215	26	$28,340	Yes	Bemidji windstorm fuels reduction and reforestation
Jessie Lake RX	Beltrami	14731231	26	$5,200	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Schram Lake RX	Beltrami	14630228	149	$29,800	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Webster Lake RX	Beltrami	14830229	47	$9,400	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Cloquet Forestry Center	Carlton	04917229	20	$3,000	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Cuba Hill Impoundment RX	Cass	14430216	30	$3,000	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Foot Lake RX	Cass	14530224	33	$6,600	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Goose Lake RX	Cass	14129226	121	$24,200	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Kidolm Lake RX	Cass	14127222	50	$10,000	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Lydick Brook RX	Cass	14529208	43	$8,600	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Moss Lake RX	Cass	14431203	60	$12,000	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
North Two Pines	Cass	14529216	44	$8,800	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Phelon Lake RX	Cass	14127215	28	$5,600	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Sylvan Park	Cass	13330201	52	$7,800	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Tanglewood RX	Cass	14130219	79	$15,800	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
West Six Mile	Cass	14528236	70	$14,000	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
n/a	Clearwater	14538217	1	$170	Yes	Placeholder site
Ash 17	Cook	06004221	60	$22,500	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 18	Cook	06004228	32	$12,000	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 19	Cook	06004221	30	$11,250	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 20	Cook	06004221	49	$18,375	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Blue Moon 9	Cook	06104234	28	$12,600	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Caribou Hunter Non-Harvest	Cook	06103226	11	$4,950	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Halls Pond Non-Harvest	Cook	06103224	17	$7,650	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Honeymoon 8	Cook	06004202	17	$7,650	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Honeymoon 9	Cook	06004202	31	$13,950	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Laker 7	Cook	06202131	38	$17,100	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Little Lake WP Resto	Cook	06201135	33	$14,850	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Maestro 12	Cook	06005201	30	$13,500	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Maestro 5	Cook	06105236	15	$6,750	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Maestro 7	Cook	06004206	16	$7,200	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience

Moose Fence TSA	Cook	06004228	6	$2,700	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Red Pine forest enhancement burn unit 1	Cook	06305126	20	$6,400	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Red Pine forest enhancement burn unit 2	Cook	06305127	20	$6,400	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Red Pine forest enhancement burn unit 3	Cook	06305128	20	$6,400	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Red Pine forest enhancement burn unit 4	Cook	06305134	20	$6,400	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Red Pine forest enhancement burn unit 5	Cook	06305133	20	$6,400	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Reindeer 7	Cook	06002205	68	$30,600	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Richey NH	Cook	06005220	17	$7,650	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Sawbill Hardwood Gaps	Cook	05904216	10	$4,500	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Smokey 5	Cook	05904229	56	$25,200	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Squash 2	Cook	05905211	17	$7,650	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Squash 5	Cook	06004228	29	$13,050	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Vat 1	Cook	06102218	63	$28,350	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Vat 2	Cook	06103213	88	$39,600	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Village burn unit 1	Cook	06306102	1	$320	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Village burn unit 2	Cook	06306103	1	$320	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Village burn unit 3	Cook	06306104	1	$320	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Village burn unit 4	Cook	06306105	1	$320	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Village burn unit 5	Cook	06306111	1	$320	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Camp Ripley - Bridge Crossing	Crow Wing	04332234	58	$8,700	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Crow Wing State Park - Boat Launch	Crow Wing	04432223	25	$3,750	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Crow Wing State Park - Group Camp	Crow Wing	04432226	9	$1,350	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Crow Wing State Park - TSI units	Crow Wing	04432224	38	$6,460	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Crow Wing State Park Unit	Crow Wing	04432225	22	$3,740	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Hesitation WMA	Crow Wing	04528233	19	$2,850	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Hwy 371 to River	Crow Wing	04332227	30	$5,100	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Little Nokasippi WMA - 371 to River	Crow Wing	04332222	30	$5,100	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Little Nokasippi WMA - Over the Hill Road	Crow Wing	04332226	27	$4,590	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
5 Corners JP	Itasca	06223235	16	$7,200	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience

5 Corners NORP	Itasca	06223235	23	$10,350	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
5 Island NORP 97	Itasca	06223216	7	$3,150	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
5 Island NORP 98	Itasca	06223216	4	$1,800	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Ash 1	Itasca	14826214	5	$1,875	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 10	Itasca	14925223	7	$2,625	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 11	Itasca	14725201	14	$5,250	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 12	Itasca	14725201	7	$2,625	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 13	Itasca	14826235	11	$4,125	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 14	Itasca	06026217	17	$6,375	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 15	Itasca	05826219	26	$9,750	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 16	Itasca	14925203	17	$6,375	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 2	Itasca	15025233	9	$3,375	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 3	Itasca	14625220	14	$5,250	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 4	Itasca	14825227	17	$6,375	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 5	Itasca	14625220	15	$5,625	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 6	Itasca	14825222	5	$1,875	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 7	Itasca	14825228	34	$12,750	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 8	Itasca	14925229	16	$6,000	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Ash 9	Itasca	14925213	14	$5,250	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Cutfoot Sioux RX	Itasca	14727201	36	$7,200	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Dinner Creek RX	Itasca	14727203	28	$5,600	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Spring Lake RX	Itasca	14825209	116	$23,200	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Third River RX	Itasca	14829222	22	$4,400	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
West Winnie	Itasca	14629227	80	$16,000	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
n/a	Koochiching	06422219	1	$170	Yes	Placeholder site
518	Lake	05211204	5	$2,250	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
519	Lake	05211204	7	$3,150	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
57 Birch	Lake	05709233	47	$21,150	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience

953	Lake	05411233	14	$6,300	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
960	Lake	05411233	33	$14,850	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
961	Lake	05411232	7	$3,150	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Airbase Site 1	Lake	05707205	36	$16,200	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Airbase Site 2	Lake	05707205	23	$10,350	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
BAM & SWO	Lake	05411222	11	$4,125	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Bear Rendevou	Lake	06311214	35	$13,125	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Beaver Hut North	Lake	06110230	39	$17,550	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Beaver Hut South	Lake	06110231	24	$10,800	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Beaver River Skeleton North	Lake	05709234	35	$15,750	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Beaver River Skeleton South	Lake	05609203	14	$6,300	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Bigtooth Ridge	Lake	05707207	19	$19,950	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Birch Islands (Beaver River Big One)	Lake	05709227	79	$35,550	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Birds Eye	Lake	05608210	57	$25,650	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Birdy Thirty	Lake	05708215	28	$12,600	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Black Bear	Lake	05509207	23	$24,150	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Blesner Boreal	Lake	05806230	58	$26,100	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Corridor Aspen	Lake	05608222	83	$37,350	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Cowboy 1	Lake	06007232	47	$21,150	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Cowboy 13	Lake	05907211	93	$41,850	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience

Cramer Road	Lake	05707210	35	$15,750	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Eckbeck Campground	Lake	05707233	7	$3,150	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Eckbeck Restoration	Lake	05707233	51	$22,950	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
El Loco PU5	Lake	06110234	26	$11,700	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
El Loco PU6	Lake	06110234	32	$14,400	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
FR 11 Aspen	Lake	05711226	24	$25,200	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
GFR McDougal Salvage N	Lake	05910211	20	$19,000	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
GFR McDougal Salvage S	Lake	05910211	5	$4,750	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
GFR Stony Lookout 2022 Planting	Lake	05909209	16	$15,200	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
GFR Stony Loop Uplnds	Lake	05909209	29	$27,550	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
GFR-BS Lowland East	Lake	05909216	34	$32,300	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
GFR-BS Lowland South	Lake	05909216	83	$78,850	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
GFR-DNR Middle McDougal	Lake	05910202	7	$6,650	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
GFR-Middle McDougal Islands	Lake	05910201	5	$4,750	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
GFR-Upland Stony River Boundary	Lake	05909216	51	$48,450	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
GNA KANE LAKE PU 2 2-AGED SHWD	Lake	05609219	43	$19,350	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
GNA KANE LAKE PU 6 2-AGED SHWD	Lake	05609221	101	$45,450	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Gooseberry EAB	Lake	05409227	17	$6,375	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Goosepen	Lake	05410210	56	$58,800	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Goosepen RMZ & Ash Trials	Lake	05410210	14	$5,250	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Greenwood Fire Recovery 1	Lake	06010229	33	$31,350	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 12	Lake	05910202	24	$22,800	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 13	Lake	05910202	21	$19,950	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 17	Lake	05910203	35	$33,250	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 18	Lake	05910203	60	$57,000	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 19	Lake	05909206	24	$22,800	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 2	Lake	06010229	54	$51,300	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 20	Lake	05910204	21	$19,950	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 22	Lake	05910203	24	$22,800	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 24	Lake	05910204	35	$33,250	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 30	Lake	05910212	52	$49,400	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 31	Lake	05909207	33	$31,350	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 33	Lake	05910212	29	$27,550	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 34	Lake	05909207	24	$22,800	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 36	Lake	05910212	21	$19,950	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 39	Lake	05910211	21	$19,950	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 4	Lake	06010233	30	$28,500	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation

Greenwood Fire Recovery 40	Lake	05909209	53	$50,350	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 41	Lake	05909208	23	$21,850	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 5	Lake	06010233	21	$19,950	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 6	Lake	06010233	27	$25,650	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 7	Lake	06010233	21	$19,950	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 8	Lake	06010234	31	$29,450	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Recovery 9	Lake	06010234	33	$31,350	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood Fire Resto - Stony River Plantation	Lake	05909216	39	$37,050	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-04 Shiny Leaf	Lake	05910212	22	$20,900	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-18	Lake	05909209	9	$8,550	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-19	Lake	05909208	5	$4,750	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-20	Lake	05909209	2	$1,900	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-21	Lake	05910201	23	$10,350	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Greenwood T-21	Lake	05910201	23	$21,850	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-22	Lake	05910201	13	$12,350	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-23	Lake	06009231	9	$8,550	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-23	Lake	06009231	9	$4,050	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Greenwood T-24	Lake	05910201	5	$4,750	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-24	Lake	05910201	5	$2,250	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Greenwood T-25	Lake	05910212	73	$32,850	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Greenwood T-25	Lake	05910212	73	$69,350	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-26	Lake	05910201	22	$20,900	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-26	Lake	05910201	22	$9,900	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Greenwood T-27	Lake	06009231	31	$29,450	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-27	Lake	06009231	31	$13,950	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Greenwood T-28	Lake	06009231	9	$8,550	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-29	Lake	05910212	18	$17,100	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-29	Lake	05910212	18	$8,100	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Greenwood T-30	Lake	05909209	11	$10,450	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-31	Lake	05910201	21	$9,450	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Greenwood T-31	Lake	05910201	21	$19,950	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-32	Lake	05910201	4	$3,800	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-33	Lake	05910201	4	$3,800	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-34	Lake	05910201	7	$6,650	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-35	Lake	05910212	2	$1,900	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-36	Lake	05910212	3	$2,850	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-37	Lake	05910201	43	$40,850	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Greenwood T-37	Lake	05910201	43	$19,350	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience

HW1 Gravel Pits W	Lake	05707218	21	$9,450	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Heffelfinger 98	Lake	05708226	497	$223,650	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Heffelfinger Inter-Plant	Lake	05708224	15	$6,750	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Hockamin Hardwoods	Lake	05708220	12	$5,400	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Hwy 3 Aspen	Lake	05510223	77	$34,650	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Joe's Minnows	Lake	06010232	35	$33,250	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
KC Lake Middle Lower	Lake	05808224	44	$19,800	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
KC Lake South	Lake	05808225	38	$17,100	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Knife Pit	Lake	05311205	89	$93,450	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Knife River Balsam North	Lake	05211208	23	$24,150	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Knife River Balsam South	Lake	05211218	21	$22,050	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Knife River South Slopes	Lake	05211218	9	$9,450	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Lake Co Riparian 1	Lake	05509203	238	$95,200	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
Lake Co Riparian 2	Lake	05409208	266	$106,400	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
Lake Co Riparian 3	Lake	05409209	223	$89,200	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
Lake Co Riparian 4	Lake	05510225	166	$66,400	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
Lake Co Riparian 5	Lake	05510225	94	$37,600	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
Murphy Point Pine	Lake	05611218	8	$3,600	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Nine Mile 12	Lake	05906215	49	$51,450	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Nine Mile 3	Lake	05906215	37	$38,850	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Nine Mile 4	Lake	05906214	48	$50,400	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Nine Mile 4A	Lake	05906214	7	$7,350	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation

Nip Creek PU10	Lake	05911205	12	$5,400	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Nip Creek PU11	Lake	05911205	12	$5,400	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Nip Creek PU5	Lake	05911205	36	$16,200	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Nip Creek PU6	Lake	05911205	21	$9,450	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Nip Creek PU7	Lake	06011233	56	$25,200	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Nip Creek PU8	Lake	05911205	33	$14,850	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Nip Creek PU9	Lake	05911205	12	$5,400	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
North McDougal Planting	Lake	06010236	42	$39,900	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
North McDougal Planting	Lake	06010236	42	$18,900	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Old Drum South	Lake	05311205	15	$6,750	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Ole Salvage 1	Lake	06009234	36	$16,200	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Ole Salvage 3	Lake	05908208	31	$13,950	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Oz 10	Lake	06108219	6	$2,700	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Oz 11	Lake	06108219	17	$7,650	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Oz 12	Lake	06108219	11	$4,950	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Oz 9	Lake	06108219	8	$3,600	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Pickle Stewardship 3	Lake	06008212	16	$7,200	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Pine Creek 3.0	Lake	05511219	117	$52,650	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Reeves Salvage	Lake	05311201	62	$65,100	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 100	Lake	06311207	11	$11,550	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation

SBW DNR Tower 101	Lake	06311206	7	$7,350	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 102	Lake	06311206	9	$9,450	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 103	Lake	06311206	4	$4,200	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 104	Lake	06311206	12	$12,600	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 105	Lake	06311207	36	$37,800	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 106	Lake	06311206	31	$32,550	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 107	Lake	06311206	6	$6,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 108	Lake	06311206	6	$6,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 109	Lake	06311206	4	$4,200	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 110	Lake	06311206	13	$13,650	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 61	Lake	06311206	24	$25,200	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 62	Lake	06311206	2	$2,100	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 63	Lake	06311206	16	$16,800	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 64	Lake	06311206	10	$10,500	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 65	Lake	06311206	5	$5,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 66	Lake	06311206	8	$8,400	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 67	Lake	06311206	11	$11,550	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 68	Lake	06411232	6	$6,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 69	Lake	06311206	52	$54,600	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation

SBW DNR Tower 70	Lake	06311206	17	$17,850	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 71	Lake	06311206	58	$60,900	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 72	Lake	06311206	3	$3,150	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 76	Lake	06311206	40	$42,000	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 77	Lake	06311206	5	$5,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 78	Lake	06311206	22	$23,100	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 79	Lake	06311206	12	$12,600	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 80	Lake	06311206	7	$7,350	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 81	Lake	06311206	22	$23,100	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 82	Lake	06311206	26	$27,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 83	Lake	06311206	9	$9,450	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 84	Lake	06311206	17	$17,850	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 85	Lake	06311206	14	$14,700	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 86	Lake	06311206	15	$15,750	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 87	Lake	06311206	21	$22,050	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 88	Lake	06311206	4	$4,200	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 89	Lake	06311206	52	$54,600	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 90	Lake	06311206	10	$10,500	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 91	Lake	06311206	32	$33,600	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation

SBW DNR Tower 92	Lake	06311207	8	$8,400	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 93	Lake	06311206	6	$6,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 94	Lake	06311207	17	$17,850	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 95	Lake	06311206	7	$7,350	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 96	Lake	06311206	2	$2,100	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 97	Lake	06311206	24	$25,200	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 98	Lake	06311207	20	$21,000	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 99	Lake	06311206	15	$15,750	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SRR AMA - N. Alger Grade Ash Planting SP25	Lake	05509208	10	$3,750	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Sand River Salvage 1	Lake	06010229	31	$29,450	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Sand River Salvage 2	Lake	06010228	99	$94,050	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Snake T Resto	Lake	05908233	8	$3,600	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Stand 450	Lake	05808221	15	$6,750	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Stand 467	Lake	05808221	10	$4,500	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Starbuck 3	Lake	06009226	14	$6,300	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Steamer Riparian UFR	Lake	06009222	22	$9,900	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Stewart Peterson	Lake	05311214	33	$34,650	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Stony - Lake County	Lake	05910203	37	$35,150	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Stony Loop	Lake	05909205	21	$19,950	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Stony River / Stoney River Riparian	Lake	06010227	12	$11,400	Yes	Post wildfire reforestation
Swamp Aspen	Lake	05410211	70	$26,250	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Swamp_Heffe	Lake	05708224	9	$3,375	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Twin Points PWA Blowdown	Lake	05409213	1	$450	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience

Upland Trail Resto	Lake	05811236	31	$32,550	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Utilitarian	Lake	05510235	76	$79,800	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Wanless Road DNR SBW Mulching	Lake	06007236	26	$27,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Where's Waldo	Lake	05311211	62	$23,250	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Worm 1	Lake	05908205	96	$43,200	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Yukon Cornelius 23	Lake	05510211	50	$22,500	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
n/a	Mahnomen	14440226	1	$170	Yes	Placeholder site
Camp Ripley - Amphitheater	Morrison	13029209	22	$3,300	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Camp Ripley - D-29-1	Morrison	13129207	24	$3,600	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Lake Alex Woods SNA - Oak	Morrison	13131215	20	$3,400	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
McDougall WMA - Oak Woods	Morrison	03932229	57	$9,690	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Ripley Esker East	Morrison	04231218	31	$5,270	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
St. Croix Jack Pine	Pine	04019213	32	$5,440	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
1005 RX Burn	St. Louis	06617235	36	$5,400	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
4 Day 113	St. Louis	05613216	6	$2,700	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
4 Day 116	St. Louis	05613216	7	$3,150	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Air Raid	St. Louis	05714204	60	$27,000	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Arcelor Mittal 16	St. Louis	05817202	14	$5,250	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
BENT KNIFE PU 1	St. Louis	06516211	15	$6,750	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Bird Head	St. Louis	05512229	27	$12,150	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Bug Creek Hunter Walking Trail TNC	St. Louis	05416233	12	$4,800	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
Bundle Lake Road	St. Louis	05713224	42	$18,900	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Bundle Lake Road North	St. Louis	05713213	4	$1,800	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Bundle Lake Road Northeast	St. Louis	05713213	2	$900	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Bundle Lake Road Northwest	St. Louis	05713213	3	$1,350	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience

Bundle Lake Road South	St. Louis	05713224	4	$1,800	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Bundle Lake Road West	St. Louis	05713224	3	$1,350	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Clapper Road E	St. Louis	05713216	15	$6,750	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Clapper Road W	St. Louis	05713216	13	$5,850	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Cloquet River Mud Creek TNC	St. Louis	05413235	243	$97,200	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
Dempsey Creek 164	St. Louis	05719218	21	$9,450	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Dempsey Creek 174	St. Louis	05719218	10	$4,500	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Dempsey Creek 197	St. Louis	05719218	17	$7,650	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Dempsey Creek 213	St. Louis	05719218	11	$4,950	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
EAST ECHO PU 12	St. Louis	06616234	24	$10,800	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Fairbanks 250	St. Louis	05713236	21	$22,050	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Five Bears TNC	St. Louis	05512217	37	$14,800	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
Flapper PU 10	St. Louis	06718228	5	$2,250	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Ghost Camp Bunching and Piling North	St. Louis	05713202	5	$5,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Ghost Camp Bunching and Piling South	St. Louis	05713212	12	$12,600	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Hilda Creek Sale	St. Louis	06517236	427	$448,350	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Jawbone 1	St. Louis	05714216	35	$15,750	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Knife River WP Restoration	St. Louis	05212236	40	$15,000	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Knute PU 10	St. Louis	06617201	16	$7,200	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Luster PU 12	St. Louis	05912214	88	$39,600	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience

Mar Creek PU 3 North	St. Louis	06718226	2	$900	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Mar Creek PU 3 South	St. Louis	06718226	32	$14,400	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Nigh Creek RX Burn	St. Louis	06515220	54	$8,100	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Owl King East 2	St. Louis	05412210	37	$16,650	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Push and Glide	St. Louis	06018225	58	$8,700	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Red Pony TNC	St. Louis	05612225	12	$4,800	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
Rossini PBF 1	St. Louis	05412220	1	$450	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Rossini PBF 2	St. Louis	05412217	28	$12,600	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Rossini PBF 3	St. Louis	05412220	109	$49,050	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
SBW DNR Tower 1	St. Louis	06316235	2	$2,100	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 10	St. Louis	06316236	60	$63,000	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 11	St. Louis	06316236	9	$9,450	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 111	St. Louis	06717214	18	$18,900	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 112	St. Louis	06717215	7	$7,350	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 113	St. Louis	06717214	11	$11,550	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 114	St. Louis	06717214	4	$4,200	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 115	St. Louis	06717214	7	$7,350	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 116	St. Louis	06717214	7	$7,350	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 117	St. Louis	06717214	15	$15,750	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 118	St. Louis	06717215	6	$6,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 119	St. Louis	06717214	5	$5,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation

SBW DNR Tower 12	St. Louis	06316236	63	$66,150	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 120	St. Louis	06717214	17	$17,850	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 121	St. Louis	06717214	8	$8,400	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 122	St. Louis	06717215	6	$6,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 13	St. Louis	06316236	5	$5,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 14	St. Louis	06419223	5	$5,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 15	St. Louis	06419223	35	$36,750	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 16	St. Louis	06419223	29	$30,450	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 17	St. Louis	06419223	3	$3,150	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 18	St. Louis	06419223	25	$26,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 19	St. Louis	06419223	3	$3,150	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 2	St. Louis	06316236	10	$10,500	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 20	St. Louis	06419223	5	$5,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 21	St. Louis	06419223	5	$5,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 22	St. Louis	06419223	33	$34,650	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 23	St. Louis	06419223	1	$1,050	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 24	St. Louis	06419223	4	$4,200	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 25	St. Louis	06419223	11	$11,550	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 26	St. Louis	06419223	1	$1,050	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation

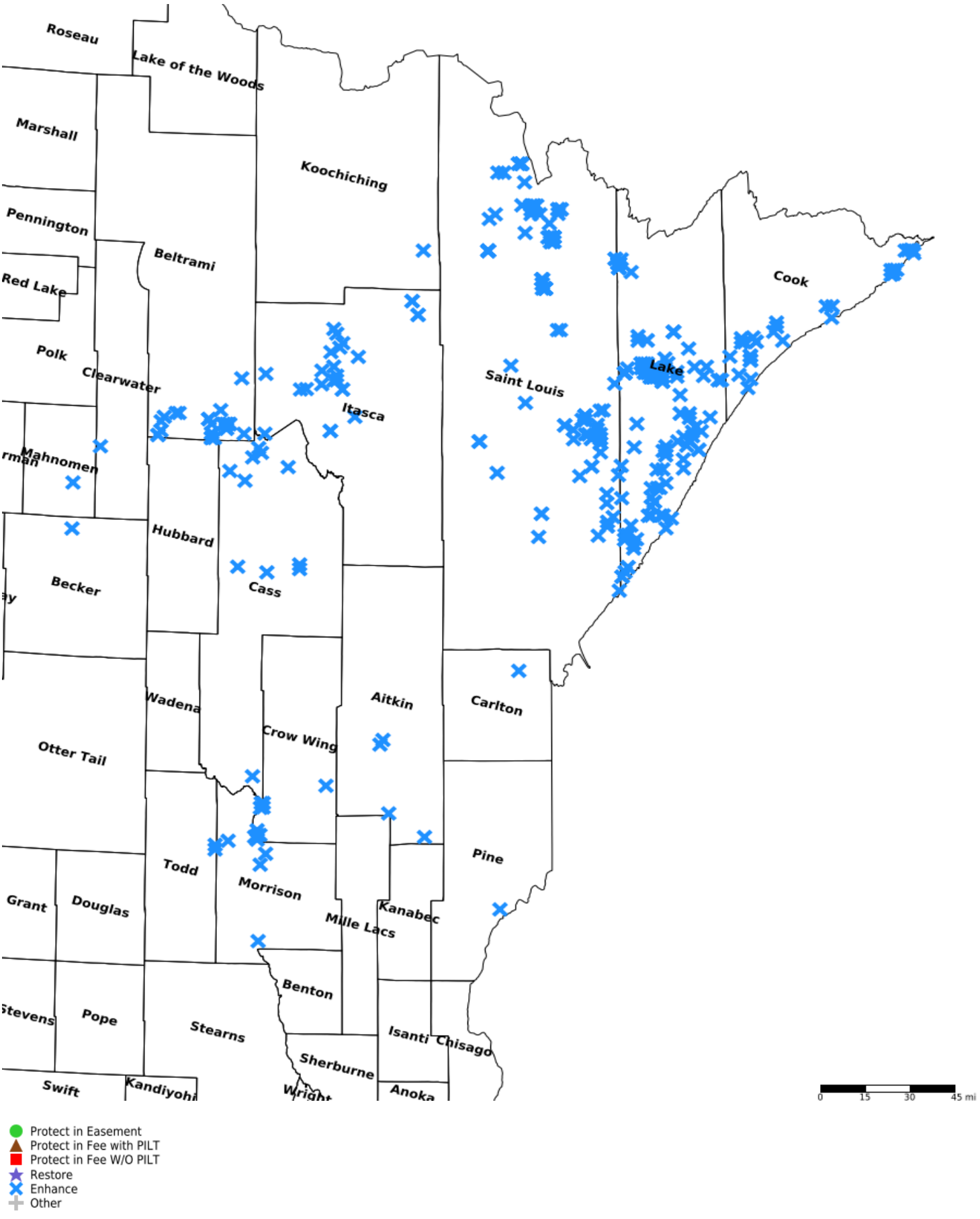
SBW DNR Tower 27	St. Louis	06316223	26	$27,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 28	St. Louis	06316223	103	$108,150	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 29	St. Louis	06316223	6	$6,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 3	St. Louis	06316236	5	$5,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 30	St. Louis	06316223	14	$14,700	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 31	St. Louis	06316223	6	$6,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 32	St. Louis	06316223	136	$142,800	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 33	St. Louis	06316223	11	$11,550	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 34	St. Louis	06316223	44	$46,200	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 35	St. Louis	06415208	6	$6,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 36	St. Louis	06415208	6	$6,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 37	St. Louis	06415205	7	$7,350	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 38	St. Louis	06415204	35	$36,750	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 39	St. Louis	06415204	9	$9,450	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 4	St. Louis	06316236	68	$71,400	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 40	St. Louis	06415205	11	$11,550	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 41	St. Louis	06415204	5	$5,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 42	St. Louis	06415204	93	$97,650	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 43	St. Louis	06415204	24	$25,200	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation

SBW DNR Tower 44	St. Louis	06415204	63	$66,150	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 45	St. Louis	06415204	72	$75,600	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 46	St. Louis	06415206	82	$86,100	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 47	St. Louis	06415205	0	$0	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 48	St. Louis	06415205	17	$17,850	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 49	St. Louis	06415205	46	$48,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 5	St. Louis	06316236	7	$7,350	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 50	St. Louis	06415209	29	$30,450	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 51	St. Louis	06415209	12	$12,600	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 52	St. Louis	06415208	28	$29,400	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 53	St. Louis	06515202	6	$6,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 54	St. Louis	06515211	12	$12,600	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 55	St. Louis	06515202	5	$5,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 56	St. Louis	06515202	20	$21,000	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 57	St. Louis	06515202	5	$5,250	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 58	St. Louis	06515201	11	$11,550	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 59	St. Louis	06515201	6	$6,300	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 6	St. Louis	06316226	17	$17,850	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 60	St. Louis	06515202	4	$4,200	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation

SBW DNR Tower 7	St. Louis	06316236	23	$24,150	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 73	St. Louis	06412236	15	$15,750	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 74	St. Louis	06412236	15	$15,750	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 75	St. Louis	06412236	9	$9,450	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 8	St. Louis	06316226	14	$14,700	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SBW DNR Tower 9	St. Louis	06316236	18	$18,900	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
SKIBO MOGUL 1	St. Louis	05813219	20	$9,000	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
SKIBO MOGUL 2	St. Louis	05814225	1	$450	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
SKIBO MOGUL 3	St. Louis	05813219	6	$2,700	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
SKIBO MOGUL 4	St. Louis	05813219	1	$450	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
SKIBO MOGUL 5	St. Louis	05813219	1	$450	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
SKIBO MOGUL 6	St. Louis	05813230	1	$450	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
SKIBO MOGUL 7	St. Louis	05813219	1	$450	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
SKIBO MOGUL 8	St. Louis	05813219	9	$4,050	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
SKINNER PU 1	St. Louis	06616233	8	$3,600	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
SLC Tresspass	St. Louis	05713208	3	$1,350	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
SQUADRON PU 8	St. Louis	06518208	23	$10,350	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Skiblo Replant	St. Louis	05812218	18	$18,900	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
Skibo Hill Birch	St. Louis	05713207	48	$21,600	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience

Skibo Hill Spruce	St. Louis	05713208	10	$4,500	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Skibo Mill TNC	St. Louis	05813235	9	$3,600	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
Skinner PU 2 North	St. Louis	06616233	6	$2,700	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Skinner PU 2 South	St. Louis	06616233	6	$2,700	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Squadron PU 1 Seed Tree	St. Louis	06519213	24	$10,800	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
St. Louis River East 306	St. Louis	05618219	19	$7,125	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
TEN OH SIX PU 1	St. Louis	06616232	10	$4,500	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
TEN OH SIX PU 12 North	St. Louis	06516205	2	$900	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
TEN OH SIX PU 12 South	St. Louis	06516208	6	$2,700	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
V21-561426	St. Louis	05614226	27	$12,150	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
West Two River TNC 1	St. Louis	06115214	3	$1,200	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
West Two River TNC 2	St. Louis	06115215	4	$1,600	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
What-To-Do Bunching and Piling	St. Louis	05813213	39	$40,950	Yes	Spruce budworm fuels reduction and reforestation
White Corner RGMA 85	St. Louis	05815236	22	$9,900	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
White Corner RGMA 98	St. Louis	05815236	11	$4,950	Yes	Tree planting and tending for diversity enhancement and resilience
Whiteface River RMZ TNC	St. Louis	05416203	9	$3,375	Yes	Ash stand diversification planting and tending
Whiteface River RMZ TNC	St. Louis	05416203	9	$3,600	Yes	Riparian forest diversity planting and tending
Ruff-Nik WMA - North	Todd	13132224	65	$11,050	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep
Ruff-Nik WMA - South	Todd	13132225	100	$17,000	Yes	Rx fire and fuels prep

Parcel Map


Roseau
Lake of the Woods
Marshall
Koochiching
Pennington
Beltrami
Red Lake
Polk
Clearwater
Itasca
Saint Louis
Lake
Cook
Mahnomen
Hubbard
Becker
Cass
Wadena
Aitkin
Carlton
Crow Wing
Otter Tail
Pine
Todd
Morrison
Grant
Douglas
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Benton
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Isanti
Chisago
Sherburne
Swift
Anoka
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

Minnesota Forest Recovery Project

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Minnesota Forest Recovery Project
Organization: The Nature Conservancy
Manager: Chris Dunham

Budget

Requested Amount: $9,864,900
Appropriated Amount: $4,027,000
Percentage: 40.82%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$1,013,100	$50,000	$415,400	$20,500	41.0%	41.0%
Contracts	$6,926,000	$600,000	$2,839,800	$246,000	41.0%	41.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$37,500	-	$15,400	-	41.07%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$688,300	$1,028,700	$282,200	$421,800	41.0%	41.0%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$1,200,000	-	$474,200	-	39.52%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$9,864,900**	**$1,678,700**	**$4,027,000**	**$688,300**	**40.82%**	**41.0%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We would anticipate delivering 50% of proposed enhancement acres (7,000 vs. 14,000 acres).

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
We would anticipate delivering 30% of the proposed enhancement acres (4,200 vs. 14,000 acres).

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

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	14,000	5,740	41.0%

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	$9,864,900	$4,027,000	40.82%

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	14,000	5,740	41.0%

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	$9,864,900	$4,027,000	40.82%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program - Phase XIX

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/08/2026

Project Title: Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program - Phase XIX

Funds Recommended: $4,500,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Sabin Adams
Title: MN State Coordinator
Organization: Pheasants Forever
Address: 1783 Buerkle Circle
City: St. Paul, MN 55110
Email: sadams@pheasantsforever.org
Office Number: 320-250-6317
Mobile Number: 3202506317
Fax Number:
Website: www.pheasantsforever.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Meeker, Becker, Brown, Kandiyohi and Douglas.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

In this phase of the Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area program, Pheasants Forever (PF) seeks to permanently protect and restore parcels of land as Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) in the prairie, prairie forest transition, and metro regions of Minnesota. Acquired parcels will be either adjacent to or between existing public lands to create larger complexes or corridors for a variety of wildlife species. These properties will have habitat restored to the greatest extent possible with regard to time and budget constraints.

Design and Scope of Work

Loss and degradation of grasslands and wetlands pose a severe threat to the future of Minnesota's flora and fauna. Over 90% of wetland and 99% of grassland habitats have been converted to other uses, primarily those surrounding agricultural and urban development. This habitat loss significantly reduces wildlife populations abilities to increase or remain stable in the face of multiple stressors including climate change, pressure from invasive species, etc. This proposal works to slow habitat decline by acquiring and restoring previously converted wetland and grassland habitats into WPA's that are open to public recreation. This program continually builds on prior phases and augments current efforts by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and their partners to increase waterfowl populations through the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program (SWAP). By improving wetland quality, quantity, and public access this program provides multiple benefits to Minnesotans.

Potential properties will be identified and evaluated based on landscape level planning tools such as the USFWS Duck Breeding Density Maps, MN DNR natural heritage data, and other state level conservation plans. Once purchased, all wetlands will be restored by either surface ditch "plugs," breaking sub-surface tile lines, or other best practices for wetland restoration. Restoration of grasslands will be completed using site-appropriate native grasses and forbs while following best management practices. Quality grassland restoration results typically take three to five years, allowing for one to two years of post-acquisition farming to allow residual herbicides to leave the soil. This timing allows us to address weed management issues, chemical carryover, and any other site-specific issues that may prevent the site from being restored to its fullest potential. Other restoration activities that may be needed include invasive tree removal, building site clean-up, prescribed fire, etc. as necessary to provide high-quality habitat. All restoration work will be completed to the highest possible standards with considerations towards budgets and grant timelines.

To address concerns related to county tax revenues due to acquiring public land, the UFWS and PF will notify counties prior to the acquisition of lands. Once acquired, the USFWS will make a one-time payment (Trust Fund payment) to the county where the property is located. In addition, the USFWS will make annual refuge revenue sharing payments for all fee lands within their respective counties.

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

PF actively engages in conservation priority discussions with state and government agencies, to determine what areas are the highest priority for adding permanently protected lands in the prairie, prairie/forest transition, and

metro planning areas. High priority is given to parcels whose restoration and protection benefit rare, threatened, & endangered species. Often the only locations where many threatened and endangered species are found is on existing habitat complexes. This proposal builds upon those complexes allowing for expansion and increased populations of those species.

When selecting projects for this proposal, PF uses the latest GIS data and works with DNR and USFWS staff to identify locations that benefit species of greatest conservation need. Additionally, species of greatest conservation need are considered and can influence restoration plans after the land is permanently protected. By increasing the amount, functionality, and productivity of grassland landscapes for these species, we aim to slow population decline. Restoration of wetland and grassland complexes will provide habitat for a myriad of species including waterfowl, black terns, bobolinks, meadowlarks, ring-necked pheasants, pollinators, and monarchs. Other species of concern benefiting from this project include the greater prairie chicken, short-eared owl, marsh hawk, and yellow rails.

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

These funds will not be available for use, from the time of writing this proposal, until July 2027. Because of this we cannot know what time sensitive projects we will pursue. Any potential seller in May 2026 will almost certainly have moved on by July 2027. Properties with incredible habitat value are coming on and off the market in weeks or months, not years. In order to seize these time sensitive opportunities it is critical that this funding be utilized in a programmatic way allowing older grant funds to be spent on the most appropriate and time sensitive opportunities. By the time funding for this proposed phase is available there will be incredibly important and time sensitive properties for sale and this funding will allow us to acquire those properties.

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

PF and the USFWS partner to identify and evaluate tracts to purchase. Tracts that are directly adjacent to existing complexes or contributing to corridors are ranked higher than stand-alone tracts. This phase will continue to evaluate tracts based on their ability to expand complexes and corridors as in the past, thus preventing future or reducing current habitat fragmentation.

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

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

Metro / Urban

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

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 ~ *Acquired parcels that increase the functionality of existing habitat will be restored to functioning wetlands with diverse upland prairie to serve as habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl and SGCN. Lands will be transferred to the USFWS as a WPA to provide accelerated wildlife habitat and public access, monitored by the USFWS. Protected and restored acres will be measured against goals outlined in each WMD Comprehensive Plan which rolls up to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Protected habitats will hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting ~ *Strategic parcels that increase the functionality of existing habitat will be acquired and restored to functioning wetlands with diverse upland prairie to serve as habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl. Lands will be transferred to the USFWS as a WPA to provide accelerated wildlife habitat and public access, monitored by the USFWS. Protected and restored acres will be measured against goals outlined in each WMD Comprehensive Plan which rolls up to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.*

Programs in prairie region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for migratory and unique Minnesota species ~ *Strategic parcels that increase the functionality of existing habitat will be acquired and restored to functioning wetlands with diverse upland prairie to serve as habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl. Lands will be transferred to the USFWS as a WPA to provide accelerated wildlife habitat and public access, monitored by the USFWS. Protected and restored acres will be measured against goals outlined in each WMD Comprehensive Plan which rolls up to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.*

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 supplements past investments and is focused on accelerating the protection and restoration of strategically selected parcels.

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

Pheasants Forever will transfer tracts purchased with grant funds to the USFWS to be enrolled into the Waterfowl Production Area program. The USFWS will hold these tracts in perpetuity and will be responsible for maintaining restoration and enhancement work that was completed using grant funds. USFWS have an annual budget and staff that are devoted to implementing management on WPA's and NWR's. Management strategies to maintain healthy grasslands and nesting habitat include prescribed fire (using their internal burn program), biological, mechanical, and chemical treatments to inhibit encroachment of woody species. In addition to the biological benefit of increasing complex size or expanding corridors, selecting acquisitions in areas with existing USFWS ownership reduced management and administrative costs as a function of proximity.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Post Transfer	Federal	Monitoring	Maintenance	Habitat Management

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

The goal of this program is to protect and restore wildlife habitat and make these areas accessible to all Minnesotans, regardless of cultural background or fiscal standing. Properties acquired under this program will be free and open to access by all. These properties can be recreated on by all levels of income from free hiking/wildlife watching to expensive hunting practices. This program spans all of the Prairie, Forest-Prairie, and Metro regions. Some acquisitions will be nearby areas with diverse or low-income communities. This program engages with everyone who wants to participate in public lands and the outdoors.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:
At minimum we will notify local government in writing of the intent to acquire and donate lands to the USFWS and follow up with questions prior to acquisition. In cases where there is interest, we will also indicate our willingness to attend or ask to attend county or township meetings to communicate our interest in the projects and seek support.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?
No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:
A small number of parcels may have an existing federal or state easement on a portion of the tract which permanently protect wetlands or grasslands. In cases where parcels with these protections are deemed high-priority to our agency partners we will follow Outdoor Heritage Fund guidelines to proceed, or use non-state funding to acquire the protected portion of the property.

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
This proposal may include initial development plans or restoration plans to utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest to prepare the seedbed for native seed planting. In these restorations, PF's policy is to use non-neonicotinoid treated seed and no herbicides other than glyphosate. There are no food plots on WPA acquisitions.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
All acquired lands will be open to the public taking of fish and game during the open season according to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, United States Code, title 16, section 668dd, et seq.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

Federal

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WPA

National Wildlife Refuge

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

The acquired parcels will be restored utilizing funds within the contracts and materials lines of the budget.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Identify priority acquisitions	7/1/2027
Complete restoration	6/30/2032
Close on tracts	1/1/2029
Contract appraisals ordered	4/1/2028
Re-evaluate tract priority	2/15/2028
Purchase agreements	2/1/2028
Contract appraisals ordered	9/1/2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 06/30/2032

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	$278,800	-	-	$278,800
Contracts	$636,000	-	-	$636,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$3,177,100	$1,261,800	PF/State/Federal	$4,438,900
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$1,900	-	-	$1,900
Professional Services	$170,300	-	-	$170,300
Direct Support Services	$92,100	$7,900	PF	$100,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$7,500	-	-	$7,500
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$136,300	-	-	$136,300
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,500,000**	**$1,269,700**	**-**	**$5,769,700**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF FIELD STAFF	1.85	5.0	$265,000	-	-	$265,000
PF GRANT STAFF	0.1	5.0	$13,800	-	-	$13,800

Amount of Request: $4,500,000
Amount of Leverage: $1,269,700
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 28.22%
DSS + Personnel: $370,900
As a % of the total request: 8.24%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Every line is exactly prorated EXCEPT the DNR Land Acquisition Costs which are stuck at $7,500/ appraisal review.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Leverage is expected from multiple sources including but not limited to federal sources, land value donations, contractor donations and PF. Not every source is 100% confirmed at this point. However, PF has an exemplary track record of delivery and over-achievement of match commitments that further stretch OHF funding.

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?
If this project is reduced by 50% we would scale down all acres/activities and dollar amounts proportionately.

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

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
We anticipate that all of the contract funding will be used for restoration, enhancement, and initial development of the protected acres. This could include but is not limited to wetland/grassland restoration, tree removal, prescribed fire, building removal, posts, signs, and other development.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Acquisition Contractors hired by PF to obtain necessary documentation.

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
4

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?

PF utilizes the Total Modified Direct Cost de minimis method. This methodology is annually approved by the U.S. Department of Interior's National Business Center as the basis for the organization's Indirect Cost Rate agreement. PF's allowable direct support services cost is 15%. In this proposal, PF has discounted its rate to 7.5% of the sum of personnel, contracts, professional services, supplies and materials and travel. We are donating the difference-in-kind.

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?

7/1/2028

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	45	408	-	-	453
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**45**	**408**	**-**	**-**	**453**

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	$450,000	$4,050,000	-	-	$4,500,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$450,000**	**$4,050,000**	**-**	**-**	**$4,500,000**

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	45	136	-	272	-	453
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**45**	**136**	**-**	**272**	**-**	**453**

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	$450,000	$1,350,000	-	$2,700,000	-	$4,500,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$450,000**	**$1,350,000**	**-**	**$2,700,000**	**-**	**$4,500,000**

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	$10,000	$9,926	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$10,000	$9,926	-	$9,926	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

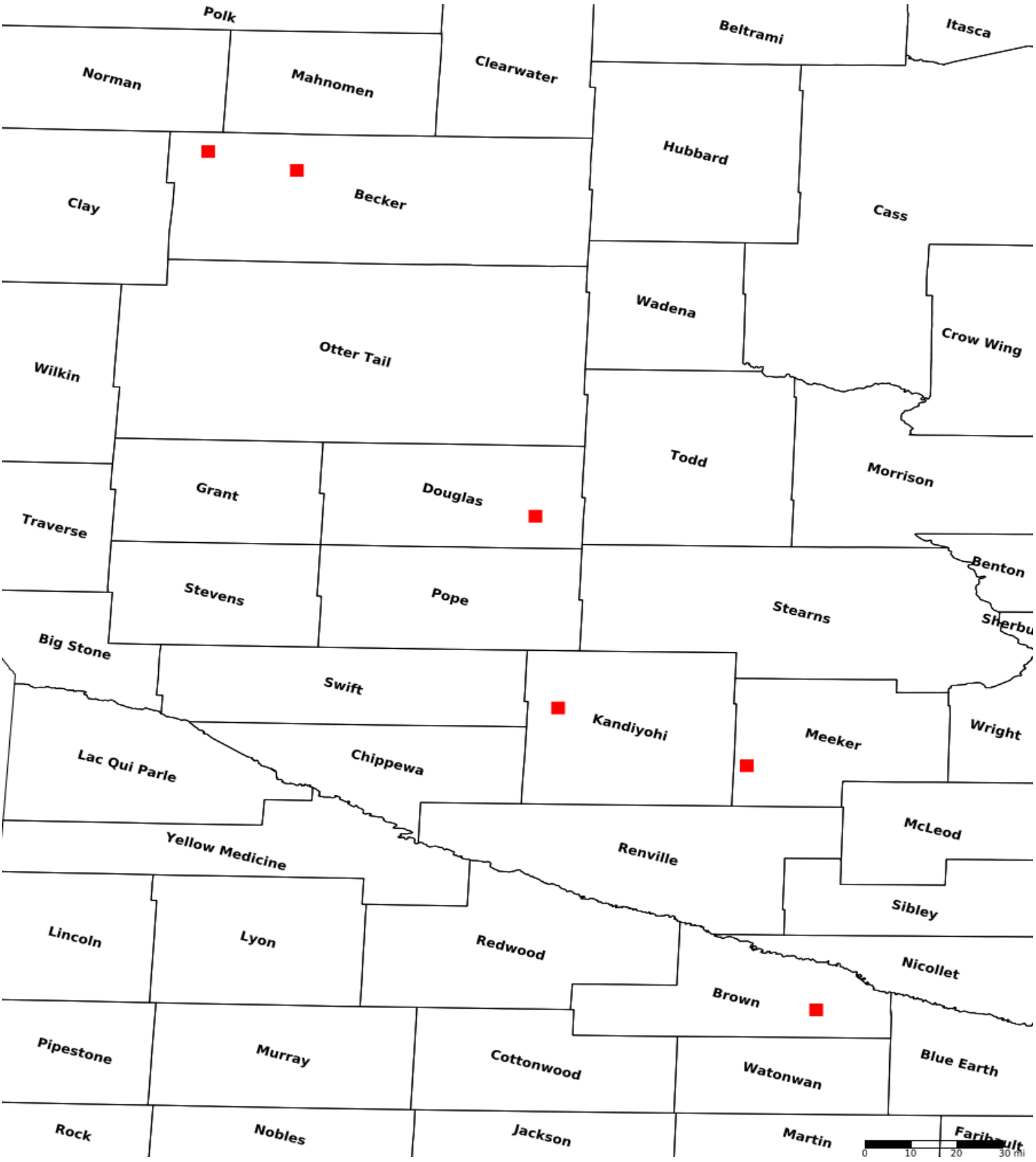
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Parcels are identified and strategically prioritized using the best science and decision support tools (e.g. HAPET Duck Breeding Density Maps) available. Preference is given to project sites that help deliver the goals of other recognized conservation initiatives and plans. Data layers (i.e. MN Biological Survey, Natural Heritage Database, MN Prairie Plan, Wellhead Protection Areas, Pheasant Action Plan, existing protected land, etc.) are used to help justify projects and focus areas as well as to inform decisions on top priorities for protection and restoration efforts.

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Hellicksen Prairie WPA Addn	Becker	14243226	160	$960,000	No
Kruger WPA Addn	Becker	14141216	80	$350,000	No
Middle Minnesota River WPA Addn	Brown	10931234	114	$912,000	No
Peterson WPA Addn	Douglas	12836230	77	$616,000	No
Swan Lake WPA Addn	Kandiyohi	12036210	80	$640,000	No
Rosendale WPA Addn	Meeker	11832217	152	$1,500,000	No

Parcel Map



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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program - Phase XIX

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program - Phase XIX
Organization: Pheasants Forever
Manager: Sabin Adams

Budget

Requested Amount: $14,264,800
Appropriated Amount: $4,500,000
Percentage: 31.55%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$883,800	-	$278,800	-	31.55%	-
Contracts	$2,016,000	-	$636,000	-	31.55%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$10,080,000	$4,000,000	$3,177,100	$1,261,800	31.52%	31.55%
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$6,000	-	$1,900	-	31.67%	-
Professional Services	$540,000	-	$170,300	-	31.54%	-
Direct Support Services	$292,000	$292,000	$92,100	$7,900	31.54%	2.71%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$15,000	-	$7,500	-	50.0%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$432,000	-	$136,300	-	31.55%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$14,264,800**	**$4,292,000**	**$4,500,000**	**$1,269,700**	**31.55%**	**29.58%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If this project is reduced by 50% we would scale down all acres/activities and dollar amounts proportionately.

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If this project is reduced by 70% we would scale down all acres/activities and dollar amounts proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS will be scaled down 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	1,440	453	31.46%
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$14,264,800	$4,500,000	31.55%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	1,440	453	31.46%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$14,264,800	$4,500,000	31.55%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

RIM Wetlands - Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/14/2026

Project Title: RIM Wetlands - Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota

Funds Recommended: $1,708,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: John Voz
Title: RIM Easement Program Coordinator
Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources
Address: 1732 North Tower Road
City: Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Email: john.voz@state.mn.us
Office Number: 218-850-4283
Mobile Number: 218-850-4283
Fax Number:
Website: www.bwsr.state.mn.us

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

RIM Wetlands will protect and restore approximately 113 acres of previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands on approximately 3 easements across the State to restore wetlands and associated uplands for habitat and associated benefits. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will utilize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement program in partnership with local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCDs) to target, protect and restore high priority habitat. The program will utilize a ranking and selection process and be implemented locally by SWCD staff.

Design and Scope of Work

Wetlands are among the world's most productive environments with high biodiversity. Wetlands are home to many species of migratory and resident birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, and plants. They also benefit society by storing floodwaters, filtering pollutants, serving as a carbon sink, and providing recreation sites. Minnesota has lost an estimated 42% of its original 16 million acres of wetlands to drainage or fill activities. The loss of wetlands is most severe in the prairie regions of the state (approximately 90% loss). Nearly 75 percent of all wetlands are privately owned.

Up to one-half of North American bird species nest or feed in wetlands and at least one third of all threatened and endangered species are found in wetlands. According to the North American Bird Conservation Initiatives "State of the Birds 2025," grassland birds are seeing the sharpest decline (down 43% since 1970) and are under serious pressure as federal support declines. "Birds strengthen American communities, and more than 100 million Americans who watch birds contribute $279 billion to the nations economy every year." Moreover, wetlands are important nutrient sinks, store runoff that reduces flooding, sequester carbon, and provide other environmental and socioeconomic values.

The typical sites this program prioritizes and targets are privately drained and farmed wetlands and associated uplands that offer little habitat or ecological benefits in their current state. Through a combination of eligibility screening and a scoring and ranking process, the program evaluates and selects applications that provide the greatest habitat and environmental benefit after restoration and protection under a RIM easement.

RIM Wetlands is a local-state partnership delivered by SWCDs and BWSR. BWSR staff provide program oversight and manage the easement acquisition process and restoration design. Local staff promote RIM easements, assist with easement processing and provide technical assistance and project management services. RIM Wetlands will utilize funds to the greatest extent possible by leveraging federal funding through the Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP) when possible. MN CREP is a partnership between the USDA and BWSR that provides voluntary conservation easement opportunities for landowners. MN CREP focuses on protecting environmentally sensitive land across 66 counties in Minnesota. Landowners enroll in the federally funded CRP for 14-15 years as well as a state-funded perpetual conservation easement through RIM.

RIM Wetlands will also secure conservation easements on lands not eligible for MN CREP and/or during periods when MN CREP enrollment is paused.

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

Tomorrow's Habitat for the Rare and Wild (MN DNR) states "A statewide look at the species-habitat relationships show that prairies, rivers, and wetlands are the three habitats used by the most Species of Greatest Conservation Need." This proposal targets wetlands and prairies, two of the three most important habitats used by the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). An expansion of wetland and prairie habitat through this program will alleviate pressure on those species that are most sensitive to habitat changes occurring on the landscape.

SGCN in the proposal areas include the Five-lined Skink, Two-spotted Skipper, Northern Pintail, American Black Duck, Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Sedge Wren, Dickcissel, and Western Grebe. In addition to the SGCN, the threatened or endangered species targeted in this proposal include the Blanding's Turtle, Dakota Skipper, Poweshiek Skipperling, and Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.

Prairie wetlands are particularly important for migratory waterfowl. Although the North American prairie pothole region contains only about 10% of the waterfowl nesting habitat on the continent, it produces 70% of all North American waterfowl. The extensive loss of Minnesota’s prairie and wetland habitat has led to the decline of many wildlife and plant species. The RIM Wetlands program continues to restore this habitat and protect it through perpetual easements.

Diverse vegetation, access to water, and protection from pesticides are important to Minnesota's native pollinator species. BWSR's native vegetation guidelines and pollinator initiative demonstrate a commitment to protecting native pollinators. Complexes and corridors targeted through RIM Wetlands provide natural passageways and habitat for pollinators. Targeted pollinator species include the Monarch Butterfly and several solitary bee species.

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

In 2026, 2027 & 2028, throughout Minnesota, 240,606 acres of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will expire in Minnesota. RIM Wetlands program scoring and ranking criteria prioritizes expiring CRP land as well as restoration and protection of wetlands in comprehensive water plans, including One Watershed One Plans. "We must, collectively, bend the curve of bird population declines by working together across the western hemisphere.” - National Audubon Society.

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

Science-based considerations historically used by the RIM Wetlands program will continue to be used. Through a combination of targeted outreach, eligibility screening, and a scoring and ranking process, the RIM Wetlands program evaluates each application on its potential to restore wetland/upland functions and values to optimize wildlife habitat and provide other benefits, including water quality. Each site is evaluated on its benefits to the surrounding landscape, ability to build upon existing corridors and complexes, and site-specific features that highlight the benefits of selection for permanent protection and habitat and associated environmental benefits.

During the application process, a review of adjacent permanent habitat and easement size is conducted to determine a site's importance as a corridor or as an extension to existing habitat complexes. Other examples of the science-based targeting used include proximity to threatened and endangered species, contributing watershed area, proximity to DNR Protected Waters, and the USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team's (HAPET)

Wildlife Habitat Potential Model. The HAPET model is a consolidation of models representing an array of migratory birds that use the Minnesota Prairie Pothole Region for breeding or migration.

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

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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

Metro / Urban

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

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:

Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *A summary of the total acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. An increase in habitat acres is expected to increase the carrying capacity of both game and non-game wildlife species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as the areas are protected and/or restored. On-site inspections are performed every three years to ensure outcomes are maintained.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna ~ *A summary of wetland acres and associated native grasslands acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure outcomes are maintained. An increase of wetland and associated grassland habitat are expected to increase the carrying capacity of wetland and grassland dependent wildlife. This has a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as complexes are restored.*

Programs in prairie region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *A summary of wetland acres and associated native grasslands acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure outcomes are maintained. An*

increase of wetland and associated grassland habitat are expected to increase the carrying capacity of wetland and grassland dependent wildlife. This has a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as complexes are restored.

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 funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

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

BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement of RIM easements. BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry out oversight, monitoring and inspection of conservation easements. Easements are inspected every year for the first five years beginning the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs document findings and report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations are identified.

Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship includes costs of SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight and any enforcement necessary.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027- Ongoing	Landowner Responsibility	Maintain compliance with easement terms	-	-
2027- Ongoing	Stewardship Account	Inspection every year for the first 5 years; then every 3rd year	Corrective actions on any violations	Enforcement action taken by MN Attorney General office

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

Generally, RIM priority areas are focused on rural communities across the state due to the nature of the program and payment rates. Review of the Environmental Justice map produced by the MPCA shows RIM easement programs overlap with many identified environmental justice areas across the state, particularly those areas that are identified by lower than state median incomes. Lower annual income areas of the state benefit from RIM in several ways, including financial benefits for landowners through easement payments. The program also requires seeding and wetland restoration work by local contractors. The work by SWCD staff also includes outreach, monitoring and maintenance which helps maintain and grow rural jobs and economies.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources through the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) program

Who will be the easement holder?
The state of Minnesota through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
RIM Wetlands will protect and restore approximately 113 acres of previously drained wetlands and adjacent native grasslands on approximately 3 easements across the State to restore wetlands and associated uplands for habitat and associated benefits. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will utilize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement program in partnership with local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCDs) to target, protect and restore high priority habitat. The program will utilize a ranking and selection process and be implemented locally by SWCD staff.

Land Use

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

> **Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:**
> In certain circumstances, wildlife food plots are an allowable use on RIM easements as part of an approved Conservation Plan. Annual or perennial food plots may be allowed at the owner's expense. Food plots must be maintained annually. If a food plot is discontinued, it must be immediately replanted to appropriate high-quality, permanent native vegetative cover and the associated establishment cost is the responsibility of the landowner(s). Food plot size and the number of food plots allowed are based on the size of the easement. Food plots will not exceed more than 10% of the easement area or will not exceed a maximum acreage depending on the size of the easement.

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

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

> **Describe the expected public use:**
> RIM easements do not require that private land is open to the public; however, this question is also evaluated on public benefit and RIM easements do provide a significant public benefit; often expand wildlife habitat near public lands; and do not limit the potential for the land to be open to the public through other programs. SWCD and other partner staff who work with landowners on RIM easements are also usually the staff who enroll landowners into the DNR Walk-In Access (WIA) program. The WIA program is available in 54 counties, all of which are eligible for RIM. Conversations about WIA between the SWCDs and interested landowners occur at the time the landowner submits an easement application. BWSR's Conservation Easement Application includes a question for a landowner to indicate if they are interested in enrolling in WIA if eligible. RIM's statutory language requires restriction of building and agricultural activities on an easement. If RIM also required public access, the landowner would be retaining almost no private rights to the land and still paying property taxes. RIM easement land is still in

private ownership and the landowner still pays property taxes and is still consistent with the statutory goals of the Outdoor Heritage Fund of protection and restoration of habitat. Minnesota Statute 97A.056 states ". . .the fund must be expended to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife." and "The council shall make recommendations . . . that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie." Criteria in all RIM program scoresheets used to evaluate and prioritize parcels funded include proximity of the easement land to lands that are in public ownership and/or open to the public. Parcels immediately adjacent to public land or that would connect or expand larger existing habitat areas receive additional points in the scoring and ranking process than a parcel that does not provide that benefit.Wildlife do not follow property lines; therefore protected private lands adjacent to and near public lands create complexes of public and private land that provide high quality habitat supporting wildlife, including recreationally hunted species, allowing them to thrive on and off public lands. Protected private lands also add visual and noise buffers that allow users of public land to better enjoy their experiences. Additionally, easement lands allow for an interim step before public ownership, likely making public purchase more affordable in the future.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:
Though uncommon, new trails may be developed if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (fire breaks, berm maintenance, forest stewardship) and are noted on the conservation plan. Narrow mowed trails for personal use are allowed for landowner access on RIM easements. Unauthorized trails are a violation of the easement.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?
Under the terms of the easement, a conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement and the conservation plan. BWSR, in cooperation with SWCDs, implements a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms and the conservation plan.

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

Each parcel will be evaluated for restoration and/or enhancement potential. Opportunities to improve habitat quality will be pursued.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Activity 2 - Restorations complete, and final report submitted	June 30, 2035
Activity 1 - Easements recorded	June 30, 2031

Date of Final Report Submission: 06/30/2035

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	$113,400	-	-	$113,400
Contracts	$12,600	-	-	$12,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,503,900	-	-	$1,503,900
Easement Stewardship	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Travel	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$39,500	-	-	$39,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,300	-	-	$4,300
Supplies/Materials	$1,300	-	-	$1,300
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,708,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,708,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Engineering	0.04	4.0	$27,500	-	-	$27,500
Easements	0.15	4.0	$85,900	-	-	$85,900

Amount of Request: $1,708,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $152,900
As a % of the total request: 8.95%
Easement Stewardship: $30,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 1.99%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
A reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

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?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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 contracts line is used for payments to SWCD staff for easement acquisition and technical assistance, as appropriate. Estimated restoration costs are included in the easement acquisition line.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
3 easements at $10,000 per easement. The total stewardship amount will ultimately be dependent on the cost of easements and if the proposed easement number is reached. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

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
The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs.

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?
BWSR annually reviews and updates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done and the program staff time involved.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Steel posts and signs to mark easement boundaries.

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?

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	28	85	-	-	113
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**28**	**85**	**-**	**-**	**113**

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	$427,000	$1,281,000	-	-	$1,708,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$427,000**	**$1,281,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,708,000**

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	6	22	-	85	-	113
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**6**	**22**	**-**	**85**	**-**	**113**

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	$64,800	$362,200	-	$1,281,000	-	$1,708,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$64,800**	**$362,200**	**-**	**$1,281,000**	**-**	**$1,708,000**

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	$15,250	$15,070	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$10,800	$16,463	-	$15,070	-
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:
Through a combination of targeted outreach and eligibility screening followed by a scoring and ranking process, the RIM Wetlands program evaluates each application on the potential to restore wetland/upland functions and values; optimizing wildlife habitat benefits and providing other benefits including water quality. Each site is evaluated on its benefits to the surrounding landscape, ability to build upon existing public lands, corridors and complexes, and site-specific features that highlight the benefits of permanent protection and habitat.

During the application process, a review of adjacent permanent habitat and easement size is conducted to indicate a site's usefulness as a corridor or extension to an existing habitat complex. Other examples of the science-based targeting used include proximity to threatened and endangered species, contributing watershed area, proximity to DNR Protected Waters, and use of the USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team's (HAPET) Wildlife Habitat Potential Model for environmental evaluation.

BWSR will continue to utilize similar science-based considerations that have been historically used by the RIM Wetlands program. The current scoring and ranking criteria for wetland practices is attached as an example of the score sheet and criteria that is used.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

RIM Wetlands - Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - RIM Wetlands - Restoring the most productive habitat in Minnesota
Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources
Manager: John Voz

Budget

Requested Amount: $7,500,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,708,000
Percentage: 22.77%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$540,300	-	$113,400	-	20.99%	-
Contracts	$55,000	-	$12,600	-	22.91%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$6,626,100	-	$1,503,900	-	22.7%	-
Easement Stewardship	$110,000	-	$30,000	-	27.27%	-
Travel	$13,100	-	$3,000	-	22.9%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$131,100	-	$39,500	-	30.13%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$18,800	-	$4,300	-	22.87%	-
Supplies/Materials	$5,600	-	$1,300	-	23.21%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$7,500,000**	**-**	**$1,708,000**	**-**	**22.77%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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?
A 30% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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	495	113	22.83%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$7,500,000	$1,708,000	22.77%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	495	113	22.83%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$7,500,000	$1,708,000	22.77%
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program

Funds Recommended: $6,316,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jon Schneider
Title: Senior Manager of Conservation Programs - Minnesota
Organization: Ducks Unlimited
Address: 311 EAST LAKE GENEVA ROAD NE
City: Alexandria, MN 56308
Email: jschneider@ducks.org
Office Number: 3207629916
Mobile Number: 3208150327
Fax Number:
Website: www.ducks.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Freeborn, Jackson, Murray, Stevens, Rice, Big Stone, Nicollet, Yellow Medicine, Sibley, Redwood and Pope.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

This request supports Ducks Unlimited's ongoing prairie wetland and grassland acquisition/restoration program. DU proposes to acquire and restore 452 acres of land containing drained wetlands and land bordering shallow lakes in Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Region for inclusion in MNDNR state WMAs and USFWS federal WPAs/NWRs. This public land acquisition/restoration program focuses on restoring cropland with drained wetlands near existing WMAs and WPAs/NWRs to help enlarge prairie wetland habitat complexes for breeding ducks, other wildlife, and people. DU biologists and engineers will survey, design, and hire private sector contractors to restore drained wetlands and grasslands.

Design and Scope of Work

This is Phase 16 of Ducks Unlimited's ongoing program to Acquire and Restore prairie pothole wetlands and grasslands adjacent to State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) or National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs). DU works with willing seller private landowners with drained wetlands and converted prairie uplands, and land along shallow lakes in need of protection. DU purchases and temporarily holds land title through our Wetlands America Trust (WAT), DU's supporting land-holding organization, of which DU is the sole corporate member.

Because 90% of Minnesota's prairie wetlands have been drained and 99% of native prairie lost in Minnesota, acquisition and restoration of small wetlands and grasslands is critical – especially for breeding ducks in the Prairie Pothole Region of SW Minnesota where DU focuses our efforts. Furthermore, most remaining undrained wetlands here are in poor ecological condition due to massive landscape prairie conversion to cropland and wetland drainage that degrades both wetland condition and habitat function for prairie wildlife.

Our goal is to help restore functioning prairie-wetland habitat complexes and complement other conservation efforts to protect intact native prairie. Our work addresses the habitat goals in Minnesota's Long-range Duck Recovery Plan, Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan, and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. This work is time-sensitive because farmland adjacent to public lands is rarely offered for sale for conservation, and tracts are only available for a short time. DU works quickly and has spent much of our past OHF appropriations for land acquisition.

Ducks Unlimited works closely with Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to find land parcels for sale, and partners with other NGOs, and local sportsmen clubs to restore lands acquired. Although approval is not requested from county boards for DU land acquisitions, DU communicates frequently with county and township officials to ensure local official awareness of our conservation work and often attends county and township board meetings to discuss projects. The acquisitions and restorations proposed represents the amount of work DU can accomplish over 4-8 years, is scalable, and benefits game and non-game wildlife species alike - from mallards to monarch butterflies.

Although many of our remaining prairie wetlands and shallow lakes are contained within state WMAs or federal WPAs, these small public land patches rarely provide optimal wildlife habitat due to their disconnected, fragmented shape and small size. Similarly, most prairie shallow lakes are surrounded by a thin ribbon of uplands that fail to adequately buffer them from surrounding agricultural land runoff. Therefore, acquisition and restoration of drained wetlands and cultivated cropland in close proximity to our public lands will improve and buffer our public shallow lakes and remaining wetlands and help create functioning prairie-wetland habitat complexes for breeding ducks and other prairie wildlife.

DU professional engineers and biologists work closely with MNDNR and USFWS biologists to plan and implement robust prairie pothole wetland and grassland restorations, including diverse native forb/grass seed plantings and complex wetland restorations that often involve extensive tile and ditch drainage systems.

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

Habitat loss is usually the most limiting factor for fish, game, and wildlife - including threatened and endangered species. In Minnesota, we've lost 90% of our prairie pothole wetlands and 99% of our native prairie grasslands. This directly limits populations of waterfowl and other wildlife that rely on prairie wetlands and grasslands for breeding habitat.

This proposal protects and restores wetlands and prairie lands, including native prairie grasslands and small pothole emergent wetlands, both of which are identified as critical habitats for many "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" listed in Minnesota's "Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife." Specific species listed in the Action Plan as requiring prairie (page 255) include seven species of butterflies and three bird species that are native prairie specialists: chestnut-collared longspur, Sprague's pipit, and Baird's sparrow. The Prairie Parkland has 139 species listed on the SGCN with 13 of these species being unique to the section.

In addition to these specific wildlife species listed as SGCN examples in the Action Plan, restored prairie in the Prairie Parkland will also provide habitat of significant value for other species listed in Appendix B of the Action Plan. Restored and protected prairie will provide habitat of significant value for other SGCN including bird species: upland sandpiper, bobolink, burrowing owl, Le Conte's sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, eastern meadowlark, swamp sparrow, sharp-tailed grouse, short-eared owl, northern harrier, dickcissel, Henslow's sparrow, and Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow. Upland nesting waterfowl will also benefit including waterfowl listed as SGCN; northern pintail and lesser scaup, which have both seen declines in continental populations. Wetland associated birds such as trumpeter swan, black tern, American bittern, Wilson's phalarope, and marbled godwit will benefit from wetlands either restored or buffered in the prairie landscape. Mammals such as northern grasshopper mouse and Richardson's ground squirrels, reptiles such as lined snake and Blanding's turtle, and amphibians such as northern cricket frog and common mudpuppy are listed as SGCN for the Prairie Parkland.

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

Most wetlands and nearly all native prairie uplands have been drained and converted for agricultural use in southern Minnesota. Most public prairie wildlife lands are small and fragmented, and do not provide viable productive patches of functioning habitat that support prairie wildlife populations. Thus, acquisition of prairie lands for sale is a key component of our overall Minnesota Prairie Plan conservation efforts to enlarge, restore and protect wildlife habitat. This work is time-sensitive because private land near or adjacent to state WMAs and federal WPA boundaries only rarely becomes available for sale to conservation interests, and thus it is critical to respond quickly to these land acquisition and restoration opportunities when they arise. Most private landowners will wait and work with conservation NGO land buyers for a short time, but won't wait indefinitely for conservation funding, and a generation may pass before these key parcels become available for purchase again.

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

Ducks Unlimited uses science to strategically focus acquisition of lands adjacent to existing state WMAs with restorable wetlands to build prairie-wetland complexes for breeding ducks or buffer managed shallow lakes. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's "Thunderstorm Map" and "Restorable Wetlands Inventory" help determine importance to breeding waterfowl. We prioritize lands with restorable wetlands and prairie in areas of relatively high biological diversity and significance based on the Minnesota DNR County Biological Survey (MCBS) to improve the ecological functionality of existing public WMAs for ducks. Three potential land acquisition examples include:

Minneota WMA Tract 8 in Jackson County is 136 acres adjacent to an existing WMA and WPA totaling 400 contiguous acres of wetland-grassland habitat. This area is a MCBS Site of Moderate Biodiversity due to abundant native prairie. This parcel would also protect five acres of native prairie and part of a 45-acre wetland of Moderate Biological Significance. It supports 10-25 breeding duck pairs per square mile (PPSM) and falls within a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan (MNPCP) Strategic Habitat Complex. There are restorable uplands and numerous restorable wetlands on this property that will increase habitat for breeding waterfowl and other grassland birds.

North Pomme de Terre River WPA is 157 acres in Stevens County to create a new WPA adjoining existing 731-acre Haseman WPA in Grant County to enlarge a natural prairie habitat corridor along the Pomme de Terre River in a landscape supporting 10-25 breeding duck PPSM.

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

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

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:

Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Land bordering shallow lakes and land containing drained wetlands will be acquired and restored back to native grasslands with prairie pothole wetlands. These restored grasslands with wildflowers surrounding pothole wetlands will provide functioning habitat for pollinators, migratory birds, and resident wildlife. Lands transferred to state and federal wildlife agencies will provide additional habitat for migratory species and public use, both of which will be monitored by MNDNR/USFWS. Lands acquired/restored will be monitored by MNDNR/USFWS wildlife field staff and managed to optimize prairie wildlife habitat conditions. Prairie uplands will be managed to minimize trees and encourage native plants.*

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 does not supplant or substitute previous funding. This request is for new land acquisition funding to supplement traditional DU conservation activities and allow DU to expand our conservation program to buy/restore land, and will not supplant or substitute traditional private sources of funding for DU conservation programs.

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

All lands acquired will be transferred to the Minnesota DNR for inclusion in the state's Wildlife Management Area system or to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge system (which includes Waterfowl Production Areas). Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service land managers will sustain and maintain the prairie and wetlands acquired and restored by Ducks Unlimited in perpetuity, and manage them to provide optimal wildlife habitat and for public use. Both agencies routinely use prescribed fire and water level management techniques to maintain ecological productivity of prairie grasslands and wetlands for wildlife habitat. Both state WMAs and federal WPAs are open for wildlife habitat compatible public uses, and both agencies maintain public accesses for visitors.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2033	DNR G&F Fund and USFWS Wetland Mgt District Budgets	Mow restored prairie for weed control and monitor wetland restorations for restoration response and invasive or woody species	Periodically burn native prairie and small wetlands and/or use managed conservation grazing of livestock every 5 years as needed to maintain prairie and wetland vegetation	Assess and manage water levels in larger restored wetlands as vegetation and ecological conditions warrant management actions and improvement every 5+ years

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

Ducks Unlimited conserves wetlands for waterfowl and people alike. Our habitat projects restore natural infrastructure, which helps to alleviate society's climate impacts and provide clean water for culturally diverse communities and low/moderate income households who are disproportionately impacted by the effects of wetland loss and climate change. This program acquires and restores new public lands for our state Wildlife Management Areas and federal Waterfowl Production Areas that are open and available to all Minnesotans including diverse and low-income people.

Wetlands recharge groundwater in aquifers that provide clean, dependable water supplies while removing pollutants and reducing downstream flooding. Generational wealth in some cultures and communities is compromised by a lack of natural infrastructure such as wetlands. Community resiliency is enhanced by the function of wetlands and adjacent grassland habitats that clean water and help absorb impacts from severe weather events.

Restoring wetlands in the Mississippi River watershed benefits communities who draw their water from the river such as Minneapolis, St. Paul, and St. Cloud. Minneapolis alone draws 21 billion gallons of water a year from the Mississippi River to produce 57 million gallons of drinking water each day.

Public lands and waters also provide numerous opportunities for fishing, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, birding, and outdoor education for diverse and lower-income communities that may not otherwise have access to natural open spaces. Indigenous communities benefit from DU wetland enhancements and restorations that create suitable conditions for wild rice to proliferate. Wetlands deliver a return on investment that support the health, resiliency, and well-being of culturally diverse and lower-income communities.

In this program, Ducks Unlimited works closely with the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to strategically purchase lands with drained wetlands and lands bordering shallow lakes that are important to waterfowl, other wildlife, and people too. Ducks Unlimited restores drained pothole wetlands and adjacent uplands back to native prairie grasslands for both wildlife habitat and the public using competitively-selected contractors following state procurement guidelines. These new public lands are open to all for outdoor recreation, community programs, environmental education, including for diverse and lower income people to access nature.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:
DU notifies and strives to discuss land acquisition plans with counties and townships prior to land acquisition closings. Discussions with local county and other government officials will be held in conjunction with acquiring lands only if and after private land negotiations result in a legal purchase agreement. Initial notification will include initial phone contact to individual board members representing the location of the land to be acquired. Official written notification to township and county boards will be made at least 30 days before closing. Because private land acquisitions are very personal and sensitive matters, especially between private landowners and private non-profit conservation organizations, disclosing details publicly in advance of purchase agreements can jeopardize land deals with private landowners. Because requesting formal local approval involves elected officials publicly voting on private land deals, which invites local politics and makes private landowner intentions public, DU does not seek local government approval of our land acquisitions. Instead, DU contacts and meets with county and township boards in person to inform and discuss pending plans to ensure local government awareness of the public benefits of our land acquisition and restoration work, and changes in future tax payments. DU pays taxes in full at the county assessed rate during our hold time, and because state PILT amounts are typically higher than previous assessed county tax rates for cultivated land acquired by DU in the Prairie Section of SW Minnesota that results in more tax revenue, county boards have usually been pleased with DU land acquisitions for the Minnesota DNR.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?
No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:
Portions of some land tracts may contain some acres under state RIM easement, but the value of those acres will be separated in appraisal valuation and OHF grant funds will not be used to pay for those acres. Some tracts may have federal USFWS Wetland Easements that protect intact wetland basins imbedded

within agricultural lands, which prohibits wetland drainage, burning, and filling, but otherwise allowing farming when dry, so the impact on value of most agricultural lands is minimal and the value of these areas will be determined and discussed in the appraisal report.

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
DU purchases land in Minnesota to protect and restore prairie, wetlands, and shallow lake shoreland for ducks and other prairie and wetland-dependent wildlife. Lands acquired will be transferred to the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for incorporation into state WMAs and federal WPAs for long-term wildlife habitat management and public use. Initial Development and Restoration Plans are developed in partnership with Minnesota DNR and USFWS land manager approval according to agency management plan goals. The primary purposes of WMAs and WPAs are to provide habitat for the production of wildlife and provide opportunities for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for resident wildlife, and both DNR and USFWS use farming to prepare land for native prairie grassland restoration.

Lands proposed to be acquired for prairie restoration as WMAs and WPAs may utilize limited farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is the standard prairie restoration practice across the Midwest. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources. DU works closely with DNR through our cooperative acquisition and restoration planning process to minimize purchasing land tracts where DNR requires placement of food plots and instead defers those to DNR to acquire directly, as restoration of prairie and wetlands for waterfowl is our strategic focus and mission. However, some lands may be acquired with some acres where DNR determines food plots are required.

Most lands to be acquired and restored through this program will be farmland with cropped fields, which DU will restore to prairie and wetland habitat. Very limited short-duration row-cropping of soybeans or use of oats as a cover crop, or other farming activity may be required immediately after acquisition prior to restoration via native prairie grass and forb seeding to rid the soil of residual herbicides that limit native plant growth and excess nutrients that promote weeds. Increasingly, farmers are using herbicides with an 18-month carryover residual effect, that requires an additional year of farming with other compatible herbicides before native plants can be seeded. DU strives to minimize this circumstance by working with private landowners to guide their final year of cropping prior to selling, but arranging such is not always possible and use of cover crops or an additional year of "safe" row cropping in soybeans is sometimes required. DU will strive to use non-GMO treated seed if planting of crops is required before land restoration.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
All lands to be acquired are in rural areas and will be included in state Wildlife Management Areas or federal USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas or National Wildlife Refuge, and open to public use as per Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service rules. Whereas all lands acquired for inclusion in federal Waterfowl Production Areas will be open for public hunting as per federal requirements, some lands acquired for National Wildlife Refuges may have limited hunting restrictions, depending on the Refuge.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Federal

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

National Wildlife Refuge

WPA

AMA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
A total of 4-6 parcels are anticipated to be acquired through this appropriation, depending on the size of each parcel.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

Yes, DU strives to restore and enhance all lands acquired with restoration needs through the appropriation used to purchase them and/or this same Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection OHF program.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Complete wetland and prairie grassland restorations.	June 2035
Complete appraisals, landowner negotiations, and acquisitions of land parcels in fee-title.	June 2031
Complete land transfers to Minnesota DNR and USFWS.	June 2032

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2035

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	$370,000	$100,000	DU Private and Federal NAWCA, DU Private	$470,000
Contracts	$1,400,000	$360,000	DU Private and Federal NAWCA	$1,760,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$2,500,000	-	-	$2,500,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$1,600,000	-	-	$1,600,000
Easement Acquisition	-	$500,000	Federal Migratory Bird Conservation (aka Duck Stamp) Funds	$500,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$25,000	$300	DU Private for meals (DU does not invoice OHF grants for meals, only mileage/lodging)	$25,300
Professional Services	$130,000	-	-	$130,000
Direct Support Services	$29,000	-	-	$29,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$82,500	-	-	$82,500
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$29,100	-	-	$29,100
Supplies/Materials	$100,000	-	-	$100,000
DNR IDP	$50,400	-	-	$50,400
Grand Total	**$6,316,000**	**$960,300**	**-**	**$7,276,300**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
DU Professional Wildlife Biologists and Engineers - survey, design, and restore wetlands and prairie grasslands on new public lands acquired	0.6	5.0	$300,000	$75,000	DU Private and Federal NAWCA	$375,000

DU Conservation Program Manager to coordinate land acquisitions and administer the grant, DU Realty Manager to help acquire lands, and DU Legal staff to guide acquisitions.	0.14	5.0	$70,000	$25,000	DU Private	$95,000

Amount of Request: $6,316,000
Amount of Leverage: $960,300
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 15.2%
DSS + Personnel: $399,000
As a % of the total request: 6.32%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The budget and outputs in this accomplishment plan are scaled proportionately to the funding recommended.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
DU will work diligently to use OHF grant funds to leverage additional sources of private support from individuals, foundations, and corporations and via federal NAWCA grants for specific projects, especially by using OHF grant land acquisition expense to leverage federal NAWCA grants to restore wetlands on lands acquired.

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 budget in this request will be scaled proportionately to the funding recommended.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This budget for personnel and DSS in this request will be scaled proportionately to the funding recommended.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Contracts include private contractor charges to restore/enhance wetlands (earthmoving) and grasslands (tree removal, grass seeding, fencing) on lands acquired. Wetland restoration in southern Minnesota is very expensive and requires engineering due to intensive drainage via complex networks of private/public tile/ditches that affect private neighbors and public roads.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Design/Engineering

Other : Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments, archeological review/clearance, land acquisition closing costs beyond title and legal fees (such as warranty deed tax), and county or watershed district fees associated with permitting to restore wetlands on legal/judicial public ditches and in watersheds, including county consultant engineering review, fees, etc.

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
We anticipate purchasing approximately 4-5 land tracts in total, including about three (3) land tracts for Minnesota DNR with OHF grant funds via Fee-title Land Acquisition with PILT (WMAs) and one or two (1-2) land tracts for USFWS as WPAs with OHF grant funds for land in Fee-title Land Acquisition without PILT. This, of course, depends on size, location, and appraised value of lands available for sale from future willing sellers 1-5 years in the future. This also assumes the average price is about $9,000/acre and the average land tract size acquired is about 100 acres. This also assumes that purchase offers for 25-40% of the lands appraised and surveyed are declined by willing sellers or attempts to purchase land at auction fail, as has been our recent past experience.

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 - DU travel costs consist of in-state mileage and lodging for land manager, biologists, and engineering field staff. DU generally does not request OHF grant reimbursement for food expense.

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?

Minnesota DNR grants staff previously reviewed and approved DU accounting methodology for Direct Support Services, which are calculated and included in DU staff costs. DU Direct Support Services constitute approximately 8% of DU overall staff costs on average among DU conservation staff billing categories. DU breaks out and invoices for Direct Support Service expenses approved by DNR for reimbursement separately from Personnel expenses. In accordance with 2 CFR 200, DU uses the direct allocation method of allocating costs to programs and final cost objectives. This process of allocating costs is accomplished through the use of hourly rates. The direct cost of activities, including direct support expenses, is included in these hourly rates. The rates are comprised of costs for salaries, benefits, office space, general insurance, support staff, office supplies, and other various direct expenses incurred at the regional offices and conservation department at the home office. All costs are assigned to conservation projects (net of applicable personnel and other costs that are non-conservation related.) Hourly charges represent the amount that DU charges conservation projects per hour for each staff member working on the project. These costs represent expenses that directly support the labor cost necessary for the development of a specific water/wetlands conservation project.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?

GPS survey equipment for performing engineering wetland restoration topographical survey work and engineering surveys of drained wetlands on land acquired, including GPS survey equipment lease charges for larger main components instead of actual outright equipment purchases to avoid buying expensive technical equipment that becomes obsolete due to upgrades and technological advancements. Other equipment may include equipment trailers and ATVs under $10,000, laptop and/or tablet computers, printers/plotters, and other office equipment for biologists or engineers may be needed, along with hand tools and other field equipment as needs arise.

Federal Funds

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

Yes

Are the funds confirmed?

Yes

Is Confirmation Document attached?

Yes, on file

Cash : $500,000

In Kind : $100,000

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	72	216	-	-	288
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	41	123	-	-	164
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**113**	**339**	**-**	**-**	**452**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$1,006,100	$3,018,300	-	-	$4,024,400
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$572,900	$1,718,700	-	-	$2,291,600
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$1,579,000**	**$4,737,000**	**-**	**-**	**$6,316,000**

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	-	-	-	288	-	288
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	164	-	164
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**452**	**-**	**452**

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	-	-	-	$4,024,400	-	$4,024,400
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$2,291,600	-	$2,291,600
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$6,316,000**	**-**	**$6,316,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$13,973	$13,973	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$13,973	$13,973	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$13,973	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$13,973	-
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:
Ducks Unlimited prioritizes purchase of prairie farmland with restorable wetlands adjacent to existing public lands, and land adjacent to shallow lakes managed by DNR for inclusion in the Minnesota DNR's state Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system and federal Wildlife Refuge System, including Waterfowl Production Areas. DU focuses on acquiring and restoring converted/cultivated prairie with drained wetlands adjacent to existing WMAs to enlarge existing WMAs to create functioning prairie-wetland habitat complexes that benefit ducks and other prairie wildlife. This work also complements other conservation efforts to protect intact native prairie.

DU works in close partnership with the Minnesota DNR Section of Wildlife and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding land acquisition opportunities, and coordinates with other national and state NGO partners including Pheasants Forever, The Conservation Fund, and The Nature Conservancy to periodically review parcels for sale that DNR desires for WMAs. DU pursues priority parcels in the Prairie Pothole Region in southern and western Minnesota that are highly regionally ranked by DNR/USFWS that add a good mix of prairie and wetland restorations to existing public lands.

DU strategically prioritizes tracts of land with restorable wetlands that DU wetland engineers can survey, design, and restore, especially those adjoining existing patches of prairie and wetland habitat that are not functioning as viable prairie-wetland complexes due to their small size and fragmented shape. DU also prioritizes land bordering shallow lakes managed by DNR in order to buffer those shallow, ecologically-sensitive wildlife lakes and help expand existing prairie-wetland complexes.

Fee Parcels

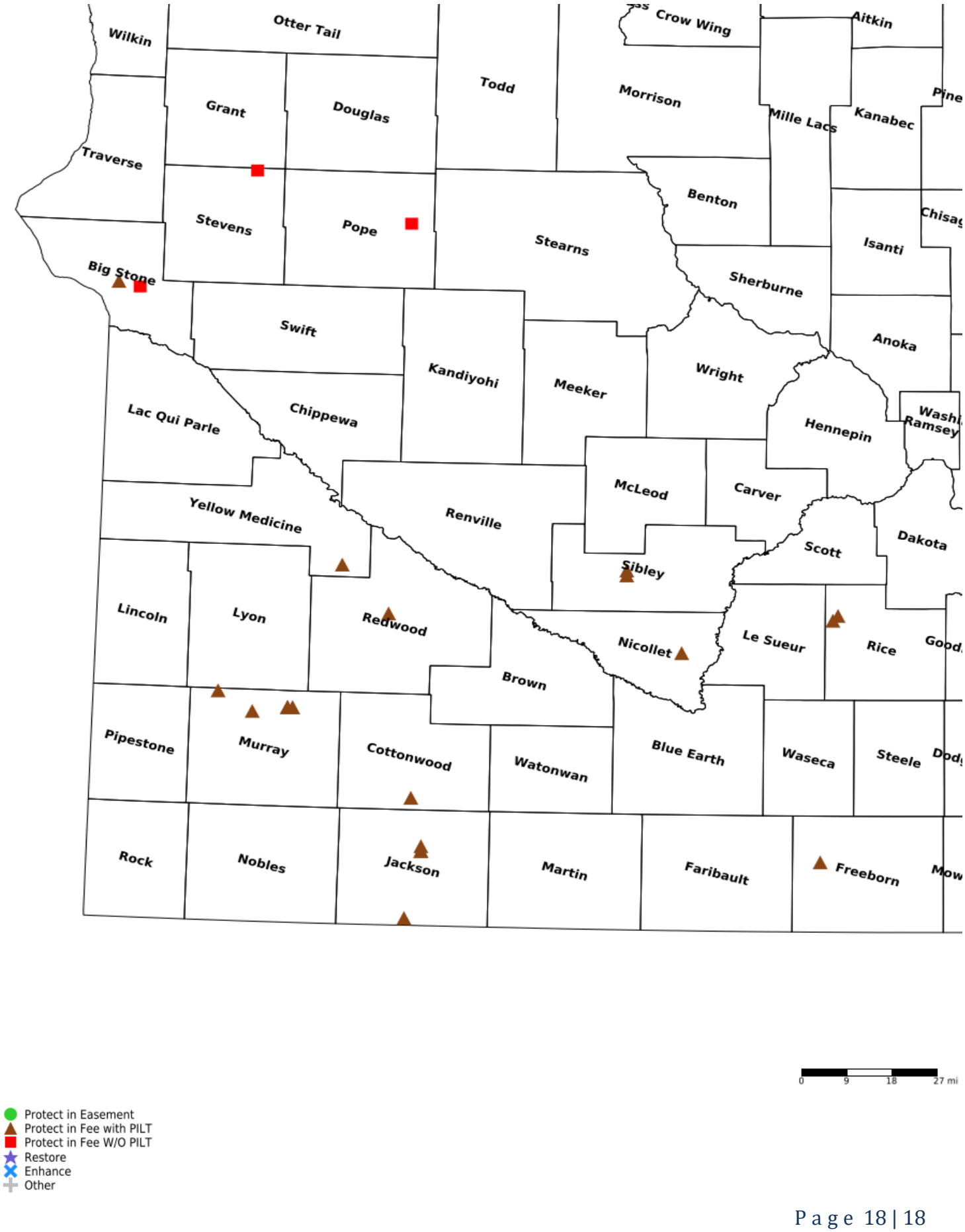
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Bentson Lake WPA - Westman Group LLC East Parcel	Big Stone	12245208	140	$1,176,000	No
Freeborn Lake WMA	Freeborn	10323224	113	$500,000	No
Minneota WMA - Tract 8	Jackson	10136229	136	$820,000	No
String Lakes WMA - Tract 8	Jackson	10536221	104	$800,000	No
Two Sheds WMA - Bretzman Trust	Jackson	10336211	195	$1,500,000	No
Two Sheds WMA - Tract 21 Klassen	Jackson	10336214	160	$1,600,000	No
Two Sheds WMA - Tract 3 Gordon	Jackson	10336214	80	$700,000	No
Shetek WMA - Tract 2 Ackerman	Murray	10840221	103	$1,030,000	No
Shetek WMA - Tract 2a Ackerman	Murray	10840221	83	$500,000	No
Shetek WMA - Tract 9 Ackerman	Murray	10840220	50	$500,000	No
Shetek WMA - Tract 9a Ackerman	Murray	10840220	110	$1,100,000	No
Shetek WMA - Tract 9b	Murray	10840220	82	$820,000	No
Skandia WMA - Tract 33	Murray	10841230	80	$500,000	No
Swan Lake WMA - SLAWA Tract	Nicollet	11027217	140	$2,100,000	No
Grove Lake WPA - Lent	Pope	12536229	48	$240,000	No
Daubs Lake WMA - Tract 2/2a Merlin Goudy Estate	Redwood	11137210	161	$1,500,000	Yes
Phelps Lake WMA - Duffney South Tract	Rice	11122208	39	$400,000	No
Phelps Lake WMA Tract 21B	Rice	11122204	80	$700,000	No
Indian Lake WMA - Tract 10	Sibley	11329228	67	$500,000	No

Indian Lake WMA - Tract 9a	Sibley	11329221	50	$500,000	No
North Pomme de Terre River WPA	Stevens	12641206	157	$600,000	No
Posen WMA - Tract 7a	Yellow Medicine	11338219	18	$150,000	No

Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Thielke Lake WMA - Tract 4	Big Stone	12246203	130	$900,000	No	1	$50,000
Nelson WMA - Tract 10 VAL Trust	Murray	10843201	198	$1,700,000	No	4	$5,000

Parcel Map


Wilkin
Otter Tail
Crow Wing
Aitkin
Todd
Morrison
Grant
Douglas
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Pine
Traverse
Benton
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Chisag
Isanti
Big Stone
Sherburne
Swift
Anoka
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Wright
Lac Qui Parle
Chippewa
Hennepin
Washi
Ramsey
McLeod
Carver
Yellow Medicine
Renville
Dakota
Scott
Sibley
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Nicollet
Le Sueur
Rice
Good
Brown
Pipestone
Murray
Cottonwood
Watonwan
Blue Earth
Waseca
Steele
Dodg
Rock
Nobles
Jackson
Martin
Faribault
Freeborn
Mow
0
9
18
27 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection & Restoration Program
Organization: Ducks Unlimited
Manager: Jon Schneider

Budget

Requested Amount: $16,995,000
Appropriated Amount: $6,316,000
Percentage: 37.16%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$880,000	$210,000	$370,000	$100,000	42.05%	47.62%
Contracts	$3,900,000	$990,000	$1,400,000	$360,000	35.9%	36.36%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$7,000,000	-	$2,500,000	-	35.71%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$4,000,000	-	$1,600,000	-	40.0%	-
Easement Acquisition	-	$500,000	-	$500,000	-	100.0%
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$72,900	$900	$25,000	$300	34.29%	33.33%
Professional Services	$370,000	-	$130,000	-	35.14%	-
Direct Support Services	$70,000	-	$29,000	-	41.43%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$240,000	-	$82,500	-	34.38%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$60,000	-	$29,100	-	48.5%	-
Supplies/Materials	$266,000	-	$100,000	-	37.59%	-
DNR IDP	$136,100	-	$50,400	-	37.03%	-
Grand Total	**$16,995,000**	**$1,700,900**	**$6,316,000**	**$960,300**	**37.16%**	**56.46%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The budget in this request will be scaled proportionately to the funding recommended.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The budget for personnel and DSS in this request will be scaled proportionately to the funding recommended.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The budget in this request will be scaled proportionately to the funding recommended.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This budget for personnel and DSS in this request will be scaled proportionately to the funding recommended.

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	777	288	37.07%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	445	164	36.85%
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$10,806,100	$4,024,400	37.24%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$6,188,900	$2,291,600	37.03%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	777	288	37.07%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	445	164	36.85%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$10,806,100	$4,024,400	37.24%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$6,188,900	$2,291,600	37.03%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program
Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program

Funds Recommended: $3,708,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Logan Shoup
Title: Regional Biologist - NW Minnesota
Organization: Ducks Unlimited
Address: c/o USFWS Fergus Falls Wetland Management District Office 18965 County Highway 82
City: Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Email: lshoup@ducks.org
Office Number:
Mobile Number: 2184468851
Fax Number:
Website: www.ducks.org/minnesota

Partners Contact

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.: Logan Shoup - lshoup@ducks.org - 2184468851

Monarch Joint Venture: Wendy Caldwell - wcaldwell@monarchjointventure.org - (612) 208-3741

Pheasants Forever: Sabin Adams - sadams@pheasantsforever.org - (320) 250-6317

Location Information

County Location(s): Otter Tail, Grant, Douglas, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Pope, Big Stone and Swift.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Activity types:

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

DU, PF, and MJV will help accelerate USFWS wildlife habitat easements by restoring and enhancing 4,300 acres of protected private grasslands and wetlands in Minnesota's Prairie and Transition Sections. These are working lands under permanent federal conservation easements that allow delayed haying and/or grazing while protecting restored wetlands and prairie grasslands for nesting ducks, pheasants, and other wildlife. By restoring and enhancing protected grassland and wetland habitat while allowing for continued landowner use of these working private lands, USFWS habitat easements buffer existing protected lands and provide important conservation easement options that are compatible with working agricultural operations.

Design and Scope of Work

In Phase VII of this grant program, Ducks Unlimited (DU), Pheasants Forever (PF), and Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) will restore and enhance wetlands and prairie on private lands protected by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) through grassland habitat conservation easements in Minnesota. This proposal expands the partnership to include MJV, adding capacity and specialized expertise in prairie restoration and enhancement. MJV habitat staff will collaborate directly with DU field staff to implement projects using DU's established planning, design, and contracting infrastructure, with all project contracting coordinated through Ducks Unlimited and outputs incorporated into DU's overall program goals. Integrating MJV into project delivery will increase staff and technical capacity and accelerate the implementation of high-quality habitat projects across priority landscapes.

DU and PF will restore drained wetlands, convert cropland to native prairie, and enhance existing habitats. While USFWS has robust Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) resources to acquire easements, these funds cannot be used for restoration or enhancement. OHF support allows partners to restore and enhance these protected lands, accelerating the rate at which USFWS can protect and improve habitat in key landscapes that already contain extensive public lands and permanent easements. These areas are among the most productive in the state for breeding waterfowl, pheasants, and other prairie wildlife. Working land easements complement other conservation programs by providing landowners with flexible options.

USFWS easements prevent wetland and prairie conversion and secure the right to restore habitats—central to this program's purpose. In partnership with USFWS, DU, PF, and MJV will restore and enhance easement lands using technical guidance from USFWS biologists and by hiring private contractors to seed native prairie, remove trees, and restore wetlands. DU engineers will design and oversee complex wetland restorations. On lands where grazing is allowed, projects may include installing or modifying fencing to support rotational grazing systems that improve habitat quality while maintaining agricultural use.

USFWS Habitat Easements have been purchased in Minnesota for over three decades and are a habitat protection

tool designed to complement public lands habitat complexes such as federal Waterfowl Production Areas and state Wildlife Management Areas. These easements keep privately owned restored grassland and wetland habitat intact and on county tax rolls while allowing for working use of the land. These easements provide landowners with the option of either delayed haying (after July 15) or both grazing and delayed haying, which results in adequate habitat for wetland and upland nesting birds and a working land use option that appeals to some private landowners. Importantly, these working land easements also help manage plant succession on their land, which is critical to prevent the encroachment of woody vegetation and invasive plant species. Well-managed grazing, delayed haying, and prescribed fire also benefits those grassland bird species that prefer more open prairie habitats, such as northern pintail, marbled godwit, snipe, and other prairie species.

NOTE: Restoration and enhancement costs in this proposal are estimated roughly equivalent due to costly large scale engineering enhancement projects on large wetlands.

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

This proposal will restore/enhance wetlands and grasslands to create/expand prairie wetland habitat complexes. USFWS easements can be grazed and delay hayed, land uses which are compatible with grassland nesting birds as per scientific research. Prairies and emergent marshes are identified as critical habitats for many "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" listed in Minnesota's "Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife". Grassland nesting birds have shown the largest population decline of any of the bird groups. Specific species listed in the Action Plan as requiring prairie (page 255) include seven species of butterflies and three bird species that are native prairie specialists: chestnut-collared longspur, Sprague's pipit, and Baird's sparrow. Specific species listed in the Action Plan as requiring emergent marshes (page 267) include least bittern, American bittern, marsh wren, and Virginia rail. The Prairie Parkland has 139 species listed on the SGCN with 13 of these species being unique to the section. Grasslands are also critical to a diverse suite of declining pollinator species.

In addition to these specific wildlife species listed as SGCN in the Action Plan, restored prairie and wetlands in the Prairie Parkland will provide habitat of significant value for other species listed in Appendix B of the Action Plan. Restored and protected prairie will provide habitat of significant value for other SGCN including bird species: upland sandpiper, bobolink, burrowing owl, Le Conte's sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, eastern meadowlark, swamp sparrow, sharp-tailed grouse, short-eared owl, northern harrier, dickcissel, Henslow's sparrow, and Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow. Upland nesting waterfowl will also benefit including waterfowl listed as SGCN; northern pintail and lesser scaup, which have both seen declines in continental populations. Wetland associated birds such as trumpeter swan, black tern, American bittern, Wilson's phalarope, and marbled godwit will benefit from wetlands restored and buffered in the prairie landscape through the habitat easements. Mammals including northern grasshopper mouse and Richardson's ground squirrels, reptiles such as lined snake and Blanding's turtle, and amphibians such as northern cricket frog and common mudpuppy are SGCN in the Prairie Parkland.

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

USFWS currently has a large list of landowners with thousands of acres who want to protect their grasslands and wetlands with USFWS habitat conservation easements. Increased interest has resulted through word of mouth, but USFWS needs help and funding to restore/enhance their eased lands. USFWS also has over 150+ purchased easements that need restoration/enhancement.

Timing is critical for many landowners with expiring CRP contracts, business decisions related to expanding livestock operations, and sometimes estate planning or other family decisions. When USFWS is not able to move

forward quickly enough, landowners may choose less ecologically desirable uses for their land that often include putting land back into row crop production, especially in the case of expiring CRP. Often, landowners cannot afford to forego annual income after CRP contracts expire, and without other options, are forced to return land to row crop production, even when doing so is not preferred.

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

USFWS biologists score and rank each grassland habitat easement proposal based on ecological site attributes and landscape juxtaposition of protected lands. This ranking process was designed to be relatively simple and evaluate the capability of the proposed easement to provide biological benefits for wetland and grassland dependent wildlife species by considering the habitat on the easement tract as well as its contribution and benefits to other protected lands in the surrounding area. Periodically, the USFWS Minnesota Wetland Acquisition Office in Fergus Falls uses these rankings to re-prioritize the proposals to assure that the USFWS is working on and purchasing the highest ranking proposals throughout the year. DU and PF will rely on the high level of science-based expertise of the USFWS to ensure that easement opportunities are prioritized, and will work closely as a partnership to share the workload and accelerate the easement program in west-central Minnesota. DU, PF, MJV, and the USFWS will work together to use science-based targeting to focus promotion of this accelerated habitat conservation easement program, with focus on tracts near existing federal WPAs, state WMAs, and other permanent private land easements. High priority tracts will be those with restorable drained wetlands and converted prairie or expiring CRP that, once fully restored, will build and expand prairie-wetland complexes for ducks, pheasants, and migratory birds in landscapes with a high density of other protected habitats. Science-based models such as the USFWS "Thunderstorm Maps" and "Restorable Wetlands Inventory" will help us determine landscape importance to breeding waterfowl, as will the state Pheasant Plan and Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan that helps guide prairie conservation efforts within Complexes, Core, and Corridor areas of western Minnesota. Finally, parcels near sites with relatively high biological diversity and significance based on the Minnesota DNR County Biological Survey (MCBS) will be a priority, and parcels with unique ecological values will be shared with other conservation easement program partners to ensure collaboration, avoid duplication of effort, and that the best conservation easement program option is offered to private landowners.

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

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN

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

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:

Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *USFWS habitat easements will add restored and protected grassland and small wetland acres to augment existing public lands and other permanent easements to create prairie-wetland complexes with a more diverse mix of habitats and conservation options for private landowners. The measure of success will be the number of functioning prairie wetland complexes that provide adequate wetland and grassland acres within a landscape. This is a long-term, programmatic landscape conservation effort that will take time to achieve.*

Programs in prairie region:

Agriculture lands are converted to grasslands to sustain functioning prairie systems ~ *USFWS easements restore and enhance lands that have previously been in row crop agriculture or at threat of conversion to row crop agriculture. These protected lands are free from the threat of future conversion and, as part of the easement, are converted to native grassland. This supports functioning prairie and wetland landscapes while also providing landowners with an income stream from managed haying or grazing. This is a long-term, programmatic landscape conservation effort that will take time to achieve.*

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 OHF funding request does not supplant or substitute for any previous funding. This new OHF funding will be used for new conservation work to accelerate USFWS conservation easement delivery in Minnesota to accelerate protection and restoration of wetlands and prairie, and provide working land conservation easements options for landowners.

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

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is responsible for long-term annual monitoring and enforcement. The terms of the easement allow limited delayed haying after July 15 or delayed haying and grazing, but require wetlands and grasslands to be maintained by the private landowner. The easement terms allow DU, PF, and MJV, under the direction of the USFWS, to restore and help enhance wetland restorations or improve grasslands in the future when determined by the Service to be necessary for wildlife habitat management purposes. Through this proposal, DU, PF, and MJV will assist USFWS in restoring and enhancing easements with state OHF grant funds after USFWS protects the land through easement acquisition with MBCF funding. Long-term habitat management and compliance with easement provisions will be the responsibility of the federal USFWS.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2028	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Annually Monitor Easements	Identify Problems, if any	Work with Private Landowners to Resolve

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

DU, PF, MJV and USFWS conserve wetlands and prairie for wildlife and people alike. Our habitat projects restore natural infrastructure, which helps to alleviate society's climate impacts and provide clean water for BIPOC communities, which are disproportionately impacted by the effects of wetland loss and climate change. PF and DU

have organizational initiatives to increase the inclusion of BIPOC and to ensure a sense of belonging among all people. USFWS purchases easements from willing sellers, including individuals that identify as BIPOC and other underserved citizens. Wetlands recharge groundwater in aquifers, providing clean, dependable water supplies while removing pollutants and reducing downstream flooding. Generational wealth in BIPOC communities is compromised by a lack of natural infrastructure such as wetlands. BIPOC community resiliency is enhanced by the function of wetlands and adjacent grassland habitats that clean water and help absorb impacts from severe weather events. Restoring wetlands in the Mississippi River watershed benefits BIPOC communities who draw their water from the river such as Minneapolis, St. Paul, and St. Cloud. Minneapolis alone draws 21 billion gallons of water a year from the Mississippi to produce 57 million gallons of drinking water/day. Indigenous communities may benefit from DU wetland enhancements and restorations that create suitable conditions for wild rice to proliferate. Wetlands deliver a return on investment that supports the health, resiliency, and well-being of BIPOC communities. USFWS works strategically to purchase easements on lands with drained wetlands and restorable prairie that are important to waterfowl, prairie wildlife, and people. DU, PF, and MJV will restore drained wetlands and adjacent uplands back to native prairie grasslands for both wildlife habitat and the public using competitively-selected contractors following state procurement guidelines, including minority and women-owned businesses. Additionally, USFWS easements are most often implemented in rural, low to middle income areas. The associated easement payments and dollars from habitat work go into these communities. Maintaining these easements as working lands can lead to more stability for the small farms and ranches that rent/own them, which in turn leads to more vibrant rural communities and higher quality of life in rural Minnesota.

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

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
Some easement restoration plans finalized by DU, PF, and MJV.	June 2028
Remaining easements restored or enhanced by DU, PF, and MJV.	June 2032
Some easements restored or enhanced while other restoration plans continue being developed by DU and PF.	December 2028
Easements closed by USFWS and restoration plans drafted.	December 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.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$711,000	$58,500	USFWS IRA, NAWCA Personnel, DU, NAWCA Personnel, DU, NFWF, USFWS	$769,500
Contracts	$2,815,000	$70,000	-, NAWCA Contract Dollars	$2,885,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	$1,000,000	-, USFWS Migratory Bird Fund	$1,000,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Professional Services	$3,500	-	-	$3,500
Direct Support Services	$75,500	-	-	$75,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$28,000	-	-	$28,000
Supplies/Materials	$45,000	-	-	$45,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,708,000**	**$1,128,500**	**-**	**$4,836,500**

Partner: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$390,000	$25,000	USFWS IRA, NAWCA Personnel, DU, NAWCA Personnel, DU	$415,000
Contracts	$1,865,000	$70,000	NAWCA Contract Dollars	$1,935,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	$1,000,000	USFWS Migratory Bird Fund	$1,000,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$20,000	-	-	$20,000
Professional Services	$2,500	-	-	$2,500
Direct Support Services	$31,000	-	-	$31,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$19,000	-	-	$19,000
Supplies/Materials	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,357,500**	**$1,095,000**	**-**	**$3,452,500**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Ducks Unlimited Field Biologists	0.64	3.5	$225,000	$12,000	USFWS IRA, NAWCA Personnel, DU	$237,000
Ducks Unlimited Wetland Engineers	0.32	3.5	$117,000	$10,000	NAWCA Personnel, DU	$127,000
Ducks Unlimited Regional Biologist	0.13	3.5	$48,000	$3,000	USFWS IRA, NAWCA Personnel, DU	$51,000

Partner: Monarch Joint Venture

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$86,000	$8,500	NFWF	$94,500
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$8,500	-	-	$8,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$94,500**	**$8,500**	**-**	**$103,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MJV Habitat Specialists	0.26	3.5	$86,000	$8,500	NFWF	$94,500

Partner: Pheasants Forever

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$235,000	$25,000	USFWS	$260,000
Contracts	$950,000	-	-	$950,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$10,000	-	-	$10,000
Professional Services	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
Direct Support Services	$36,000	-	-	$36,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$9,000	-	-	$9,000
Supplies/Materials	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,256,000**	**$25,000**	**-**	**$1,281,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Pheasants Forever Biologist, Land, and Legal Staff	0.64	3.5	$235,000	$25,000	USFWS	$260,000

Amount of Request: $3,708,000
Amount of Leverage: $1,128,500
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 30.43%
DSS + Personnel: $786,500
As a % of the total request: 21.21%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
This program will reduce the acres and outcomes proportionally to the amount we have been funded. This funding amount will allow us to continue work on this program, albeit at a smaller scale than proposed.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
The USFWS leverages $1,000,000 of funds from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to purchase easements, which DU, PF, and MJV restore with OHF. DU will leverage USFWS IRA, USFWS In-Kind, and NAWCA funds. PF will leverage PF DSS and USFWS funds. MJV will leverage NFWF and DSS.

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?
This funding request will be scaled proportionately to the funding provided. Acres and Activity Outcomes would be reduced proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This funding request will be scaled proportionately to the funding provided. Acres and Activity Outcomes would be reduced proportionately.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Contracts are for prairie and wetland restoration/enhancement work contracted to private sector firms, including activities such as field site preparation, tree removal, prairie grass and wetland seeding, old fence removal and new fence installation, ditch plugging, drain tile and sediment removal, dike and berm construction, and water control structures.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Other : Archaeological surveys may be required to fulfill necessary permitting on some easements.

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 - all travel funding will be used for in-state mileage, meals, and lodging, as necessary.

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?
Minnesota DNR grants staff previously reviewed and approved DU accounting methodology for Direct Support Services, which are calculated and included in DU staff costs. DU Direct Support Services constitute approximately 8% of DU overall staff costs on average among all billable DU conservation staff categories. DU breaks out and

invoices for Direct Support Service expenses approved by DNR for reimbursement separately from Personnel expenses. These costs represent expenses that directly support the labor cost necessary for the development of a specific water/wetlands conservation project.

PF utilizes the Total Modified Direct Cost de minimis method. This methodology is annually approved by the U.S. Department of Interior's National Business Center as the basis for the organization's Indirect Cost Rate agreement. PF's allowable direct support services cost is 15%.

MJV does not hold a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.414(f), MJV uses the federal de minimis rate of 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) as its Direct Support Services rate. MJV will be billing 10% DSS and leveraging an additional 5% in DSS from MJV.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
GPS survey equipment for performing engineering wetland restoration survey work and engineering surveys of shallow lake and large wetland enhancement projects, including survey equipment lease charges instead of actual outright equipment purchases to avoid buying equipment that becomes obsolete due to upgrades and advancements. Other equipment may include field equipment for biologists and engineers such as soil corers, muck boots, power tools, hand tools, and other necessary items to carry out surveys and construction management.

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
Yes

Is Confirmation Document attached?
Yes, on file

Cash : $1,000,000

In Kind : $100,000

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	110	330	-	-	440
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	165	495	-	-	660
Total	**275**	**825**	**-**	**-**	**1,100**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	$370,800	$1,112,400	-	-	$1,483,200
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$556,200	$1,668,600	-	-	$2,224,800
Total	**$927,000**	**$2,781,000**	**-**	**-**	**$3,708,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	290	-	150	-	440
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	436	-	224	-	660
Total	**-**	**726**	**-**	**374**	**-**	**1,100**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	$978,700	-	$504,500	-	$1,483,200
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$1,470,300	-	$754,500	-	$2,224,800
Total	**-**	**$2,449,000**	**-**	**$1,259,000**	**-**	**$3,708,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	$3,370	$3,370	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$3,370	$3,370	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	$3,374	-	$3,363	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$3,372	-	$3,368	-

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:
Easements are selected by USFWS biologists who score and rank each grassland habitat easement proposed based on ecological site attributes and landscape juxtaposition using a scoring process that is developed internally with science-based guidance from their Habitat & Population Evaluation Team science staff in Fergus Falls. This ranking process was designed to be relatively simple and evaluate the capability of the proposed easement to provide biological benefits for wetland and grassland dependent wildlife species by considering the habitat on the easement tract was well as its contribution and benefits to other protected lands in the surrounding area. Periodically through out the year, the USFWS Minnesota Wetland Acquisition Office in Fergus Falls uses these rankings to re-prioritize the proposals to assure that the USFWS is working on and purchasing the highest ranking proposals throughout the year. DU and PF will rely on the high level of science-based conservation expertise and rigorous easement selection process of the USFWS to ensure that easements acquired prioritized appropriately and therefore subsequently already prioritized for wetland and grassland habitat restoration and enhancement activities by DU, PF, and MJV.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Bentsen Bay Farm Easement Enhancement	Big Stone	12245217	237	$240,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Fowl Feathered Friends USFWS Easement Enhancement	Big Stone	12245229	47	$91,650	Yes	PF habitat enhancement on USFWS easement.
Lewis (East) USFWS Easement Restoration	Big Stone	12145209	17	$55,250	Yes	PF habitat restoration on USFWS easement.
BJ Bjorge S Easement Enhancement	Douglas	12937223	80	$140,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Camp Cartona USFWS Easement DU Enhancement	Douglas	12936207	140	$287,500	Yes	DU wetland and grassland enhancement on USFWS easement.
Craig Haaseman Easement Enhancement	Douglas	12939229	30	$150,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Dan and Justin Evavold Easement Restoration	Douglas	13040224	65	$125,000	Yes	Habitat restoration on a USFWS easement.
Ed Coons Easement Enhancement	Douglas	12740224	80	$225,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Glen Behrens	Douglas	13040212	110	$250,000	Yes	PF wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Jim Backus	Douglas	12836229	20	$150,000	Yes	DU wetland enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Joel Kangas Easement Enhancement	Douglas	12840225	6	$25,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
John Herd et al. Easement Enhancement	Douglas	13038208	50	$250,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Keith Wilson Easement Enhancement	Douglas	12938227	40	$250,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.

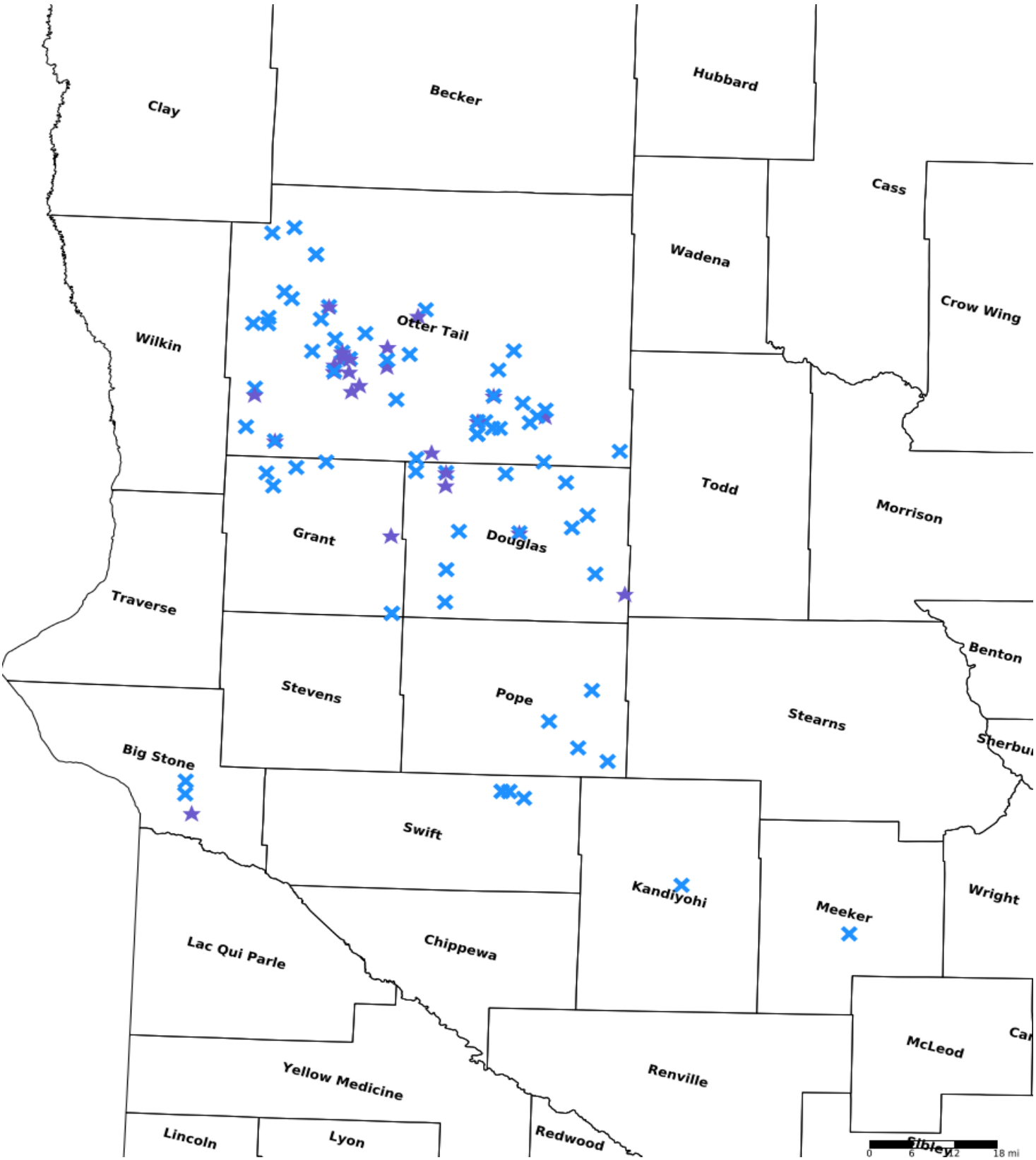
Keith Wilson Phase 2	Douglas	12938227	40	$250,000	Yes	DU wetland restoration on USFWS habitat easement.
Kenny Behrens USFWS Easement DU Restoration	Douglas	13040212	12	$45,000	Yes	DU prairie and wetland restoration on USFWS easement.
Tim Zunker Easement Enhancement	Douglas	13037215	45	$70,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Bach's Slough USFWS Easement DU Enhancement	Grant	12741235	135	$287,500	Yes	Large DU wetland enhancement on USFWS easements.
Brown's Point Hunt Club/Todd Nadgewick/Bach's Slough	Grant	12741235	135	$312,500	Yes	DU wetland enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
City of Herman Easement Restoration	Grant	12736212	185	$462,500	Yes	Habitat restoration on a USFWS easement.
Daryl Frykman USFWS DU Restoration	Grant	12941235	27	$110,000	Yes	DU wetland restoration on USFWS easement.
Rudd by Ash Lake	Grant	13043230	80	$218,750	Yes	DU wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Tom Swift	Grant	13044213	240	$375,000	Yes	DU wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Tom and Bob Welle	Grant	13043210	70	$187,500	Yes	PF wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
LFRKD-357X Easement (DU)	Kandiyohi	12034229	10	$100,000	Yes	DU wetland enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
LFRMK -223X Easement (DU)	Meeker	11931236	29	$100,000	Yes	DU wetland enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Abby Volden Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13239234	85	$140,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Alan Haugrud	Otter Tail	13543229	80	$187,500	Yes	DU wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Ben Miller (Quirino Farms LLC) USFWS Easement PF Enhancement	Otter Tail	13139210	40	$140,000	Yes	PF prairie and wetland enhancement on USFWS easement.
Clambey/Truax Easement Restoration	Otter Tail	13342210	170	$250,000	Yes	Habitat restoration on a USFWS easement.
Cook Waterfowl	Otter Tail	13643225	45	$312,500	Yes	DU wetland restoration and enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Cook Waterfowl USFWS Easement DU Enhancement	Otter Tail	13643225	45	$287,500	Yes	DU wetland enhancement on USFWS easement.
Cory Olson	Otter Tail	13238215	55	$156,250	Yes	DU wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Dan Stenoien Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13341215	50	$125,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Diane Lineburg	Otter Tail	13139201	100	$187,500	Yes	PF wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Doug Bjorkland Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13338204	61	$152,500	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Eli Pachel Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13241214	17	$100,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.

Gary and Susan Clambey Easement Restoration	Otter Tail	13342210	14	$30,000	Yes	Habitat restoration on a USFWS easement.
Gaylan Rockswold	Otter Tail	13139210	40	$187,500	Yes	DU wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Greg and Danny Melkert USFWS Easement PF Enhancement	Otter Tail	13543233	80	$225,000	Yes	PF prairie and wetland enhancement on USFWS easement.
Harold Busko Jr. Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13342228	50	$300,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Harry and Lori Krog USFWS Easement PF Enhancement	Otter Tail	13343212	10	$45,000	Yes	PF prairie and wetland enhancement on USFWS easement.
JR Busko Phase 2	Otter Tail	13342228	50	$375,000	Yes	DU wetland restoration on USFWS habitat easement.
Jeff Drechsel	Otter Tail	13442218	40	$187,500	Yes	PF wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Jeremy Schmidgall Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13239212	22	$150,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Jeremy Schmidgall Phase 2	Otter Tail	13239212	22	$187,500	Yes	DU wetland restoration on USFWS habitat easement.
Jim Burkett (Bluebill) USFWS Easement PF Enhancement	Otter Tail	13143219	100	$250,000	Yes	PF wetland enhancement on USFWS easement.
Jim Burkett Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13040208	15	$100,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Joe Luetmer USFWS Easement PF Restoration	Otter Tail	13342214	5	$45,000	Yes	PF wetland restoration on USFWS easement.
John Olesen Easement Restoration	Otter Tail	13239234	80	$140,000	Yes	Habitat restoration on a USFWS easement.
Joseph Borgos Easement Restoration	Otter Tail	13242211	24	$60,000	Yes	Habitat restoration on a USFWS easement.
Josh and Shelley LLC	Otter Tail	13140232	120	$312,500	Yes	DU wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Judy Adamec USFWS Easement DU Restoration	Otter Tail	13342226	25	$130,000	Yes	DU wetland restoration on USFWS easement.
Karen Terry USFWS Easement DU Enhancement	Otter Tail	13342210	25	$115,000	Yes	DU prairie restoration and wetland enhancement on USFWS easement.
Kelly Thorson USFWS Easement DU Restoration	Otter Tail	13242201	5	$45,000	Yes	DU wetland restoration on USFWS easement.
Kevin Oehler Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13144209	120	$300,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Larry Lejuene	Otter Tail	13244210	250	$375,000	Yes	DU wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Lee Skold USFWS Easement DU Enhancement	Otter Tail	13238235	50	$170,000	Yes	DU prairie and wetland enhancement on USFWS easement.
Leigh Barry Easement Restoration - Amor Tract	Otter Tail	13440208	42	$70,000	Yes	Habitat restoration on a USFWS easement.
Lon Berg Easement Restoration	Otter Tail	13341222	140	$350,000	Yes	Habitat restoration on a USFWS easement.
Lysne Valley Farm	Otter Tail	13444224	40	$125,000	Yes	DU wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.

Mark Jacobs Trust Easement Restoration	Otter Tail	13342228	20	$60,000	Yes	Habitat restoration on a USFWS easement.
Mark Lysne	Otter Tail	13444213	100	$250,000	Yes	DU wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Matt Jacobsen USFWS Easement DU Restoration	Otter Tail	13140227	18	$45,000	Yes	DU wetland restoration on USFWS easement.
Melanie Cole Easement Restoration	Otter Tail	13341203	37	$75,000	Yes	Habitat restoration on a USFWS easement.
Michael and Jasson Mickelson Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13239235	170	$450,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Michael and Maureen Nelson USFWS Easement DU Enhancement	Otter Tail	13340207	40	$100,000	Yes	DU prairie enhancement on USFWS easement.
Michelle Luers/Keller Family Farm LLLP/Ridgeway	Otter Tail	13244215	28	$187,500	Yes	DU wetland restoration on USFWS habitat easement.
Mike Vaughan (Otter Trail Crossing North) USFWS Easement DU Enhancement	Otter Tail	13237219	170	$450,000	Yes	DU prairie and wetland enhancement on USFWS easement.
Mike Vaughan (Otter Trail Crossing South) USFWS Easement DU Enhancement	Otter Tail	13238225	200	$650,000	Yes	DU prairie and wetland enhancement on USFWS easement.
Nolan Lenzen	Otter Tail	13136223	130	$187,500	Yes	DU wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Paul Jaros Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13042205	33	$82,500	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Paul Klausen	Otter Tail	13139210	100	$250,000	Yes	DU wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Ralph Papenheim (Haldorsen Lake)	Otter Tail	13444222	45	$156,250	Yes	PF wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Randy Anderson Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13440204	40	$175,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Rod Nordstrom	Otter Tail	13342215	4	$50,000	Yes	PF wetland restoration on USFWS habitat easement.
Rod Nordstrom USFWS Easement PF Restoration	Otter Tail	13442205	4	$17,000	Yes	PF wetland restoration on USFWS easement.
Roger Sorben	Otter Tail	13342214	2	$12,500	Yes	PF wetland enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Scott Korkowski Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13137231	140	$140,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Shawn Nelson	Otter Tail	13442205	78	$250,000	Yes	PF wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Sorben Farms Partnership	Otter Tail	13342214	10	$125,000	Yes	PF wetland enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Steve Misegades Easement Enhancement - Part 2	Otter Tail	13338219	275	$325,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Stuart Pemberton	Otter Tail	13441230	100	$187,500	Yes	DU wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Susan Leitch and Wayne Duenow	Otter Tail	13442233	47	$146,875	Yes	PF wetland and prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.

Tim Hawthorne Easement Restoration	Otter Tail	13237230	55	$100,000	Yes	Habitat restoration on a USFWS easement.
Todd Kvern Easement Restoration	Otter Tail	13342221	18	$60,000	Yes	Habitat restoration on a USFWS easement.
Tom Haugrud (Oscaraade Acres)	Otter Tail	13644212	30	$93,750	Yes	PF prairie enhancement on USFWS habitat easement.
Tom Haugrud Easement Enhancement	Otter Tail	13643204	40	$100,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Tom Hodorff USFWS Easement DU Enhancement	Otter Tail	13138206	60	$170,000	Yes	DU prairie and wetland enhancement on USFWS easement.
Wayne Norgren USFWS Easement PF Restoration	Otter Tail	13143219	10	$28,750	Yes	PF wetland restoration on USFWS easement.
BBB Farms USFWS Easement Enhancement	Pope	12437220	60	$117,000	Yes	PF habitat enhancement on USFWS easement.
Carlson Easement Enhancement	Pope	12536229	331	$400,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Jon Lewis USFWS Habitat Easement Enhancement	Pope	12336222	30	$58,500	Yes	PF habitat enhancement on USFWS easement.
Sievers USFWS Habitat Easement Enhancement	Pope	12337212	63	$122,850	Yes	PF habitat enhancement on USFWS easement.
Chippewa River Ranch Easement Enhancement - Part 1	Swift	12238223	182	$275,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Chippewa River Ranch Easement Enhancement - Part 2	Swift	12238216	31	$50,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Kerkeide Easement Enhancement	Swift	12238217	40	$60,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Pritchett Easement Enhancement	Swift	12238216	39	$60,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.
Skarsten Easement Enhancement	Swift	12238217	40	$60,000	Yes	Habitat enhancement on a USFWS easement.

Parcel Map


Clay
Becker
Hubbard
Cass
Wadena
Crow Wing
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Todd
Morrison
Grant
Douglas
Traverse
Benton
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Big Stone
Swift
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Wright
Lac Qui Parle
Chippewa
McLeod
Yellow Medicine
Renville
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Sibley
0 6 12 18 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program
Organization: Ducks Unlimited
Manager: Logan Shoup

Budget

Requested Amount: $14,499,000
Appropriated Amount: $3,708,000
Percentage: 25.57%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$2,778,000	$296,000	$711,000	$58,500	25.59%	19.76%
Contracts	$11,000,000	$280,000	$2,815,000	$70,000	25.59%	25.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	$1,000,000	-	$1,000,000	-	100.0%
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$120,000	-	$30,000	-	25.0%	-
Professional Services	$15,000	-	$3,500	-	23.33%	-
Direct Support Services	$296,000	$157,000	$75,500	-	25.51%	0.0%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$110,000	-	$28,000	-	25.45%	-
Supplies/Materials	$180,000	-	$45,000	-	25.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$14,499,000**	**$1,733,000**	**$3,708,000**	**$1,128,500**	**25.57%**	**65.12%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This funding request will be scaled proportionately to the funding provided. Acres and Activity Outcomes would be reduced proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This funding request will be scaled proportionately to the funding provided. Acres and Activity Outcomes would be reduced proportionately.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This funding request will be scaled proportionately to the funding provided. Acres and Activity Outcomes would be reduced proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This funding request will be scaled proportionately to the funding provided. Acres and Activity Outcomes would be reduced proportionately.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	1,720	440	25.58%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	2,580	660	25.58%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$5,799,600	$1,483,200	25.57%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$8,699,400	$2,224,800	25.57%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	1,720	440	25.58%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	2,580	660	25.58%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$5,799,600	$1,483,200	25.57%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$8,699,400	$2,224,800	25.57%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements Phase 19

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/14/2026

Project Title: DNR Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements Phase 19

Funds Recommended: $3,208,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Ricky Lien
Title: Wetland Habitat Team Supervisor
Organization: DNR
Address: 500 Lafayette Road
City: St. Paul, MN 55155-4020
Email: ricky.lien@state.mn.us
Office Number: 515-292-5227
Mobile Number: 651-297-4961
Fax Number: 651-297-4961
Website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/

Location Information

County Location(s): Swift, Clearwater, Martin and Cottonwood.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Prairie

Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

Enhance

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

This programmatic proposal aims to deliver shallow lake and wetland habitat enhancement and restoration work on 1777 acres. Three projects involved wetland basins that will be restored through tile breaks, ditch plugs, sediment removal, and/or placement of infrastructure. A fourth projects entails excavation of an outlet channel for Upper Rice Lake in Clearwater County to return the channel to as-built conditions. Valuable staff of the Wetland Habitat Team who were established via previous OHF appropriations will continue to be supported though this funding to allow for wetland and shallow lake work at a level that was not previously possible.

Design and Scope of Work

Minnesota's shallow lakes and wetlands are among the most productive habitats in the state, but an estimated 90% of Minnesota's prairie wetlands and more than 50% of our statewide wetlands have been lost. Wetlands and shallow lakes that remain are often compromised by degraded quality. This proposal will accomplish wetland habitat work throughout Minnesota on public lands and waters, with the large majority of the funding being directed strategically to the prairie region. This program delivers measurable, on-the-ground results - restoring and enhancing high-priority wetlands and shallow lakes that directly increase waterfowl production and improve habitat for a wide range of species of greatest conservation need. With established engineering, construction, and habitat teams already in place, Outdoor Heritage Funds translate immediately into acres restored, habitat quality improved, and systems brought back to ecological function. This is a proven, accountable investment—targeted where it matters most, ready to implement, and designed to produce lasting habitat outcomes across Minnesota. In addition to being critical for waterfowl, wetlands and shallow lakes provide habitat for a wide range of species, groundwater recharge, water purification, flood water storage, shoreline protection, and economic benefits.

Restoration and enhancement projects on state-owned lands, especially WMAs, and public waters were proposed and reviewed by DNR Area and Regional supervisors and Wetland Habitat Team staff. Planned work includes the restoration of numerous wetland basins at Pats Pasture WMA (Cottonwood Co.), Perch Creek WMA (Martin Co.), and the Anderson Unit of Lac qui Parle WMA (Swift Co.). Restoration work will be accomplished by tile breaks, ditch plugs, sediment removal, and/or placement of infrastructure construction. An additional project involves the excavation of an outlet channel for Upper Rice Lake (Clearwater Co.). Excavation of this channel will allow for improved water levels that can support over 1000 acres of wild rice.

Funding will be provided to support staff of the Wetland Habitat Team who were established via previous OHF appropriations.Specifically, the staffing will go to support four specialists within the Shallow Lakes Program, three specialists within the Wetland Management Program, and wetland consultant. Support for these positions allows for wetland and shallow lake habitat work that would otherwise not be possible.

To improve efficiency and meet mutual goals, projects may be done in cooperation with Duck Unlimited or other conservation partners. Parcels may be added, modified, or deleted from the parcel list to accommodate engineering feasibility results, provide resources to new opportunities, or to address the challenges associated with complex shallow lake and wetland projects. All changes shall be within the scope of this proposal and will be fully reported in the Final Report.

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

Approximately 50% of all federally endangered animal are wetland-related. As a measure of the importance of wetlands to Minnesota Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), the word 'wetland' appears 127 times in Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025 (SWAP). Conservation Focus Areas are priority areas for working with partners to identify, design, and implement conservation actions and report on the effectiveness toward achieving the goals and objectives defined in the Wildlife Action Plan. Target Habitat Complexes within Conservation Focus Areas commonly include Prairie Wetland Complexes and other wetland community types.

The protection and management of wetlands and wetland/grassland complexes are noted extensively in the discussion of Conservation Focus Area Target, Conservation Issues and Approaches. Specific management actions mentioned include reed canary grass and invasive cattail control, "natural disturbance management" (i.e. water level management, prescribed fire, woody vegetation removal). Target Habitat Complexes within Conservation Focus Areas commonly include Prairie Wetland Complexes and other wetland community types. As noted in the SWAP, wet meadows and fens typically provide optimal habitat for sedge wrens, yellow rails, Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrows and numerous other SGCN. Wetland Management Options to support SGCN include prevention of wetland degradation, restoration of wetland complexes, and management of invasives species.

For shallow lake habitat, examples of SGCN include lesser scaup, northern pintail, common moorhen, least bitterns, American bitterns, marsh wrens, and Virginia rails. Wetland management actions to benefit SGCN include the restoration of large complexes of shallow lakes and wetlands, with attention to the habitat features required by SGCN, management for a natural water regime in shallow lakes, and management of invasives.

Management of wetlands and shallow lakes as noted above will be accomplished through the work described in this proposal.

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

The Status and Trends of Wetlands in Minnesota: Depressional Wetland Quality Assessment (2007 – 2012), produced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, noted that the prairie and central regions of the state wetlands are dominated by degraded vegetation communities. Vegetation communities in more than half of these depressional wetlands are in poor condition (56%), with only 17% in good condition, similar to the quality of all wetland types in the central hardwood and former prairie regions. Non-native invasive plants are having the greatest impact. In other words, not only have most wetlands been lost in much of the prairie and forest-transition areas of Minnesota, those that remain are degraded and need management action to produce quality habitat. Note that many of the projects included in this proposal involve existing wetlands whose infrastructure has failed completely and management is no longer possible. The restoration of numerous wetland basins is also included.

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

The Minnesota Duck Recovery Plan goals include boosting the state's breeding duck population. The most productive prairie waterfowl habitat is a mix of wetland and grassland as a habitat complex. A complex could be 4 - 9 square miles and should be comprised of 10% temporary/seasonal wetlands, 10% permanent wetlands, and 40% grasslands, with the remaining 40% available for crops. In addition to mixes of grasslands and healthy wetlands, The Duck Plan also called for accelerated efforts to restore 1,800 shallow lakes, including wild rice lakes.

The Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, which is a plan for both uplands and wetlands in the prairie region of

Minnesota, outlines focal areas (Core Areas and Habitat Complexes) where we can build on an existing base of conservation lands and improve the habitat there. The Prairie Wetland Initiative component of this OHF proposal would contribute to these identified Core Areas and Habitat Complexes by working to actively manage and improve small wetlands on public lands, especially on those lands contributing to the Minnesota Comprehensive Prairie Plan. The Status and Trends of Wetlands in Minnesota: Depressional Wetland Quality Assessment (2007 – 2012), produced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, noted that while most wetlands in northern Minnesota are in good condition, the opposite is true in the central and former prairie regions of the state, where degraded vegetation communities are predominant. Vegetation communities in more than half of these depressional wetlands are in poor condition (56%), with only 17% in good condition, similar to the quality of all wetland types in the central hardwood and former prairie regions. Non-native invasive plants such as invasive monotypic cattails are having the greatest impact.

The work done by this OHF proposal will directly contribute to expanded and healthy wetland complexes and increased shallow lakes work. Work will renovate existing wetland infrastructure and establish new management, especially in the critical prairie region of Minnesota. More specifically, the projects identified by the Wetland Management Program are targeted to key wetland complexes in the prairie region and deliver critical management to the wetlands of those complexes.

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

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

Managing Minnesota's Shallow Lakes for Waterfowl and Wildlife

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

Prairie

Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Intensive wetland management and habitat infrastructure development will provide the wetland base called for in numerous prairie, shallow lake and waterfowl plans. Area wildlife staff, wetland management program staff, and/or shallow lakes staff will monitor completed projects to determine success of implementation and to assess the need for future management and/or development.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Improved availability and improved condition of habitats that have experienced substantial decline ~ *Intensive wetland management and habitat infrastructure development will provide the wetland base called for in numerous prairie, shallow lake and waterfowl plans. Area wildlife staff, wetland management program staff,*

and/or shallow lakes staff will monitor completed projects to determine success of implementation and to assess the need for future management and/or development.

Programs in prairie region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Intensive wetland management and habitat infrastructure development will provide the wetland base called for in numerous prairie, shallow lake and waterfowl plans. Area wildlife staff, wetland management program staff, and/or shallow lakes staff will monitor completed projects to determine success of implementation and to assess the need for for future management and/or development.*

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 the Minnesota DNR's Section of Wildlife wetland 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?

Qualified engineers and staff will oversee replacement/renovation of infrastructure to achieve long-lasting results. A typical goal is to have water control structures, dikes and fish barriers last a minimum of 30-40 years. The management of completed infrastructure projects will fall on existing staff of the Department of Natural Resources. Enhancement work implemented by this staff such as invasive species control, supplemental vegetation planting, or water control structure installation, maintenance, or replacement, will be accomplished through annual funding requests to a variety of funding sources including, but not limited to, the Game and Fish Fund, bonding, gifts, the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Outdoor Heritage Fund, and federal sources such as North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants and Pittman-Robertson funds. Wetland enhancement projects such as cattail control, prescribed burns, invasive fish management and the like are implemented to achieve quality, long-lasting habitat benefits, but the benefit lifespan may be variable due to conditions imposed by climate, physical factors, habitat succession, etc. Monitoring by area wildlife staff, wetland management specialists, and shallow lakes specialists will ensure that follow-up management is employed as needed.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
1 year post-implementation of management action	DNR	Wetland Management Program, Shallow Lakes Program, and Area Wildlife staff evaluate management effectiveness.	-	-
10-12 months post-completion of engineered infrastructure or construction work	DNR	Qualified engineers conduct warranty inspection of project.	-	-

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

The Minnesota DNR has adopted advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) as a key priority in its 2020-22 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. Shallow lake and wetland habitat projects 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.

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

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
Survey and engineer projects	June 2030
Wetland Restorations and channel cleanouts	June 2030

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/09/2031

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	$1,781,000	-	-	$1,781,000
Contracts	$656,200	-	-	$656,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$266,000	-	-	$266,000
Professional Services	$175,000	-	-	$175,000
Direct Support Services	$196,300	-	-	$196,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$45,000	-	-	$45,000
Supplies/Materials	$88,500	-	-	$88,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,208,000**	**-**	**-**	**$3,208,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Wildife Lake Specialists	4.0	2.0	$903,500	-	-	$903,500
State Wetland Project Conultant	1.0	2.0	$283,500	-	-	$283,500
Wetland Management Specialists	3.0	2.0	$594,000	-	-	$594,000

Amount of Request: $3,208,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $1,977,300
As a % of the total request: 61.64%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Salary funding was limited to 8 positions, meaning 2 positions are not able to be funded with OHF. Four projects were identified for funding.

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?
A reduced funding amount would be addressed by using Program and Regional Wildlife staff to evaluate projects based on need, strategic importance, and efficiency to determine which projects would be funded. Acres and activities may not be proportionally affected due to the variety of project sizes and costs.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel costs requested in the proposal represent two years of staffing. It's important to note that these staff would work on projects associated with this proposal, plus all open appropriations of DNR and partners. Depending on the amount recommended for funding, funding for staffing will be proportionally higher.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
The contract line includes funding to hire companies to implement wetland restorations actions including sediment removal, placement of ditchplugs, construction of infrastructure, and implementation of management actions to enhance wetlands.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Design/Engineering

Other : Other eligible expenses that may show up a Professional services are obtaining SHPO permits or paying for DNR helicopter and pilot costs for aerial spraying.

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
In addition to traditional travel costs of mileage, food and lodging, the amount budget in Travel may be used to cover DNR fleet costs associated with equipment used by staff. Such equipment could include MarshMasters, tractors, trailers, heavy equipment, and other equipment needed for wetland enhancement activities.

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?
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.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Equipment and tools that may be purchased would be hand and power tools, canoe/kayak/small boat and trailer, small pumps, and other items necessary for wetland management activities.

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 timing and availability of federal funding is unknown, but historically federal funds such as NAWCA, Inflation Reduction Act, Joint Venture funds, Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, and America the Beautiful may become available for critical habitat work. The Minnesota DNR would look to use these funding sources as appropriate to expand the scale of shallow lake and wetland work.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	64	-	-	-	64
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	1,713	-	-	-	1,713
Total	**1,777**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,777**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	$1,666,700	-	-	-	$1,666,700
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$1,541,300	-	-	-	$1,541,300
Total	**$3,208,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,208,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	0	-	64	-	64
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	0	-	-	1,713	1,713
Total	**-**	**0**	**-**	**64**	**1,713**	**1,777**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	$191,100	-	$1,380,000	$95,600	$1,666,700
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$286,700	-	$1,003,500	$251,100	$1,541,300
Total	**-**	**$477,800**	**-**	**$2,383,500**	**$346,700**	**$3,208,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	$26,042	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$899	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	$21,562	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	$146

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

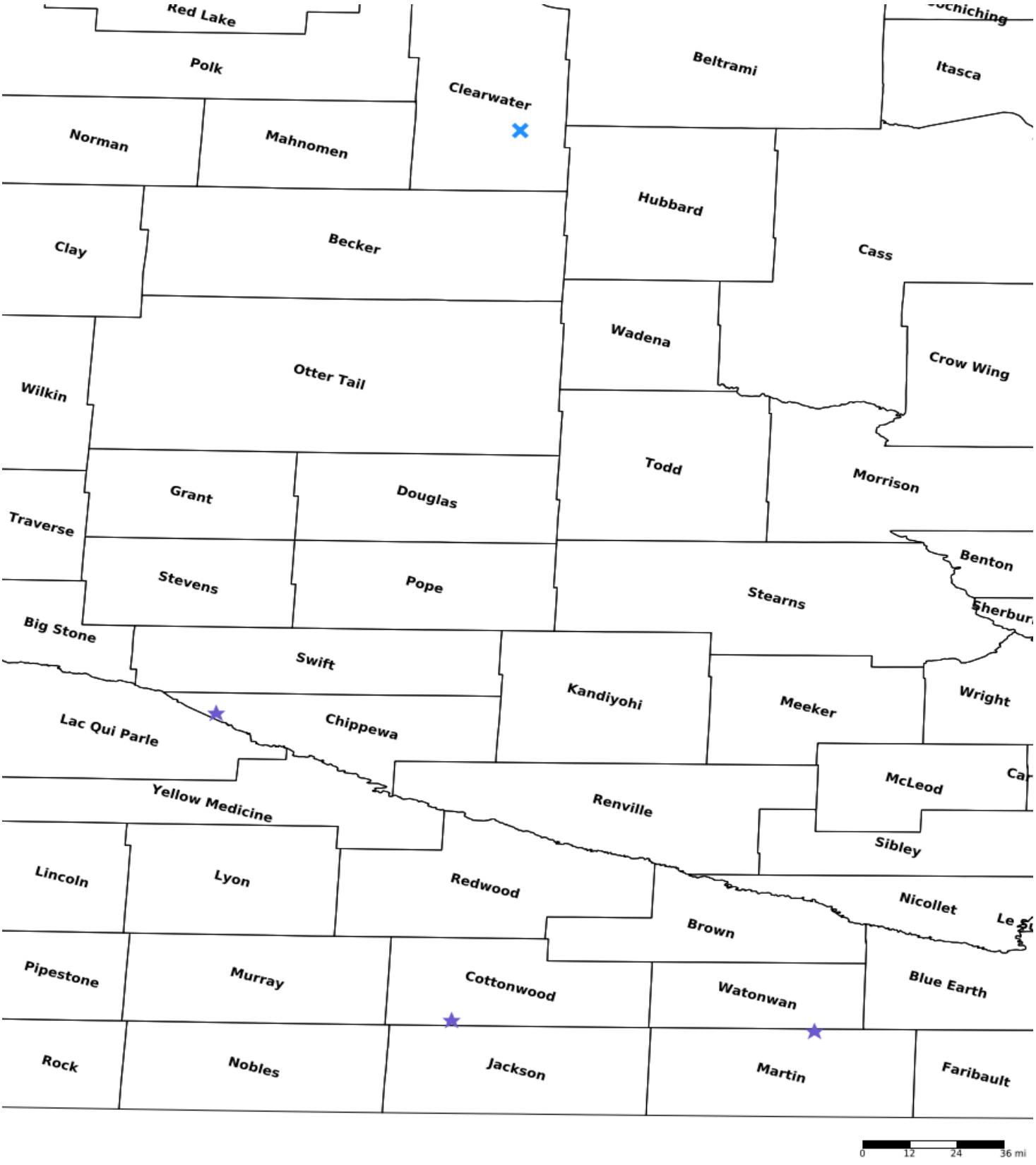
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Proposals for individual projects are submitted by DNR Area Wildlife Staff and Wetland Habitat Team members. Projects are reviewed at the regional and central office levels and appropriate projects are selected for inclusion in this OHF proposal. The parcel list may be modified by the program manager as needed and the Final Report will reflect an accurate and complete parcel list. As appropriate, tribal consultation will occur for projects.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Upper Rice Lake Outlet Channel Cleanout	Clearwater	14536207	1,713	$90,000	Yes	Excavation of channel to allow for water level control.
Pats Pasture WMA Wetland Restoration	Cottonwood	10537229	27	$246,520	Yes	Wetland restorations.
Perch Creek WMA Wetland Restoration	Martin	10430206	15	$166,680	Yes	Wetland restorations.
Lac qui Parle WMA Anderson Unit Wetland Restoration	Swift	11942234	22	$254,300	Yes	Wetland restorations.

Parcel Map



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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements Phase 19

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - DNR Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements Phase 19
Organization: DNR
Manager: Ricky Lien

Budget

Requested Amount: $23,483,000
Appropriated Amount: $3,208,000
Percentage: 13.66%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$2,991,000	-	$1,781,000	-	59.55%	-
Contracts	$15,360,500	-	$656,200	-	4.27%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$368,800	-	$266,000	-	72.13%	-
Professional Services	$2,750,000	-	$175,000	-	6.36%	-
Direct Support Services	$474,000	-	$196,300	-	41.41%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	$95,000	-	-	-	0.0%	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$65,000	-	$45,000	-	69.23%	-
Supplies/Materials	$1,378,700	-	$88,500	-	6.42%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$23,483,000**	**-**	**$3,208,000**	**-**	**13.66%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A reduced funding amount would be addressed by using Program and Regional Wildlife staff to evaluate projects based on need, strategic importance, and efficiency to determine which projects would be funded. Acres and activities may not be proportionally affected due to the variety of project sizes and costs.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel costs requested in the proposal represent two years of staffing. It's important to note that these staff would work on projects associated with this proposal, plus all open appropriations of DNR and partners. Depending on the amount recommended for funding, funding for staffing will be proportionally higher.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A reduced funding amount would be addressed by using Program and Regional Wildlife staff to prioritize projects based on need, strategic importance, and efficiency to determine which projects would be funded. Acres and activities may not be proportionally affected due to the variety of project sizes and costs.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel costs requested in the proposal represent two years of staffing. It's important to note that these staff would work on projects associated with this proposal, plus all open appropriations of DNR and partners. Depending on the amount recommended for funding, funding for staffing will be proportionally higher.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	811	64	7.89%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	12,054	1,713	14.21%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$10,154,300	$1,666,700	16.41%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$13,328,700	$1,541,300	11.56%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	811	64	7.89%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	12,054	1,713	14.21%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$10,154,300	$1,666,700	16.41%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$13,328,700	$1,541,300	11.56%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Statewide control and reduction of invasive Phragmites Phase I

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: DNR Statewide control and reduction of invasive Phragmites Phase I

Funds Recommended: $1,026,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Michael Verhoeven
Title: Aquatic Invasive Species Management Consultant
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Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/phragmites/index.html

Location Information

County Location(s): Wright, Ramsey, Anoka, Chisago, Kandiyohi, Aitkin, Scott, Washington, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Isanti, Olmsted, Mower, Cottonwood, Becker, Wabasha, Otter Tail, Dakota, Nobles, Carlton, Winona, Martin, Murray, Sherburne, Carver and Freeborn.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Southeast Forest

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

A coordinated, comprehensive framework to reverse the spread of non-native, invasive Phragmites across Minnesota has eliminated about 1/3 of the patches across the state since 2017 (z.umn.edu/phragmites-story). This request expands the financial investment in reversing the spread by prioritizing on-the-ground control on public lands with Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF). These funds will work alongside federal, state, and local dollars being used to curb the spread and extirpate patches of invasive Phragmites across Minnesota.

Design and Scope of Work

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in collaboration with the University of Minnesota, leads a statewide effort to control non-native, invasive Phragmites at all known sites of establishment across the state (mnphrag.org). Early detection and mapping of invasive Phragmites has enabled a coordinated strategy to slow and reverse its spread statewide. The species is hugely problematic in wetlands in other Midwestern states, outcompeting native plants, increasing greenhouse gas emissions from wetlands, and reducing habitat utility to birds, invertebrates and fish. For nearly a decade, collaborators across the state have helped to detect, control, and monitor invasive Phragmites. This work will expand on previous successes by using OHF dollars to tackle invasive Phragmites work on public lands and waters across the state.

Component 1: OHF funding will be used to fund management of patches of invasive Phragmites (Phragmites australis subsp. australis) on public lands and waters that are not already controlled by other partners and funding sources such as: local (e.g., Community Action Duluth manages all invasive Phragmites in St Louis River Estuary), state (e.g., MN DOT manages on road right-of-ways), or federal funds like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI, which supports about $30,000-90,000 of control annually).

Component 2: OHF funding will enable work that supports the success of controlling invasive Phragmites, specifically: assessment surveys to select sites for control annually, winter biomass management to improve control effectiveness, and re-seeding and revegetation efforts to restore habitats in locations where invasive Phragmites has been eliminated.

Context: The discovery of invasive, non-native Phragmites at an early stage of establishment in Minnesota spurred a coordinated, comprehensive effort to reverse its spread in the state. Since 2017 this coordinated response has brought partners together from across the state, including University of Minnesota researchers, local government, conservation non-profits, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Tribal Nations, and regional partners (more information at mnphrag.org). Our comprehensive approach is both reactive and preventative: simultaneously eliminating established infestations to promote native habitat recovery while protecting uninvaded habitats from future spread. Funding for annual treatment monitoring, detection of new patches, and coordination with local organizations has been secured annually through the GLRI since 2019. Management efforts are focused on "clearing counties" by targeting management in areas of the state with a limited number of small populations. Annual monitoring shows that since 2017, 29% of the 2,650 verified stands in the state have been eliminated. This

funding request aims to bolster the effort to reverse the spread of invasive Phragmites in Minnesota by investing in on-the-ground control work on public lands and waters.

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

Invasive Phragmites is one of the most studied invasive species in the world. Its impacts on fish and wildlife habitats are well documented (Hazelton et al., 2014). Studies have shown that dense Phragmites stands alter hydrology and decrease wetland plant biodiversity as well as bird, fish and invertebrate habitat use. They have also shown that invaded wetlands have increased greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to cascading effects on fish and wildlife populations through climate change.

Fortunately, research has also shown that invasive Phragmites can be effectively managed with appropriate techniques (Kettenring, 2013), especially when stands are relatively small—as the vast majority of stands in Minnesota currently are. Management at this stage increases the likelihood of habitat recovery and reduces risk of spread into new areas. A single invasive Phragmites seed head is estimated to contain 2,000 seeds. Therefore, it is critical to pursue effective measures now to contain and reverse the spread. Proactive management is well-documented to reduce control costs in the long-term—many states have spent more than this project request to manage Phragmites in single wetlands (Blanke et al., 2019).

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

This funding request is time-sensitive due to the stage of invasive Phragmites spread in Minnesota, the management and cost effectiveness of the control strategy, and the need to sustain current momentum. The scale of invasion by invasive Phragmites has remained manageable due to the coordinated control work that has been underway for the last several years. Leaving stands unmanaged allows them to expand laterally in area through rhizomes and can contribute an incredible number of propagules to the landscape. Funding this work now will harness the momentum, complementary funding, necessary partnerships, and program infrastructure that has been developed in the past decade.

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

This work will primarily focus on protecting existing habitat corridors and complexes and preventing further fragmentation through habitat protection. The funding requested for revegetation work will be prioritized to bolster habitat corridors for relatively large sites where invasive Phragmites has degraded wetlands. By focusing on control at the landscape scale and restoring native vegetation on the heels of the control work (Hazelton et al., 2014), this project will recover habitat connectivity that is lost as invasive Phragmites displaces native vegetation and degrades habitat quality (Minchinton et al., 2006).

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

Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda

Minnesota Statewide Conservation & Preservation Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect from long-term or permanent endangerment from invasive species

Metro / Urban

Protect from long-term or permanent endangerment from invasive species

Northern Forest

Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

Prairie

Protect from long-term or permanent endangerment from invasive species

Southeast Forest

Protect from long-term or permanent endangerment from invasive species

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Improved aquatic habitat vegetation ~ *Across MN we have identified invasive Phragmites-impacted habitat that will be enhanced directly by this proposal. However, a key motivation for this work is that we are eliminating sources of seed production for the species, which in turn is protecting countless additional acres of wetlands from invasion by non-native Phragmites. Progress in control will be evaluated by region using total acres of invasive Phragmites, number of stands, mean size of stands, and the ratio of new to managed and extirpated stands.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Improved aquatic habitat indicators ~ *Across MN we have identified invasive Phragmites-impacted habitat that will be enhanced directly by this proposal. However, a key motivation for this work is that we are eliminating sources of seed production for the species, which in turn is protecting countless additional acres of wetlands from invasion by non-native Phragmites. Progress in control will be evaluated by region using total acres of invasive Phragmites, number of stands, mean size of stands, and the ratio of new to managed and extirpated stands.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Improved aquatic habitat indicators ~ *Across MN we have identified invasive Phragmites-impacted habitat that will be enhanced directly by this proposal. However, a key motivation for this work is that we are eliminating sources of seed production for the species, which in turn is protecting countless additional acres of wetlands from invasion by non-native Phragmites. Progress in control will be evaluated by region using total acres of invasive Phragmites, number of stands, mean size of stands, and the ratio of new to managed and extirpated stands.*

Programs in prairie region:

Improve aquatic vegetation ~ *Across MN we have identified invasive Phragmites-impacted habitat that will be enhanced directly by this proposal. However, a key motivation for this work is that we are eliminating sources of seed production for the species, which in turn is protecting countless additional acres of wetlands from invasion by non-native Phragmites. Progress in control will be evaluated by region using total acres of invasive Phragmites, number of stands, mean size of stands, and the ratio of new to managed and extirpated stands.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Rivers, streams, and surrounding vegetation provide corridors of habitat ~ *Across MN we have identified invasive Phragmites-impacted habitat that will be enhanced directly by this proposal. However, a key motivation for this work is that we are eliminating sources of seed production for the species, which in turn is protecting countless additional acres of wetlands from invasion by non-native Phragmites. Progress in control will be evaluated by region using total acres of invasive Phragmites, number of stands, mean size of stands, and the ratio of new to managed and extirpated stands.*

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 funding is not being used to supplant any other funding sources, but will be used to supplement federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding, state Invasive Species and General Fund dollars, and multiple local partner funding sources that control nearly half of all known sites in the state.

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

Statewide, we expect that as new stands continue to be discovered, this funding will bolster recent increases in the proportion of verified stands being eliminated. By the end of the proposed grant period, most known stands in Greater Minnesota should be eliminated. The state will then be in a position to conduct more intensive management to eliminate invasive Phragmites in regions where it is more prevalent (e.g., Metro, Mississippi River corridor below Lake City). Funding needs would thereby be reduced over time. It is critical to contain the spread and sustain the progress we have made to date to protect Minnesota from the vast, monotypic stands that have devastated wetlands in other parts of North America. As the statewide response drives down the extent of invasive Phragmites we expect that local partners will be capable of managing what remains during operational conservation work and maintenance.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027-2032	OHF - LSOHC	Control work to eliminate invasive Phragmites, with increased focus on public lands and waters	Site preparation and revegetation where needed	Monitoring of outcomes at site level to ensure no reinvasion and establishment of native vegetation
2017-2030	Great Lakes Restoration Initiative - USFWS	Outstate to Metro control of invasive Phragmites	Continued coordination with local, state, federal, and tribal organizations	Annual monitoring of effectiveness

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

Protecting and restoring public lands and waters through this work helps ensure those resources continue to be available to all. Managing invasive Phragmites protects native ecosystems, which have cultural importance to Indigenous communities and many other Minnesotans. Our program coordinates with Tribal Nations and collaborates to ensure culturally sensitive management. Proactive invasive species management also reduces long-term costs that often fall upon taxpayers.

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

WPA

County/Municipal

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
Year 5: Completion of control and revegetation activities (see Year 2)	July 2031 - May 2032
Year 4: Completion of control and revegetation activities (see Year 2)	July 2030 - May 2031
Year 3: Completion of control and revegetation activities (see Year 2)	July 2029 - May 2030
Year 2: Site preparation and revegetation	May 2029
Year 2: Completion of all control activities (see Year 1)	July 2028 - February 2029
Year 1: Winter biomass knockdown	February 2028
Year 1: Control work on extant stands of invasive Phragmites	October 2027
Year 1:Coordination, permissions, and permitting	August 2027
Year 1: Monitoring and assessment of public lands sites and prioritization of sites for control, knockdown, and seeding	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	-	-	-	-
Contracts	$1,010,200	$250,000	Great Lake Restoration Initiative (anticipated)	$1,260,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	$82,500	DNR Invasive Species Account & General Fund (secured)	$82,500
Direct Support Services	$15,800	-	-	$15,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,026,000**	**$332,500**	**-**	**$1,358,500**

Amount of Request: $1,026,000
Amount of Leverage: $332,500
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 32.41%
DSS + Personnel: $15,800
As a % of the total request: 1.54%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
We have scaled all contract aspects of the project back to meet the recommendation (Control, survey and monitoring, biomass knockdown, and revegetation) by eliminating metro area acreage. The new contracts value is $1,010,224 before DNR DSS is applied.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
The DNR's invasive species program funded by the Invasive Species Account and the General Fund will support $82,500 of DNR Coordination. A Great Lake Restoration Initiative grant has supported a $50,000 contract annually to for coordination with local partners & prioritization of sites for control.

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 sites to be managed would be reduced, with a focus on managing the outstate populations to clear counties. If the funding were reduced by 50% we could also decrease the re-vegetation component of the work for some sites where local recolonization may be marginally sufficient.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
At a 30% funding, DSS would be reduced to $8686.10 because part of DSS charges from DNR are on a per unit basis (see DSS description below). The personnel leverage funding would be unchanged because the coordination work does not scale by funding amount.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
The work will be executed primarily via annual contracts for four types of work: control of invasive Phragmites in the fall of each year; assessment surveys and site selection during summer; winter biomass control; and revegetation and reseeding contracts.

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 applies $0.012 charge per dollar of request for financial support ($16,857 for this project), and fixed communication and planning support rates of $2,086 and $1,543 per internal units of funding ($3,629 for 1 allotment for this project).

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?
October, annually.

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	47	-	-	-	47
Total	**47**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**47**

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	$1,026,000	-	-	-	$1,026,000
Total	**$1,026,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,026,000**

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	13	1	1	18	14	47
Total	**13**	**1**	**1**	**18**	**14**	**47**

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	$313,900	$14,700	$29,600	$392,600	$275,200	$1,026,000
Total	**$313,900**	**$14,700**	**$29,600**	**$392,600**	**$275,200**	**$1,026,000**

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	$21,829	-	-	-

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	$24,146	$14,700	$29,600	$21,811	$19,657

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

12.1 acres of Public Waters

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Invasive Phragmites is reported to the state using EDDMapS.org. Reports are verified by experts at the DNR and UMN, and sites are visited by DNR surveyors or a local partner. Sites are logged and tracked by the MNPhrag team (MNPhrag.org) and are ranked for priority for control work annually. For this project, we have selected from all stands in Minnesota those that are on public lands or waters and are not managed by another partner. See full site list in attachments, proposed parcel list uses 2026 management data for proposed 2027 control proxy. Acreage is rounded up to 1 if less than 1 and to nearest whole integer otherwise. PIDs listed as 999 did not have a PID available in the MN Geospatial commons.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
27001-01-0-004200	Aitkin	04727202	1	$1,520	Yes	CR 22/390th St NB
27001-01-0-021600	Aitkin	04727214	1	$22,083	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave
27001-01-0-046700	Aitkin	04727223	1	$2,561	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$2,561	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727214	1	$1,373	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727212	1	$463	Yes	Osprey Ave EB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$304	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave NB
999	Aitkin	04727212	1	$967	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave NB
999	Aitkin	04727212	1	$552	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave NB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$453	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727214	1	$397	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727213	3	$74,400	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave NB
999	Aitkin	04727212	1	$2,854	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave NB
999	Aitkin	04727212	1	$3,345	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave NB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$2,444	Yes	CR 22/390th St NB
999	Aitkin	04727212	1	$3,385	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave NB
999	Aitkin	04727214	1	$1,145	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$9,911	Yes	CR 1/CR 22 at Osprey Ave
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$278	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$3,634	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$1,822	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$922	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$7,994	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$3,262	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$557	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$461	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$397	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727214	1	$88	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727212	1	$4,692	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave NB
999	Aitkin	04727211	1	$894	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave SB
999	Aitkin	04727212	1	$968	Yes	CR 1/410th Ave NB
27003-093325230003	Anoka	03325209	1	$50	Yes	CR 24/Norris Lake Rd EB
27003-123123220071	Anoka	03123212	1	$8,698	Yes	Stormwater wetland complex
27003-143123410057	Anoka	03123214	1	$365	Yes	112th Ave NE
27003-143123430069	Anoka	03123214	1	$3,749	Yes	109th Ave NW WB

27003-343123340017	Anoka	03123234	1	$456	Yes	Coral Sea St NE & Dunkirk Ct NE
999	Anoka	03222224	1	$9,397	Yes	W Freeway Drive
999	Anoka	03423231	1	$463	Yes	University Ave Extended NB
999	Anoka	03325221	1	$12	Yes	Viking Blvd NW at Nowthen Blvd NW WB
999	Anoka	03225226	1	$12	Yes	Sunfish Lake Blvd at Sunwood Dr
27005-	Becker	13842208	1	$810	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-	Becker	13842208	1	$304	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-	Becker	13842208	1	$354	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-	Becker	13842208	1	$2,843	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-	Becker	13842217	1	$253	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-	Becker	13842217	1	$4,562	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-	Becker	13842208	1	$1,521	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-	Becker	13842208	1	$3,040	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-	Becker	13842208	1	$607	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-	Becker	13842208	1	$75	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-	Becker	13842208	1	$75	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-020040000	Becker	13942207	1	$50	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-020040002	Becker	13942207	1	$253	Yes	Boyer Lake shoreline
27005-020041000	Becker	13942207	1	$5,272	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-020041000	Becker	13942207	1	$101	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-020041000	Becker	13942207	1	$16	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-020043000	Becker	13942207	1	$202	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-020043000	Becker	13942207	1	$659	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-020047000	Becker	13942207	3	$57,417	Yes	Boyer Lake island
27005-020047000	Becker	13942207	1	$152	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-027005500	Becker	13942207	1	$3,396	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-077030000	Becker	14043236	1	$38	Yes	WPA, Boyer Lake
27005-170172002	Becker	13842217	1	$101	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-170176000	Becker	13842217	1	$75	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-170176000	Becker	13842217	1	$126	Yes	Eilertson Lake
27005-180050000	Becker	13943207	1	$114	Yes	Talac Lake
27005-180072001	Becker	13943212	1	$50	Yes	Boyer Lake shoreline
27005-180072001	Becker	13943212	1	$2,585	Yes	Boyer Lake shoreline
27005-180102000	Becker	13943217	1	$2,857	Yes	Talac Lake
27005-187009000	Becker	13943214	1	$32	Yes	WPA, Haugrud
27005-WATER	Becker	13942207	1	$2,686	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-WATER	Becker	13942207	1	$1,368	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-WATER	Becker	13942207	1	$4,005	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-WATER	Becker	13942207	1	$50	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-WATER	Becker	13942207	1	$50	Yes	Boyer Lake
27005-WATER	Becker	13942207	1	$50	Yes	Boyer Lake
27017-06-230-0680	Carlton	04917214	1	$11,041	Yes	City Cloquet
27019-250070500	Carver	11623207	1	$253	Yes	Lake St Joe
27025-020041801	Chisago	03420206	1	$101	Yes	Sunrise River
27025-020080700	Chisago	03420229	1	$20,316	Yes	SE Reed Bed
27025-020178013	Chisago	03420207	1	$1,520	Yes	Sunrise River Corridor
27025-050016200	Chisago	03421212	1	$5,520	Yes	Peterson Slough E shore
27025-090030500	Chisago	03520228	1	$6,867	Yes	Lakeshore S of 375th St
27025-HIGGINS-LAKE	Chisago	03321231	1	$1,855	Yes	Higgins Lake
999	Cottonwood	10636213	1	$20,316	Yes	WMA, Little Swan
27037-190210070020	Dakota	11517221	1	$456	Yes	Mississippi River Natl Recr Area
27037-200281081011	Dakota	02822228	1	$5	Yes	Seidl's Lake Park

27037-203650031140	Dakota	02722202	1	$143	Yes	Heritage Village Park
27037-240380025011	Dakota	02823213	1	$20,316	Yes	Near Pickerel Lake
999	Dakota	11518214	1	$1,041	Yes	Spring Lake - Mississippi River
999	Freeborn	10322227	1	$60	Yes	CR 14/700th Ave NB
27053-0411922420011	Hennepin	11922204	1	$602	Yes	Maple Grove Pkwy SB
27053-0502924330021	Hennepin	02924205	1	$709	Yes	Crystal Lake, Robbinsdale
27053-0502924330021	Hennepin	02924205	1	$267	Yes	Crystal Lake
27053-0502924330021	Hennepin	02924205	1	$950	Yes	Lakeview Terrace Park
27053-0502924330021	Hennepin	02924205	1	$76	Yes	Crystal Lake
27053-0611822120099	Hennepin	11822206	1	$176	Yes	Harvest Park
27053-0702723240002	Hennepin	02724212	1	$405	Yes	NWR, MV Bass Ponds
27053-0702723240002	Hennepin	02724212	1	$101	Yes	NWR, MV Bass Ponds
27053-0702723240002	Hennepin	02724212	1	$405	Yes	NWR, MV Bass Ponds
27053-0702723240002	Hennepin	02724212	1	$1	Yes	NWR, MV Bass Ponds
27053-0711822130003	Hennepin	11822207	1	$1,260	Yes	Stormwater pond W of Peony Ln N
27053-0711822130003	Hennepin	11822207	1	$1,239	Yes	Wayzata High School
27053-0711822130003	Hennepin	11822207	1	$775	Yes	Stormwater pond W of Peony Ln N
27053-0711822130003	Hennepin	11822207	1	$2,139	Yes	Wayzata High School Rd
27053-0711822230008	Hennepin	11822207	1	$925	Yes	Stormwater pond NW of Wayzata HS Rd
27053-0711822230008	Hennepin	11822207	1	$214	Yes	Stormwater pond NW of Wayzata HS Rd
27053-0711822240002	Hennepin	11822207	1	$839	Yes	Wayzata High School
27053-0912022140055	Hennepin	12022209	1	$278	Yes	146th Ave N
27053-0912022140055	Hennepin	12022209	1	$16	Yes	146th Ave N
27053-0912022140055	Hennepin	12022209	1	$117	Yes	146th Ave N
27053-0912022140055	Hennepin	12022209	1	$732	Yes	146th Ave N
27053-0912022140055	Hennepin	12022209	1	$405	Yes	146th Ave N
27053-1011821340106	Hennepin	11821210	1	$202	Yes	Nature View Circle at 46th 1/2 Ave N
27053-1411722240010	Hennepin	11722214	1	$20,316	Yes	Big Willow Community Preserve
27053-1811721430031	Hennepin	11721218	1	$2,021	Yes	Minnehaha Creek shoreline
27053-2011822120006	Hennepin	11822220	1	$4,884	Yes	Maple Creek Park
27053-2011922140001	Hennepin	11922220	1	$2,889	Yes	Reg Trl S of Weaver Lake Rd
27053-2211922140070	Hennepin	11922222	1	$15	Yes	Arbor Lakes, West
27053-2211922140070	Hennepin	11922222	1	$1,013	Yes	Arbor Lakes, West
27053-2211922140070	Hennepin	11922222	1	$1,236	Yes	Arbor Lakes, West
27053-2211922140070	Hennepin	11922222	1	$551	Yes	Arbor Lakes, West
27053-2211922140070	Hennepin	11922222	1	$15	Yes	Arbor Lakes, West
27053-2211922410008	Hennepin	11922222	1	$55	Yes	Arbor Lakes, West
27053-2211922410008	Hennepin	11922222	1	$5	Yes	Arbor Lakes, West
27053-2211922410008	Hennepin	11922222	1	$15	Yes	Arbor Lakes, West
27053-2211922410009	Hennepin	11922222	1	$158	Yes	Arbor Lakes, West
27053-2212023230041	Hennepin	12023222	1	$8,428	Yes	CR 49/129th Ave N
27053-2212023420029	Hennepin	12023222	1	$2,384	Yes	Stormwater pond S of CR 49/129th Ave
27053-2212023430019	Hennepin	12023222	1	$1,861	Yes	Wetland E of Rachael Dr
27053-2212023430019	Hennepin	12023222	1	$20,316	Yes	Wetland S of Rachael Dr
27053-2212023430040	Hennepin	12023227	1	$1,768	Yes	Marie Place & Waterside Ct
27053-2311922320033	Hennepin	11922223	1	$5,800	Yes	Arbor Lakes, North
27053-2311922320033	Hennepin	11922223	1	$202	Yes	Arbor Lakes, North

27053-2311922320033	Hennepin	11922223	1	$1,561	Yes	Arbor Lakes, North
27053-2311922320033	Hennepin	11922223	1	$1,417	Yes	Arbor Lakes, North
27053-2311922320033	Hennepin	11922223	1	$4,245	Yes	Arbor Lakes North
27053-2311922320033	Hennepin	11922223	1	$202	Yes	Arbor Lakes, North
27053-2311922320033	Hennepin	11922223	1	$5,467	Yes	Arbor Lakes, North
27053-2311922340003	Hennepin	11922223	2	$41,958	Yes	Arbor Lakes
27053-2311922340003	Hennepin	11922223	1	$50	Yes	Arbor Lakes
27053-2311922340003	Hennepin	11922223	1	$152	Yes	Arbor Lakes
27053-2311922340003	Hennepin	11922223	1	$390	Yes	Arbor Lakes
27053-2311922340003	Hennepin	11922223	1	$2,788	Yes	Arbor Lakes
27053-2311922340003	Hennepin	11922223	1	$0	Yes	Arbor Lakes
27053-2602924440085	Hennepin	02924226	1	$1,673	Yes	Franklin Ave & Cedar Ave, S Mpls
27053-2711824110001	Hennepin	11824227	1	$2	Yes	Wetland W of Hwy 90
27053-2711824110002	Hennepin	11824227	1	$6,892	Yes	Wetland W of Hwy 90
27053-2711922320006	Hennepin	11922227	1	$2,208	Yes	Timber Crest Drive
27053-2711923440027	Hennepin	11923227	1	$3,295	Yes	E of Old Settlers Rd
27053-2811723130008	Hennepin	11723228	1	$506	Yes	Old Orchard Park Marina
27053-3002824240004	Hennepin	02824230	1	$20,316	Yes	North Lake Cornelia
27053-3011922240008	Hennepin	11922230	1	$91	Yes	E Hwy 101
27053-3011922320004	Hennepin	11922230	1	$4,867	Yes	Rush Creek Commons
27053-3011922340010	Hennepin	11922230	1	$889	Yes	Stormwater pond E of Vagabond Ln N
27053-3011922410125	Hennepin	11922230	1	$321	Yes	Maple Grove Pkwy SB at 72nd Ave N
27053-3212023440011	Hennepin	12023232	1	$1,118	Yes	Hassan Meadow Park
27053-3212023440011	Hennepin	12023232	1	$5,323	Yes	Wetland N of Cty 117/109th Ave
27053-3212023440011	Hennepin	12023232	1	$2,534	Yes	Hassan Meadow Park
27053-3311823340009	Hennepin	11823233	1	$1,581	Yes	Watertown Rd at Old Crystal Bay Rd
27053-3311922330014	Hennepin	11922233	1	$10,952	Yes	S of Elm Rd
27053-3411922140002	Hennepin	11922234	1	$2,534	Yes	Wetland S of Upsher Smith
27053-3612022310100	Hennepin	12022236	1	$4,055	Yes	Champlin Green Space
999	Hennepin	02924205	1	$12	Yes	Crystal Lake
999	Hennepin	12023228	1	$101	Yes	Tucker Rd adj to Henry Lake
999	Hennepin	02924205	1	$50	Yes	Crystal Lake; Private property adj to Lakeview Terrace Park
999	Hennepin	11723204	1	$845	Yes	Watertown Rd at Old Crystal Bay Rd
999	Hennepin	02924205	1	$25	Yes	Crystal Lake
999	Hennepin	02824224	1	$405	Yes	N of Mother Lake
999	Hennepin	02924205	1	$9	Yes	Crystal Lake, Hollingsworth Park
999	Hennepin	02924205	1	$18	Yes	Crystal Lake, Hollingsworth Park
999	Hennepin	02724213	1	$2	Yes	NWR, Old Cedar Ave Bridge
999	Hennepin	11824208	1	$5	Yes	Lake Haughey shoreline SE
999	Hennepin	02924205	1	$76	Yes	Crystal Lake N shore
999	Hennepin	02924205	1	$0	Yes	Crystal Lake S shore
999	Hennepin	02924206	1	$709	Yes	Crystal Lake
27059-01-002-0800	Isanti	03423211	1	$2	Yes	CR 9/269th Ave NE WB
27059-01-002-0800	Isanti	03423211	1	$2	Yes	CR 9/269th Ave NE EB
27059-01-003-0300	Isanti	03423210	1	$2	Yes	CR 9/269th Ave NE WB
27059-01-003-0803	Isanti	03423203	1	$5	Yes	269th Ave NE, WB

27059-01-003-1300	Isanti	03423210	1	$245	Yes	269th Ave NE, WB
27059-01-004-0102	Isanti	03423204	1	$152	Yes	CR 9/269th Ave NE WB
27059-01-010-0503	Isanti	03423210	1	$101	Yes	269th Ave NE, WB
27059-01-010-0503	Isanti	03423210	1	$10	Yes	CR 9/269th Ave NE EB
27059-01-010-0600	Isanti	03423210	1	$101	Yes	269th Ave NE, EB
27059-01-010-1701	Isanti	03423210	1	$25	Yes	269th Ave NE, EB
27059-01-010-1701	Isanti	03423210	1	$50	Yes	CR 9/269th Ave NE EB
27059-01-010-1701	Isanti	03423210	1	$12	Yes	269th Ave NE, EB
27059-01-010-1701	Isanti	03423210	1	$2	Yes	CR 9/269th Ave NE WB
27059-01-011-0500	Isanti	03423211	1	$12	Yes	269th Ave NE, EB
27059-01-011-0500	Isanti	03423211	1	$2	Yes	CR 9/269th Ave NE EB
27059-05-027-1702	Isanti	03523234	1	$101	Yes	CR 55/285th Ave ROW WB
27059-05-027-1702	Isanti	03523234	1	$506	Yes	CR 55 ROW WB
27059-05-027-1702	Isanti	03523234	1	$152	Yes	CR 55 ROW WB
27059-05-027-1702	Isanti	03523234	1	$25	Yes	CR 55/285th Ave ROW WB
27059-06-021-0901	Isanti	03724221	1	$101	Yes	CR 3/389th Ave NW
27059-08-002-0100	Isanti	03422202	1	$101	Yes	Horseshoe Lake
27059-08-002-1100	Isanti	03422202	1	$405	Yes	Horseshoe Lake
27059-09-005-0501	Isanti	03525205	1	$5	Yes	Rum River shoreline
27059-09-021-0300	Isanti	03525221	1	$76	Yes	CR 5 NW WB
999	Isanti	03422207	1	$253	Yes	CR 9/269th Ave NE EB
999	Isanti	03423211	1	$50	Yes	269th Ave NE, EB
999	Isanti	03523210	1	$212	Yes	CR Hwy 45 (Xylite St)
999	Isanti	03523234	1	$982	Yes	285th Ave NE/CR 55 WB
999	Isanti	03422202	1	$101	Yes	Horseshoe Lake
999	Isanti	03423204	1	$7	Yes	CR 9/269th Ave NE EB
999	Isanti	03423210	1	$12	Yes	269th Ave NE, WB
999	Isanti	03523234	1	$152	Yes	CR 55 ROW WB
999	Kandiyohi	11935210	1	$1,031	Yes	Foot Lake, N shoreline
999	Kandiyohi	11935210	1	$3,999	Yes	Foot Lake, SE shoreline
999	Kandiyohi	11935210	1	$14,530	Yes	Foot Lake, E shoreline
999	Kandiyohi	12136222	1	$3,176	Yes	WPA, Henjum Lake
999	Kandiyohi	12136222	1	$7,154	Yes	WPA, Henjum Lake
999	Kandiyohi	11935211	1	$4,486	Yes	City Land E of Bus 71/23
999	Kandiyohi	11935210	1	$4,416	Yes	CR 24 WB
999	Kandiyohi	12133215	1	$202	Yes	160th St NE - Cty ROW
999	Kandiyohi	11935210	1	$1,607	Yes	Foot Lake, NE Shore
999	Kandiyohi	12136222	1	$4,551	Yes	WPA, Henjum Lake
999	Kandiyohi	12136222	1	$935	Yes	WPA, Henjum Lake
999	Kandiyohi	12136221	1	$163	Yes	WPA, Henjum Lake
999	Kandiyohi	11935210	1	$788	Yes	Foot Lake, N shoreline
999	Kandiyohi	11935210	1	$4,435	Yes	Foot Lake, N shoreline
999	Kandiyohi	11935210	1	$3,310	Yes	Foot Lake, N shoreline
999	Kandiyohi	11935210	1	$1,102	Yes	Foot Lake, N shoreline
999	Kandiyohi	11935210	1	$1,698	Yes	Foot Lake, N shoreline
999	Kandiyohi	11935210	1	$317	Yes	Foot Lake, N shoreline
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$422	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$1,080	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$1,380	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$4	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$6	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$54	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$81	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$125	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$201	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$239	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$365	Yes	Lake Emily

999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$40	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$6	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$5,741	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$25	Yes	Lake Emily Boat Landing
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$110	Yes	Lake Emily Boat Landing
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$4,549	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$50	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$101	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$16	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$218	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$76	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$1,013	Yes	Lake Emily, Ludwig Island
999	Le Sueur	11024226	1	$9,445	Yes	CR 128/440th St EB
999	Le Sueur	11223203	1	$811	Yes	15th St SE
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$203	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11223235	1	$1,773	Yes	WMA, Sanborn Lake
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$60	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$125	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$359	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$684	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11223235	1	$2,047	Yes	WMA, Sanborn Lake
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$2	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$2	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$3	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$107	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$177	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$12	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$17	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$12	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$30	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$38	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$27	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$682	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$174	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$81	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$5	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$141	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$235	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$12	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$1,749	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$114	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$25	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$223	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$7	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026226	1	$30	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Le Sueur	11026223	1	$52	Yes	Lake Emily
999	Martin	10231233	1	$1,267	Yes	Pierce Lake, SE shoreline
27099-34-009-0149	Mower	10318235	1	$703	Yes	W of 11th Dr NE at 16th Ave NE
27099-34-009-0149	Mower	10318235	1	$2,230	Yes	W of 11th Dr NE at 16th Ave NE
27101-10-031-0021	Murray	10541231	1	$22,083	Yes	WMA, Cleanwater
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$1,656	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger

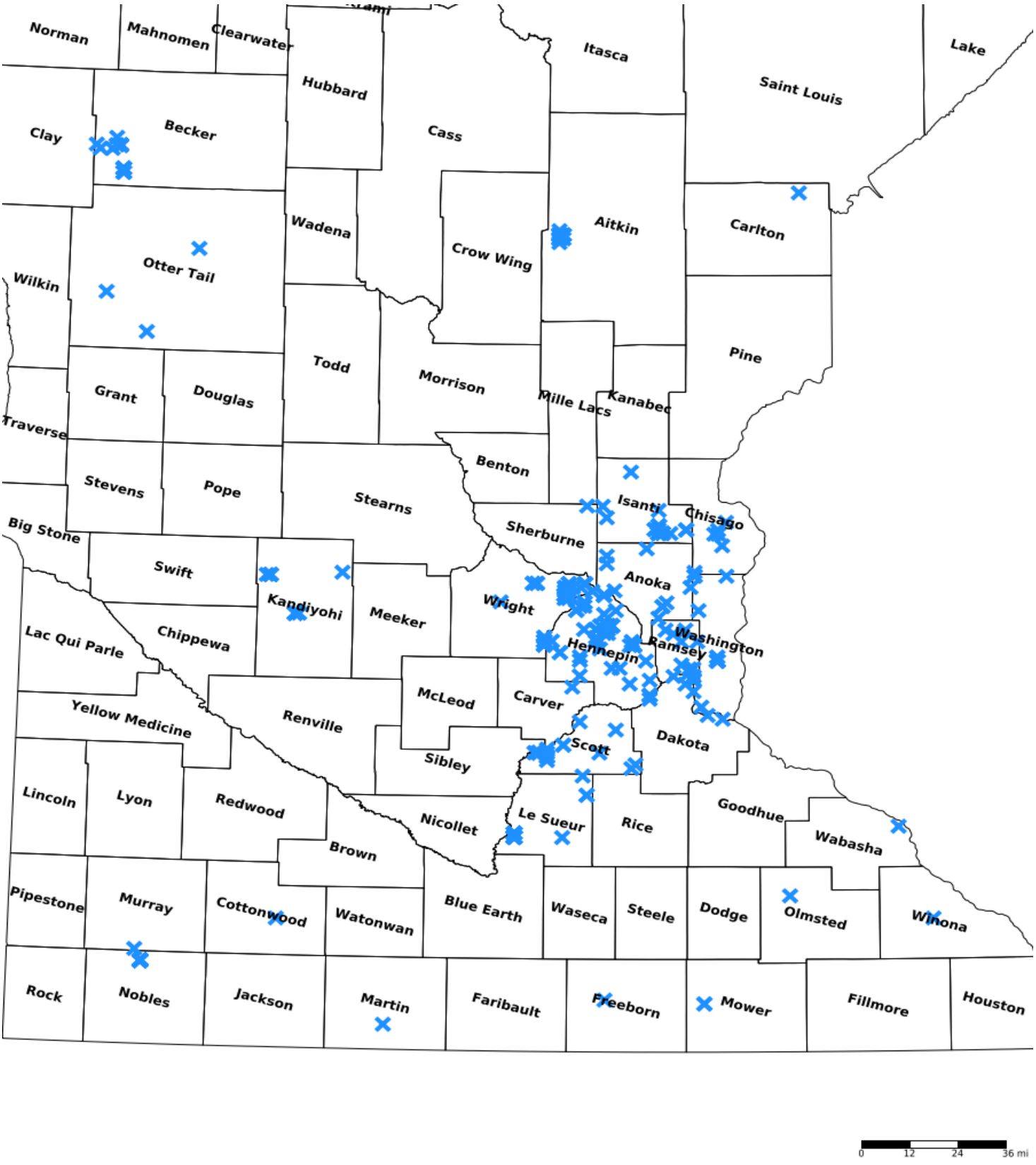
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$728	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$728	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$1,656	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$1,656	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
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999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$4,416	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$4,416	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$4,416	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$6,625	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$836	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$126	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$728	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$728	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$728	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$728	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
999	Nobles	10441217	1	$2,208	Yes	WMA, Swessinger
27109-740821074623	Olmsted	10714208	1	$1,825	Yes	Summit Point Rd NW
27111-26000230139000	Otter Tail	13343222	1	$101	Yes	CR 27 NB/Unnamed Lake
27111-53000210128000	Otter Tail	13539221	1	$5,520	Yes	WMA, Head Lake
27111-JOHNSON	Otter Tail	13141208	1	$3,562	Yes	Johnson Lake
27123-022822430001	Ramsey	02822202	1	$203	Yes	Battle Creek West
27123-102822130006	Ramsey	02822210	1	$3,992	Yes	Pig's Eye Regional Park
27123-102822210002	Ramsey	02822203	1	$5,069	Yes	Pig's Eye Regional Park
27123-142822230002	Ramsey	02822214	1	$202	Yes	Pig's Eye Lake
27123-142822310004	Ramsey	02822214	1	$682	Yes	Pig's Eye Lake
27123-142822340005	Ramsey	02822223	1	$22,083	Yes	Pig's Eye Lake
27123-142822340005	Ramsey	02822223	1	$31,579	Yes	Pig's Eye Regional Park
27123-142822340005	Ramsey	02822223	1	$17,600	Yes	Pig's Eye Regional Park
27123-153023110004	Ramsey	03023215	1	$50	Yes	Arden Hills Field Maint Facility, stormwater pond
27123-163022120005	Ramsey	03022216	1	$69	Yes	Wetland I-35E SB
27123-232822420015	Ramsey	02822223	1	$9,877	Yes	Across wetland E of Red Rock Rd - Gerdau
27123-243023430056	Ramsey	03023224	1	$2,253	Yes	Peanut Wetland
27123-322922120115	Ramsey	02922232	1	$164	Yes	Swede Hollow Park-St Paul

27123-323022430136	Ramsey	03022232	1	$152	Yes	Stormwater Pond N of I-35E/694
27123-363022130071	Ramsey	03022236	1	$191	Yes	Heiner's Pond
27139-020005000	Scott	11325202	1	$114	Yes	CR 6/Union Trail WB
27139-020005000	Scott	11325202	1	$2,854	Yes	RR ROW/Wetland interface
27139-020005010	Scott	11325203	1	$267	Yes	CR 6/Union Trail WB
27139-029020130	Scott	11325202	1	$905	Yes	Union Trail
27139-029030040	Scott	11325203	1	$516	Yes	Union Trail
27139-089230091	Scott	11321223	1	$76	Yes	260th St E WB, Elko/New Market
27139-200012800	Scott	11324206	1	$21	Yes	Minnesota River Backwater
27139-201270010	Scott	11325202	1	$3,687	Yes	MN River Floodplain
27139-201270010	Scott	11325202	1	$3,903	Yes	Wetland
27139-201270010	Scott	11325202	1	$4,610	Yes	Wetland
27139-201270020	Scott	11325202	1	$3,513	Yes	RR ROW
27139-201270020	Scott	11325202	1	$7,803	Yes	Wetland
27139-201270020	Scott	11325202	1	$795	Yes	Wetland
27139-201270020	Scott	11325202	1	$229	Yes	Wetland
27139-209310050	Scott	11424231	1	$760	Yes	Hwy 25
27139-250230100	Scott	11422201	1	$1,333	Yes	S edge of wetland
999	Scott	11324207	1	$10	Yes	CR 5/Hickory Rd NB
999	Scott	11523228	1	$769	Yes	147th St WB
999	Scott	11322205	1	$305	Yes	Hwy 13 NB
999	Scott	11321227	1	$101	Yes	Natchez Ave SB, New Market
999	Scott	11324218	1	$101	Yes	Hwy 5 - Hickory Blvd
999	Scott	11324207	1	$327	Yes	Maybe
999	Scott	11324207	1	$5	Yes	CR 5/Hickory Rd NB
999	Scott	11424226	1	$759	Yes	I-169 SB
999	Scott	11424226	1	$912	Yes	I-169 SB
999	Scott	11325203	1	$101	Yes	CR 6/Union Trail, Belle Plaine
27141-90-00003-2200	Sherburne	03526203	1	$185	Yes	Princeton Golf Course
999	Wabasha	11010211	1	$202	Yes	N of North CR 24
27163-0603221220009	Washington	03221206	1	$901	Yes	Higgins Lake
27163-2003121130007	Washington	03121220	1	$1,774	Yes	Geneva Ave, Hugo
27163-2602921110003	Washington	02921226	1	$480	Yes	Lake Elmo
27163-3002721210001	Washington	02721230	1	$76	Yes	Joseph LaBathe's Settlers Island
27171-203000194400	Washington	12026219	1	$15	Yes	Wetland behind residential
999	Washington	02921223	1	$898	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	02921226	1	$566	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	02921226	1	$507	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	02921226	1	$212	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	02921226	1	$70	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	02921226	1	$50	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	02921226	1	$21	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	02921226	1	$177	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	02921226	1	$4,272	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	03221206	1	$2,546	Yes	Higgins Lake
999	Washington	02921226	1	$3,013	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	03221206	1	$2,062	Yes	Higgins Lake
999	Washington	02921226	1	$1,609	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	02921226	1	$136	Yes	Lake Elmo

999	Washington	02921223	1	$32	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	02921226	1	$32	Yes	Lake Elmo
999	Washington	03220204	1	$456	Yes	Meadowbrook Ave, Forest Lake
27169-160000840	Winona	10608208	1	$354	Yes	Garvin Brook
27171-	Wright	11825213	1	$203	Yes	Delano Cemstone
27171-	Wright	11825213	1	$50	Yes	Wetland S of Johnson Dr
27171-	Wright	12024211	1	$709	Yes	CR 119/45th St at Birch Ave
27171-	Wright	12024211	1	$288	Yes	CR 119/45th St N of Birch Ave
27171-	Wright	12024211	1	$50	Yes	St Michael CR 119/Birch Ave
27171-101022010040	Wright	12024201	1	$4,008	Yes	Wetland in SE corner of 52nd St NE & Barthel Industrial Dr
27171-101102000030	Wright	12124236	1	$12,196	Yes	Stormwater Pond
27171-101104001150	Wright	12124235	1	$2,297	Yes	Stormwater pond S of CR 37/65th St NE
27171-101111000010	Wright	12024202	1	$1,622	Yes	Kyler Ave
27171-101146000010	Wright	12124236	1	$1,569	Yes	70th St NE
27171-101148000010	Wright	12124235	1	$6,837	Yes	S of 64th St NE/W of Winter Park
27171-101500364317	Wright	12124236	1	$25	Yes	Albertville Memorial Park
27171-101500364317	Wright	12124236	1	$1,642	Yes	Stormwater Pond
27171-107039005225	Wright	11825212	1	$900	Yes	Wetland behind residences at 14th St & Elm Ave
27171-107067000010	Wright	11825212	1	$2	Yes	Delano Wetland
27171-107123001010	Wright	11825212	1	$11,041	Yes	Delano Wetland
27171-107123001010	Wright	11825212	1	$811	Yes	Delano Stormwater Retention Pond
27171-107123001010	Wright	11825212	1	$608	Yes	Delano Stormwater Retention Pond
27171-107500013102	Wright	11825201	1	$209	Yes	Delano Dog Park
27171-107500013301	Wright	11825201	1	$141	Yes	Delano Compost Site
27171-107500131204	Wright	11825213	1	$1,774	Yes	Delano Cemstone
27171-107500131204	Wright	11825213	1	$1,267	Yes	Delano Cemstone
27171-107500131204	Wright	11825213	1	$608	Yes	Delano Cemstone
27171-107500131204	Wright	11825213	1	$456	Yes	Delano Cemstone
27171-107500131204	Wright	11825213	1	$70	Yes	Delano Cemstone
27171-114080000020	Wright	12024211	1	$304	Yes	St Michael 3rd St NW
27171-114080000020	Wright	12024211	1	$456	Yes	St Michael 3rd St NW
27171-114315001030	Wright	12024212	1	$971	Yes	Wetland behind Grt River Reg Library
27171-114500131202	Wright	12024213	1	$10	Yes	Stream restoration
27171-114500142111	Wright	12024214	1	$1,155	Yes	Stormwater pond W of Kahl Ave
27171-118276000010	Wright	12123231	1	$1,680	Yes	70th St NE at Maciver Ave
27171-118297000030	Wright	12123227	1	$20	Yes	Lefebvre Park
27171-118297000030	Wright	12123227	1	$32	Yes	Lefebvre Park
27171-118297000030	Wright	12123227	1	$15	Yes	Lefebvre Park
27171-118297000040	Wright	12123227	1	$10	Yes	Palmgren Ave NE
27171-118318000010	Wright	12124225	1	$119	Yes	Stormwater Pond
27171-118318000010	Wright	12124225	1	$600	Yes	Stormwater Pond
27171-118318000010	Wright	12124225	1	$380	Yes	Stormwater Pond
27171-118340000020	Wright	12023201	1	$201	Yes	Wetland East of Rathbun Ave NE

27171-118354000050	Wright	12123227	1	$405	Yes	Quaday Ave NE
27171-118354000050	Wright	12123227	1	$38	Yes	Quaday Ave NE
27171-118500332100	Wright	12123233	1	$1,714	Yes	70th St NE
27171-213100272200	Wright	12125227	1	$25	Yes	Slough Lake
27171-213100272200	Wright	12125227	1	$12	Yes	Slough Lake
27171-213100272300	Wright	12125227	1	$50	Yes	Slough Lake
27171-213100281100	Wright	12125228	1	$760	Yes	Slough Lake
27171-213100281100	Wright	12125228	1	$88	Yes	Slough Lake
999	Wright	12125228	1	$88	Yes	Slough Lake

Parcel Map


Norman
Mahnomen
Clearwater
Hubbard
Itasca
Lake
Saint Louis
Clay
Becker
Cass
Wadena
Aitkin
Carlton
Crow Wing
Otter Tail
Wilkin
Pine
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Grant
Douglas
Traverse
Benton
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Isanti
Chisago
Big Stone
Sherburne
Swift
Anoka
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Wright
Lac Qui Parle
Chippewa
Washington
Hennepin
Ramsey
McLeod
Carver
Yellow Medicine
Renville
Dakota
Scott
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 Statewide control and reduction of invasive Phragmites Phase I

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - DNR Statewide control and reduction of invasive Phragmites Phase I
Organization: Department of Natural Resources
Manager: Michael Verhoeven

Budget

Requested Amount: $1,422,500
Appropriated Amount: $1,026,000
Percentage: 72.13%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	-	$82,500	-	-	-	0.0%
Contracts	$1,402,000	-	$1,010,200	$250,000	72.05%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	$250,000	-	$82,500	-	33.0%
Direct Support Services	$20,500	-	$15,800	-	77.07%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,422,500**	**$332,500**	**$1,026,000**	**$332,500**	**72.13%**	**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?
The sites to be managed would be reduced, with a focus on managing the outstate populations to clear counties. If the funding were reduced by 50% we could also decrease the re-vegetation component of the work for some sites where local recolonization may be marginally sufficient.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
At a 50% funding, DSS would be reduced to $12,057.50 because part of DSS charges from DNR are on a per unit basis (see DSS description below). The personnel leverage funding would be unchanged because the coordination work does not scale by funding amount.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The sites to be managed would be reduced, with a focus on managing the outstate populations to clear counties. If the funding were reduced by 30% we could also eliminate reseeding costs and seek other funding for that component.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
At a 30% funding, DSS would be reduced to $8686.10 because part of DSS charges from DNR are on a per unit basis (see DSS description below). The personnel leverage funding would be unchanged because the coordination work does not scale by funding 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	67	47	70.15%

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	$1,422,500	$1,026,000	72.13%

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	67	47	70.15%

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	$1,422,500	$1,026,000	72.13%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/07/2026

Project Title: Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative

Funds Recommended: $4,800,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: John Lindstrom
Title: Manager of Conservation Programs - Minnesota
Organization: Ducks Unlimited
Address: c/o U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Litchfield WMD Office 22274 615th Avenue
City: Litchfield, MN 55355
Email: jlindstrom@ducks.org
Office Number:
Mobile Number: 3202128018
Fax Number:
Website: www.ducks.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Lac qui Parle, Kandiyohi, Jackson, Grant, Douglas, Cottonwood, Clay, Big Stone, Becker, Otter Tail, Stearns, Swift, Hennepin, Sherburne, Martin, Meeker, Stevens, Pope, Lincoln, Faribault, Blue Earth, Murray, Redwood, Renville, Lyon, Nobles, Todd, Sibley, Freeborn, Nicollet, Watonwan, Rice, Yellow Medicine, Le Sueur, Wright, Traverse, Polk, Scott, Carver, Washington, Mahnomen, Chippewa and Marshall.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

This request for Ducks Unlimited's Living Lakes program will enhance or restore 1,025 acres of wetlands and adjacent prairie grasslands for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Minnesota DNR, and other public land partners and private lands under permanent easement. DU biologists and engineers will design wetland restorations to restore natural hydrology and water control structures for active management of shallow lakes and larger wetlands to enhance their ecology for wildlife and people across Minnesota. While DU staff will design restoration and enhancement projects, DU will hire private contractors to conduct restoration and enhancement work.

Design and Scope of Work

This Phase 13 of Ducks Unlimited's ongoing shallow lake enhancement and wetland restoration conservation program will enhance or restore at least 1,025 acres of shallow lakes, wetlands, and prairie grasslands, primarily in the Prairie Pothole Region of Minnesota. DU biologists work with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Minnesota DNR field staff to restore and enhance wetlands on public land and under easement and DU engineers design water level control structures to enhance degraded shallow lakes and wetlands for DNR and other partners. Water control structures are used for temporary water level draw-downs to rejuvenate shallow lake ecology and productivity for wildlife. Small wetland enhancement and restoration work is completed using natural infrastructure and by removing sediment, tile, and trees from wetlands. Adjacent grasslands may be enhanced with tree removal to benefit upland nesting waterfowl. Restoration work is done by private sector firms hired by DU.

Shallow lake enhancement and wetland restoration are top priority actions in all major conservation plans for Minnesota. Our work addresses the habitat goals identified in North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan, and Minnesota's Duck Recovery Plan which calls for the active management of 1,800 shallow lakes and restoring 64,000 wetlands to Minnesota's landscape. This work is time-sensitive because complex shallow lake enhancement projects take several years to design and implement, and because wetland restorations are critically needed for breeding waterfowl.

Healthy and abundant wetlands are required to sustain breeding and migrating waterfowl. Minnesota has lost approximately 90% of our prairie wetlands and 99% of native prairie grasslands. This has had a profound negative impact on breeding ducks and other prairie wetland wildlife here. Our remaining shallow lakes and wetlands are often those that were too deep to drain years ago and now function as the core of Minnesota's remaining waterfowl habitat complexes. Unfortunately, these remaining wetland basins now receive the excessive nutrient-laden water runoff from an intensively drained and interconnected landscape through which invasive fish such as carp have improved access. As a result, many of our remaining wetlands and shallow lakes are turbid and degraded due to drainage they receive and high, stabilized water levels in which nutrients collect and invasive fish proliferate. This results in stagnated aquatic wetland ecology and productivity and wetland basins with few aquatic plants and

invertebrates for birds to eat. This is especially detrimental to diving ducks and other wetland-dependent species that rely exclusively on aquatic plant and invertebrate foods within wetlands and shallow lakes. These factors have caused a significant decline in both Minnesota's once diverse waterfowl population and rich waterfowling traditions.

This funding request will support DU staff biologists and engineers who survey, design, and manage construction of shallow lake and wetland enhancement and restoration projects to improve public water shallow lakes and restore wetlands and grasslands. Funding will also support ongoing wetland technical assistance to assess, survey, and design future enhancement and wetland projects for implementation under future OHF appropriations for this program.

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

This proposal enhances shallow lakes and restores non-forested prairie wetlands, which are identified as critical habitats for many "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" listed in Minnesota's "Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife." Specific species listed in the Action Plan as requiring shallow lakes (page 273) include lesser scaup, northern pintail, common moorhen, least bittern, American bittern, marsh wren, and Virginia rail, along with being "important for many other species". Specific species listed in the Action Plan as requiring emergent marshes (page 267) include least bittern, American bittern, marsh wren, and Virginia rail, and Forster's terns are listed as requiring large deep-water marshes.

In addition to these specific wildlife species listed as SGCN examples in the Action Plan, shallow lakes and prairie wetlands will provide habitat of significant value for other species listed in Appendix B of the Action Plan too. Enhanced shallow lakes will provide habitat of significant value for other SGCN including: western grebe, black tern, northern harrier, trumpeter swan, common loon, bald eagle, Franklin's gull, whimbrel, black-crowned night heron, American white pelican, horned grebe, red-necked grebe, eared grebe, and common tern. Restored prairie wetlands will provide habitat of significant value for other SGCN including: black tern, northern harrier, trumpeter swan, rusty blackbird and black-crowned night heron.

Frequently, our small wetland restoration and enhancement work is prioritized based on the USFWS "Thunderstorm Map" that estimates the density of breeding waterfowl across the prairie part of the state. During spring migration, waterfowl frequently return to areas near where they hatched looking to nest themselves. We target those areas that are already most attractive to breeding waterfowl, and maximize the attractiveness of small wetland basins on existing WPAs and WMAs, including removing invasive trees. This helps improve these existing complexes for wetland dependent wildlife and only makes them more attractive to waterfowl looking to nest, and improve their chance to successfully nest. These wetlands are also used by waterfowl migrating through the area in the fall too.

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

Most prairie wetlands have already been drained and most shallow lakes degraded in southern Minnesota. Functioning wetland basins are the most important habitat variable for breeding ducks and the most limiting factor for ducks in the prairie region of Minnesota. Similarly, healthy and productive shallow lakes are the limiting habitat type for diving ducks and most other migrating waterfowl species as they pass through Minnesota in fall and spring. To improve wetland conditions for both breeding and migrating waterfowl in Minnesota, it is imperative that we restore wetlands and enhance shallow lakes, especially in the Prairie Pothole Region of SW Minnesota. Some of these larger shallow lake and wetland projects can take over a decade to come together. Given

the importance of both small ponds and larger lakes and wetlands to waterfowl throughout their annual cycle, it is crucial that this work continue to be delivered effectively in high-priority areas.

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

Ducks Unlimited uses science-based targeting to evaluate shallow lake and prairie wetland restorations, especially small wetland restorations that help improve prairie-wetland complexes for breeding ducks. Models such as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) "Thunderstorm Maps" and "Restorable Wetlands Inventory" help determine landscape importance for breeding waterfowl. We consider biological diversity and significance according to the Minnesota DNR County Biological Survey (MCBS). Where possible, we like to work in large complexes of high habitat value. Several examples include:

Lake Katrina is a 485-acre shallow lake in Hennepin County and is identified as having high biodiversity significance according to MCBS. Baker Park Reserve surrounds Lake Katrina and also has sites of high biodiversity significance. Ducks Unlimited is working on a new water-control structure here that will enhance the habitat quality of the lake for wetland dependent wildlife by allowing temporary water level drawdowns.

Several federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) in west-central Minnesota are located in landscapes with outstanding biodiversity significance in large complexes of fee-title and protected private lands under permanent easement and term conservation options like CRP too. Key parts of these landscapes currently support 40-60 breeding duck pairs per square mile, with the potential to support over 100 breeding duck pairs per square mile once wetlands are restored or enhanced. Small wetland work, including tree removal, in these landscapes can improve the attractiveness of these areas to wetland dependent wildlife and upland nesting birds, such as many species of waterfowl.

Ducks Unlimited is currently working on several different wetland enhancement projects at Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge in Lac qui Parle County. The refuge is home to several sites of outstanding, high, and moderate levels of biodiversity significance. The landscape is currently able to support 10-25 breeding duck pairs per square mile. These enhanced wetlands and shallow lakes will provide additional habitat for birds throughout their annual cycle.

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

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

Metro / Urban

Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

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, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *This program will restore and enhance wetlands and grasslands on federal Waterfowl Production Areas and USFWS Habitat easements, and similar wetlands for MNDNR, each of which will be selected strategically by USFWS and MNDNR to benefit existing wetland complexes and migratory birds for both breeding and migration habitat, and which will be monitored by USFWS and MNDNR.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Game lakes are significant contributors of waterfowl, due to efforts to protect uplands adjacent to game lakes ~ *DU will enhance and restore shallow lakes and wetlands on the Three Rivers Park District, Sherburne NWR, and Minnesota Valley NWR and federal Waterfowl Production Areas perpetually protected, managed, monitored, and evaluated annually by highly-trained U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wildlife biologists. Park and service staff will guide the enhancement and restoration work by DU, and will evaluate wetland habitat outcomes annually to guide future management actions.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Other ~ *Wetland and shallow lakes restored or enhanced by DU will be assessed by Minnesota DNR or USFWS to document improvements in water clarity, abundance of aquatic plants, and overall improvements in the aquatic ecology of each basin. Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service field staff also conduct periodic counts of waterfowl and other wildlife using these basins in both spring and fall, along with hunters, and thus wildlife and human use is also monitored on a more informative opportunistic basis.*

Programs in prairie region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Wetland and shallow lakes restored or enhanced by DU will be assessed by Minnesota DNR or USFWS to document improvements in water clarity, abundance of aquatic plants, and overall improvements in the aquatic ecology of each basin. Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service field staff also conduct periodic counts of waterfowl and other wildlife using these basins in both spring and fall, along with hunters, and thus wildlife and human use is also monitored on a more informative opportunistic basis.*

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 funding requested, if approved, will supplement traditional funding for Ducks Unlimited's Living Lakes Initiative, and will not supplant or substitute for traditional funding previously used for this purpose by Ducks Unlimited.

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

Shallow lake enhancement water control structures and prairie wetland restorations are implemented for agency conservation partners on land under their state, federal, or municipal long-term control and management responsibility. Thus, all projects constructed will be sustained and maintained by conservation partners like the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which are the two primary wildlife habitat management agencies in Minnesota. Upland areas that are enhanced or restored under this program will be managed with intermittent fire to maintain the benefits of our work.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2033	DNR Game & Fish Account, OHF for DNR Shallow Lakes and Small Wetlands Program and DNR Roving Crews	DNR Area Wildlife and Program Staff will assess shallow lake and wetland conditions following initial water level draw-downs or restoration, and document for management consideration	Every 3-8 years, depending on wetland conditions, water control structures will be used to actively manage and enhance shallow lakes and wetlands via temporary water level draw-down to remove fish, stimulate aquatic plants, and rejuvenate their overall aquatic ecology, which includes stimulating aquatic invertebrate production. Some basins may need pumping via DNR pump purchased by DU via previous 2012 OHF grant.	DNR assess ecological conditions again following subsequent temporary water level draw-downs and refilling management treatments, and communicate results and questions or concerns to DU.

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

Ducks Unlimited conserves wetlands for waterfowl and people alike. Our habitat projects restore natural infrastructure, which helps to alleviate society's climate impacts and provide clean water for diverse communities, who are disproportionately impacted by the effects of wetland loss and climate change.

Wetlands recharge groundwater in aquifers that provide clean, dependable water supplies while removing pollutants and reducing downstream flooding. Community resiliency is enhanced by the function of wetlands and adjacent grassland habitats that clean water and help absorb impacts from severe weather events. Public waters also provide opportunities for fishing, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, birding, and outdoor education for diverse and low to moderate income communities that may not otherwise have access to natural open spaces. Frequently our work occurs in outstate Minnesota where there are more moderate and low income households, providing access to natural areas where they might not otherwise have access. Indigenous communities may benefit from DU wetland enhancements and restorations that create suitable conditions for wild rice to proliferate. Wetlands deliver a return on investment that supports the health, resiliency, and well-being of diverse communities.

Restoring wetlands in the Mississippi River watershed benefits the diverse communities who draw their water from the river such as Minneapolis, St. Paul, and St. Cloud. Minneapolis alone draws 21 billion gallons of water a

year from the Mississippi River to produce 57 million gallons of drinking water each day.

DU works with Three Rivers Park District and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Minnesota Valley and Sherburne National Wildlife Refuges to enhance shallow lakes and other wetlands near diverse communities. The Refuges and Park District both connect the vibrant cultures of the Twin Cities metro with the diversity of wildlife and habitat in the metro area. They enhance urban habitat while offering community programs, environmental education, and access to nature on the edge of the city as well as hunting, fishing and hiking in wilder areas across the metro.

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

WPA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Public Waters

Refuge Lands

County/Municipal

AMA

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 remaining small wetland projects and larger shallow lake enhancement water control structure installations	June 2032
Complete some small wetland restorations and some larger shallow lake enhancements	June 2028
Recon projects with DNR, FWS, and other partners and begin engineering survey and design of wetland restorations and shallow lake enhancements	June 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	$902,000	$193,000	DU Private, federal NAWCA, and USFWS IRA	$1,095,000
Contracts	$3,638,200	$205,000	DU Private & federal NAWCA grants	$3,843,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	$500,000	Federal USFWS Migratory Bird Con. Fund	$500,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$41,000	$4,100	DU Private & federal NAWCA grants	$45,100
Professional Services	$20,500	-	-	$20,500
Direct Support Services	$72,200	-	-	$72,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	$40,000	-	-	$40,000
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,100	-	-	$4,100
Supplies/Materials	$82,000	$8,200	DU Private & federal NAWCA grants	$90,200
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,800,000**	**$910,300**	**-**	**$5,710,300**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Professional Engineers, Surveyors, Construction Managers, and Biologists to Design and Implement Projects	3.0	3.0	$840,500	$193,000	DU Private, federal NAWCA, and USFWS IRA	$1,033,500
Manager - Grant Administration & Program Coordination	0.25	2.0	$61,500	-	-	$61,500

Capital Equipment

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
New ATV/UTVs for survey and construction management.	$40,000	-	-	$40,000

Amount of Request: $4,800,000
Amount of Leverage: $910,300
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 18.96%
DSS + Personnel: $974,200
As a % of the total request: 20.3%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
All acres/activities/budget items were generally scaled proportionately to our 41% recommendation level. The only exception is Capital Equipment which was left at the full proposal level to allow us to purchase two machines from this appropriation.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
DU will leverage OHF grant funds with additional private support from individuals, foundations, and corporations and from federal NAWCA grants. Federal leverage will also come from USFWS ($500,000 MBCF easement acquisition funds and $100,000 from IRA).

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?
If reduced to 50% of the request, our acres/activities and budget would be scaled proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If reduced to 30% of the request, our personnel and DSS would be scaled proportionately.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
The contracts line is for shallow lake enhancement and wetland restoration work contracted to private sector construction firms specializing in earth moving and water control structure installation involving steel weirs, concrete culverts, etc.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Other : County Ditch Petitions and Outlet Fees, Soil Suitability Investigations

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 - DU travel costs consist of in-state mileage, food, and lodging only. Travel is primarily mileage and lodging for engineering field staff and biologists during project survey and construction management. DU has not typically invoiced for food or meals in the past, and likely won't do so in the future.

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?
Minnesota DNR grants staff previously reviewed and approved DU accounting methodology for Direct Support Services, which are calculated and included in DU staff costs. DU Direct Support Services constitute approximately 8% of DU overall staff costs on average among all billable DU conservation staff categories. DU breaks out and invoices for Direct Support Service expenses approved by DNR for reimbursement separately from Personnel expenses.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
GPS survey equipment for performing engineering wetland restoration survey work and engineering surveys of shallow lake and large wetland enhancement projects, including survey equipment lease charges instead of actual outright equipment purchases to avoid buying equipment that becomes obsolete due to upgrades and advancements. Other equipment may include laptop and/or tablet computers, printers and other office equipment for biologists or engineers may be needed, along with hand tools and other field equipment as needs arise.

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
Yes

Is Confirmation Document attached?
Yes, on file

Cash : $500,000

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	80	45	-	-	125
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	570	330	-	-	900
Total	**650**	**375**	**-**	**-**	**1,025**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	$463,000	$41,000	-	-	$504,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$4,173,000	$123,000	-	-	$4,296,000
Total	**$4,636,000**	**$164,000**	**-**	**-**	**$4,800,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	20	-	100	5	125
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	40	80	-	760	20	900
Total	**40**	**100**	**-**	**860**	**25**	**1,025**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	$162,000	-	$328,000	$14,000	$504,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$205,000	$480,000	-	$3,595,000	$16,000	$4,296,000
Total	**$205,000**	**$642,000**	**-**	**$3,923,000**	**$30,000**	**$4,800,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	$5,787	$911	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$7,321	$372	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	$8,100	-	$3,280	$2,800
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$5,125	$6,000	-	$4,730	$800

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:
Ducks Unlimited prioritizes prairie shallow lake enhancement and wetland restoration and enhancement opportunities that are located in landscapes most heavily used by migrating and breeding waterfowl, and which our DNR and USFWS agency partners have identified and prioritize for optimal waterfowl habitat. Due to the overall shortage of prairie wetlands for breeding ducks, and relatively few shallow lakes in optimal condition for migrating ducks in Minnesota, DU relies on our DNR and USFWS agency partner biologists with land management responsibility to determine shallow lake and wetland project opportunities on public land or under easement. From there, DU prioritizes wetland restorations within landscapes of higher predicted breeding duck use, and prioritizes enhancement of shallow lakes where management success is most probable due to basin depth, landscape and hydrology conditions, and the likelihood that invasive fish can be minimized. For our WPA work, it is largely prioritized by the USFWS "Thunderstorm Map," that predicts breeding waterfowl densities, with this program focusing on the WPAs in the best predicted breeding habitats of the prairie and transition parts of the state.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Haverkamp WPA	Becker	14141205	10	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Lindsey Lake WPA	Becker	14242233	20	$200,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Severson Lake WPA	Becker	13843202	20	$200,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Spring Marshes WPA	Becker	14042209	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Stinking Lake WPA	Becker	14043231	50	$500,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for USFWS
Tamarac NWR - Beaver Valley Enhancement	Becker	14039220	10	$75,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for USFWS
Tamarac NWR - Buffalo Headwaters	Becker	14040212	80	$250,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for DNR
Tamarac NWR - Mudd Lake Enhancement	Becker	14039231	130	$300,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for USFWS
Tamarac NWR - Pine Lake Enhancement	Becker	14039229	500	$500,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for USFWS
Barry Lake WPA	Big Stone	12447204	3	$20,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Bentson Lake WPA	Big Stone	12245207	4	$35,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Hillman WPA	Big Stone	12145215	1	$10,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Jorgenson WPA	Big Stone	12245203	33	$50,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Kufrin WPA	Big Stone	12245221	10	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Lac Qui Parle WMA - Perry Tract Enhancement	Big Stone	12044215	3	$20,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for DNR

Olson WPA	Big Stone	12244201	15	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Otrey Lake WMA	Big Stone	12245222	55	$200,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
Prairie WPA	Big Stone	12246236	2	$15,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Rothi WPA	Big Stone	12145202	3	$25,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Swenson Lake	Big Stone	12246203	314	$500,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
Twin Lakes WPA	Big Stone	12246225	1	$10,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Eagle Lake	Blue Earth	10825207	617	$1,000,000	Yes	Engineer and install pump and water control structure for DNR
Ida Lake Enhancement	Blue Earth	10528212	160	$750,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for DNR
Lost Marsh WMA	Blue Earth	10625235	230	$300,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for DNR
MN Valley NWR - Chaska Lake Enhancement	Carver	11523208	80	$500,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure for USFWS.
Franko WMA Enhancement	Chippewa	11738214	42	$150,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
Bjornson WPA	Clay	13845209	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Eide WPA	Clay	14144221	10	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Korell WPA	Clay	14144215	30	$200,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Moe WPA	Clay	14144232	10	$10,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Clear Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10538235	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Cottonwood Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10535219	2	$20,000	Yes	Restore small wetlands for USFWS
Harder Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10636216	1	$5,000	Yes	Engineer and restore small wetlands for USFWS
Rat Lake Enhancement	Cottonwood	10635220	130	$200,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for MNDNR
Watonwan River WPA	Cottonwood	10636211	85	$150,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands for USFWS
Wolf Lake WPA - Small wetland restorations	Cottonwood	10535231	5	$20,000	Yes	Restore small wetlands for USFWS
Ernest Olson WPA	Douglas	13040223	2	$115,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Hegg Lake WMA	Douglas	12740227	73	$300,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
Hudson WPA - Small Wetlands	Douglas	12737229	3	$145,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
J.I. case WPA - Small Wetlands	Douglas	12840225	2	$125,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Kensington WPA	Douglas	12740233	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Klug WPA - Small Wetlands	Douglas	12840221	1	$105,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Petersen WPA	Douglas	12836229	3	$145,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.

Rachel WPA	Douglas	12837211	5	$55,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Runestone WPA	Douglas	12740214	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Stowe Lake WPA	Douglas	12939218	447	$150,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Urness WMA	Douglas	12840210	37	$200,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
Maple River WPA	Faribault	10426210	50	$500,000	Yes	Enhance wetland management with new water level control structures.
Minnesota Lake	Faribault	10425206	1,860	$500,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for DNR
Bhagyam WPA	Freeborn	10121230	15	$20,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands for USFWS
Twin Lakes WPA	Freeborn	10122202	5	$50,000	Yes	Restore small wetlands for USFWS
Two Island WPA	Freeborn	10322224	4	$20,000	Yes	Engineer and restore small wetlands for USFWS
Bailey Slough WPA	Grant	12843206	8	$30,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Evavold WPA	Grant	13041204	2	$20,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Frikken WPA	Grant	13042203	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Green WPA	Grant	12843207	6	$35,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Pomme de Terre WPA	Grant	13042235	4	$175,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Stony Brook WPA - Shallow Lake Enhancement	Grant	13043205	118	$300,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for USFWS
Lake Katrina Enhancement	Hennepin	11823230	485	$500,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure for Three Rivers Park District.
Three Rivers Park District - Goose Lake Enhancement	Hennepin	12022235	74	$250,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for 3RPD
Three Rivers Park District - Mud Lake Enhancement	Hennepin	11922202	140	$500,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for 3RPD
Boot Lake	Jackson	10335231	155	$500,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structures for MNDNR
Christiania WPA - Small Wetlands	Jackson	10435209	6	$100,000	Yes	Restore small wetlands for USFWS
Iowa Lake Enhancement	Jackson	10138231	242	$400,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
Little Sioux WPA	Jackson	10136230	10	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Minnesota WPA	Jackson	10137232	30	$300,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands for USFWS
Sioux Forks WPA	Jackson	10136218	10	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Timber Lake WPA	Jackson	10437224	21	$40,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands for USFWS
Big Kandiyohi Lake WPA	Kandiyohi	11734203	40	$400,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.

Brenner Lake WPA	Kandiyohi	12236206	10	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Burbank WPA	Kandiyohi	12234210	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Carlson Lake WPA	Kandiyohi	12034204	10	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Century WPA - Small Wetlands	Kandiyohi	12136211	10	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Ella Lake WPA	Kandiyohi	11933221	30	$200,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Evenson WPA	Kandiyohi	12035216	15	$75,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Hanson WPA	Kandiyohi	11836214	8	$80,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Johnson WPA - Small Wetlands	Kandiyohi	11834230	5	$20,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Larson Easement Restoration	Kandiyohi	12034229	10	$50,000	Yes	Restore small wetlands for USFWS
New London WPA	Kandiyohi	12134204	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Pennock WPA	Kandiyohi	12036234	26	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Randall WPA - Small wetlands	Kandiyohi	12236209	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Sunburg WPA Small Wetlands	Kandiyohi	12236219	15	$75,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Swanson WPA Small Wetlands	Kandiyohi	12034222	10	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Uncle Matt's WPA	Kandiyohi	12033232	10	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Weber WPA - Small wetlands	Kandiyohi	12035221	20	$200,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Yarmon WPA	Kandiyohi	11834223	263	$400,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure for USFWS
Big Stone NWR - Pool 3/5 Enhancement	Lac qui Parle	12045208	130	$500,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for FWS
Big Stone NWR Pool 4/4A	Lac qui Parle	12145232	275	$1,500,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structures for USFWS
Colbert WPA	Lac qui Parle	11744232	10	$30,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Goodman WPA	Lac qui Parle	11745229	5	$20,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Sweetwater WMA	Lac qui Parle	11746236	69	$200,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
Wild Wings WMA	Lac qui Parle	11643223	73	$250,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
Sanborn Lake WMA - Dietz Lake Enhancement	Le Sueur	11223235	73	$300,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
Agribank WPA	Lincoln	11146205	25	$150,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Anderson Lake Enhancement	Lincoln	11145206	275	$400,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for DNR
Fox WPA	Lincoln	11045222	20	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Knofczynski WPA	Lincoln	11245227	10	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS

Kontz WPA	Lincoln	11345206	20	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR - Gislason Lake Unit Small Wetlands	Lincoln	11144201	15	$70,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Prairie Dell WMA Enhancement	Lincoln	11345216	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for DNR
Rook WPA	Lincoln	11345227	17	$75,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Weber WPA	Lincoln	11045222	11	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Arends WPA	Lyon	11343218	5	$20,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Bendix I WPA	Lyon	10941220	5	$35,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Bendix II WPA	Lyon	10941221	5	$15,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Black Rush Lake WPA	Lyon	11042216	30	$125,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Lyons WMA - Brown Marsh Enhancement	Lyon	11042228	70	$300,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake with water control structure for MNDNR
Peterson WPA	Lyon	10942230	5	$20,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Sherman WPA	Lyon	10941218	10	$25,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Church Lake Restoration	Mahnomen	14641232	206	$500,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
Jason Barker WPA East	Mahnomen	14542224	3	$20,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Agassiz NWR - Madsen Pool	Marshall	15642215	100	$50,000	Yes	Enhance wetland management with new water level control structures.
Agassiz NWR - Mud Lake Main Agassiz Pool	Marshall	15641220	5,000	$1,000,000	Yes	Enhance wetland management with berms.
Agassiz NWR - Pool 8	Marshall	15642203	100	$50,000	Yes	Enhance wetland management with new water level control structures.
Clam Lake	Martin	10332215	72	$200,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for MNDNR
Duck Lake Restoration	Martin	10333211	100	$300,000	Yes	Restore shallow lake for USFWS
Four Corners WMA - Small Wetlands	Martin	10332231	10	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Holmes Lake Restoration	Martin	10232235	100	$750,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for USFWS
Rooney Run WMA - Round Lake Enhancement	Martin	10332221	45	$200,000	Yes	Engineer and install water level control structure for MNDNR
Rooney Run WMA - Small Wetlands	Martin	10332210	5	$30,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for DNR
Seymour WMA Small Wetlands	Martin	10332220	5	$30,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS

Clear Lake WPA	Meeker	12130210	10	$75,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure for USFWS.
Harvey WPA	Meeker	12031231	40	$400,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Lake Harden WPA Small Wetlands	Meeker	11831236	10	$75,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Litchfield WPA	Meeker	11931236	20	$200,000	Yes	Restore wetlands for USFWS.
Meeker Easement 107X	Meeker	11930204	25	$250,000	Yes	Enhance wetland for USFWS with new water control structure.
Meeker Easement 162X	Meeker	12029213	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Meeker Easement 205X, 204X, 126X	Meeker	12029225	35	$150,000	Yes	Restore small wetlands for USFWS
Peifer WPA Shallow Lake Enhancement	Meeker	11930204	81	$200,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for USFWS
Rodewald WMA - Wetland Restoration	Meeker	11832220	25	$300,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure for MNDNR.
Rosendale WPA	Meeker	11832216	20	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Seifert Easement Restoration	Meeker	11931236	20	$100,000	Yes	Restore small wetlands for USFWS
Tyrone Flats WPA	Meeker	12131213	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Buffalo Lake WMA Wetland Restoration	Murray	10739207	10	$50,000	Yes	Restore small wetlands for MNDNR.
Devils Run WPA	Murray	10639206	28	$200,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure for USFWS
Haberman WMA Restoration	Murray	10539217	100	$150,000	Yes	Restore small wetlands and grassland for DNR
Kramer FWS Easement Restoration	Murray	10839229	30	$300,000	Yes	Restore small wetlands for USFWS
Lowville WMA Enhancement	Murray	10742212	45	$100,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for MNDNR
Shetek WMA - Robbins Slough Enhancement	Murray	10840222	245	$350,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for MNDNR
Shetek WMA - Round Lake Enhancement	Murray	10840221	171	$200,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure for MNDNR.
Slaughter Slough WPA	Murray	10740211	20	$125,000	Yes	Engineer and restore small wetlands for USFWS
Swan Lake WMA - Small Wetlands	Nicollet	10928206	10	$150,000	Yes	Enhance and restore small wetlands for DNR
Bloom WPA	Nobles	10441220	4	$20,000	Yes	Engineer and restore small wetlands for USFWS
Graham Lake WPA	Nobles	10439220	14	$70,000	Yes	Engineer and restore small wetlands for USFWS
Lake Bella WPA	Nobles	10140227	1	$5,000	Yes	Engineer and restore small wetlands for USFWS
Worthington WPA	Nobles	10240224	2	$20,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.

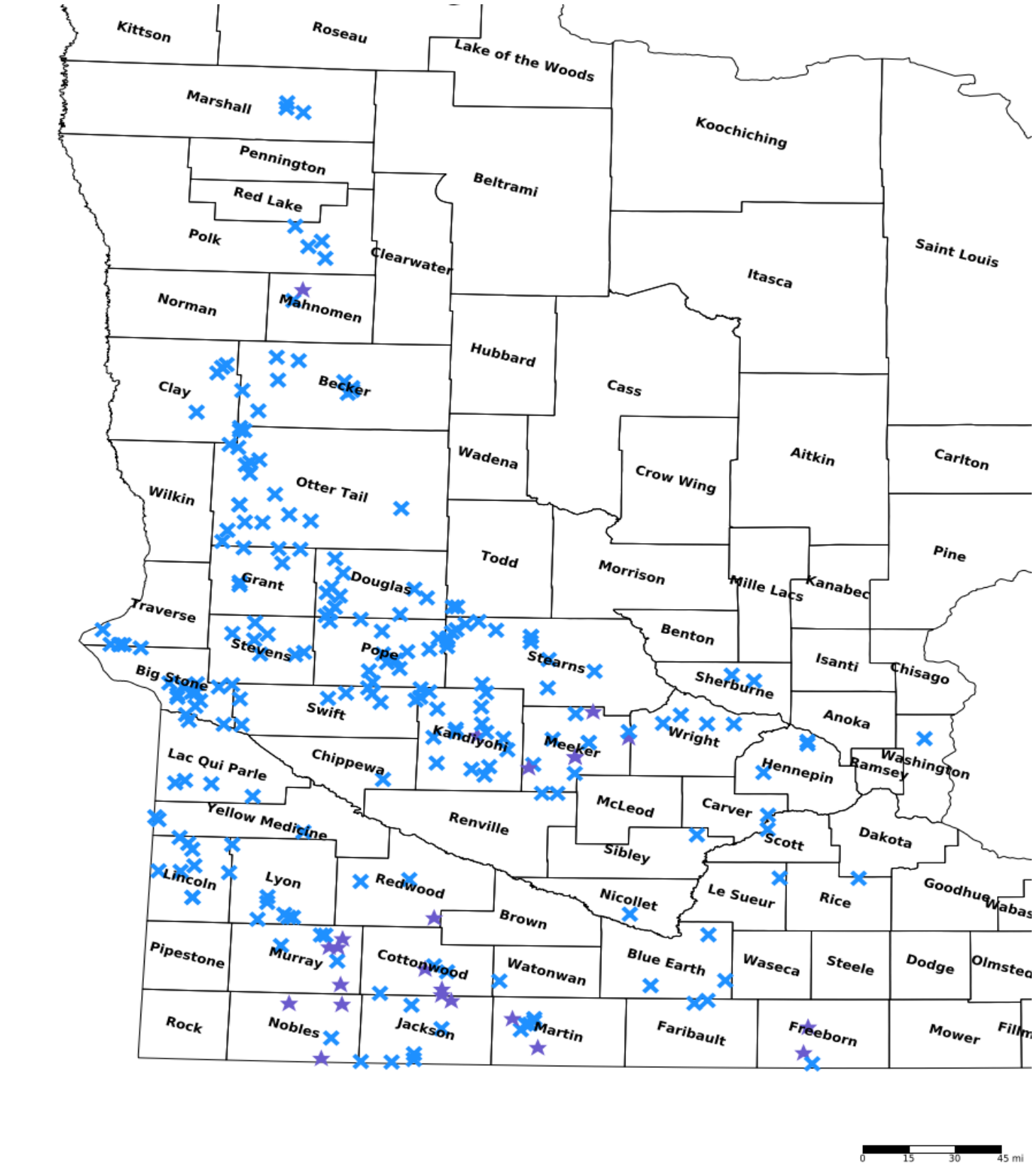
Backstrom WPA - Small Wetlands	Otter Tail	13543208	3	$40,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Duenow WPA	Otter Tail	13442233	3	$20,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Erhard's Grove WPA - Small Wetlands	Otter Tail	13543228	2	$140,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Fitzgerald WPA	Otter Tail	13743208	2	$40,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Gardner WPA	Otter Tail	13644203	1	$15,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Grady Mann WPA	Otter Tail	13144228	3	$140,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Haiby WPA	Otter Tail	13644212	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Headquarters WPA - Small Wetlands	Otter Tail	13242201	1	$5,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Hi View WMA	Otter Tail	13243224	56	$500,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake for DNR
Jorgenson WPA	Otter Tail	13144203	6	$15,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Kunz WPA	Otter Tail	13243220	95	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Mortenson WPA Small Wetlands	Otter Tail	13241214	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Nelson WPA	Otter Tail	13743206	1	$30,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Pelican Valley WPA	Otter Tail	13543204	3	$20,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Rokes WPA	Otter Tail	13337220	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Simpson WPA	Otter Tail	13643235	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Tomhave WPA	Otter Tail	13343219	43	$25,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Tweeton WPA	Otter Tail	13743207	1	$35,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Wildung WPA	Otter Tail	13343219	83	$45,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Clarke WPA	Polk	14941207	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Hill River WPA	Polk	14841201	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Lepier WPA	Polk	14740206	10	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Mcintosh WPA	Polk	14841216	1	$10,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Ann Lake WPA	Pope	12638227	4	$135,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Glenwood WPA	Pope	12537234	15	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Grove Lake WPA	Pope	12536228	10	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Jorgenson WPA	Pope	12639202	10	$10,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Kolstad Lake WPA	Pope	12338206	15	$50,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Krantz Lake WPA	Pope	12536202	15	$70,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS

Mattson WPA	Pope	12640210	7	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Ouren WPA	Pope	12437232	5	$160,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Rolling Forks WPA	Pope	12338229	10	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Stenerson Lake WPA	Pope	12438203	13	$15,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Stenson Lake WPA	Pope	12438223	4	$115,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Wall WPA	Pope	12437218	9	$90,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Coal Mine Creek WMA Restoration	Redwood	10936214	150	$750,000	Yes	Restore small wetlands and grassland for DNR
Daubs Lake Enhancement	Redwood	11137211	175	$250,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
Westline WMA	Redwood	11139213	200	$200,000	Yes	Engineer and install water level control structure for MNDNR
Boon Lake Enhancement	Renville	11631205	858	$500,000	Yes	Engineer and install a water control structure and permanent pump for MNDNR
Brookfield WPA	Renville	11632202	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
St. Olaf - Big Pond Enhancement	Rice	11220235	10	$100,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for FWS
MN Valley NWR - Louisville Swamp Enhancement	Scott	11423205	75	$500,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure for USFWS.
Sherburne NWR - East Bergerson Enhancement	Sherburne	03427203	20	$100,000	Yes	Enhance large wetland for USFWS
Sherburne NWR - West Carpenter Pool Enhancement	Sherburne	03528226	70	$300,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure for USFWS.
Washington Lake Enhancement	Sibley	11426215	600	$500,000	Yes	Engineer and install new water control structure for MNDNR.
Ashley WPA	Stearns	12635229	20	$200,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Collegeville WPA	Stearns	12430234	3	$30,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Crow River WMA Enhancement	Stearns	12334228	77	$300,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
McCormick Lake WPA Small Wetlands	Stearns	12634224	5	$25,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Padua WPA	Stearns	12535206	10	$10,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Pope WPA	Stearns	12535207	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Prairie Storm WPA	Stearns	12535219	5	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Roscoe WPA Small Wetlands	Stearns	12332236	20	$150,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
St Martin WPA Small Wetlands	Stearns	12432212	20	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Stearns Easement 181x	Stearns	12632232	37	$500,000	Yes	Enhance large wetland for USFWS

USFWS Easement - 181X	Stearns	12632232	38	$200,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for FWS
Uhlenkolts Lake WPA	Stearns	12532208	2	$20,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Whitney WPA	Stearns	12635211	20	$200,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Wiener WPA	Stearns	12635221	10	$50,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Zehrer WPA	Stearns	12634205	2	$20,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Edwards WPA - Small Wetlands	Stevens	12441208	1	$40,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Fish Lake WPA	Stevens	12544201	8	$20,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Fults WPA	Stevens	12542205	10	$25,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Geise WPA	Stevens	12643214	32	$50,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Long Lake WPA	Stevens	12441203	3	$15,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Pepperton WPA	Stevens	12543214	1	$10,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Schultz WPA	Stevens	12443212	30	$200,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Artichoke Lake WPA	Swift	12244209	15	$70,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Brady WPA	Swift	12237225	5	$30,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Fahl WPA	Swift	12238206	19	$45,000	Yes	Enhance wetlands and prairie for FWS
Johnson Lake Enhancement	Swift	12239217	179	$500,000	Yes	Enhance shallow lake with water control structure for MNDNR
Lac Qui Parle WMA - Williamson Unit Enhancement	Swift	12043217	12	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for DNR
Loose WPA	Swift	12243232	5	$30,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Lynch Lake WPA	Swift	12240227	5	$30,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Svor WPA	Swift	12238217	5	$85,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Welsh WPA	Swift	12238234	50	$200,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Aurzada Prairie WMA	Todd	12735208	5	$50,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
West Union WMA	Todd	12735209	30	$250,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for DNR
Diekmann WPA - Small Wetlands	Traverse	12548235	2	$75,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Gibson WPA - Small Wetlands	Traverse	12548233	1	$165,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Jenk WPA - Small Wetlands	Traverse	12548235	1	$175,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Murphy WPA	Traverse	12548236	1	$180,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Pederson WPA	Traverse	12548206	3	$30,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.

Keystone Woods WMA - Wetland Enhancement	Washington	03120218	125	$750,000	Yes	Wetland enhancement for DNR on Keystone Woods WMA after purchase by TPL.
Sulem WMA	Watonwan	10533205	226	$500,000	Yes	Engineer and install water level control structure for MNDNR
Angus Lake WPA	Wright	12126236	22	$220,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Annandale WPA	Wright	12127232	5	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Corinna WPA	Wright	12127213	5	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Pelican Lake WPA - Small wetlands	Wright	12125236	15	$200,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS.
Dakota WPA	Yellow Medicine	11446205	20	$200,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Kontz WPA	Yellow Medicine	11546231	10	$100,000	Yes	Enhance small wetlands for USFWS
Spellman WMA - Miedd Lake	Yellow Medicine	11441223	50	$100,000	Yes	Engineer and install water control structure for MN DNR

Parcel Map



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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative
Organization: Ducks Unlimited
Manager: John Lindstrom

Budget

Requested Amount: $11,776,000
Appropriated Amount: $4,800,000
Percentage: 40.76%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$2,200,000	$470,000	$902,000	$193,000	41.0%	41.06%
Contracts	$9,000,000	$500,000	$3,638,200	$205,000	40.42%	41.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	$500,000	-	$500,000	-	100.0%
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$100,000	$10,000	$41,000	$4,100	41.0%	41.0%
Professional Services	$50,000	-	$20,500	-	41.0%	-
Direct Support Services	$176,000	-	$72,200	-	41.02%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	$40,000	-	$40,000	-	100.0%	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$10,000	-	$4,100	-	41.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$200,000	$20,000	$82,000	$8,200	41.0%	41.0%
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$11,776,000**	**$1,500,000**	**$4,800,000**	**$910,300**	**40.76%**	**60.69%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If reduced to 50% of the request, our acres/activities and budget would be scaled proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If reduced to 50% of the request, our personnel and DSS would be scaled proportionately.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If reduced to 30% of the request, our acres/activities and budget would be scaled proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If reduced to 30% of the request, our personnel and DSS would be scaled proportionately.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	300	125	41.67%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	2,200	900	40.91%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$1,236,000	$504,000	40.78%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$10,540,000	$4,296,000	40.76%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	300	125	41.67%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	2,200	900	40.91%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$1,236,000	$504,000	40.78%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$10,540,000	$4,296,000	40.76%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Mud River Enhancement Phase II

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/16/2026

Project Title: Mud River Enhancement Phase II

Funds Recommended: $3,200,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Tammy Audette
Title: Administrator
Organization: Red Lake Watershed District
Address: 1000 Pennington Avenue South
City: Thief River Falls, MN 56701
Email: tammy.audette@redlakewatershed.org
Office Number: 2186815800
Mobile Number: 2186815800
Fax Number: 2186815839
Website: redlakewatershed.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Marshall.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

Enhance

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

The Mud River drains thousands of acres of agricultural lands before flowing into the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). ML 2026 successfully began Phase I of this project. ML 2027-Phase II is intended to acquire full funding and complete 100% of the goals of the project, and provide 372 additional acres of riparian habitat. Both Phases I and II will bring riparian benefits back to a 6-mile segment of the original channel by restoring natural function.

Design and Scope of Work

Altered hydrology, flashiness, and incoming sediment from the Mud River watershed has multiple, harmful effects on the NWR. These include wetland bounce, attributed to runoff events during the nesting season which have negative effects on many waterfowl species, loss of meandered riparian habitat for species associated with this habitat type, deterioration of habitat quality as sediment accumulates in wetlands that then become infested with invasive cattail, increased flood impacts as sediment displaces storage volume within the NWR pools, rapid increases in and periodic spikes in turbidity levels in the Thief River when releases of water transfer sediment out of the NWR.

The project was developed using the Flood Damage Reduction Project Work Team approach. This team included Federal, State and Local units of government and both upstream and downstream stakeholders. Alternatives were developed, discussed and consensus reached on the preferred alternative. Project engineering focused on enhancing a six (6) mile segment of an abandoned natural stream. This project will direct at least 80% of the Mud River flow to the enhanced channel, returning it to a functioning state with natural meanders, base flow, low flow channel connected with the floodplain, and a design based on fluvial geomorphic principals. Habitat improvements will include restoring a diverse plant community along the floodplain gradient from emergent wetland vegetation up to forested margins.

The proposed Project consists of a diversion structure at the upstream end, a sinuous excavated two stage channel with low flow channel that conveys a 1 to 2 year design flow and a floodplain bench where needed to convey the 10-year flow. Also included is placement of spoil piles to add topographic variability and provide for increased vegetative diversity. The existing ditches will remain in place with the new channel providing increased flow capacity as compared to existing conditions. The recommended option allows the 10-year event to spread out across the floodplain as compared to being confined to the straightened ditch system. By allowing the flow to spread out there is a decrease in downstream peak flow from 675 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 575 cfs (15% reduction).

For ML 2027 the Project Work Team has considered additional design elements after further analysis, the need to include a large box culvert at the downstream end of the project, which is reflected in the overall cost of the project. In this Phase II request we are also accounting for inflation, resulting in a higher anticipated cost.

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

Ditching in the early 1900's straightened the historic flow patterns of this watershed and separated a historic channel from its water source. The result was wetland destruction, increased flow into the water conveyance systems and increased erosion and transportation of sediment downstream.

This project will provide a water feature within the wildlife refuge that meets the purpose for which the refuge was established and, continues to maintain the function of the water conveyance for the watershed and improving wildlife habitat on both a local, state, and national level. By returning natural stream geomorphology to a segment of the Mud River, fish and wildlife species will benefit from the restoration of base flow and by returning a natural sinuous wetland and stream type to the wildlife refuge. The alteration of riparian wetland systems that occurred over 100-years ago, were constructed to facilitate efficient removal of water from the landscape. Straight, linear conveyance systems were, and still remain, an efficient method of draining wetland habitat, effecting many fish and wildlife species. This project is supported by the Thief River One Watershed One Plan and complements other best management practices being implemented in the watershed to improve fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality and reduce effects of flooding. By restoring meandering wetland characteristics to the landscape, resident populations of reptiles, amphibians and mammals will utilize the newly provided habitat. A wide representation of migratory birds, from wading and shore birds to passerine species up to waterfowl will make use of the diversity of habitat types this project will provide. With North American bird populations having experienced a 30% decrease since 1970, habitat enhancement projects, such as the Mud River Enhancement Project will help address this loss.

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

Private land acquisition has been one of the most challenging tasks in the development of conservation projects. With appropriate funding, this project is ready for final design and implementation as it is located within the Elm Lake WMA and Agassiz NWR, eliminating the need for land acquisition. This project can be a showcase example of the positive impact that wetland and stream restoration can have on building climate resiliency into habitat management. The current RLWD Board of Managers and the MN DNR WMA, and NWR Managers are supportive of the project, and they will bring important community support required to accomplish and maintain the project goals.

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

By nature, streams and rivers are the original corridors providing travel pathways that connect various habitat types and provide population and species migration on a spatial scale. These interchange/exchanges of wildlife and habitat are what historically sustained strong, healthy populations of plants and animals in Minnesota. The linear habitat that replaced our natural stream and river corridors in the early 1900's due to ditching forever disrupted and fragmented this historic natural system. This project will restore a six-mile segment of the historic Mud River corridor, providing meandered habitat that eliminates the long sight lines of traditional man-made ditches that adds to disturbance and predation.

Meandering waterways provide the intimate and secretive setting that is critical to wildlife during the breeding and nesting seasons. This project will restore a natural corridor and the function of how wildlife historically utilized it.

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

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Strategic Habitat Conservation Model

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

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Increased waterfowl and upland bird migratory and breeding success ~ *Meandering waterways provide the intimate and secretive setting that is critical to wildlife during the breeding and nesting seasons. This project will restore a natural corridor and the function of how wildlife historically utilized it. By restoring 6 miles of riparian habitat several species of birds and mammals will once again be able to use this historic corridor. Water quality and quantity monitoring will be conducted to determine project benefits. Wildlife and vegetation response will be monitored by both the USWFS and the MnDNR.*

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 Mud River Enhancement Project has not requested funding from sources other than LSOHC. This request does not supplant nor substitute funds from other previous local, state, or federal funding sources.

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

This project is located entirely on State WMA and Federal Refuge lands. The MnDNR and USFWS will maintain these habitats to provide for the purposes for which these lands were acquired.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2030+	FWS Agassiz Refuge	Species Monitoring	Reporting	-
2030+	RLWD	Annual Water Quality Monitoring	Reporting	-
2029+	FWS Agassiz Refuge	Annual Inspection	Vegetation monitoring	Reporting - Repairs

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 will provide: Free public access hunting near a population center (cities of Thief River Falls, Grygla, Gatzke, Middle River) No-cost access to wildlife viewing. Outreach to tribal authorities on natural resource benefits is on-going.
Project Partners 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?

Refuge Lands

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
Construction	July 1, 2029
Planning, design and permitting	July 1, 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2030

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	-	$155,000	RLWD, MnDNR, USFWS	$155,000
Contracts	$3,000,000	$500,000	RLWD	$3,500,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$200,000	-	-	$200,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,200,000**	**$655,000**	**-**	**$3,855,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Technician	0.2	3.0	-	$50,000	RLWD	$50,000
Refuge Manager	0.1	3.0	-	$40,000	USFWS	$40,000
Wildlife Manager	0.1	3.0	-	$35,000	MnDNR	$35,000
Administrator	0.1	3.0	-	$30,000	RLWD	$30,000

Amount of Request: $3,200,000
Amount of Leverage: $655,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 20.47%
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 Mud River Enhancement Project received full funding for Phases II.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
RLWD Board has committed themselves to this project. USFWS and MnDNR are committed to in-kind staff time and resources.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
No

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Construction of the project.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Design/Engineering

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
Yes

Is Confirmation Document attached?
Yes, on file

In Kind : $40,000

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	22	-	-	-	22
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	350	-	-	-	350
Total	**372**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**372**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	$2,500,000	-	-	-	$2,500,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$700,000	-	-	-	$700,000
Total	**$3,200,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,200,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	22	-	-	-	22
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	350	-	-	-	350
Total	**-**	**372**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**372**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	$2,500,000	-	-	-	$2,500,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$700,000	-	-	-	$700,000
Total	**-**	**$3,200,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,200,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	$113,636	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$2,000	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	$113,636	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$2,000	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

6 miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

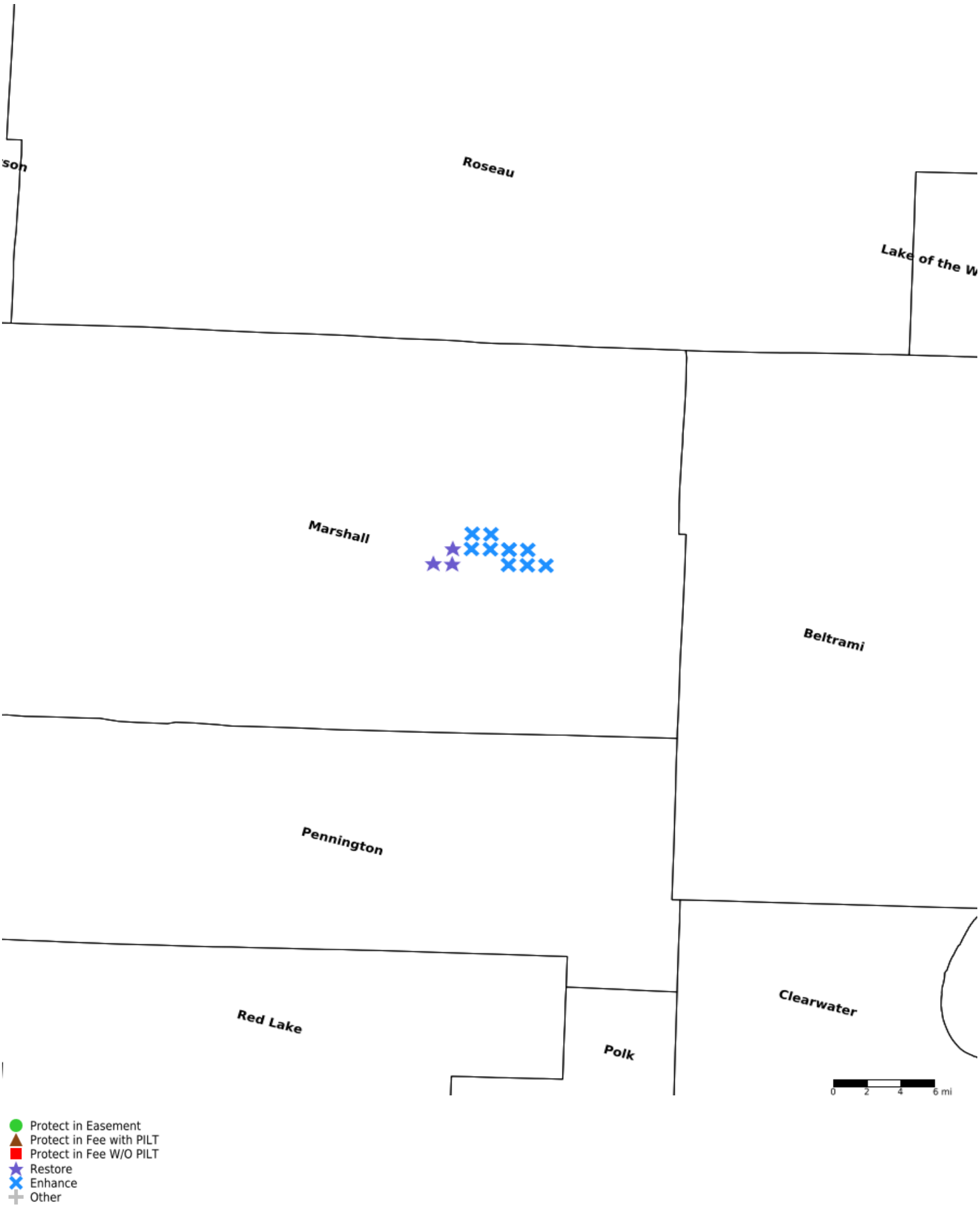
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Project site is currently owned by federal and state agencies.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
14-4017-001	Marshall	1564005	480	-	Yes	AGASSIZ NATL WILDLIFE REFUGE
14-4018-001	Marshall	1564006	599	-	Yes	AGASSIZ NATL WILDLIFE REFUGE
14-4018-002	Marshall	1564007	636	-	Yes	AGASSIZ NATL WILDLIFE REFUGE
14-4018-003	Marshall	1564008	640	-	Yes	AGASSIZ NATL WILDLIFE REFUGE
14-4018-007	Marshall	1564009	320	-	Yes	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
14-6018-004	Marshall	1564009	320	-	Yes	DNR REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT
14-6018-005	Marshall	1564010	240	-	Yes	DNR REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT
14-6039-001	Marshall	1564014	160	-	Yes	DNR REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT
14-6042-002	Marshall	1564015	560	-	Yes	DNR REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT
14-6042-003	Marshall	1564016	640	-	Yes	DNR REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT
60-0001-00	Marshall	1564112	640	-	Yes	MUD LAKE NATL WILDLIFE REFUGE
60-0001-00	Marshall	1564114	640	-	Yes	MUD LAKE NATL WILDLIFE REFUGE
60-0001-00	Marshall	1564113	640	-	Yes	MUD LAKE NATL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Parcel Map


son
Roseau
Lake of the W
Marshall
Beltrami
Pennington
Red Lake
Polk
Clearwater
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

Mud River Enhancement Phase II

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Mud River Enhancement Phase II
Organization: Red Lake Watershed District
Manager: Tammy Audette

Budget

Requested Amount: $3,200,000
Appropriated Amount: $3,200,000
Percentage: 100.0%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	-	$155,000	-	$155,000	-	100.0%
Contracts	$3,000,000	$500,000	$3,000,000	$500,000	100.0%	100.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$200,000	-	$200,000	-	100.0%	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,200,000**	**$655,000**	**$3,200,000**	**$655,000**	**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?
The Phase 1 request was funded in ML 2026 at 57%. Full funding would allow completion of the project under this Phase II application.

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	22	22	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	350	350	100.0%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$2,500,000	$2,500,000	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$700,000	$700,000	100.0%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	22	22	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	350	350	100.0%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$2,500,000	$2,500,000	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$700,000	$700,000	100.0%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Otter and Campbell Lakes Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Phase 1

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/09/2026

Project Title: Otter and Campbell Lakes Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Phase 1

Funds Recommended: $1,283,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Michael Stifter
Title: Public Works Director
Organization: City of Hutchinson
Address: 111 Hassan St SE
City: Hutchinson, MN 55350
Email: mstifter@hutchinsonmn.gov
Office Number: 320-234-4212
Mobile Number: 320-583-4826
Fax Number:
Website: https://hutchinsonmn.gov/

Location Information

County Location(s): McLeod.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Activity types:

Restore

Other : Leverage and Scalable

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

The City of Hutchinson is advancing Phase 1 of a long-term restoration effort for Otter and Campbell Lakes to address sediment accumulation, reduced vegetation, and simplified habitat conditions that remain despite upstream watershed improvements. This phase will remove sediment, construct in-lake habitat features, and establish native vegetation within the South Arm of Otter Lake to improve ecological function. Expected outcomes include enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, improved water clarity, strengthened recreational opportunities, and support for regional ecological priorities. This work forms the foundation for future phases that will extend restoration throughout the connected lake system.

Design and Scope of Work

This project addresses degraded aquatic habitat in Otter and Campbell Lakes, noted by the DNR as Lakes of Biological Significance, caused by long-term sediment accumulation that smothers vegetation and simplifies the lake structure. These impairments have reduced spawning habitat, nursery areas, and food resources for fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife, while contributing to poor water quality through internal nutrient loading. Despite ongoing upstream improvements, in-lake conditions remain a primary limiting factor to ecosystem recovery. This project targets artificially shallow lake habitats critical to fish and migratory birds by restoring water depth, habitat structure, and vegetation.

Phase 1 focuses on the portion of Otter Lake, on/around South Grade Rd, and will be implemented from 2027 to 2030. The scope includes final design, permitting, sediment removal and management, habitat installation, and vegetation establishment. Site assessments—bathymetry, sediment analysis, and ecological surveys—will refine priority treatment areas to maximize habitat benefit and long-term sustainability.

Targeted sediment removal will address internal nutrient loading and restore depth in degraded areas. Sediment will be hydraulically dredged and transported to nearby publicly owned staging areas, reducing costs and avoiding extensive easement acquisition. Following dredging, habitat features such as boulder clusters and anchored woody structure will be installed to increase habitat complexity and support multiple life stages of aquatic species.

Native aquatic vegetation will be established within the littoral zone through planting, seeding, and transplanting. This work will restore shallow water and wetland habitat by stabilizing sediments, improving water clarity, and providing food, cover, and spawning substrate. Together, these actions directly restore and enhance habitat for fish, wildlife, and Species in Greatest Conservation Need.

Project priorities were established through watershed studies, an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, and coordination with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) and McLeod Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). These efforts identified in-lake habitat degradation as a key barrier to ecological recovery. The phased approach targets the most accessible areas first that leverage other city infrastructure projects, aligning construction disturbance along a targeted corridor for less disturbance to the public over time, while positioning for future work in Campbell Lake and the main basin. Proximity to other shallow-water systems and waterfowl production areas increases the project's regional habitat value while adding regional habitat diversity by being one of the larger flow-through lake systems, being situated on the South Fork Crow River.

The project is urgent due to ongoing sediment accumulation and habitat decline. Costs increase and ecological

resilience is reduced if delayed. Implementation aligns with completed planning, established partnerships, and planned city infrastructure improvements that support efficient sediment management. The City of Hutchinson will lead the project alongside partners at the MnDNR, McLeod SWCD, and engineering consultants. Stakeholders include local landowners, lake users, the school district, and the municipal airport, which will provide publicly owned sediment staging areas. Continued coordination and outreach will ensure strong local support.

This effort will restore aquatic/wetland habitat, improve water quality, enhance fish/wildlife populations for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and support long-term ecosystem function.

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

The Otter and Campbell Lakes Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Project addresses long standing ecological degradation documented in the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the 650-acre impoundment system. The EAW identifies extensive sediment accumulation resulting from decades of upstream agricultural and urban runoff. This sediment loading has reduced lake depth, buried natural substrates, and impaired overall ecological function. Associated impacts include the loss of littoral habitat, diminished water clarity, and limited aquatic vegetation—factors that collectively reduce the quality and availability of spawning areas, nursery habitat, and foraging resources for fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife. Restoration, sediment management, and habitat improvement actions are therefore identified as essential to reversing these trends and restoring the system's ecological integrity.

The project directly responds to these documented impairments through targeted sediment removal, structural habitat installation, and establishment of native aquatic vegetation. The EAW documents how sediment accumulation has degraded substrate and reduced habitat complexity; the planned sediment management activities will restore appropriate depths and conditions suitable for aquatic vegetation growth and fish spawning. Structural habitat elements—including rock reefs, woody debris, and constructed spawning substrate—will increase habitat heterogeneity and support diverse aquatic communities that have been diminished by historical sedimentation and hydrologic modification. Establishing native aquatic vegetation will further stabilize sediments, improve water clarity, enhance nutrient cycling, and create high value shallow water habitat for waterfowl, amphibians, invertebrates, and juvenile fish.

The project also supports broader conservation goals by improving habitat conditions within a shallow lake system hydrologically connected to the South Fork Crow River. While the EAW does not identify federally listed threatened or endangered species within the immediate project area, observations of Species in Greatest Conservation Need are common in these lakes and the lakes are noted as DNR Lakes of Biological Significance. Restoring water quality, vegetation, and habitat complexity enhances the resilience and suitability of the system for these species. Coordination with MnDNR and application of Natural Heritage review procedures will ensure avoidance of impacts to sensitive resources and will support ecological gains, increased biodiversity, and long-term system maintenance.

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

Critical timing elements center on coordination with existing planning, partnerships, and construction windows. The project leverages completed environmental review and prior watershed studies, allowing it to advance efficiently without significant additional study. It is also timed to align with planned city infrastructure improvements, particularly roadway upgrades that enable cost-effective sediment transport and reduce construction impacts.

Seasonal constraints are also critical, as in-lake work must occur within regulatory windows to protect fish spawning, and vegetation establishment must align with growing seasons for success.

A key near-term opportunity is the availability of publicly owned land from the local school district for sediment drying and staging. If these parcels are developed, the project would lose a unique, large-scale, cost-effective disposal option, potentially delaying implementation and increasing costs. Delaying the project also risks continued sediment accumulation and further habitat degradation.

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

The project expands habitat corridors and reduces fragmentation by restoring continuous littoral and aquatic habitat within Otter and Campbell Lakes and strengthening their ecological connection to the South Fork Crow River. The historic dam at the outlet of Otter and Campbell Lakes was replaced with a rock arch rapids ca. 2008, restoring longitudinal connectivity and removing physical barriers. However, for species moving upstream, Otter and Campbell lakes continues to be an ecological desert and limiting factor for longitudinal migration along the river corridor.

Existing conditions have fragmented shallow-water habitat due to sediment accumulation and reduced vegetation, limiting movement of fish and wildlife and isolating critical spawning and nursery areas. Through sediment management, installation of structural habitat, and reestablishment of native aquatic vegetation, the project reconnects nearshore and open-water habitats and creates continuous, high-quality littoral zones. These improvements, combined with upstream stream restoration and sediment forebay implementation, establish a more connected aquatic system that supports movement of fish, enhances waterfowl habitat, and integrates the lakes into a broader, resilient habitat complex within the Prairie region.

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

Minnesota Statewide Conservation & Preservation Plan

Other : South Fork Crow River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Prairie

Protect, restore, and enhance shallow lakes

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *This project will evaluate 140 acres of shallow lake and wetland and restore within the budgeted amount. Sediment removal and vegetation establishment are expected to increase aquatic plant coverage and improve water clarity, creating conditions that support higher use by ducks and other wetland-dependent wildlife.*

As habitat conditions improve, biological response can be reflected in increased waterfowl counts and recreational angler counts. Fish habitat improvements may also lead to better angling success, which can be observed through

local use and feedback. Over time, maintaining clearer water and stable vegetation communities should increase counts conducted through local recreational and biological survey.

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 would be used for a specific phase of the overall project. No other funds have been obtained, nor pursued for this particular phase of the project.

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

After Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended, the City of Hutchinson will sustain project outcomes through continued watershed management and local funding commitments. A key component is the implementation of an upstream sediment forebay designed to capture incoming sediment and reduce future sediment loading to Otter and Campbell Lakes. This feature will protect the longevity of in-lake habitat improvements by maintaining water depth and reducing internal nutrient cycling.

The City will be responsible for ongoing inspection, maintenance, and periodic sediment removal from the forebay to ensure it retains its sediment capture capacity and continues to function as designed. Long-term maintenance and monitoring activities will be funded through the City's budget planning process and supported by existing stormwater utility funds. This dedicated funding mechanism ensures that critical infrastructure supporting water quality and habitat improvements remains effective over time.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2030	City of Hutchinson	Maintenance/Restoration activities of Forebay	-	-
2028	City of Hutchinson	Inspection of Forebay	Maintenance activities	-

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

The ecological deficiency Otter and Campbell Lakes prevents these public resources from reaching their full potential. There are health and accessibility concerns, that combined with limited ecological function, restrict the usage of these lakes for the public, including the local underserved communities in previously MPCA-identified Environmental Justice Areas of Concern (EJAC). The EJAC community previously defined in Hutchinson included areas where at least 40% of the population is living 185% below the federal poverty level. While this designation has been removed in the last year, the status of the community has not shifted notably with regards to median income; much of the low-income population exists and is underserved.

These improvements will create recreational opportunities for Otter and Campbell Lakes and the surrounding park space. Fishing piers accessible from the parks will better integrate these community amenities into a seamless waterfront experience through additional funding requests. The improvements will also provide greater access and consideration for low- and medium-income populatoins in the region. Lower-income individuals have limited access to the diverse recreational opportunities lakes offer relative to those with access to boats or waterfront property. This project seeks to ensure that all Hutchinson residents who want to enjoy these lakes have opportunity for interaction with high quality ecological resources.

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

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
As-builts	September - October 2029
Punch List	July 2029
Drying and Sediment Disposal	October 2028 - June 2029
In-Lake Sediment Removal (Phase 1)	October 2028 - March 2029
Site Preparation	October - November 2028
Mobilization	October - November 2028
Pre-Construction Meeting	October 2028
Secure Permits	October 2028
Select Contractor	October 2028
Advertisement for Bid	September 2028
Approval of Final Plans and Specifications	September 2028
Approval of Draft Plans	May 2028
Permitting Review	October 2027 - October 2028
Pre-Design Review	September 2027
Natural Resources Delineation	August - September 2027
Geotechnical and Bathymetric Investigation	August - September 2027
Survey	August - September 2027
Easement Negotiations	July - December 2027
Selection of Consultant	July 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2030

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	$1,000,000	-	-	$1,000,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$283,000	$128,300	City of Hutchinson Funds - 10% Match	$411,300
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,283,000**	**$128,300**	**-**	**$1,411,300**

Amount of Request: $1,283,000
Amount of Leverage: $128,300
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 10.0%
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?
It is anticipated that the targeted area for sedimentation removal will be reduced. A majority of the funding may be used for fixed upfront costs (design, permitting, and mobilization), limiting the amount that will be available for actual sedimentation removal activities.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
The City remains committed to the 10% match, utilizing already budgeted City funds in support of the 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?
At 50% funding, Phase 1 could still complete targeted sediment removal and limited habitat installation in

priority areas. This would improve localized water quality and fish habitat, demonstrating ecological benefits and building momentum, but would reduce overall habitat acreage restored or potentially limit proposed impacted acreage to enhancement only.

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Design/Engineering

Other : Temporary easement acquisition

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	10	-	-	130	140
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**10**	**-**	**-**	**130**	**140**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$1,283,000	$1,283,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,283,000**	**$1,283,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	140	-	140
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**140**	**-**	**140**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$1,283,000	-	$1,283,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,283,000**	**-**	**$1,283,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	$9,869
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	-	-	-	$9,164	-
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

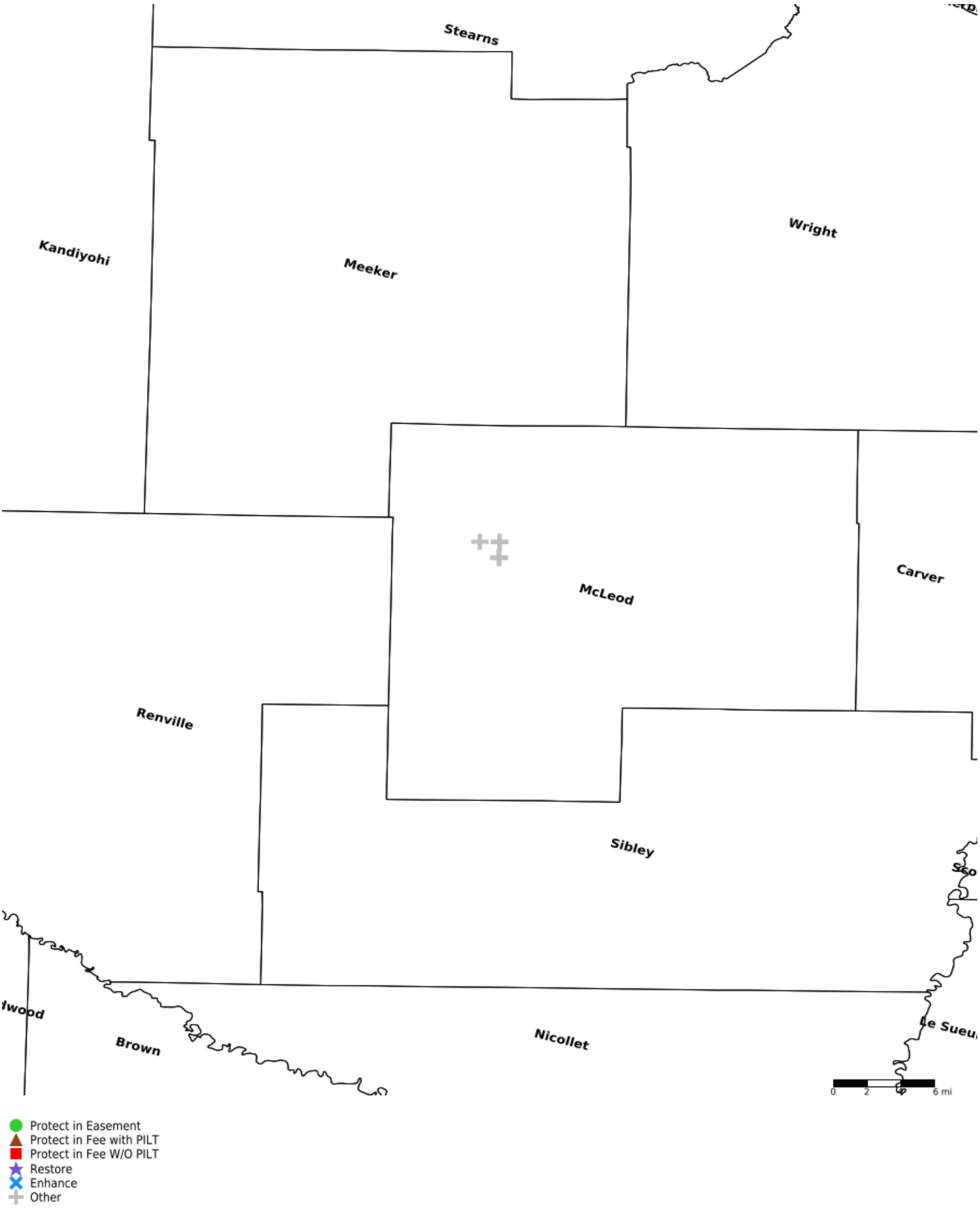
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
All restoration is occuring within public waters. All other parcels were identified as publicly owned and are only for staging and disposal of removed sediment material. There were identified and prioritized to expedite the project timeline and minimize costs to remove sediment from the lakes, making this projecty more economically efficient.

Other Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
City Parcel 1	McLeod	1163012	71	$0	No
City Parcel 2	McLeod	1163012	19	$0	No
City Parcel 3	McLeod	1163012	4	$0	No
City Parcel 4	McLeod	1163012	5	$0	No
City Parcel 5	McLeod	1163013	161	$0	No
City Parcel 6	McLeod	1163013	12	$0	No
City Parcel 7	McLeod	1163013	9	$0	No
ISD 423 Parcel 1	McLeod	1163012	9	$25,000	No
ISD 423 Parcel 2	McLeod	1163011	71	$100,000	No

Parcel Map


Stearns
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Wright
McLeod
Carver
Renville
Sibley
Nicollet
Brown
0
2
6 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Otter and Campbell Lakes Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Phase 1

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Otter and Campbell Lakes Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Phase 1
Organization: City of Hutchinson
Manager: Michael Stifter

Budget

Requested Amount: $3,000,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,283,000
Percentage: 42.77%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contracts	$2,575,000	$300,000	$1,000,000	-	38.83%	0.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$425,000	-	$283,000	$128,300	66.59%	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,000,000**	**$300,000**	**$1,283,000**	**$128,300**	**42.77%**	**42.77%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
At 50% funding, Phase 1 could still complete targeted sediment removal and limited habitat installation in priority areas. This would improve localized water quality and fish habitat, demonstrating ecological benefits and building momentum, but would reduce overall habitat acreage restored or potentially limit proposed impacted acreage to enhancement only.

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
At 30% funding, the project would not be successful because fixed upfront costs—such as final design, permitting, and mobilization—would consume most available funds. Insufficient resources would remain for meaningful sediment removal or habitat installation, preventing measurable habitat improvements and limiting ecological benefits or demonstration of project effectiveness.

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

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	140	140	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	$1,283,000	42.77%
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	140	140	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	$1,283,000	42.77%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2027 Riparian Habitat Protection In the kettle and Snake River Watersheds
Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: 2027 Riparian Habitat Protection In the kettle and Snake River Watersheds

Funds Recommended: $1,208,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Paul Swanson
Title: District Manager
Organization: Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District
Address: 1610 Highway 23 North
City: Sandstone, MN 55072
Email: paul.swanson@pinecountymn.gov
Office Number: 320-216-4241
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: https://www.pineswcd.com/

Partners Contact

BWSR: Dusty Van Thuyne - dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us - (651) 539-2573

Pine SWCD: Paul Swanson - paul.swanson@pinecountymn.gov - 320-216-4241

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

We will utilize BWSR RIM conservation easements to protect approximately 300 acres of high-quality private forests, wetlands, and shoreline in the Northern Forest Ecological Section. Sites will be selected utilizing minor watershed/RAQ scoring and an integrative ranking process developed through a collaborative process. By using this methodology, not only will we be stacking public benefits but also maximizing conservation benefits per dollar (return on investment). Development trends pose a serious threat to Lake Sturgeon, four-toed and spotted salamanders, Gilt Darter, Northern Long-eared Bat, Blanding's Turtles, and over 128 unique, rare, endangered, and threaten species that live in these watersheds.

Design and Scope of Work

Watersheds in northern Minnesota benefit from public lands since they are mostly forested. The primary risk to habitat and water quality is on private lands. Private forestlands are key because they are more likely to be developed resulting in habitat fragmentation, loss of connectivity, increased pollution and stormwater runoff, and siltation or sedimentation of water bodies. Conversion of private forestlands to more intense land uses place negative impacts on both wildlife habitat and water quality. Both the Kettle and Snake river watersheds have experienced an increase in development and land use conversion in recent years. Since most of the prime lakeshore in the counties is developed, present and future development of river shoreland is expected.

The DNR Hinckley Area Fisheries Office has been tagging and monitoring Lake Sturgeon in the Kettle, St. Croix, and Snake rivers since the early 1990's. Populations appear to be stable and small sturgeon are recruiting into the fishery. While Lake Sturgeon populations appear to be healthy in the Kettle and Snake Rivers, their future relies on clean water. Healthy forests, wetlands, and shorelines in watersheds are vital to the water quality downstream. Thus, protecting private riparian forestland is critical to fish and wildlife habitat.

In 2016, the MN DNR and BWSR, working with SWCDs and partners developed a protection framework based on research developed by MN DNR Fisheries. The MN DNR identified a strong correlation between water quality and habitat that sustains fish populations and maintaining 75 percent forest cover in the watershed. The process works as follows: 1) Prioritize minor watersheds that have less than 75% protected watersheds, 2) Target specific parcels using RAQ scores and 3) over time, measure progress toward 75% forestland protection goal on watershed basis. We periodically measure the percent of the watersheds with permanent forest protection to illustrate this transformation on graphic dial like a speedometer. As of early 2026, the Kettle Watershed is 57.06% protected, and the Snake Watershed is 48.84% protected.

To move the needle in Kettle and Snake watersheds, this program will utilize BWSR's Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) conservation easements. To maximize conservation return on investment the SWCDs will select parcels with the greatest conservation value. To accomplish this, we will use the RAQ methodology scoring system (Riparian, Adjacent, Quality). Each private forested parcel is scored on a 0-10 scale based on the parcel proximity to water ("Riparian") or protected lands ("Adjacency") and various local defined features ("Quality"), such as wild rice, trout, and biodiversity. In short, the RAQ tool prioritizes parcels with benefits overlapping – habitat, biodiversity, cost, water quality, and resiliency to create and protect extensive habitat complexes. Therefore, using the minor

watershed/RAQ methodology we are stacking public benefits and maximizing the conservation benefits per dollar. We will protect approximately 300 acres of high-quality private forests, wetlands, and shoreline habitat important for Lake Sturgeon and another 128 Species in Greatest Conservation Need that are known to occur within these watersheds.

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

Most of the project area falls within the Mille Lacs Uplands Subsections. 128 Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) are known or predicted to occur within the Mille Lacs Uplands, the third most of all subsections in Minnesota. According to the species problem analysis in the Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife, habitat loss and degradation is the most significant challenge facing SGCN populations in this subsection. This project seeks to address this challenge by protecting the healthy riparian lands from the threat of development, habitat loss or degradation through the use of RIM conservation easements.

The project area has a mixed representation of extensive forest lands and riparian habitats that are home to many Species of Greatest Conservation Need including: Lake Sturgeon, Blanding's turtle, wood turtles, gray wolves, bald eagles, ospreys, sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, and yellow rails. The St. Croix River Basin is also globally-recognized for its mussel diversity, over 40 known mussels occur within the St. Croix River Basin, including 5 federally endangered, and 20 state-listed species such as rare mussels like the winged mapleleaf, spike, and round pigtoe.

The Kettle and Snake Rivers are also home to populations of Lake Sturgeon (Acipenser fulvescens). These bony-plated, ancient-looking fish prefer moderately clear, large rivers and lakes, where they can migrate long distances to spawning areas and foraging for the invertebrates and small fish that make up their diet. Their large sizes and fighting qualities make them a favorite among catch and release anglers. Sturgeon are long-lived, slow growing, and can take many years to mature and be able to reproduce. They are vulnerable to degraded water quality and over exploitation, as well as to dams which block fish passage. Therefore, protecting high-quality private forests, wetlands, and shoreline is critical to maintain fish and wildlife habitat.

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

Because of its proximity to the Twin Cities and its vast network of roads, this area is under increasing pressure from human activities, including the expansion of residential development, some of it affecting river shoreline. While Lake Sturgeon populations appear to be healthy in the Kettle and Snake Rivers, their future relies on clean water. Healthy forests, wetlands, and shorelines in watersheds are vital to the water quality. If we do nothing this type of development along the rivers will continue. Increases in housing density and associated development on rural forest lands can be linked to numerous changes to private forest services across watersheds, including decreases in native wildlife; changes in forest health; and reduced water quality, forest carbon storage, timber production, and recreational benefits. Protecting healthy watersheds with conservation easements now is a cost-effective strategy to ensure that the ecosystem and economic services provided by healthy watersheds remain intact.

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

This project will utilize the Landscape Stewardship Plans minor watershed science-based targeting to expand important habitat corridors and complexes on private lands. The RAQ tool scores each private forested parcel on a 0-3 scale for each of common characteristics; "Riparian"--the parcels proximity to water, "Adjacency"--the parcels

location in relation to contiguous tracts of existing state, county, or federal land in preference to parcels scattered across the landscape, knowing that a forest community is healthier and more diverse with less fragmentation, and "Quality"-- is the locally determined value of the land (1-3 Points), which can include a number of criteria, such as biodiversity from the MN County Biological Survey, trout/cisco, wild rice, old growth forests, rare species, and groundwater recharge and sensitive areas.

The RAQ tool has been developed for the entire Kettle River Watershed and includes a series of RAQ maps for each major HUC-10 subwatershed. The RAQ tool will be a helpful tool to target areas where public investments will have the most benefit. This scoring was updated in 2022 with a new Landscape Stewardship Plan for the Kettle and Upper St. Croix watersheds. RAQ was developed for the Snake River Watershed with the first round of funding for this program. This data targets RIM easements to the parcel level and this allows us to hand select the best parcels for habitat value and prevent future fragmentation in the entire watershed. The following additional factors are considered to ensure site selection reflects current science-based measures for riparian habitat protection: feet of shoreline protected, development potential of site, depth from shore, watershed considerations, and easement size relative to the parcel. This played an integral part in outreach, interested and successful enrollment the first and second round of funding. This 2-step methodology is proven through Environmental Natural Resource Trust Fund and Clean Water Fund RIM easement programs. The BWSR RIM is one of the most efficient and effective easement programs in Minnesota.

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

Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation This project will measure the number acres of forestland and wetland habitat enrolled into RIM easements. We also will measure the number of miles of shoreline protected and the individual minor watershed percent protection goal.*

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 funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

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

BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement of RIM easements. BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry out oversight, monitoring and inspection of conservation easements. Easements are inspected every year for the first five years beginning the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed

every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs document findings and report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations are identified.

Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027-Ongoing	Landowner responsibility	Maintain compliance with easement terms.	-	-
2027-Ongoing	Stewardship Account	Inspections every year for the first five years; then every third year.	Corrective actions to address violations.	Enforcement action taken by MN Attorney General's office.

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

Lake sturgeon have long held importance in Native American cultures, including the bands of Ojibwe who call this area of Minnesota, home. Lake sturgeon are also a favored catch-and-release fish species in some circles of anglers. By protecting habitat that protects sturgeon populations, we are able to provide opportunities for many Minnesota communities to continue practice of their culture and recreational opportunities.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
The State of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will be the responsible party for monitoring and enforcing easements with assistance from the appropriate SWCD for monitoring.

Who will be the easement holder?
The State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
5; the actual number will depend on the cost of 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

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

Describe the expected public use:
RIM easements do not require that private land is open to the public; however, this question is also evaluated on public benefit and RIM easements do provide a significant public benefit; often expand wildlife habitat near public lands; and do not limit the potential for the land to be open to the public through other programs.

RIM's statutory language requires restriction of building and agricultural activities on an easement. If RIM also required public access, the landowner would be retaining almost no private rights to the land and still paying property taxes. RIM easement land is still in private ownership and the landowner still pays property taxes and is still consistent with the statutory goals of the Outdoor Heritage Fund of protection and restoration of habitat. Minnesota Statute 97A.056 states ". . .the fund must be expended to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife." and "The council shall make recommendations . . . that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie."

Criteria in RIM program scoresheets used to evaluate and prioritize parcels funded include proximity of the easement land to lands that are in public ownership and/or open to public hunting. Parcels immediately adjacent to public land or that would connect or expand larger existing habitat areas receive additional points in the scoring and ranking process than a parcel that does not provide that benefit. Wildlife do not follow property lines; therefore protected private lands adjacent to and near public lands create complexes of public and private land that provide high quality habitat supporting wildlife, including recreationally hunted species, allowing them to thrive on and off public lands. Protected private lands also add visual and noise buffers that allow users of public land to better enjoy their experiences.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:
Though uncommon, new trails may be developed if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (fire breaks, berm maintenance, forest stewardship) and are noted on the conservation plan. Narrow mowed trails for personal use are allowed for landowner access on RIM easements. Unauthorized trails are a violation of the easement.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?
Under the terms of the easement, a conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement and the conservation plan. BWSR, in cooperation with SWCDs, implements a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms and the conservation plan.

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

Vegetative restoration will occur when necessary and these restoration costs are included in the Easement Acquisition line of the budget table.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
RIM easements secured on 300 acres	June 30, 2031
Final Report Submitted	October 1, 2031

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2031

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.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$96,700	-	-	$96,700
Contracts	$12,500	-	-	$12,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,021,800	-	-	$1,021,800
Easement Stewardship	$50,000	-	-	$50,000
Travel	$2,100	-	-	$2,100
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$21,000	-	-	$21,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
Supplies/Materials	$900	-	-	$900
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,208,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,208,000**

Partner: BWSR

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$81,600	-	-	$81,600
Contracts	$12,500	-	-	$12,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,021,800	-	-	$1,021,800
Easement Stewardship	$50,000	-	-	$50,000
Travel	$2,100	-	-	$2,100
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$21,000	-	-	$21,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
Supplies/Materials	$900	-	-	$900
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,192,900**	**-**	**-**	**$1,192,900**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.15	4.0	$81,600	-	-	$81,600

Partner: Pine SWCD

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$15,100	-	-	$15,100
Contracts	-	-	-	-
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	**$15,100**	**-**	**-**	**$15,100**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Administration	0.03	4.0	$15,100	-	-	$15,100

Amount of Request: $1,208,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $117,700
As a % of the total request: 9.74%
Easement Stewardship: $50,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 4.89%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
A reduction in funding reduced outputs (acres/activities) almost proportionately.

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?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

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

A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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 contracts line is used for payments to SWCD staff for easement acquisition and technical assistance, as appropriate. Estimated restoration costs are included in the easement acquisition line.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
5 easements at $10,000 per easement. The total stewardship amount will ultimately be dependent on the cost of easements and if the proposed easement number is reached. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

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
The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs.

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?
BWSR annually reviews and updates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done and the program staff time involved.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Steel posts and signs to mark easement boundaries.

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	48	-	252	-	300
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**48**	**-**	**252**	**-**	**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	$193,300	-	$1,014,700	-	$1,208,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$193,300**	**-**	**$1,014,700**	**-**	**$1,208,000**

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	-	-	-	-	300	300
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	-	$1,208,000	$1,208,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,208,000**	**$1,208,000**

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	$4,027	-	$4,026	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	$4,026
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2.8 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 SWCDs will mail letters to eligible landowners utilizing RAQ scoring. Once the SWCD has an interested landowner the easement will be ranked using the integrative ranking process.The Kettle and Snake RIM Easement ranking sheet is attached as an example of the scoring sheet that will be used to rank RIM Easements. The SWCD then brings the parcel to the project technical committee for comments and recommendations. This committee reviews easement proposals and sorts through them for the parcels that provide the greatest public benefit possible. We always look for areas with high quality habitat, where a limited public investment can leverage a larger area of public benefit. The result is an increase in resiliency to the habitat base. The parcels that rank the highest tend to be adjacent to public lands, in a river corridor, or both.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2027 Riparian Habitat Protection In the kettle and Snake River Watersheds

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - 2027 Riparian Habitat Protection In the kettle and Snake River Watersheds
Organization: Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District
Manager: Paul Swanson

Budget

Requested Amount: $4,000,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,208,000
Percentage: 30.2%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$327,500	-	$96,700	-	29.53%	-
Contracts	$42,500	-	$12,500	-	29.41%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$3,370,100	-	$1,021,800	-	30.32%	-
Easement Stewardship	$170,000	-	$50,000	-	29.41%	-
Travel	$6,900	-	$2,100	-	30.43%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$70,100	-	$21,000	-	29.96%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$9,900	-	$3,000	-	30.3%	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,000	-	$900	-	30.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,000,000**	**-**	**$1,208,000**	**-**	**30.2%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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?
A 30% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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	1,020	300	29.41%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$4,000,000	$1,208,000	30.2%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	1,020	300	29.41%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$4,000,000	$1,208,000	30.2%
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2027 St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 8

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/16/2026

Project Title: 2027 St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Phase 8

Funds Recommended: $4,388,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Kristin McElligott
Title: Natural Resources Manager
Organization: Wild Rivers Conservancy
Address: 1015 N Cascade St
City: Osceola, WI 54020
Email: kmcelligott@wildriversconservancy.org
Office Number: 7154833300 ex 25
Mobile Number: 4146406390
Fax Number:
Website: https://wildriversconservancy.org/

Partners Contact

Trust For Public Lands (TPL): *No Contact Added*

Wild Rivers Conservancy: *No Contact Added*

Location Information

County Location(s): Chisago, Kanabec, Washington and Pine.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Habitat

Wetlands

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

Under this phase of the program, Wild Rivers Conservancy of the St. Croix & Namekagon and Trust for Public Land will work in partnership to permanently protect approximately 376 acres of critical wildlife habitat through fee-title acquisition and restore 40 acres of degraded habitat on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix River watershed. The goals of the program are to protect high-quality wildlife habitat, improve conservation connectivity, and provide public access for outdoor recreation opportunities.

Design and Scope of Work

The St. Croix River watershed spans 7,760 square miles between Minnesota and Wisconsin with the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway flowing through its heart. The St. Croix River was the first designated Wild and Scenic Riverway in 1968. The landscape of the watershed contains large swaths of unique ecosystems, wildlife habitat and is home to 195 rare, threatened and endangered species. The Riverway is a regional attraction for upwards of one million visitors annually due to its many recreation opportunities including high-quality fishing, hunting, birding, hiking, and boating. Although the status of the St. Croix as a Wild and Scenic River comes with federal protections, those protections only apply to a thin ribbon of land adjacent to the Riverway. Beyond the Riverway boundary, more than 75% of the watershed's forest habitat remains unprotected, and the threat of development, fragmentation and conversion to agriculture is substantial.

The partnership, consisting of the Wild Rivers Conservancy (Conservancy), the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), and Trust for Public Land (TPL), is working to increase the amount of land permanently protected on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix River watershed. The goals of the partnership are to protect large intact forests, sustain riparian forests, and restore and protect lands that are important to the 195 endangered, threatened and special concern species documented within the project area (Source: MN DNR Rare Species Guide).

Prior to the program's establishment, landowners had few, if any, options for permanent land protection. The program has proven how eager landowners are for permanent protection options throughout the watershed. Strategic landowner outreach has led to a queue of interested landowners wanting to protect their land for generations to come. To date, the St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration program partnership has protected 6,328 acres. 3,613 acres through conservation easements, 2,715 acres through fee-title acquisition, resulting in 38.5 miles of shoreline protected.

The partnership is requesting funding for Phase 8 of the program to continue the important work of permanently protecting some of Minnesota's highest-quality habitat. Under this proposal, both WRC and TPL are seeking funds; MLT has sufficient existing funds from previous phases for conservation easement and restoration activities. Funding for Phase 8 of the St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration program will support the following activities:

TPL will protect approximately 376 acres of high-quality habitat through fee-title acquisition and restore 40 acres of degraded habitat on public lands. TPL will convey acquired lands to the DNR, except when LGU ownership is appropriate, for permanent ownership, management, and stewardship.

The Conservancy will provide overall program administration, project management, landowner outreach, and community engagement.

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

Permanently protecting high priority habitat within the St. Croix River watershed is a cost-effective strategy to conserve fish, game & wildlife, including threatened or endangered species. Areas targeted by this proposal have been identified and prioritized through state, regional, and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity, connectivity, and ability to preserve habitat for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). The project area has a mixed representation of extensive forestland, brushland, prairie, oak savanna, wetlands, and riparian habitats. These habitats are home to 195 documented endangered, threatened and special concern species including: lake sturgeon, wood turtle, Blanding's turtle, gray wolf, bald eagle, osprey, sandhill crane, trumpeter swan, yellow rail, and sharp-tailed grouse. The St. Croix River watershed is also globally recognized for its mussel diversity with 41 documented native unionid mussel species, including 5 listed as Federally endangered, and 23 state-listed species. The project area also contains a significant amount of high-quality brushland and regenerating forestland habitat critical to the breeding success of the golden-winged warbler.

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

The St. Croix watershed faces increasing development pressure from population growth. From 2020-2024, Minnesota counties within the St. Croix watershed experienced an average population increase of 4.3%, nearly triple the state average of 1.5% (Source: United States Census Bureau). Four of the top ten fastest-growing Minnesota counties from 2022-2023 lie within the project area. Five of the seven parcels for protection under this proposal fall within these counties. Based on current projections, these population growth trends are expected to accelerate. Increases in housing density and associated development on rural forest lands are linked to reductions in private forest services across watersheds, including reductions in native wildlife, forest health, water quality, carbon storage, timber production, and recreational benefits. Opportunities to protect these lands drastically diminish with the passage of time and change in ownership. Timing is critical while willing sellers of priority parcels are still in place.

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

This proposal uses a science-based multiple benefits approach for prioritizing and targeting areas of greatest conservation value. We use The Nature Conservancy's St. Croix Basin GIS-based Priority Protection Analysis which incorporates Minnesota Biological Survey Sites of Biodiversity Significance, Lakes of Biological Significance, habitat complexes and connectivity, along with other data sets to spatially prioritize the most important sites for protection. The intent of this model was to develop and score priorities where multiple benefits overlap – habitat,

biodiversity, water quality, water quantity, and resiliency. Evaluation criteria include: 1) aquatic and terrestrial habitat protection priorities, 2) lands important to drinking water quality and groundwater recharge, and 3) resilience of lands and waters to climate change and other anticipated future changes and disturbance.

More specifically, this approach includes data on habitat quality, target species and natural communities, and habitat complexes for terrestrial species with emphasis on expanding corridors adjacent to public lands. The most heavily weighted component of this approach uses data from the Minnesota Biological Survey focused on fish and wildlife that includes data on biodiversity, wetlands, native plant communities, Lakes of Biological Significance, wild rice catchments, cold water refuge for trout, proximity to protected lands, and ecological connections. Added benefits for water quality are assessed using data on wellhead protected areas, groundwater contamination susceptibility, private well density, and groundwater recharge.

Using results of this multiple benefits approach, areas will be targeted down to the parcel level for landowner engagement and outreach for implementing permanent protection activities.

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 habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

Northern Forest

Provide access to manage habitat on landlocked public properties or protect forest land from parcelization and fragmentation through fee acquisition, conservation or access easement

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 ~ *This project will be measured by the acres of wildlife corridors protected and evaluated based on the observed use by wildlife populations and evidence of SGCN.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *This project will be measured by the acres of high quality forestlands that are permanently protected from development and fragmentation. Protected land will also be evaluated by its proximity to existing public lands as well as connectivity to other protected forestlands.*

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.

Funding requested by the Partnership will not supplant or substitute for any previous non-legacy funding used for the same purpose.

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

TPL will convey all fee-title land to the DNR or LGUs for permanent stewardship. Once land has been conveyed, initial site development and restoration of these lands will begin. Estimated costs for initial restoration work are included in this proposal. TPL will work with DNR or LGUs to complete a restoration and management plan, and implementation of that plan will be completed in the following years. These properties will be managed and maintained by the respective government entities according to OHF standards.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2030-2031	TPL - DNR	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	-	-
2029	TPL - DNR	Develop restoration/management plan for property	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	-
2028	TPL - OHF and DNR	Post property	Develop restoration/management plan for property	-

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

All organizations under this program's partnership hold a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion as core values. Examples of that commitment include, but are not limited to: The Conservancy's ongoing partnership with BIPOC communities to improve access to public resources through outdoor experiences; TPL's work with diverse communities to put a park, trail, or natural area within a 10-minute walk of every Minnesotan living within a city; TPL's mentored hunt and angling program, which in partnership with the MN Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers is facilitating hunting and angling opportunities for diverse communities on public lands and waters with a focus on lands protected with Outdoor Heritage funds.

This program provides significant benefits for all Minnesotans, including BIPOC and diverse communities, when land is protected and otherwise restored (e.g., clean air and water, abatement of climate change, and other ecosystem services). Beyond that, public land provides an opportunity for all people, but particularly for those who do not have access or resources to connect with private natural lands, to directly connect with the outdoors through hunting, fishing, hiking, or other outdoor recreational pursuits.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

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

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

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?
Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?
Yes

Where does the activity take place?

WMA

State Forests

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
N/A

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

County

Local Unit of Government

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

SNA

State Forest

County Forest

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
We anticipate 2-4 closed acquisitions.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

Estimated costs for initial restoration of lands protected through in-fee acquisition are included in this proposal. TPL will convey all fee-title land to the DNR or LGUs for permanent stewardship. Once land has been conveyed, initial site development and restoration of these lands will begin. TPL will work with DNR or LGUs to complete a restoration and management plan to help ensure that the land will be managed for its wildlife and water quality benefits. Implementation of that plan will be completed over the following 2-3 years. Long-term maintenance and management of these lands will fall to the respective government entities according to OHF standards.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
TPL - Land acquired	June 30, 2031
TPL - Initial site development/restoration	Fall 2033
TPL - Landowner negotiations, agreements, and due diligence	June 30, 2031

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2031

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.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$309,000	-	-	$309,000
Contracts	$141,000	-	-	$141,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$3,670,000	-	-	$3,670,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,000	$3,000	Private	$5,000
Professional Services	$45,000	-	-	$45,000
Direct Support Services	$48,000	$48,000	Private	$96,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$105,000	-	-	$105,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
DNR IDP	$65,000	-	-	$65,000
Grand Total	**$4,388,000**	**$51,000**	**-**	**$4,439,000**

Partner: Trust For Public Lands (TPL)

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$214,000	-	-	$214,000
Contracts	$125,000	-	-	$125,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$3,670,000	-	-	$3,670,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$3,000	Private	$3,000
Professional Services	$45,000	-	-	$45,000
Direct Support Services	$48,000	$48,000	Private	$96,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$105,000	-	-	$105,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	$65,000	-	-	$65,000
Grand Total	**$4,272,000**	**$51,000**	**-**	**$4,323,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection and Legal Staff	0.29	4.0	$214,000	-	-	$214,000

Partner: Wild Rivers Conservancy

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$95,000	-	-	$95,000
Contracts	$16,000	-	-	$16,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$116,000**	**-**	**-**	**$116,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservancy Staff	0.5	3.0	$95,000	-	-	$95,000

Amount of Request: $4,388,000
Amount of Leverage: $51,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 1.16%
DSS + Personnel: $357,000
As a % of the total request: 8.14%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The Conservancy will receive 100% of the original requested amount for grant administration, support and outreach. TPL will receive the remaining appropriation (39% of our proposal) and will reduce our outcomes and project outputs proportionally.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
One half of TPL's DSS costs and all of TPL's travel costs are provided as privately sourced.

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?
Since some costs are fixed, a somewhat greater than proportionate reduction in activities and acres would occur.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well; however, these reductions will be less than proportional, since program development and grant management costs remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount. These are gross estimates of personnel time.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
TPL - Potential site clean-up and initial restoration activities. WRC - Outreach efforts in watershed counties. Web and social media content production including videography.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Design/Engineering

Other : Environmental Assessments; Mineral Assessments; Mapping

Surveys

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
TPL expects to close 2-4 acquisitions through this appropriations.

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

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?

TPL: DSS request is based upon our federal rate which has been approved by the DNR. 50% of these costs are requested from the grant, 50% is contributed as leverage.

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	-	-	-	40	40
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	188	188	376
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**188**	**228**	**416**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$80,000	$80,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	$2,212,000	$2,096,000	$4,308,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**$2,212,000**	**$2,176,000**	**$4,388,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	-	-	-	40	40
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	188	-	-	-	188	376
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**188**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**228**	**416**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	$80,000	$80,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$3,043,000	-	-	-	$1,265,000	$4,308,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$3,043,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,345,000**	**$4,388,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	$2,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	$11,765	$11,148
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	-	-	-	-	$2,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$16,186	-	-	-	$6,728
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

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:
Trust for Public Land works with its public partners to identify and prioritize projects that meet their objectives and are on their priority lists. Criteria includes whether the land provides critical habitat for game and non-game species, quality public recreational opportunities, presence of unique plants and animal species (including SGCN), goals of conservation plans, adjacency to other public land or habitat complexes, existence of local support, immediacy of threats, landowner willingness and time frame.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Janet Johnson WMA Addition	Chisago	03521134	8	$20,000	Yes	Restore cultivated land to native prairie habitat & oak savanna
Dalbo WMA Addition	Kanabec	03825233	52	$120,000	Yes	Restore cultivated land to native prairie habitat
Kroschel WMA Addition I	Kanabec	04122205	40	$60,000	Yes	Restore cultivated land to native prairie habitat

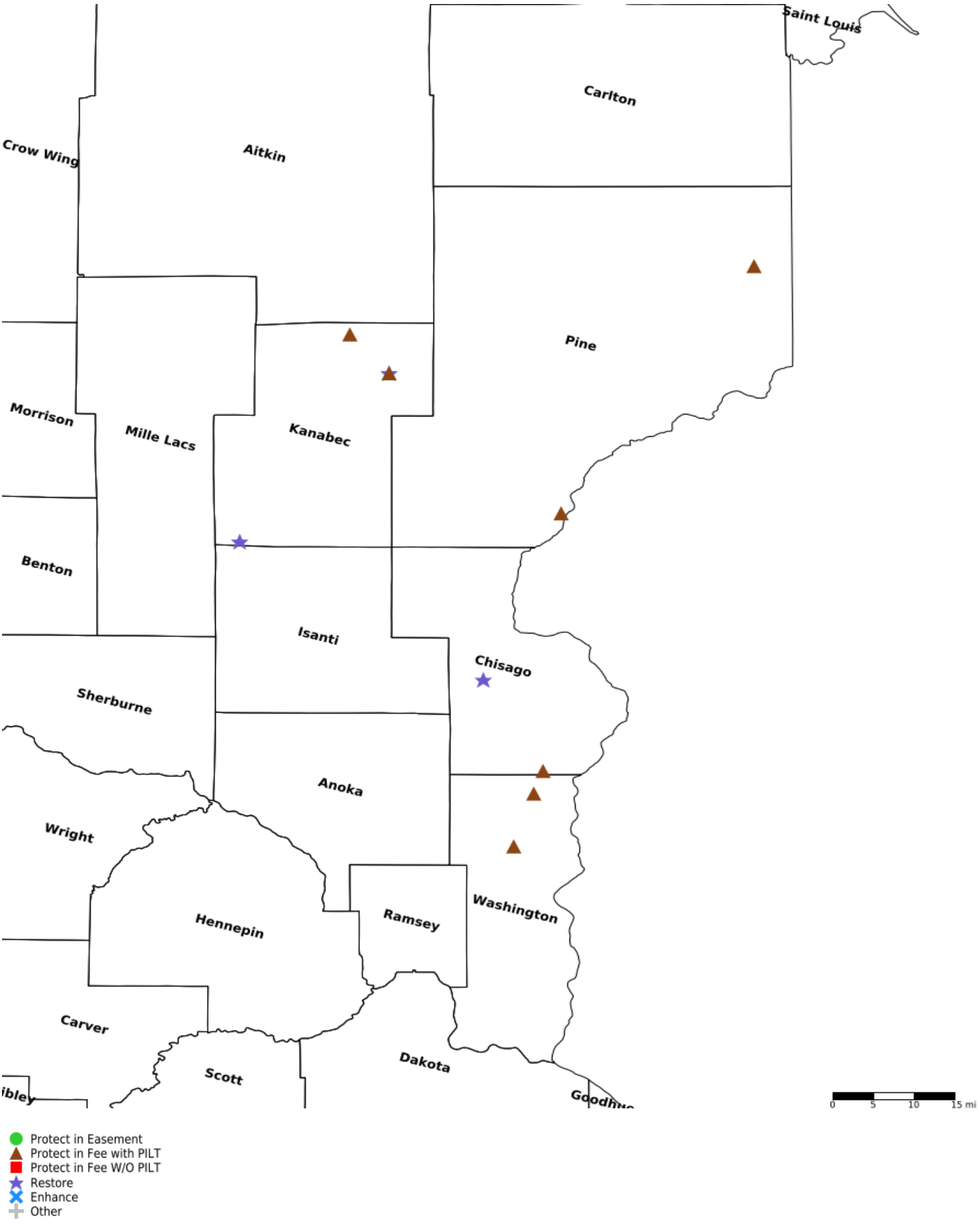
Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Kroschel WMA Addition II	Kanabec	04122205	440	$1,800,000	No
Snake River State Forest Addition	Kanabec	04223210	840	$2,250,000	No
Chengwatana State Forest Addition IV	Pine	03820212	80	$260,000	No
Bone Lake WMA	Washington	03220216	117	$2,000,000	No
Keystone Woods WMA Addition	Washington	03120219	120	$2,000,000	No

Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
First Lake WMA	Chisago	03320234	160	$1,200,000	No	3	-
Nemadji State Forest Addition IV	Pine	04416228	80	$250,000	No	2	$20,000

Parcel Map


Saint Louis
Carlton
Crow Wing
Aitkin
Pine
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Benton
Isanti
Chisago
Sherburne
Anoka
Wright
Hennepin
Ramsey
Washington
Carver
Scott
Dakota
0
5
10
15 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2027 Riparian Habitat Protection In the kettle and Snake River Watersheds

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - 2027 Riparian Habitat Protection In the kettle and Snake River Watersheds
Organization: Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District
Manager: Paul Swanson

Budget

Requested Amount: $4,000,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,208,000
Percentage: 30.2%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$327,500	-	$96,700	-	29.53%	-
Contracts	$42,500	-	$12,500	-	29.41%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$3,370,100	-	$1,021,800	-	30.32%	-
Easement Stewardship	$170,000	-	$50,000	-	29.41%	-
Travel	$6,900	-	$2,100	-	30.43%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$70,100	-	$21,000	-	29.96%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$9,900	-	$3,000	-	30.3%	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,000	-	$900	-	30.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,000,000**	**-**	**$1,208,000**	**-**	**30.2%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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?
A 30% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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	1,020	300	29.41%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$4,000,000	$1,208,000	30.2%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	1,020	300	29.41%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$4,000,000	$1,208,000	30.2%
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - 16

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - 16

Funds Recommended: $2,181,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jennifer Tonko
Title: Executive Director
Organization: Clean River Partners
Address: 205 Water Street S Suite 1
City: Northfield, MN 55057
Email: jennifer@cleanriverpartners.org
Office Number: 507-786-3913
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: https://cleanriverpartners.org/

Partners Contact

Clean River Partners: Jennifer Tonko - jennifer@cleanriverpartners.org - 507-786-3913

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

Trust for Public Land: DJ Forbes - DJ.Forbes@tpl.org -

Location Information

County Location(s): Waseca, Rice, Steele, Goodhue and Le Sueur.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Activity types:

Enhance

Restore

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Wetlands

Prairie

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program will protect approximately 90 acres in fee; and restore or enhance approximately 149 acres of high-priority wildlife habitat within the Cannon River Watershed, including wetlands, prairies, forests, and river/shallow lake shoreline.

Design and Scope of Work

The Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program protects, restores, and enhances publicly accessible, high-quality habitat throughout the Cannon River Watershed (CRW), expanding opportunities for hunting, angling, and outdoor recreation within an hour's drive of more than half of Minnesota's population.

Building on previous Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) investments is central to the program's long-term strategy. The majority of acquisitions that are proposed expand on lands previously protected or restored through this partnership. Rather than pursuing isolated projects, the partnership uses a programmatic approach that identifies opportunities over time to expand wildlife management areas, connect fragmented habitats, and establish larger habitat corridors with multiple ecological and recreational benefits.

Priority parcels are selected based on their ability to provide multiple benefits simultaneously, including habitat protection for wildlife, conservation of threatened and sensitive species, hunting and fishing access, broader outdoor recreation opportunities, water quality improvement, and water storage and climate resilience benefits. Restoration and enhancement projects are selected through a combination of ecological need and the land manager's readiness and capacity to steward the site successfully in the near term.

Located south of the Twin Cities, the 1,460-square-mile CRW includes more than 800 miles of streams and rivers draining a diverse landscape of prairie, oak savanna, wetlands, and Big Woods forest. Today, much of the watershed is dominated by agricultural production and urban development, with agricultural practices and shoreline development contributing to impaired stretches of the Cannon River and associated lakes and streams.

This multi-year, multi-partner program protects and restores targeted parcels that contribute to larger complexes of forests, prairies, wetlands, lakeshore, and river corridor habitat. To date, the program has permanently protected 3,705 acres and restored or enhanced 457 acres utilizing Outdoor Heritage Funds, with an additional

1,036 acres of restoration underway.

The partnership combines complementary expertise to efficiently advance watershed-scale conservation outcomes. Clean River Partners (CRP) serves as the local watershed partner, coordinating the program and leading landowner outreach and program administration. Trust for Public Land (TPL) targets large wetland/upland complexes, rare biomes, shallow lakes, river shoreline, and lands adjacent to existing public land for fee-title acquisition, conveying lands to the DNR or other appropriate public entities. Great River Greening (GRG) collaborates with DNR, municipal, and USFWS partners to evaluate and implement restoration and enhancement projects through invasive species removal, wetland restoration, and native vegetation establishment.

The partnership's long-term, programmatic approach has created a cascading conservation effect within the watershed: permanent protection of one property often inspires neighboring landowners to pursue conservation opportunities. For example, the partnership utilized ML15 funds to acquire an 18-acre addition to the Warsaw WMA, protecting native dry bedrock prairie and oak savanna. This proposal builds on that investment through the proposed acquisition of an additional 120 acres. Additionally, building on the newly created 200-acre Sungina WMA (funded via ML23/ML24), this proposal seeks to acquire an additional 90 acres.

This proposal will protect approximately 90 acres in fee and restore or enhance approximately 149 acres.

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

The areas targeted by TPL have been identified and prioritized through state, regional, and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity qualities and connectivity to existing public lands. Protection will occur through fee title acquisition and will target Big Woods, oak savannas, wetlands, and sensitive shoreline communities within the CRW. GRG will conduct significant habitat restoration and enhancement work on protected conservation lands identified by DNR and local governments within the watershed. The aim is to improve habitat values for wildlife and Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), including birds using the Mississippi River migratory corridor, pollinators, amphibians, and reptiles. Work will restore and enhance riverine, forest, wetland, oak savanna, and prairie habitat at 10 conservation sites.

Protection, restoration and/or enhancement of these significant parcels will provide critical habitat for game species, including upland birds (dove, turkey, pheasant, and woodcock), white-tailed deer, migratory waterfowl (mallard, canvasback, wood duck, hooded merganser, pintail, and lesser scaup), and aquatic species (trout, northern pike, black crappie, bluegill, and walleye). Protection will also provide access to diverse recreational experiences including duck, pheasant, turkey, and deer hunting as well as river, stream, and lake fishing. Nongame wildlife, including SGCN, that also benefit from this effort include: bald eagle, Bell's vireo, cerulean warbler, loggerhead shrike, Sandhill crane, red-headed woodpecker, greater yellowlegs, buffbreasted sandpiper, rusty patched bumble bee, Blanding's turtle, wood turtle, and mudpuppies.

Working alongside the MN DNR and USFWS, our partnership aims to conserve habitat along streams and rivers where SGCN reptile and amphibian species have been located. Enhancing riparian corridors will increase nesting habitats for migrating waterfowl and reptile species. Restoration and conversion of tiled crop fields back to tallgrass prairie potholes will extend vital habitat for grassland bird species, which have seen a 40% decline in population since the 1960's.

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

Conservation opportunities within the watershed are highly time-sensitive. Many proposed acquisitions are only possible because willing landowners, available funding, adjacent public land priorities, and restoration capacity are aligned at this moment. These windows are often short-lived and difficult to recreate once properties change ownership or land use. Prior OHF investments have generated significant conservation momentum: as habitat complexes expand and restoration work becomes visible on the landscape, neighboring landowners increasingly pursue protection opportunities. Maintaining continuity in funding is critical to converting these emerging opportunities into permanent conservation outcomes. Several proposed acquisitions are strategically important parcels that strengthen existing public lands and habitat corridors, while restoration projects are prioritized based on both ecological significance and partner readiness to ensure high-quality implementation.

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

Southern Minnesota, and specifically the Cannon River Watershed, has a rich agricultural presence due to the fertile soils found throughout the region. Large portions of corn and soybean fields limit forage for pollinators, habitat for migrating waterfowl, and threaten water quality for aquatic species. This partnership aims to protect vulnerable waterways through adjacent land protection, restoration of depleted wetlands and floodplains, conversion of agricultural fields to prairies or forests, along with enhancement of degraded public lands to establish and improve thriving ecosystems.

This program has demonstrated its ability to expand habitat corridors and limit habitat fragmentation, establishing nine new WMAs, one AMA, and expanding 11 WMAs since its inception. The program uses information from the Wildlife Action Network, Minnesota County Biological Survey, and several analysis tools to identify priority lands for protection and restoration, creating and expanding conservation corridors and habitat complexes. In addition, we will consult several landscape-level planning efforts such as the Statewide Wildlife Action Plan, Cannon River Watershed Landscape Stewardship Plan, the Cannon River Watershed - Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS), and the Cannon River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan.

Heading into Phase 16, our programmatic approach has positioned us for additional opportunities to build on important habitat corridors.

First, the partnership is helping establish an emerging Straight River habitat corridor through coordinated acquisitions, restoration, and enhancement activities that collectively improve habitat quality, protect threatened species, and benefit water quality. Proposed acquisitions at Medford WMA II and Faribault WMA II will expand the amount of connected public land along this corridor, while restoration at the newly acquired Somerset WMA addition will improve adjacent habitat conditions for wildlife and selected SGCN.

Second, the proposal continues long-term investment in the health and expansion of OHF lands. Warsaw WMA was first protected through this program in 2018, which created the foundation for additional acquisition and restoration opportunities currently proposed. Planned restoration will protect and enhance remnant prairie habitat while improving surrounding prairie and forest ecosystems. Additionally, this proposal seeks to expand the habitat on the recently acquired 200-acre Sungina WMA.

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?

Prairie

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

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife ~ *Core parcels are identified in partnership with the DNR, counties, and the partners of the Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program. Success will be determined based on the acreage of lands protected, restored, and enhanced and the percentage of protected lands in the 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.

Funding requested by the Partnership will not supplant or substitute for any previous non-legacy funding used for the same purpose.

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

TPL will convey all fee-title land in this proposal to the DNR for permanent stewardship. Once land has been acquired and conveyed, initial site development and restoration of these lands will begin. Estimated costs for initial restoration or enhancement work are included in this proposal. TPL will work with the DNR to finalize a restoration management plan, and Actual implementation will occur in future years under DNR leadership. These properties will be managed and maintained by the DNR according to their guidelines.

In collaboration with DNR, County, and USFWS personnel, parcels targeted for restoration will be evaluated by GRG to determine existing and desired conditions for each site. Information gathered will be used to develop site-specific scope of work plans for restoring ecologically desired habitats. Project management plans will detail the methods and practices to be used and a timeline for the successful completion of each site/project along with management guidelines and maintenance outline for the future. After funds are expended, sites will be in a condition that the landowner will be able to maintain.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2030	GRG - OHF	Continue R/E and begin stewardship. Target actions to maintain habitat.	Restorative action to correct damage as needed	Evaluate progress and determine if additional actions are needed
2029	GRG - OHF	Initiate R/E work	Continue R/E depending on appropriate methods and time of year	Continue R/E and begin stewardship as needed using appropriate methods and dependent on time of year

2028	GRG - OHF	Perform site evaluation and assessment in collaboration with DNR	Develop R/E plan for property. Begin monitoring	Initiate site preparation from R/E work. Continue monitoring
2030	TPL - DNR	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	-	-
2029	TPL - DNR	Develop restoration/management plan for property	Restore and steward property for habitat and public recreation	-
2028	TPL - OHF & DNR	Post property	Development restoration/management plan for property	-

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

Protecting, restoring, and enhancing diverse and resilient habitats benefits all Minnesotans. It keeps our air and water cleaner, mitigates the impacts of climate change, and conserves the biological diversity that belongs to everyone. Public land provides an opportunity for recreation and health to those who do not have access to private natural lands, whether that be for hunting, fishing, hiking, or other outdoor pursuits.

This program involves, engages, and benefits BIPOC and other diverse communities through focused events that leverage Outdoor Heritage Funds. For example, recent efforts, funded through other sources, have focused on increasing the engagement of BIPOC and diverse communities across the watershed in volunteer events at sites protected and restored using past OHF appropriations. Additionally, also through different funding sources, some of this program's recent acquisition and restoration projects focus on protection of the environment and water quality while creating much-needed recreational opportunities targeting disadvantaged areas (based upon housing, income and wastewater thresholds) with significant BIPOC communities.

Our partners actively encourage residents who live near habitat restoration sites and create programs specifically for people from diverse backgrounds, opening up opportunities to pursue environmental careers such as GRG's Engaging a Diverse Population Program. Another example of this is TPL's mentored hunting and angling program. In partnership with the MN Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, TPL is hosting and facilitating mentored hunting, angling, and foraging opportunities for diverse communities on public lands and waters across MN with a focus on lands protected with Outdoor Heritage Funds. Our target audience for mentees are diverse and historically marginalized communities, with a particular outreach focus on BIPOC communities. Our program mentors are individuals from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds as well, helping to reinforce and foster a sense of representation, belonging, and inclusion in outdoor spaces.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

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

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

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?
Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?
Yes

Where does the activity take place?

WMA

SNA

AMA

County/Municipal

State Forests

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
NA

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

County

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

SNA

AMA

State Forest

County Forest

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
1-2

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
No

Initial restoration activities will be conducted by the MN DNR through DNR IDP. TPL will assess the full R/E needs of each parcel protected through this appropriation. If R/E needs exist, funding for those projects will be incorporated into a future proposal.

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?
No

Explain how and when the restoration/enhancement work will be completed and identify the source of funding:
Initial restoration activities will be conducted by the MN DNR through DNR IDP. TPL will assess the full R/E needs of each parcel protected through this appropriation. If R/E needs exist, funding for those projects will be incorporated into a future proposal.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Restoration and enhancement	June 30, 2032
Initial site development	Fall 2032
Land acquired	June 30, 2031
Landowner negotiations, agreements and due diligence	June 30, 2029
Finalize restoration and enhancement plans	June 30, 2028

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	$257,000	-	-	$257,000
Contracts	$626,000	-	-	$626,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$892,000	-	-	$892,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$12,000	$3,000	Private, Private	$15,000
Professional Services	$25,000	-	-	$25,000
Direct Support Services	$85,000	$113,400	Private, Private	$198,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$25,000	-	-	$25,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,000	-	-	$4,000
Supplies/Materials	$241,000	-	-	$241,000
DNR IDP	$14,000	-	-	$14,000
Grand Total	**$2,181,000**	**$116,400**	**-**	**$2,297,400**

Partner: Clean River Partners

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$20,000	-	-	$20,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$1,000	Private	$1,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$5,000	-	-	$5,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$25,000**	**$1,000**	**-**	**$26,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
CRP Staff	0.4	3.0	$20,000	-	-	$20,000

Partner: Great River Greening

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$142,000	-	-	$142,000
Contracts	$616,000	-	-	$616,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$12,000	-	-	$12,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$63,000	$96,400	Private	$159,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,000	-	-	$4,000
Supplies/Materials	$241,000	-	-	$241,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,078,000**	**$96,400**	**-**	**$1,174,400**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Staff	0.39	5.0	$142,000	-	-	$142,000

Partner: Trust for Public Land

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$95,000	-	-	$95,000
Contracts	$10,000	-	-	$10,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$892,000	-	-	$892,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$2,000	Private	$2,000
Professional Services	$25,000	-	-	$25,000
Direct Support Services	$17,000	$17,000	Private	$34,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$25,000	-	-	$25,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	$14,000	-	-	$14,000
Grand Total	**$1,078,000**	**$19,000**	**-**	**$1,097,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project and Legal Staff	0.13	4.0	$95,000	-	-	$95,000

Amount of Request: $2,181,000
Amount of Leverage: $116,400
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 5.34%
DSS + Personnel: $342,000
As a % of the total request: 15.68%
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 prioritize acquisitions with owners who are on a deadline or are further along in the title process. We will prioritize restoration with restoration plans that are closer to completion.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
The partnership provides privately sourced leverage for a portion of DSS and of travel costs. The partnership also seeks various state, local and private funds to acquire property and conduct enhancements/restorations.

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?
Since some costs are fixed, a somewhat greater than proportionate reduction in activities and acres would occur. Restoration and enhancement acres and budgets would be reduced in a way that meets the needs of the remaining parcels.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Program management costs (personnel, travel, and DSS expenses) will be reduced, but not proportionately because program coordination and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount. CRP's program administration is consistent regardless of acres protected or restored in order to manage the program and maintain partner and community.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
TPL's contract line includes potential site clean-up and initial restoration activities.
GRG's contract line includes restoration/enhancement contracts by service providers.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Environmental Site Assessments, Mineral Assessments, Mapping

Surveys

Fee Acquisition

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

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?
Clean River Partners' DSS rate was approved by the DNR in 2024.

TPL's DSS request is based upon its federal rate which has been approved by the MN DNR and 50% of these costs are requested from the OHF grant while 50% is contributed as privately sourced leverage.

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

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Hand tools, 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	17	96	-	-	113
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	90	90
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	3	33	-	36
Total	**17**	**99**	**33**	**90**	**239**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	$141,600	$332,900	-	-	$474,500
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$1,090,500	$1,090,500
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$56,000	$560,000	-	$616,000
Total	**$141,600**	**$388,900**	**$560,000**	**$1,090,500**	**$2,181,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	113	-	113
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	90	-	90
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	36	-	36
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**239**	**-**	**239**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$474,500	-	$474,500
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$1,090,500	-	$1,090,500
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$616,000	-	$616,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,181,000**	**-**	**$2,181,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	$8,329	$3,467	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$12,116
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$18,666	$16,969	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	$4,199	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$12,116	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	$17,111	-

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:
Trust for Public Land works with its public partners to identify and prioritize projects that meet their objectives and are on their priority lists. Criteria includes whether the land provides critical habitat for game and non-game species and quality public recreational opportunities, presence of unique plants and animals species (including SGCN), goals of conservation plans, adjacency to other public land or habitat complexes, existence of local support, immediacy of threats, landowner willingness and time frame.

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.

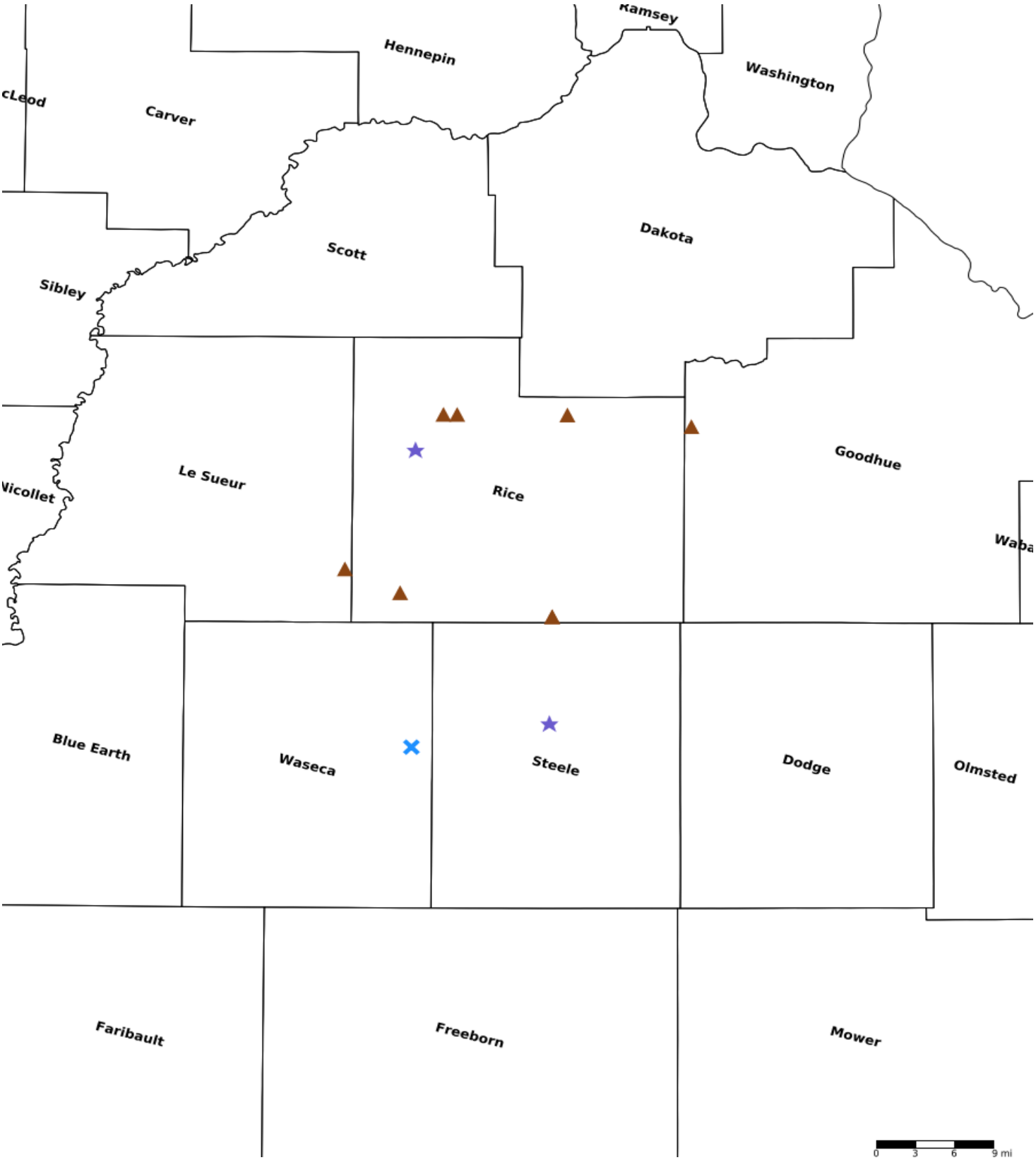
Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Big Woods WMA addition	Rice	11122223	60	$337,000	Yes	50 acres prairie restoration, 6 acres wetland restoration, and 4 acres prairie enhancement
Somerset WMA	Steele	10720216	78	$544,000	Yes	45 acres crop conversion, 21 woody management, 12 acres Wetland restoration
Blowers Park	Waseca	10722226	11	$197,000	Yes	3 acres woody invasive management and 8 acres of Oak savanna enhancement

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Warsaw WMA	Goodhue	11118207	131	$900,000	No
Horseshoe Lake WMA	Le Sueur	10923212	127	$1,200,000	No
Faribault WMA II	Rice	10920233	37	$185,000	No
Medford WMA II	Rice	10920233	113	$1,500,000	No
Sakatah WMA Addition	Rice	10922222	62	$589,000	No
Spring Brook WMA	Rice	11120203	218	$2,180,000	No
Sungina WMA Addition	Rice	11121206	100	$710,000	No
Sungina WMA Addition II	Rice	11121205	58	$599,900	No

Parcel Map


Ramsey
Hennepin
Washington
cLeod
Carver
Scott
Dakota
Sibley
Le Sueur
Rice
Goodhue
Nicollet
Waba
Blue Earth
Waseca
Steele
Dodge
Olmsted
Faribault
Freeborn
Mower
0 3 6 9 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - 16

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - 16
Organization: Clean River Partners
Manager: Jennifer Tonko

Budget

Requested Amount: $12,138,300
Appropriated Amount: $2,181,000
Percentage: 17.97%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$1,038,000	$2,200	$257,000	-	24.76%	0.0%
Contracts	$3,866,000	-	$626,000	-	16.19%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$6,000,000	-	$892,000	-	14.87%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$39,000	$3,000	$12,000	$3,000	30.77%	100.0%
Professional Services	$102,000	-	$25,000	-	24.51%	-
Direct Support Services	$348,300	$304,800	$85,000	$113,400	24.4%	37.2%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$180,000	-	$25,000	-	13.89%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$15,000	-	$4,000	-	26.67%	-
Supplies/Materials	$445,000	-	$241,000	-	54.16%	-
DNR IDP	$105,000	-	$14,000	-	13.33%	-
Grand Total	**$12,138,300**	**$310,000**	**$2,181,000**	**$116,400**	**17.97%**	**37.55%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Since some costs are fixed, a somewhat greater than proportionate reduction in activities and acres would occur. Restoration and enhancement acres and budgets would be reduced in a way that meets the needs of the remaining parcels.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Program management costs (personnel, travel, and DSS expenses) will be reduced, but not proportionately, because program coordination and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount. CRP's program administration is consistent regardless of acres protected or restored in order 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?
Since some costs are fixed, a somewhat greater than proportionate reduction in activities and acres would occur. Restoration and enhancement acres and budgets would be reduced in a way that meets the needs of the remaining parcels.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Program management costs (personnel, travel, and DSS expenses) will be reduced, but not proportionately because program coordination and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount. CRP's program administration is consistent regardless of acres protected or restored in order to manage the program and maintain partner and community.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	152	113	74.34%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	600	90	15.0%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	319	36	11.29%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$1,493,000	$474,500	31.78%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$7,165,300	$1,090,500	15.22%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$3,480,000	$616,000	17.7%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	152	113	74.34%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	600	90	15.0%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	319	36	11.29%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$1,493,000	$474,500	31.78%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$7,165,300	$1,090,500	15.22%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$3,480,000	$616,000	17.7%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase IX

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase IX

Funds Recommended: $2,282,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Alexander Scurto
Title: Senior Project Manager
Organization: Dakota County
Address: 14955 Galaxie Avenue
City: Apple Valley, MN 55124
Email: alex.scurto@co.dakota.mn.us
Office Number: 952-891-7827
Mobile Number: 630-577-7767
Fax Number:
Website: dakotacountymn.gov

Location Information

County Location(s): Dakota.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

This project will restore approximately 866 acres of permanently protected habitat and acquire approximately 105 acres of permanent conservation easements. Project sites include converting cultivated areas to native habitat in cites and townships throughout the county, including forest, grassland, riparian areas, and other wetlands. This initiative includes identified sites and flexibility for opportunities that will arise. This project will allow the County to continue its integrated comprehensive and successful land conservation efforts through its partnership with the LSOHC and others.

Design and Scope of Work

Historic settlement, modern-day development, and agriculture have replaced, degraded, and fragmented natural resource systems throughout Dakota County. The project scope and scale encompass some of the best natural resource features found in the metropolitan region, across urban, suburban, and rural landscapes. A sound fiscal and prescriptive ecological systems approach to conservation, attempts to balance the interests, rights, and responsibilities of private landowners, with the public's concerns about water and habitat quality and protection.

The November 2020, Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County (Plan) collectively identifies, coordinates, and prioritizes future land protection and management needs on public and private properties throughout the County. This Plan reflects one of four County Board goals of "a healthy environment with quality natural areas." This Plan is being incorporated into a comprehensive, County-wide Natural Resource Systems Plan in 2026, through which the County continues to effectively work with a variety of agencies and organizations to implement land protection. Since 2002, the County approved plans and implemented programs to preserve natural areas and quality working land. The County developed conservation policy, project evaluation criteria, and practices to acquire, monitor, and administer 127 conservation easements, totaling 9,785 acres, and acquire or assist other public entities in acquiring 33 properties totaling 2,274 acres, for almost 12,000 total acres permanently protected. The Plan identifies over 75,000 acres of important conservation lands within 24 preliminary Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs), of which 32,500 acres are already protected. The CFAs encompass a wide variety of habitats throughout the County, including 28 specific native communities, with 25 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Land outside the CFAs is also eligible for conservation, if it meets certain criteria.

All permanent easements require Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) that reflect existing ecosystem health and recommend potential restoration management strategies, including workplans and budgets. Initial implementation is also required, using an adopted public-private funding formula that includes a maintenance component. A Natural Resource Management Agreement (MA) is signed by the landowner and County, identifying NRMP priorities, activities, responsibilities, shared costs, and schedules. The proposed habitat restoration and enhancement projects in this funding request are based on these workplans. This project has direct benefits to fish, game, and wildlife, beyond increased and interconnected habitat.

Additionally, the City-County Conservation Collaborative (CCCC or 4C) initiative was launched in 2021, with the County and cities being the primary participants. The first application round resulted in eight natural habitat restoration project applications from five cities. NRMPs were developed for each project, and implementation has begun in several suburban park natural areas that do not include park facilities or paved trails.

The proposed and anticipated acquisition projects involve riparian areas along the Minnesota, Mississippi, Cannon and Vermillion Rivers. Additional habitat focuses include woodlands, wetlands, hydric soil areas, and unique landscape features and ecosystems.

Environmental Audits are completed for all projects. Baseline Property Reports are prepared for easements that record the condition of the easement area at the time it's acquired by the County.

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

The proposal integrates a number of state and regional County plans, involving different aspects of habitat and wildlife. In 2017, the County Board approved a Natural Resource Management System Plan (NRMSP) for all regional parks, regional greenways and conservation easements located throughout the County. Vegetation, water, and wildlife were the three main elements for each land type. The NRMSP identified rare and endangered species, and species of greatest conservation need throughout the County, based on different data sources. The NRMSP includes different Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) templates of each property type that will provide much more detail for individual sites that typically include a variety of habitat and plant community types. The 2020 Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County (LCP) identifies over 42,300 acres of unprotected land within 24 preliminary Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs), including more than 14,000 acres in 90 potential wetland restoration basins. The CFAs encompass a wide variety of habitats throughout the County, including 28 specific native communities and 25 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. These habitats/native communities and associated species include, but are not limited to: Forest - northern long-eared bat, American woodcock, oven bird, rose-breasted grosbeak, least flycatcher, red- shouldered hawk; Prairies and Grasslands- badger, Franklin's ground squirrel, prairie vole, loggerhead shrike, eastern meadowlark, grasshopper sparrow and regal fritillary; Lakes, Ponds and Rivers- common snapping turtle and smooth soft shell turtle; Wetlands- sedge wren, sand hill crane, Blanding's turtle, and dragonflies. The County continues to assemble baseline data and will prioritize the habitats preferred by these species for acquisition, restoration and enhancement activities. The County is currently drafting a new Natural Systems Plan that will combine the NRMSP and the LCP into one comprehensive plan to guide natural resource protection and management into the future.

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

Dakota County works with willing sellers and wants to continue the momentum of its ongoing conservation programs, with an increased focus on natural resource management. The Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County includes a valuable opportunity to work even more collaboratively with other public entities, specifically through the City-County Conservation Collaborative. Staff continues to see marginal agricultural land converted to row crops and installation of more drain tile. Creating larger scale restoration areas within the rural agricultural landscape can provide multiple public benefits. Residential development has increased significantly in some cities, and natural areas are attractive focal points for new development. Through its programs, the County can expand protected habitats and close gaps between previously protected lands within multipurpose corridors.

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

There was significant overlap between the County Biological Survey, the 2002 Farmland and Natural Area Protection Plan, and the Metro Conservation Corridors in identifying habitat complexes and key corridors. Based on updated land cover mapping, DNR rare species data, the Vermillion Corridor Plan, new SNA analysis, previously protected areas, County and local comprehensive plans, watershed plans, and park and greenway plans, the County has refined its priority natural areas and the Metro Conservation Corridor Focus Areas. Using Dakota County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools and expertise, County staff can further prioritize areas where important protection and improvement opportunities exist, using other available data layers, such as ownership parcels, soils, aspect, historical photography, and LiDAR. Project selection criteria have been revised to reflect this refined vision, and further refinements will occur as up-to-date information and data are collected. The Natural Systems Plan being drafted currently, will reflect the most current data and information available and include the 24 primary Conservation Focus Areas and several additional sub-areas, based on existing water resources, other natural habitats and existing protected land where the County plans to target resources.

In a substantial portion of original natural landscapes in the County were significantly altered through agriculture. Extensive wetland areas were drained, filled, and tiled. County staff consulted with BWSR and DNR staff to use LiDAR-based GIS tools to target wetland restoration projects. The tools require a hydrologically-conditioned digital elevation model (DEM) that was previously unavailable within the County. Dakota County staff created a "base-level" hydrologically-conditioned DEM and ran a series of ArcGIS tools developed by the DNR/BWSR. The GIS tools predicted hydric soils and wetlands via the Compound Topographic Index, smoothed ditches, and created ditch plugs in the landscape to generate storage areas. The resulting areas were inventoried and prioritized based on area (acres) and volume (acre-feet). Then, a GIS dataset of known cultivated hydric soils, developed by the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District was used to refine the inventory. Finally, a map of restoration sites and list of property owners for 4,502 acres was developed for restoration program outreach and implementation.

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

Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Metro / Urban

Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

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:

A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *The County developed an integrated, long-term habitat protection system involving public*

and private lands to provide multiple public benefits. Enlarging and improving existing protected habitat complexes and providing key connections will continue to be a focus, with protected acres and shoreline as success indicators. The County will prioritize land protection and improvement efforts, in part, based on wildlife species by devoting staff time and resources to create baseline wildlife and habitat quality information and monitoring indicator and other species seasonally/annually to determine if our efforts are producing the desired results over time and to adapt or re-prioritize as appropriate.

Programs in southeast forest region:

Healthier populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species *~ A small portion of the County is included in this region. Enlarging and improving existing protected habitat complexes and providing key connections will continue to be a focus, with protected acres and shoreline as success indicators. The County will prioritize its land protection and improvement efforts, in part, based on priority wildlife species. It will devote staff time and resources to create baseline wildlife and habitat quality information and monitoring indicator and other species seasonally/annually to determine if our efforts are producing the desired results over time and to adapt or re-prioritize as appropriate.*

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.

Dakota County's request for funding is not supplanting, nor is it a substitution for any 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?

The Dakota County Board has maintained a remarkable, 24-year commitment to land conservation, and established "a healthy environment and quality natural areas" as one of four priority goals. Adopting the 2020 Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County (LCP), maintaining dedicated natural resource staff, reorganizing departments to effectively achieve land conservation goals, approving capital improvement program budgets, and providing an operating budget for annual monitoring, are further evidence that the County has the interest, capacity and commitment to sustain this work. The County's Natural Resource Management System Plan (NRMSP) commits to maintaining areas after restoration and enhancement investments are made.

Approximately half the land protection/restoration work will occur on public lands and half on private lands, all designed to achieve maximum, fiscally efficient, conservation benefits. Relationship building, developing and implementing Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) and Management Agreements, and annual monitoring, provide opportunities to share updated natural resource information and best management practices with landowners, and achieve a higher likelihood of increased private stewardship. The NRMSP, using a public/private cost-share formula, is further testament to this commitment. This comprehensive wildlife habitat and water quality approach on public and private lands provides the best opportunity to effectively protect and

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2032	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years

2031	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years
2030	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years
2029	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years
2028	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years
2027	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years

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

The Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County includes goals, strategies and tactics designed to increase and enhance public involvement in natural resource protection and management and enhanced recreational access to conservation land. The new project eligibility and scoring criteria, developed to evaluate Land Conservation Program project applications, includes incentives when a project will provide natural habitat and open space opportunities for underserved communities that include BIPOC. Distance from a qualified census tract will be used to determine the project score for this factor.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
The landowner(s), with support provided by Dakota County and partner agencies as capacity and funding allows.

Who will be the easement holder?
Dakota County.

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
5-10.

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

SNA

AMA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

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?
Yes

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
There might be situations where portions of the property may be cultivated. As part of a negotiated sale, the owner may be allowed to continue cultivating the same land for a short, defined time as defined and allowed in the Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP). In other situations, it may be advantageous to allow a final soybean crop, which can enhance the restoration process by reducing weeds and residue. Also, in some NRMP-approved situations, food plots for wildlife are allowed within a natural area easement.

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

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

Describe the expected public use:
The County has acquired some easements that are open for limited public use. In all cases, the decision to allow public use is determined by the landowner, and is often granted to responsible, conservation-minded and purposed groups and individuals.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:
It is possible that some acquisition projects may result in the creation of new, soft-surface trails for low-impact recreational use by landowners and/or allowed guests, and in part, to assist in access for natural resource restoration, management and ongoing maintenance.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?
The landowner will be responsible for all maintenance. A jointly developed NRMP will determine any changes to trails and roads. Review of trails and roads are part of the County's annual monitoring process.

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

Currently, none of the identified "protect in easement" parcels are listed on the "restore/enhance" parcel list. However, once acquired, Dakota County may be interested in adding those parcels to the approved "restore/enhance" parcel list via an amendment if funding and capacity allows.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Restoration	June 30, 2032
Easement and/or Fee Title Acquisition	June 30, 2031

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	-	$840,000	Dakota County	$840,000
Contracts	$1,582,000	-	-	$1,582,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$650,000	-	-	$650,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$49,000	-	-	$49,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,282,000**	**$840,000**	**-**	**$3,122,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Land Acquisition/Parks Natural Resources/Real Estate Office/ County Attorney/Survey/Finance/ Contracts/Support Staff/Etc.	1.4	5.0	-	$840,000	Dakota County	$840,000

Amount of Request: $2,282,000
Amount of Leverage: $840,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 36.81%
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?
Dakota County's program is structured to be flexible and will accommodate a reduced appropriation by scaling back each proposed activity. Easement acquisition extent and frequency will be reduced to fit within budgeted amounts, and restoration work will also be reduced to accomplish time sensitive and high priority tasks only.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Dakota County is contributing all County staff time, equivalent to approximately 1.4 FTEs over five years, totaling at least $840,000 in value. Landowner and city contributions are also expected but are not currently factored into the total leverage amount.

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 scaling may not proportionately reduce acres and activities, as County staff can't anticipate what project applications will be received, and which ones will move forward to completion. If this proposal is scaled back, County staff can only estimate what the lower acreages and lesser activities might be.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The scaling may not proportionately reduce personnel and DDS expenses, because with a voluntary program, County staff can't anticipate what project applications will be received, and which ones will move forward to completion. It's possible that many smaller projects could take the place of fewer larger projects.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
The amount noted in the contracts line is inclusive of all anticipated expenses for restoration and enhancement services and native plant materials. Dakota County plans to enter into agreements with qualified contractors who will be conducting restoration activities on the identified restoration parcels based on the current management plan(s).

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Design/Engineering

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	70	124	343	329	866
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	21	62	10	12	105
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**91**	**186**	**353**	**341**	**971**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	$152,100	$197,400	$552,500	$680,000	$1,582,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$132,500	$322,500	$145,000	$100,000	$700,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$284,600**	**$519,900**	**$697,500**	**$780,000**	**$2,282,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	798	-	68	-	-	866
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	105	-	0	-	-	105
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**903**	**-**	**68**	**-**	**-**	**971**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	$1,367,000	-	$215,000	-	-	$1,582,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$700,000	-	-	-	-	$700,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$2,067,000**	**-**	**$215,000**	**-**	**-**	**$2,282,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	$2,172	$1,591	$1,610	$2,066
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$6,309	$5,201	$14,500	$8,333
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	$1,713	-	$3,161	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$6,666	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

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

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Relative to acquisition parcels, the County provides annual public notices to solicit pre-applications from willing landowners. Targeted mailings will be sent to chosen Conservation Focus Areas identified in the Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County (LCP). Other projects are identified through adopted park or greenway master plans.

Applications are evaluated for eligibility. Eligible applicants meet with County staff to discuss the Land Conservation Program in detail. Final applications are submitted for evaluation, scoring and ranking against other applications, and recommendations for continued consideration. County criteria were developed to reflect the LCP and are used to score projects based on location, natural resource components, financial considerations, commitment to stewardship, and ongoing habitat restoration and management. Recommended projects are appraised to determine easement or fee title value. Accepted offers from the County to purchase easements or fee title result in title work, surveys, legal description creation, and preparing jointly developed Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) and baseline Property Reports for each easement project. Easement NRMPs are implemented through jointly developed Natural Resource Management Agreements between the County and the landowner that establish work plan responsibilities, mutual contributions toward restoration, and ongoing maintenance responsibilities. Relative to restoration parcels, County staff work with landowners and other partners most interested in restoring and enhancing natural resources on their property and identify restoration activities where significant need is apparent or sensitive natural resources are located.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

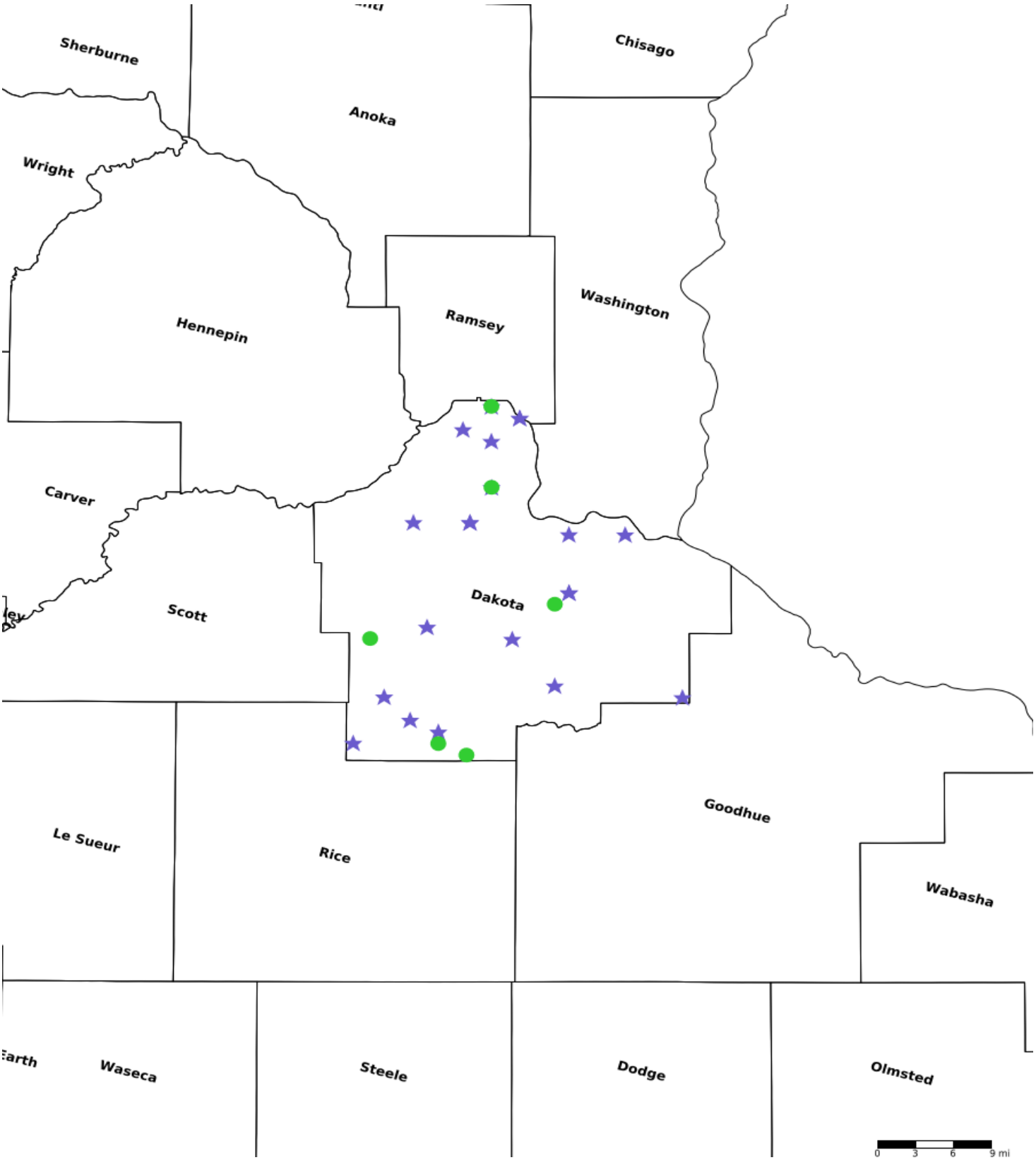
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
4C - Harmon-Salem	Dakota	02822232	39	$25,000	Yes	City of Inver Grove Heights - Continued Habitat restoration.
4C - Mississippi River Greenway Sites	Dakota	02822222	63	$85,000	Yes	City of Inver Grove Heights - Continued Habitat restoration.
4C - Seidl's	Dakota	02822222	36	$10,000	Yes	City of Inver Grove Heights - Continued Habitat restoration.
Benjamin	Dakota	11517220	32	$60,000	Yes	Nininger Township - Forest and Prairie restoration.
Boucher	Dakota	11418215	12	$100,000	Yes	Vermillion Township - Continued Habitat restoration.
Chub Creek Park Conservation Area (Wicklund)	Dakota	11219218	59	$70,000	Yes	Waterford Township - Continued Prairie, Wetland and Forest restoration.
Coughlin	Dakota	11220219	40	$176,000	Yes	Greenvale Township - Wetland, Forest and Habitat restoration.
Dodge Nature Center	Dakota	02823225	18	$100,000	Yes	City of Mendota Heights - Continued Habitat restoration.

Haskell Street	Dakota	02822217	1	$10,000	Yes	City of West St. Paul - Continued Habitat restoration.
ISD200	Dakota	11418215	51	$25,000	Yes	Vermillion Township - Continued Prairie and Wetland restoration.
Jennings	Dakota	11320233	49	$70,000	Yes	Eureka Township - Continued Prairie and Forest restoration.
Johnson	Dakota	11318228	16	$25,000	Yes	Hampton Township - Continued Forest restoration.
McMenomy	Dakota	11519216	44	$126,000	Yes	City of Rosemount - Continued Forest restoration.
Melbo	Dakota	11319201	5	$10,000	Yes	Castle Rock Township - Continued Prairie and Forest restoration.
Miesville Ravine Park Reserve	Dakota	11317236	47	$180,000	Yes	Douglas Township - Continued Prairie and Forest restoration.
Pylkas	Dakota	02722220	3	$50,000	Yes	City of Inver Grove Heights - Continued Forest restoration.
Ruppe	Dakota	11220211	18	$20,000	Yes	Greenvale Township - Continued Prairie, Wetland restoration.
Spring Lake Park Reserve - Unit 16	Dakota	11518222	35	$63,000	Yes	City of Rosemount - Continued Habitat restoration.
Vermillion Confluence Park Conservation Area	Dakota	11420236	121	$275,000	Yes	City of Farmington - New Habitat restoration.
West Lebanon Hills	Dakota	11520214	171	$85,000	Yes	City of Eagan - Continued Forest restoration.
Wolfson	Dakota	11519216	6	$17,000	Yes	City of Rosemount - Continued Forest restoration.

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Bartness	Dakota	02722220	5	$110,000	No
Commons Land	Dakota	11219219	32	$200,000	No
Dudley - Phase One	Dakota	11219228	12	$100,000	No
Groethe	Dakota	02822217	1	$10,000	No
Poepl	Dakota	11418221	37	$160,000	No
Sauber	Dakota	11320205	18	$120,000	No

Parcel Map


Sherburne
Anoka
Chisago
Wright
Hennepin
Ramsey
Washington
Carver
Scott
Dakota
Le Sueur
Rice
Goodhue
Wabasha
Waseca
Steele
Dodge
Olmsted
0 3 6 9 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase IX

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase IX
Organization: Dakota County
Manager: Alexander Scurto

Budget

Requested Amount: $4,942,400
Appropriated Amount: $2,282,000
Percentage: 46.17%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	-	$1,800,000	-	$840,000	-	46.67%
Contracts	$3,664,900	-	$1,582,000	-	43.17%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,277,500	-	$650,000	-	50.88%	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	$49,000	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	$1,000	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,942,400**	**$1,800,000**	**$2,282,000**	**$840,000**	**46.17%**	**46.67%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The scaling may not proportionately reduce acres and activities, as County staff can't anticipate what project applications will be received, and which ones will move forward to completion. If this proposal is scaled back, County staff can only estimate what the lower acreages and lesser activities might be.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The scaling may not proportionately reduce personnel and DDS expenses, because with a voluntary program, County staff can't anticipate what project applications will be received, and which ones will move forward to completion. It's possible that many smaller projects could take the place of fewer larger projects.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The scaling may not proportionately reduce acres and activities, as County staff can't anticipate what project applications will be received, and which ones will move forward to completion. If this proposal is scaled back, County staff can only estimate what the lower acreages and lesser activities might be.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
The scaling may not proportionately reduce personnel and DDS expenses, because with a voluntary program, County staff can't anticipate what project applications will be received, and which ones will move forward to completion. It's possible that many smaller projects could take the place of fewer larger projects.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	1,361	866	63.63%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	176	105	59.66%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$3,664,900	$1,582,000	43.17%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$1,277,500	$700,000	54.79%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	1,361	866	63.63%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	176	105	59.66%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$3,664,900	$1,582,000	43.17%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$1,277,500	$700,000	54.79%
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - ML2027

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - ML2027

Funds Recommended: $2,833,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Annie Knight
Title: Executive Director
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Location Information

County Location(s): Becker, Otter Tail, Aitkin, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Crow Wing and Beltrami.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) will permanently protect approximately 350 acres within priority coldwater lake watersheds in north-central Minnesota through fee-title acquisition and transfer to long-term public ownership. These lakes support sensitive coldwater fish species that depend on clean, cold, oxygen-rich water. Working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and regional partners, NWLT will strategically protect forested shoreline and watershed parcels identified through science-based ecological analysis. By protecting these lands before they are fragmented or developed, the program will help sustain water quality, coldwater fisheries, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations.

Design and Scope of Work

Minnesota is famously known as the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," but some of its most distinctive bodies of water are its coldwater lakes. A foundation of Minnesota's angling and cultural heritage, these lakes support coldwater fish communities including lake trout, lake whitefish, burbot, and tullibee (cisco) - important forage fish for walleye, muskellunge, and other sport fisheries. Coldwater lakes are characterized by their ability to maintain cold, oxygen-rich water (oxythermal habitat) year-round.

Over the past 30 years, Minnesota DNR and University of Minnesota researchers have documented steep declines in coldwater fish populations. Cisco populations, important indicators of warming water temperatures, have nearly vanished from portions of their southern range and have disappeared from a substantial share of their native lakes in nearby states (Stanley, 2019). A growing body of research identifies climate change and watershed disturbance from land-use change as major drivers of oxythermal habitat loss. As air temperatures rise and watershed development increases, many coldwater lakes are losing the cold, oxygen-rich conditions necessary to sustain coldwater fisheries.

Reducing watershed disturbance through protection of forested land cover and native shoreland vegetation is critical to maintaining coldwater lake resilience under increasing temperatures and other ecological stressors. Earlier phases of the "Fisheries Habitat" program focused primarily on protecting high-quality tullibee refuge lakes, advancing watershed-scale conservation around some of Minnesota's most vulnerable coldwater fisheries.

Building on this foundation, updated DNR and Pollution Control Agency analyses now provide a more comprehensive framework for evaluating coldwater lake condition, classifying lakes into Tier 1–3 based on dissolved oxygen levels. This science-based approach maintains focus on protecting remaining refuge lakes while also identifying additional Tier 1 and Tier 2 lakes that still support viable coldwater fisheries but are increasingly vulnerable without proactive watershed protection. Tier 3 lakes, which no longer maintain suitable coldwater habitat conditions, demonstrate the long-term consequences of delayed protection and watershed disturbance. Protecting priority watersheds before further degradation occurs will help sustain resilient fisheries, protect water quality, and maintain ecological function.

In prioritizing watershed lands for protection, NWLT evaluates ecological value, watershed protection levels, parcel size, landscape context, development risk, partnership opportunities, and prior conservation investments. Parcels are further ranked using a scoring framework considering habitat quality, connectivity, disturbance, urgency, and cost. Priority parcels are mapped using the Clean Water Critical Habitat tool to support science-based decisions. NWLT has partnered closely with Minnesota Land Trust throughout previous program phases, strengthening regional coordination and impact.

Through this grant, NWLT will permanently protect approximately 350 acres through fee title acquisition within priority coldwater lake watersheds. Acquired lands will be conveyed to long-term public ownership for permanent management and public benefit. NWLT will conduct targeted landowner outreach and collaborate with partners including Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and county land departments. Projects will prioritize willing landowners and opportunities to leverage matching contributions and donated value. Protecting these lands helps prevent fragmentation and sustains water quality, fisheries habitat, wildlife corridors, and recreation opportunities across northern Minnesota.

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

Coldwater lakes support important fisheries for species such as tullibee (cisco), lake trout, lake whitefish, and burbot. These species require clean, cold, well-oxygenated water conditions typically found in deep lakes with healthy, intact watersheds. Tullibee are a critical forage fish supporting prized sport fisheries such as walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge, while lake trout and lake whitefish provide important recreational, cultural, and subsistence value, particularly for Tribal communities. Because coldwater fish species are highly sensitive to warming temperatures, declining oxygen levels, and watershed disturbance, they are important indicators of overall lake ecosystem health.

Climate change, shoreland development, and watershed disturbance pose increasing threats to Minnesota's coldwater fisheries and aquatic habitats. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, rising air temperatures, increasing precipitation intensity, and changing runoff patterns are already affecting lake temperatures, water quality, and aquatic habitat conditions across the state. Lakes with intact forests, undeveloped shorelands, and protected watershed lands are more resilient to these pressures and provide critical refuge habitat for coldwater fish species as environmental conditions change.

MN DNR Fisheries research has shown that healthy forested watersheds are fundamental to sustaining high-quality fish habitat and aquatic ecosystem function. Shoreland disturbance and watershed development increase runoff, nutrient loading, erosion, and habitat fragmentation, reducing a lake's ability to support sport fish, forage fish, and other aquatic wildlife. By permanently protecting forested watershed and shoreline habitats, this program helps maintain water quality, sustain coldwater fisheries, protect connected wildlife habitat, and support long-term resilience for fish, game, and wildlife populations across northern Minnesota.

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

Now is a critical time to protect Minnesota's coldwater fisheries lakes. These rare and ecologically sensitive systems are under increasing threat from climate change, which is warming deepwater habitats and reducing oxygen levels essential for coldwater fish species. At the same time, shoreline development and land-use pressures continue to degrade water quality and fragment critical forested buffers. Protecting these lakes through strategic land acquisition offers a cost-effective, long-term solution to preserving water quality, sustaining recreational fisheries, and maintaining biodiversity. With public awareness growing and science-based conservation tools in place, this is a unique window of opportunity to secure irreplaceable aquatic habitats before further degradation occurs. Grant support will enable us to act quickly and collaboratively to protect these high-priority lakes for current and future generations.

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

This proposal protects shoreline and forest habitat within priority coldwater lake watersheds in north central Minnesota. Our land acquisition strategy prioritizes parcels adjacent to existing public lands and protected properties in order to expand contiguous habitat complexes and maintain intact, forested shorelines across the broader landscape. By protecting these lands before they are subdivided and developed, this work reduces habitat fragmentation, strengthens watershed resilience, and preserves the long-term ecological integrity of coldwater lake ecosystems.

Research by Timothy Cross and Peter Jacobson in "Landscape Factors Influencing Lake Phosphorus Concentrations Across Minnesota" demonstrates that coldwater fish communities are especially vulnerable to elevated phosphorus levels associated with watershed disturbance and development. As phosphorus increases, deep-water oxygen levels decline, negatively affecting species that depend on cold, oxygen-rich conditions for survival and reproduction. Their findings conclude that protecting intact watersheds before water quality degradation occurs is the most effective and cost-efficient conservation strategy.

Minnesota DNR Fisheries researchers have classified coldwater lakes statewide into Tiers 1-3 based on their coldwater fish habitat quality (TDO3). Our protection efforts are focused on the highest quality (Tier 1 and 2) coldwater lake watersheds, where additional land protection will have the greatest safeguarding effect. Building on this proactive protection framework, Jacobson and Duval, in "Protecting Watersheds of Minnesota Lakes with Private Forest Conservation Easements: A Suggested Strategy," emphasize that maintaining forest cover in lake watersheds is critical to sustaining water quality. While substantial portions of these watersheds are publicly owned, a significant share remains in private ownership and is increasingly being subdivided and developed. Modeling by the Minnesota DNR Fisheries Research Unit indicates that total phosphorus concentrations remain near natural background levels when approximately 75% of a watershed is protected and left undisturbed.

Since this program's inception, we have made meaningful progress toward achieving this 75% protection threshold on several priority lakes, effectively "moving the needle" on watershed-scale protection across the region. Continued support will allow us to build on this momentum, complete key habitat corridors, and further safeguard Minnesota's highest-quality coldwater lake systems.

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

Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management

Other : Regional One Watershed One Plans

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:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Shoreline habitat and forested parcels totaling 350acres will be permanently protected from development and fragmentation through fee title acquisitions. This outcome will be measured by the number of acres and shoreline miles permanently protected within priority coldwater watersheds, and by the extent to which projects expand connected habitat complexes and reduce fragmentation risk. Acquired lands will also be evaluated for their contribution to public access and recreational opportunities. Properties conveyed to government agencies will be managed according to established land management plans, ensuring long-term conservation goals are met and maintained.*

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.

Funding procured by NWLT through this Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal will not supplant or substitute any previous funding from a non-Legacy fund used for the same purpose.

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

NWLT is an accredited conservation organization that does not depend on Outdoor Heritage Funds to sustain or maintain our work. The majority of financial support for both NWLT must be raised on an annual basis. The work in this proposal allows NWLT to enhance and accelerate ongoing conservation efforts in North Central Minnesota. These grant funds will not substitute for or supplant other funding sources.

The fee-title acquisitions will be owned and managed by a governmental agency.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2031 and in perpetuity	Managing governmental agency	Ongoing management in line with developed management plans	-	-

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

NWLT deeply values inclusiveness, collaboration, teamwork and diversity in all of our programs, projects, and community work. We believe that enduring conservation success depends on the active involvement of people and partners whose lives and cultures are linked to the natural systems we seek to conserve. Currently, NWLT is directly including Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in these protection efforts by engaging in regular discussions, acknowledging which lands have cultural and ecological significance, and engaging in partnership on conservation projects where possible. NWLT is focused on building relationships based on trust, listening, and mutual respect. We will listen and seek out potential authentic partnerships that can advance our goals of conserving the best of Minnesota's remaining habitats while building relationships with and working collaboratively with diverse communities such as Tribal Nations, rural landowners, and multi-generational families. The Environmental Protection Agency has developed an environmental justice mapping and screening tool. This tool indicates several of the proposed parcels fall within areas identified as environmental justice areas of concern. Demographic indicators used are: percent low-income, percent people of color, less than high school education, linguistic isolation, age under 5 and over 64. Protecting these lands mitigates some of the environmental justice concerns for at-risk populations.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**
Yes

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

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
All fee title acquisitions will be open to hunting and fishing.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

County

Local Unit of Government

Tribal

NGO

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

State Forest

County Forest

SNA

Tribal

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
4-5 acquisitions.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
No

NWLT will not be completing restoration or enhancement work through this grant, however after land is acquired and conveyed to the MN DNR, they will execute initial restoration activities as outlined in the DNR IDP plan. We have allocated the appropriate funds for this in the DNR IDP budget line.

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?
No

Explain how and when the restoration/enhancement work will be completed and identify the source of funding:
NWLT will not be completing restoration or enhancement work through this grant, however after land is acquired and conveyed to the MN DNR, they will execute initial restoration activities as outlined in the DNR IDP plan. We have allocated the appropriate funds for this in the DNR IDP budget line.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Protection of 350 acres via fee acquisition; conveyance to a governmental agency.	June 2031
Landowner outreach for fee acquisition program.	Ongoing through June 2031

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2031

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	$170,000	-	-	$170,000
Contracts	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$2,290,000	$229,000	Landowners, Lake Associations	$2,519,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$4,000	-	-	$4,000
Professional Services	$160,000	-	-	$160,000
Direct Support Services	$46,000	-	-	$46,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$68,700	-	-	$68,700
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$2,300	-	-	$2,300
DNR IDP	$62,000	-	-	$62,000
Grand Total	**$2,833,000**	**$229,000**	**-**	**$3,062,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
NWLT Land Protection Staff	0.75	4.0	$170,000	-	-	$170,000

Amount of Request: $2,833,000
Amount of Leverage: $229,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 8.08%
DSS + Personnel: $216,000
As a % of the total request: 7.62%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
We received 33% of our requested appropriation. Acre outputs were reduced to 33% of what was proposed. Personnel was reduced to 43% of what was proposed. This is because the majority of staff time is tied to fixed administrative, coordination, and compliance tasks that remain constant regardless of projects completed.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
We will seek leverage in the form of donations via seller contributions to reduce the purchase price of acquisitions, as well as donations from lake associations within surrounding watersheds. These funds are not yet confirmed at this 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?
This proposal is true to budget and protection goals and would be most effective if funded fully. If 50% funding was received, outputs would be reduced by approximately 50-65%.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS costs would be reduced, but less than proportionally to the reduction in acquisition funding. Certain costs, including landowner outreach, project development, grant administration, and due diligence, are necessary regardless of project size. Some projects also require substantial staff time before feasibility can be fully determined.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Funds in the contract line are for outreach services (with appropriate approval) and for pre-conveyance site cleanup services, such as well sealing, building removal, and general contracting, etc.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Environmental Assessments, Project Mapping.

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
We anticipate completing 4-5 fee title acquisitions with the proposed funds.

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?

In a process annually reviewed and approved by MNDNR Grants (most recently in August of 2025), NWLT determined our direct support services rate to include all allowable direct and necessary expenditures not captured in other line items in the budget. NWLT also provides MNDNR Grants with a copy of our financial audit as an additional validation as part of the request for DSS rate approval.

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	-	-	-	350	350
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**350**	**350**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$2,833,000	$2,833,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,833,000**	**$2,833,000**

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	-	-	-	-	350	350
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**350**	**350**

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	-	-	-	-	$2,833,000	$2,833,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,833,000**	**$2,833,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$8,094
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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	$8,094
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

.5

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) uses a combination of objective criteria and professional judgment to identify, prioritize, and select parcels for protection. A criteria-based scoring system provides a standardized framework to compare projects using consistent data, allowing proposals to be evaluated relative to each other and to a baseline. Local knowledge, program goals, timing, funding availability, organizational capacity, and other qualitative considerations also inform final selections.

NWLT solicits project proposals through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, targeting landowners with properties on high-priority lakes. Each proposal is reviewed and scored by NWLT's Clean Water Technical Advisory Committee, which includes conservation professionals from the DNR, counties, SWCDs, and regional NGOs. This committee brings deep, place-based knowledge to the selection process and ensures alignment with local and regional conservation priorities.

The scoring framework evaluates three main categories:

1- Ecological Integrity – Measures the current condition of the site, including parcel size, habitat quality, and surrounding landscape context.

2- Threat/Urgency – Assesses the potential risk of development or degradation if the property is not protected.

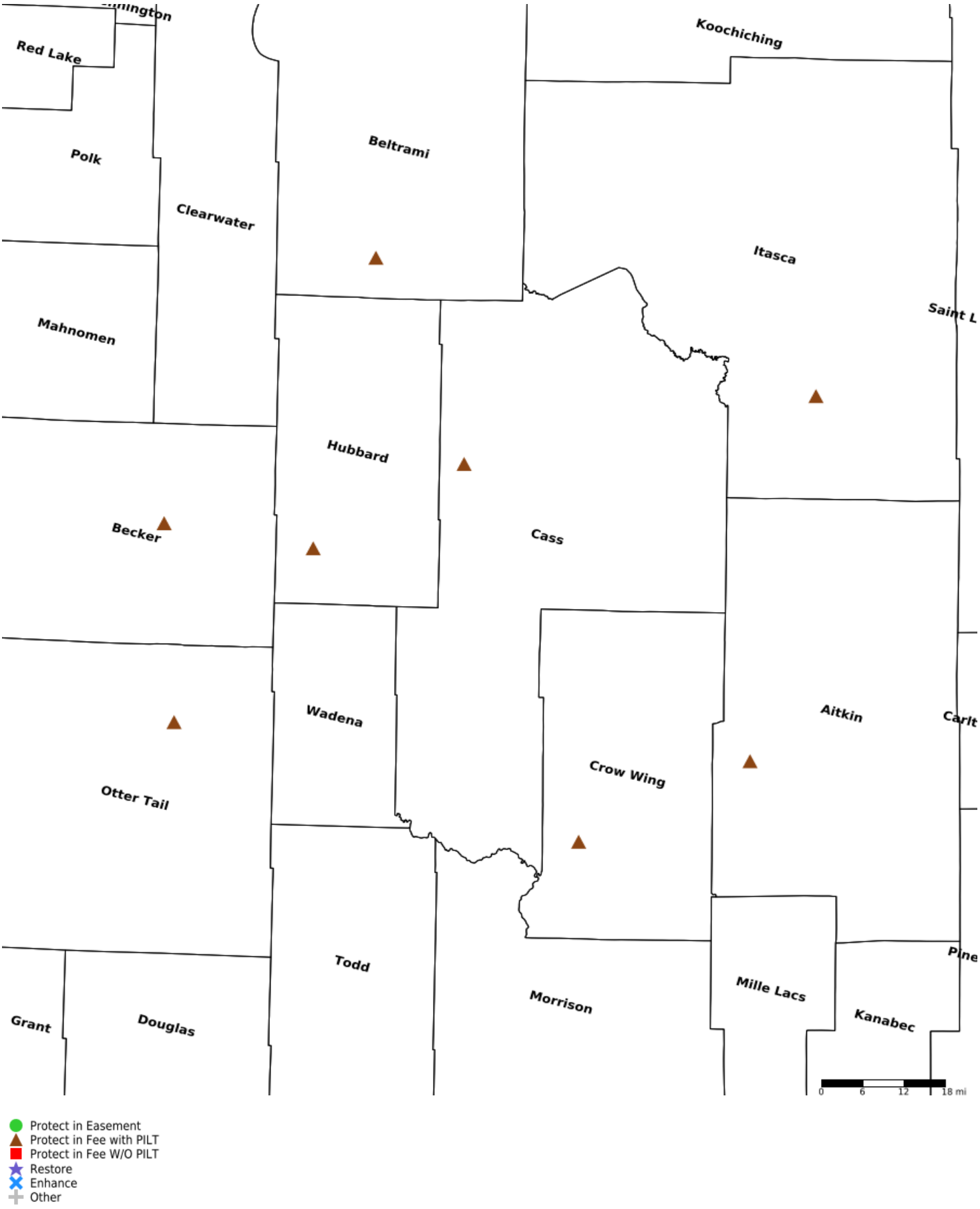
3- Cost/Value – Considers the overall conservation value relative to cost, including any donative value offered by the landowner.

By combining these factors, NWLT identifies parcels with the greatest potential for long-term ecological viability and public benefit. This process ensures that limited resources are directed toward the highest-impact conservation opportunities.

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Aitkin Area Coldwater Lakes	Aitkin	04727236	0	$0	No
Detroit Lakes Area Coldwater Lakes	Becker	14038208	0	$0	No
Bemidji Area Coldwater Lakes	Beltrami	14633204	0	$0	No
Walker Area Coldwater Lakes	Cass	14231227	0	$0	No
Brainerd Area Coldwater Lakes	Crow Wing	13328209	0	$0	No
Park Rapids Area Coldwater Lakes	Hubbard	14035225	0	$0	No
Grand Rapids Area Coldwater Lakes	Itasca	05525222	0	$0	No
Fergus Falls Area Coldwater Lakes	Otter Tail	13638227	0	$0	No

Parcel Map


Red Lake
Polk
Clearwater
Beltrami
Koochiching
Itasca
Saint L
Mahnomen
Hubbard
Becker
Cass
Wadena
Aitkin
Carlt
Otter Tail
Crow Wing
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Pine
Grant
Douglas
0
6
12
18 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - ML2027

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - ML2027
Organization: Northern Waters Land Trust
Manager: Annie Knight

Budget

Requested Amount: $8,476,000
Appropriated Amount: $2,833,000
Percentage: 33.42%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$395,000	-	$170,000	-	43.04%	-
Contracts	$91,000	-	$30,000	-	32.97%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$7,000,000	$700,000	$2,290,000	$229,000	32.71%	32.71%
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$15,200	-	$4,000	-	26.32%	-
Professional Services	$502,000	-	$160,000	-	31.87%	-
Direct Support Services	$106,600	-	$46,000	-	43.15%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$210,000	-	$68,700	-	32.71%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,000	-	$2,300	-	76.67%	-
DNR IDP	$153,200	-	$62,000	-	40.47%	-
Grand Total	**$8,476,000**	**$700,000**	**$2,833,000**	**$229,000**	**33.42%**	**32.71%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This proposal is true to budget and protection goals and would be most effective if funded fully. If 50% funding was received, outputs would be reduced by approximately 50-65%.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS costs would be reduced, but less than proportionally to the reduction in acquisition funding. Certain costs, including landowner outreach, project development, grant administration, and due diligence, are necessary regardless of project size. Some projects also require substantial staff time before feasibility can be fully determined.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This proposal is true to budget and protection goals and would be most effective if funded fully. If 30% funding was received, outputs would be reduced by 70-80%.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS costs would be reduced, but less than proportionally to the reduction in acquisition funding. Certain costs, including landowner outreach, project development, grant administration, and due diligence, are necessary regardless of project size. Some projects also require substantial staff time before feasibility can be fully determined.

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	875	350	40.0%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$8,476,000	$2,833,000	33.42%
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	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	875	350	40.0%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$8,476,000	$2,833,000	33.42%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Metro Big Rivers Phase 17

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Metro Big Rivers Phase 17

Funds Recommended: $6,119,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Neal Feeken
Title: Executive Director
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Partners Contact

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MVT: Neal Feeken - nfeeken@mnvalleytrust.org - 952-207-0247

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Location Information

County Location(s): Washington, Sherburne, Isanti, Dakota, Carver, Scott, Hennepin, Chisago, Wright and Sibley.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Metro Big Rivers 17 will protect 340 acres in fee-title, restore 140 acres, and enhance 267 acres of priority habitat in the Big Rivers' corridors in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (747 acres total). MBR projects benefit game and non-game wildlife and Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and provide increased public access and nature connections for Twin City metro residents. This program protects and enhances additional critical habitat for myriad songbirds during spring and fall migration periods. Restoration and enhancement projects will include public participation through volunteering, demonstrating engagement from local community members, and contributing significant in-kind contributions.

Design and Scope of Work

Metro Big Rivers 17 will protect, restore and enhance 747 acres of prioritized wildlife habitat in the Metropolitan Urban Area, with an emphasis on the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries. Metro Big Rivers' work benefits wildlife, improves water quality and in-stream food availability, increases wildlife-based recreational opportunities, and connects metro residents with nature.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) will enhance 152 acres at 4 sites to increase native plant diversity, improve pollinator and wildlife habitat, bolster water quality, and improve public access to natural spaces. Projects include restoration and enhancement tasks like invasive woody plant removal, seeding and planting of native prairie and forest species, mowing, spot-spraying, and prescribed burning. 9 acres of enhancement will occur on remnant native prairie.

Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will, through fee title acquisition, protect 85 acres river frontage, floodplain forest, wetland and upland habitat to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Prospective lands are prioritized by the USFWS and will be restored/enhanced, then open for wildlife-based recreation. MVT will enhance an additional 75 acres of prairie/oak savanna habitat on multiple sites across Refuge units.

Trust for Public Land (TPL) will permanently protect 255 acres of at-risk wildlife habitat through fee-title acquisition. Additionally, TPL will restore/enhance 125 acres of prairie and forest habitat on the recently protected Keystone Woods WMA in Washington County. Prospective acquisitions are prioritized in state, regional, and local natural resource plans. Once acquired, these lands will be conveyed and managed by public partners and open for wildlife-based recreation.

Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will restore 55 acres of high-quality habitats across 2 sites. These two adjacent conservation easements contain 55 acres of ag fields that will be restored to highly diverse, pollinator friendly prairies. This work is directly adjacent to the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge and will bridge the gap between the refuge and nearby prairie restorations on other MLT easements, thereby creating corridors for movement and expanding this important habitat complex.

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

Metro Big Rivers projects protect and improve habitats needed by SGCN and other targeted species. Many of Minnesota's forest and grassland SGCNs are migratory. Improving habitat along and near the Mississippi Flyway (the three big rivers) provides great benefits to all wildlife species, especially during critical migration periods.

Friends of the Mississippi River will conduct habitat enhancement at four sites located along the Mississippi River, within the Important Bird Area. This corridor provides critical habitat for neotropical migrant birds and numerous SGCN. FMR has been tracking breeding bird species at these sites, recording 11 SGCNs. The sites are also vital for many other species, especially native pollinators, and provide connectivity to other natural areas. In addition, three sites are situated along the Vermillion River, a major tributary to the Mississippi, and an additional site is located adjacent to the Minnesota River, just outside of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Minnesota Valley Trust will acquire lands identified through the USFWS Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This plan prioritizes lands for high biodiversity, connectivity, and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN.

Trust for Public Land will acquire land in fee that are identified and prioritized in state, regional, and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity significance, connectivity to existing public lands, and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN. Permanent protection from development, and subsequent habitat management increase breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, neo-tropical migrants, and non-migratory resident species, protect the diversity of native ecosystems, and improve connectivity and resilience.

Minnesota Land Trust targets its restoration/enhancement work to build high-quality habitat complexes that support SGCN and T&E species in the Metro area. Permanently-protected privately-owned lands will be prioritized to build the size of and connections between existing protected lands, enhancing the ability of these species to persist over the long term. Restoration and enhancement of habitat is proposed for lands already protected through easement.

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

The three major rivers, which converge in the Metro Urbanizing Area (MUA), and identified in the LSOHC Ecological Section Vision and Priorities, are of significant importance to myriad migrating species and SGCN. Four intersecting issues create urgency for Metro Big Rivers Partnerships' work in the MUA -- 1) continued decline of many wildlife species, most notably birds and pollinators, 2) declining habitat these species need to rebound and thrive, 3) rising land values and development and 4) metro residents' need for access to nature nearby.

Protecting and enhancing habitat in the MUA is especially critical now, as land values and developments continue to rise, placing constant demand on lands throughout the area. MBR projects provide needed and significant wildlife habitat, improve connectivity and habitat values (especially for wildlife and SGCN) and increase much-

needed public access to wildlife-based outdoor opportunities throughout the MUA, including hunting, fishing and wildlife observation.

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

Protection partners prioritize work through science-based processes led by the public entities that will ultimately own interest in the properties (e.g., MN DNR, USFWS). Plans followed include Minnesota Biological Survey, Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan, and the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Actions are targeted toward building conservation corridors and priority habitat complexes. Restoration and enhancement partners use science-based criteria to prioritize activities. This includes consideration of the highest quality natural areas (as determined by MN Biological Survey), as well as prioritization of work within important ecological corridors identified by a coalition of conservation partners and based on rare species and sensitive landscape features. This prioritization ensures that projects reduce fragmentation and link natural areas within already-established corridors. All of the restoration and enhancement sites are located along or near the three big rivers and important tributaries - some of the most important ecological corridors for migrating and sedentary plant and animal life.

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 habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

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 ~ *Partners work together to identify priority lands using existing data and public plans, then coordinate protection, restoration and enhancement activities in those priority areas. Work builds upon prior phases and is intended to continue into the future for maximum impact. Mapping shows progress in connecting corridors. Species collections and counts measure impact of activities over time on wildlife and Species in Greatest Conservation Need.*

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 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?

All public partners have committed to maintaining restoration and enhancement habitat improvements.

All MBR restore/enhance partners will raise funds and work with partners to ensure the project benefits are maintained. FMR will continue hosting public and group volunteer events to maintain habitat investments.

Lands acquired in fee title by MVT for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be sustained and maintained over the long-term by the USFWS. Habitat restoration / enhancement will be completed by MVT prior to transfer to the USFWS.

MLT provides habitat management plans to landowners and helps them access resources and technical expertise to undertake restoration, enhancement and ongoing management.

Lands acquired in fee title by TPL will be conveyed to the DNR or local units of government for permanent stewardship. Estimated costs for initial restoration work are included in this proposal. TPL will work with DNR or LGUs to complete a restoration and management plan, and implementation of that plan will be conducted once land has been conveyed. These properties will be managed and maintained by the respective government entities according to OHF standards.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Post-Acquisition, Ongoing	MBR Organizations, Public Partners	Post acquired property	Develop & implement habitat restoration and enhancement plans	Transfer property to public partner, steward
Ongoing	MBR organizations, Local Partners, Private Landowners	Monitoring and assessment of restoration and enhancement projects	Target actions, engage local partners and landowners	Take restorative action to correct any damage

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

MBR partners have a shared objective of providing all metro residents with high-quality natural spaces nearby. We believe everyone should be able to easily connect with nature, enjoy high-quality wildlife habitat and engage in wildlife-dependent recreation, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socio-economic status. Our projects benefit a diversity of communities, from lower-income, densely populated neighborhoods to urbanizing suburban/rural areas. Examples of how MBR engages and benefits diverse communities include:

Friends of the Mississippi River actively engages residents in habitat work in their communities through targeted outreach for volunteer events. Their youth programming targets young people from diverse backgrounds for exploring environmental careers. FMR's Environmental Stewards Institute increases underrepresented youth participating in environmental career pathway programs; at least 65% of participants identify as black, indigenous, or a person of color.

Metro residents can step off the light rail and into the wildness on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to connect with nature and wildlife at no cost. The Refuge and Minnesota Valley Trust provide free busing for schools with a high percentage of low-income students and have a free lending program (e.g. snowshoes, fishing poles, field backpacks, binoculars). Their internship and apprenticeship program recruits a diversity of youth to explore the outdoors and conservation careers.

Through its partnership with the MN Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Trust for Public Land facilitates mentored hunting and angling opportunities for diverse communities on public lands and waters across

Minnesota, with a focus on ones protected by the OHF. Like mentee participants, the mentors come from historically marginalized communities with diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds. We know that seeing diversity in outdoor spaces helps foster a sense of representation, belonging and inclusion.

Minnesota Land Trust's commitment includes numerous projects to protect camps. The recent protection of the Girl Scouts' Camp Elk River and past protection of Phyllis Wheatley Community Center's Camp Katherine Parsons enables the youth of Minnesota to create lifelong memories and connections to natural spaces by providing opportunities for the camps to expand their programming while also protecting high-quality habitat.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:
Local units of government will be notified of pending fee title acquisitions, as required by law.

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

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?
Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?
Yes

Where does the activity take place?

SNA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

County/Municipal

WMA

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
Lands acquired for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be open for public hunting and fishing according to the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act. The lands will be opened through a public process prescribed by the Act. We anticipate hunting and fishing opportunities will be like those already established for lands previously acquired for the Refuge. For specific information, refer to the Refuge's website - https://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota-valley/visit-us/activities/hunting

Lands acquired by Trust for Public Land will be open for fishing and hunting.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Federal

Local Unit of Government

County

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

National Wildlife Refuge

SNA

State Forest

AMA

Other : County Conservation Area

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
-

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
MLT - Restore/Enhance 55 acres	June 2032
MVT - Enhance and restore 75 acres	June 2031
TPL - Restore and enhance 125 acres	June 2031
TPL - Protect 255 acres through fee title acquisition	June 2031
MVT - Protect 85 acres through fee title acquisition	June 2031
FMR - Enhance 152 acres	June 2032

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2035

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	$313,400	$45,000	-, members, donors	$358,400
Contracts	$1,281,800	$70,000	-, members, donors, MVT Private funds	$1,351,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$3,080,000	-	-	$3,080,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$1,052,000	$150,000	MVT Private funds	$1,202,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$8,000	$2,000	-, Private	$10,000
Professional Services	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Direct Support Services	$116,700	$99,200	cities, foundations, members, Private	$215,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$102,000	-	-	$102,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$500	-	-	$500
Supplies/Materials	$60,600	$1,000	cities, foundations, members	$61,600
DNR IDP	$44,000	-	-	$44,000
Grand Total	**$6,119,000**	**$367,200**	**-**	**$6,486,200**

Partner: FMR

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$63,400	$45,000	members, donors	$108,400
Contracts	$577,300	$20,000	members, donors	$597,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$53,200	$53,200	cities, foundations, members	$106,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$60,100	$1,000	cities, foundations, members	$61,100
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$760,000**	**$119,200**	**-**	**$879,200**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
FMR Staff	0.1	5.0	$63,400	$45,000	members, donors	$108,400

Partner: MLT

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$65,000	-	-	$65,000
Contracts	$164,500	-	-	$164,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$17,500	-	-	$17,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$500	-	-	$500
Supplies/Materials	$500	-	-	$500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$250,000**	**-**	**-**	**$250,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Restoration Program Staff	0.12	5.0	$65,000	-	-	$65,000

Partner: MVT

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Contracts	$240,000	$50,000	MVT Private funds	$290,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$750,000	$150,000	MVT Private funds	$900,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$10,000	-	-	$10,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,000,000**	**$200,000**	**-**	**$1,200,000**

Partner: TPL

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$185,000	-	-	$185,000
Contracts	$300,000	-	-	$300,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$3,080,000	-	-	$3,080,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$302,000	-	-	$302,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$2,000	Private	$2,000
Professional Services	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Direct Support Services	$46,000	$46,000	Private	$92,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$92,000	-	-	$92,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	$44,000	-	-	$44,000
Grand Total	**$4,109,000**	**$48,000**	**-**	**$4,157,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection and Legal	0.25	4.0	$185,000	-	-	$185,000

Amount of Request: $6,119,000
Amount of Leverage: $367,200
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 6.0%
DSS + Personnel: $430,100
As a % of the total request: 7.03%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Metro Big Rivers reduced the number of projects it will complete and acres impacted to accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Leverage includes committed partner and other private funds (FMR, MVT, TPL), committed and anticipated city funds (FMR).

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?
A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities). The reduction will not be exactly proportional, as partners have some fixed costs that do not change based on project size.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses are scalable, but not proportionately, due to grant management, landowner outreach and other fixed costs. Some fee acquisitions fail to close, but still have costs.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
FMR, MVT, TPL, MLT - Restoration / enhancement contracts with service providers.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Design/Engineering

Other : Phase 1 Environmental Review

Surveys

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
3 to 5

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?

FMR – As of October 27, 2023, FMR's DSS rate has been approved by DNR staff. Our 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.
MLT - In a process approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, MLT's DSS rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. This is similar to the MLT's proposed federal indirect rate. MLT will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses.
TPL - DSS rate is based upon our federal rate which has been approved by the DNR. 50% of these costs are requested from the grant, 50% is contributed as leverage.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Hand tools, saws, brush cutters, GPS devices, safety gear 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	-	85	-	55	140
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	235	235
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	105	105
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	152	40	75	267
Total	**-**	**237**	**40**	**470**	**747**

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	9
Total	**9**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	$164,000	-	$250,000	$414,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$3,509,000	$3,509,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$1,060,000	$1,060,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$760,000	$136,000	$240,000	$1,136,000
Total	**-**	**$924,000**	**$136,000**	**$5,059,000**	**$6,119,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	140	-	-	-	-	140
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	235	-	-	-	-	235
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	105	-	-	-	-	105
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	267	-	-	-	-	267
Total	**747**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**747**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	$414,000	-	-	-	-	$414,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$3,509,000	-	-	-	-	$3,509,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$1,060,000	-	-	-	-	$1,060,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$1,136,000	-	-	-	-	$1,136,000
Total	**$6,119,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$6,119,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	$1,929	-	$4,545
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$14,931
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$10,095
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$5,000	$3,400	$3,200

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	$2,957	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$14,931	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$10,095	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$4,254	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
FMR works with their public partners and other interested stakeholders to identify priority projects and areas. Criteria includes ecological and habitat value and potential (biodiversity, size and location), congruence with existing plans and priority areas, adjacency and connectedness to other public and protected lands and complexes, willing and committed landowners and leveraged opportunities.

MVT seeks to acquire land within the boundaries established by the USFWS for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Within those boundaries, parcels are prioritized based on adjacency or proximity to lands already publicly-protected, the opportunity to protect lands from development and restore habitat to meet ecological and public use objectives, and the feasibility of completing large blocks of protected and publicly-managed lands over time.

TPL works with its public partners (Minnesota DNR and local units of government) to identify priority opportunities that expand on and create new public conservation investments that protect high-quality wetland, woodland, prairie and riparian habitat.

MLT prioritizes parcels for restoration and enhancement that are of high ecological significance, adjacent or close to public conservation investments and owned by landowners committed to conservation.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
MVT - Rapids Lake Lundquist	Carver	11524236	50	$27,500	Yes	Oak savanna enhancement
MVT - Rapids Lake Unit #2	Carver	11524225	57	$25,000	Yes	Oak Savanna enhancement
MVT - Rapids Lake VC	Carver	11423206	1	$5,000	Yes	Oak savanna enhancement
MVT - San Francisco Belter Unit	Carver	11424225	10	$235,000	Yes	Oak Savanna enhancement
MVT -Perbix WPA	Carver	11526234	20	$25,000	Yes	Grassland enhancement
MVT -Tiger Lake WPA	Carver	11526215	50	$15,000	Yes	Grassland enhancement
MVT-Rapids Lake Unit North	Carver	11524225	90	$530,000	Yes	Oak Savanna enhancement
MLT - Kroon Lake (Fredell)	Chisago	03320210	4	$75,000	Yes	Wetland enhancements on 2 basins
FMR - Hastings River Flats	Dakota	11517221	22	$77,600	Yes	Enhance 22 acres of restored prairie through prescribed burns and seeding
FMR - Lake Rebecca Park	Dakota	11517221	23	$95,900	Yes	Enhance 23 acres of restored priarie through prescribed burns and seeding
MVT -Soberg WPA	Dakota	11421235	25	$5,000	Yes	Grassland enhancement
MVT - Long Meadow Lake	Hennepin	02723218	15	$50,000	Yes	Floodplain forest enhancement
MVT - Long Meadow Lake BLVC Unit	Hennepin	02723206	12	$250,000	Yes	Oak savanna enhancement
MVT - Upgrala Unit	Hennepin	11622233	72	$100,000	Yes	Grassland/Wetland enhancement

MVT - Wilkie Unit	Hennepin	11522201	16	$100,000	Yes	Oak Savanna restoration
FMR - Eagle Creek AMA	Scott	11521218	35	$386,500	Yes	Enhance 35 acres of prairie (9.5 native prairie) through woody removal, prescribed burns, and seeding
FMR - Houlton Conservation Area	Sherburne	03326233	83	$200,000	Yes	Enhance 72 acres of restored prairie through prescribed burns and native seeding
MLT - LongPond Elk Farm (Angstman 1) wetland	Sherburne	03526222	10	$25,000	Yes	Wetland enhancements on 2 basins
MLT - LongPond Elk Farm (Angstman 3) wetland	Sherburne	03526223	11	$10,000	Yes	Wetland enhancement on 1 basic
MLT - Sherburne Hardwoods (Anderson Stombaugh 2)	Sherburne	03428212	40	$120,000	Yes	Prairie restoration
MLT - Sherburne Hardwoods (Nystrom)	Sherburne	03428212	15	$45,000	Yes	Prairie restoration
MVT - Redhead WPA	Sibley	11426222	40	$25,000	Yes	Grassland/Wetland enhancement
TPL - Keystone Woods WMA	Washington	03120218	800	$1,500,000	Yes	Restore 600 acres of prairie, enhance 200 acres of forest

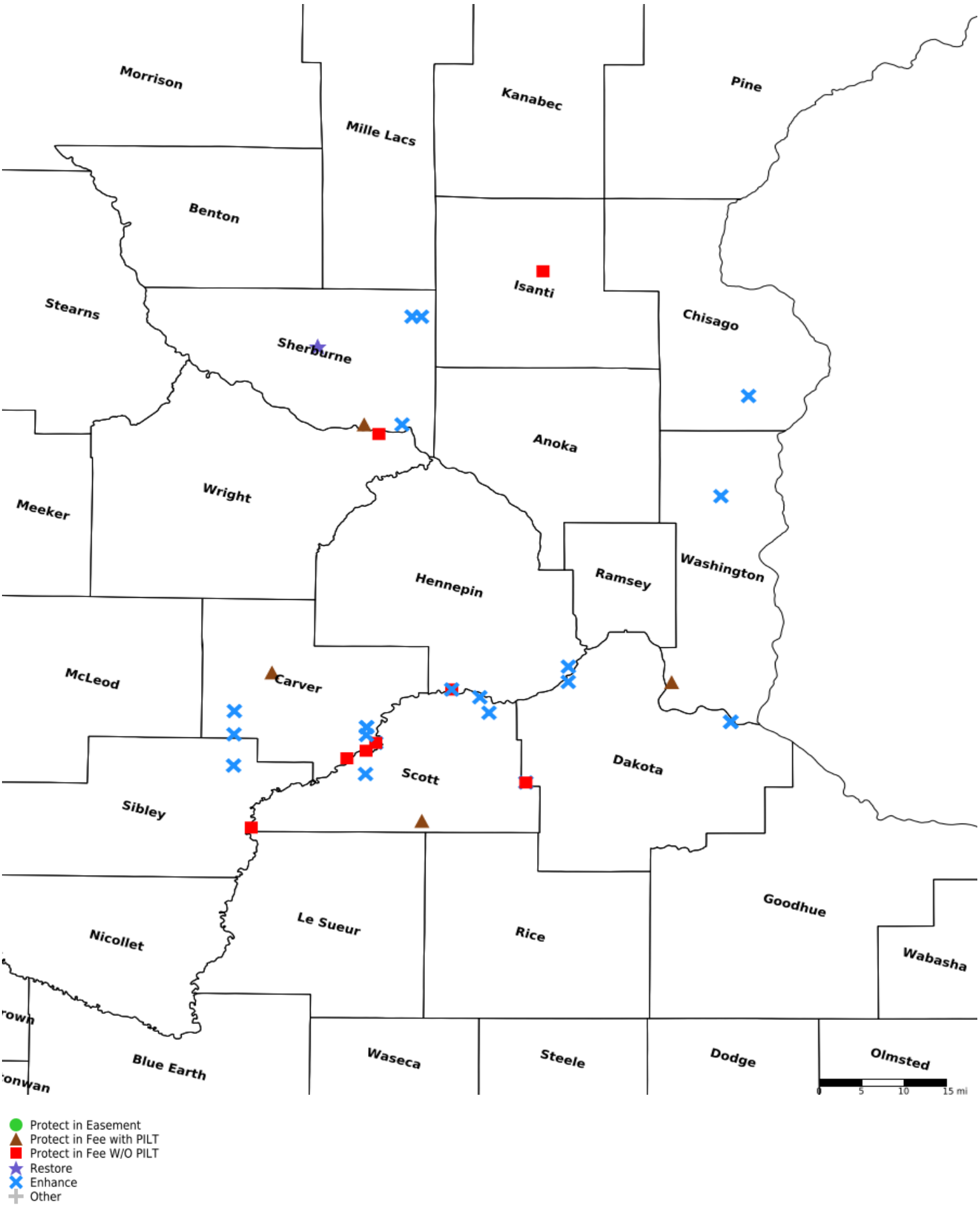
Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
MVT - Rapids Lake Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Carver	11423206	118	$826,000	No
MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Carver	11424215	353	$1,147,250	No
MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Carver	11424212	168	$546,000	No
MVT - Soberg WPA Addition,	Dakota	11421235	220	$2,400,000	No
MVT - Blakeley Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Scott	11326236	194	$630,500	No
TPL - Ney WMA Addition 3	Scott	11323225	193	$1,500,000	No
TPL - Mississippi Sherburne North	Sherburne	03327235	34	$1,200,000	No
TPL - Nesvig AMA	Washington	02722213	200	$5,000,000	No
TPL - Mississippi River Conservation Area	Wright	12123218	133	$3,500,000	No

Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
TPL - Patterson Lake WMA addition	Carver	11625220	755	$9,800,000	No	3	$100,000
MVT - Upgrala Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Hennepin	11622233	116	$1,200,000	No	2	$0
TPL - Becklin Homestead Park	Isanti	03624224	57	$400,000	No	1	$50,000

Parcel Map


Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Pine
Benton
Isanti
Stearns
Sherburne
Chisago
Anoka
Meeker
Wright
Hennepin
Ramsey
Washington
McLeod
Carver
Scott
Dakota
Sibley
Nicollet
Le Sueur
Rice
Goodhue
Wabasha
Blue Earth
Waseca
Steele
Dodge
Olmsted
0 5 10 15 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Metro Big Rivers Phase 17

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Metro Big Rivers Phase 17
Organization: MN Valley Trust (Metro Big Rivers)
Manager: Neal Feeken

Budget

Requested Amount: $20,569,000
Appropriated Amount: $6,119,000
Percentage: 29.75%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$1,035,000	$62,500	$313,400	$45,000	30.28%	72.0%
Contracts	$3,394,000	$325,000	$1,281,800	$70,000	37.77%	21.54%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$12,000,000	-	$3,080,000	-	25.67%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$3,200,000	$250,000	$1,052,000	$150,000	32.88%	60.0%
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$18,000	$2,000	$8,000	$2,000	44.44%	100.0%
Professional Services	$111,000	-	$60,000	-	54.05%	-
Direct Support Services	$302,000	$583,900	$116,700	$99,200	38.64%	16.99%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$251,000	-	$102,000	-	40.64%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,000	-	$500	-	50.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$99,000	$1,000	$60,600	$1,000	61.21%	100.0%
DNR IDP	$158,000	-	$44,000	-	27.85%	-
Grand Total	**$20,569,000**	**$1,224,400**	**$6,119,000**	**$367,200**	**29.75%**	**29.99%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities). The reduction will not be exactly proportional, as partners have some fixed costs that do not change based on project size.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses are scalable, but not proportionately, due to grant management, landowner outreach and other fixed costs. Some fee acquisitions fail to close, but still have costs.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities). The reduction will not be exactly proportional, as partners have some fixed costs that do not change based on project size.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses are scalable, but not proportionately, due to grant management, landowner outreach and other fixed costs. Some fee acquisitions fail to close, but still have costs.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	140	140	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	830	235	28.31%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	270	105	38.89%
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	724	267	36.88%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$564,000	$414,000	73.4%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$13,166,000	$3,509,000	26.65%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$3,346,000	$1,060,000	31.68%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$3,493,000	$1,136,000	32.52%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	140	140	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	830	235	28.31%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	270	105	38.89%
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	724	267	36.88%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$564,000	$414,000	73.4%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$13,166,000	$3,509,000	26.65%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	$3,346,000	$1,060,000	31.68%
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$3,493,000	$1,136,000	32.52%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance - Phase 6

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance - Phase 6

Funds Recommended: $2,988,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Annie Knight
Title: Executive Director
Organization: Northern Waters Land Trust
Address: 800 Minnesota Ave W. PO Box 124
City: Walker, MN 56484
Email: AnnieK@nwlt-mn.org
Office Number: 218-547-4510
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: northernwaterslandtrust.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Cass and Crow Wing.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance represent some of the state's highest quality aquatic ecosystems, supporting critical habitat for Species of Greatest Conservation Need. However, long-term integrity of these lakes depends not only on in-lake conditions, but on the health and resilience of their surrounding watersheds. Northern Waters Land Trust will protect 374 acres of priority habitat and 0.5 miles of shoreland through fee acquisition across northern Minnesota. By prioritizing intact landscapes and habitat connectivity, this project will enhance ecosystem resilience, safeguard water quality, and engage partners and communities in conserving some of Minnesota's most irreplaceable aquatic systems.

Design and Scope of Work

Northern Minnesota contains some of the most intact and biologically important freshwater ecosystems in the state. Its forested watersheds and lake systems support high levels of habitat connectivity and sustain robust populations of fish, wildlife and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SCGN). However, these systems remain vulnerable to increasing development pressure, shoreline alteration, watershed disturbance, and climate change. Because these ecosystems remain largely intact, there is still significant opportunity, and urgency, to protect them before further degradation occurs.

Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance (LOBS) represent the highest quality examples of aquatic and shoreline habitat in the state. Classified based on exceptional conditions within aquatic plant, fish, bird, and/or amphibian communities, these lakes support high species richness, floristic quality, wild rice, exceptional sport fisheries, and colonial waterbird habitat. A significant concentration of LOBS occurs in northern Minnesota, where relatively intact landscapes continue to support these high-functioning systems.

Consistent with the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan, this project applies a watershed-scale conservation approach, recognizing that lake condition is directly influenced by the surrounding landscape. Sensitive and specialized native species often decline as shorelines become fragmented or developed and are replaced by more disturbance-tolerant generalist species. Protecting forested lands within LOBS watersheds reduces fragmentation and development pressure while protecting water quality, shoreline habitat, forest cover, and wildlife corridors essential to fish, game, and wildlife species.

NWLT will permanently protect 374 acres of land through fee-title acquisition within priority LOBS watersheds. Lands acquired in fee will be conveyed to public entities for long-term management and stewardship. Lakes were prioritized based on Minnesota DNR benefit-cost analyses and alignment with County Water Plans and One Watershed One Plan priorities. Protection efforts will focus on forested uplands, shorelands, wetlands, and connected aquatic habitats that support fisheries, waterfowl, colonial nesting birds, amphibians, and Species of Greatest Conservation Need. To further refine our efforts, NWLT developed a GIS-based parcel prioritization model through the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership. This tool identifies properties that fill gaps in existing protected lands, contain high-quality habitat, and provide greatest conservation value. These results guide strategic landowner outreach and ensure that investments maximize ecological impact.

NWLT collaborates with lake associations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Tribal partners, nongovernmental organizations, and the Minnesota DNR to identify and advance protection opportunities. A Technical Advisory Committee reviews acquisition proposals, while ongoing coordination with partners strengthens implementation and ensures alignment with local and regional priorities. Northern Waters Land Trust has partnered closely with co-grantee Minnesota Land Trust throughout this program's previous five phases,

strengthening regional coordination and conservation impact across LOBS watersheds.

Expected outcomes include improved habitat for fish, waterfowl, and Species of Greatest Conservation Need; sustained water quality in priority lakes; intact native shoreline vegetation; and expanded long-term protection of shoreland and forest habitats

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

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has classified high-quality "lakes of biological significance" into three categories (outstanding, high, and moderate) based on the presence of unique plant and animal communities. This program will preserve critical shoreland and forested uplands within the watersheds of lakes in the Outstanding classification category (LOBS). These landscapes support diverse fish and wildlife populations, including walleye, northern pike, golden-winged warbler, common loon, and many other species. Previous phases of this program have protected loon nesting habitat, wild rice beds, muskie spawning areas, and diverse native plant communities.

Beyond providing direct habitat benefits, protecting forested shorelands and watersheds is also essential for maintaining the high water quality conditions these species depend upon. A growing body of research demonstrates strong links between watershed land cover, water clarity, and the long-term viability of sensitive aquatic and shoreline species. For example, a recent study (Piper et al. 2024) identified declining water quality as a likely contributor to population declines in common loons. Water clarity is strongly influenced by surrounding land use, with lakes in more heavily forested watersheds generally exhibiting higher average Secchi depths than those surrounded by agricultural or urban development (Brezonik et al. 2007). These trends are expected to intensify as heavier summer rainfall events associated with climate change increase runoff into lakes. This proposal seeks to permanently protect forested lands that safeguard water quality and sustain resilient aquatic ecosystems.

Targeted LOBS within this proposal represent some of Minnesota's highest-quality aquatic and shoreland habitats. These lakes are characterized by exceptional game and nongame fisheries, high aquatic plant richness and floristic quality, and populations of endangered, threatened, or otherwise imperiled plant and lake bird species.

Numerous plans have identified the protection of these habitats as a conservation priority for Minnesota, including the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan, DNR's Aquatic Management Area program, the State Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota DNR's Strategic Conservation Agenda, and Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework. The central goal of this program is to protect high-quality habitat by securing permanent fee title acquisitions in strategic locations within watersheds of high biodiversity lakes.

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

Development and disturbance of Minnesota's remaining high-quality shoreland habitat continues to accelerate, particularly in north-central and northeastern regions where Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance are concentrated. Strong and sustained demand for lakeshore and rural properties, coupled with rising land values, is increasing the likelihood that large, intact parcels will be subdivided or developed. Once fragmented, these shoreland and watershed systems are extremely difficult and costly to restore.

This proposal focuses on protecting remaining high-priority parcels while they are still intact and available. NWLT has identified priority lakes and parcels, developed a GIS-based targeting framework, and established strong partnerships to act quickly as opportunities arise. Maintaining this momentum is critical to securing conservation outcomes.

Timely investment will ensure protection of these systems before irreversible changes occur and will maximize the impact of prior public investments in conservation across these watersheds.

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

By utilizing fee title acquisitions and transfer to public ownership to protect lands within watersheds of LOBS, this program expands habitat corridors, connects fragmented landscapes, and improves long term ecosystem resilience. Protecting forested shorelands, streams, wetlands, and adjacent upland habitat helps maintain water quality, sustain wildlife movement, and support healthy fish and wildlife populations across entire lake ecosystems.

This proposal prioritizes lakes through analysis of the DNR's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance GIS layer for northeast and northcentral Minnesota. A parcel prioritization model we developed with a grant from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership and informed by collaboration with fisheries and habitat experts ranks properties by desired criteria. These include the Minnesota DNR's benefit-cost analysis framework, hydrologic connectivity, acreage, presence of SGCN, adjacency to existing protected lands, and others. This strategic approach ensures that we're targeting properties that are either expanding existing habitat complexes or possess a high conservation value through other factors, therefore ensuring that conservation investments will have the greatest long-term ecological return.

Recent research continues to demonstrate that intact, forested watersheds are critical to sustaining water quality, aquatic habitat, and resilient fish populations in northern Minnesota. Studies show that increasing watershed disturbance and shoreline development are strongly associated with declining lake health and habitat quality, reinforcing the importance of proactively protecting connected landscapes before fragmentation and degradation occur.

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

Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

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:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *This outcome will be measured by the number of acres and shoreline feet permanently protected within priority Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance watersheds, and by the extent to which projects expand connected habitat complexes and reduce fragmentation risk. NWLT uses GIS analysis and conservation planning tools to evaluate adjacency to existing protected lands, watershed forest cover, and habitat connectivity. Success is further demonstrated through*

completion of fee title acquisitions, transfer of lands to long-term managing entities, and protection of priority habitats identified through Minnesota DNR and regional conservation planning efforts.

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.

Funding procured by NWLT through this Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal will not supplant or substitute any previous funding from a non-Legacy fund used for the same purpose.

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

Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) is an accredited land trust with a long history of successfully completing complex land protection projects throughout northern Minnesota. Accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance demonstrates NWLT's commitment to permanent land conservation, sound financial management, and long-term stewardship practices.

The long-term sustainability of this work is ensured through permanent fee title acquisitions that provide enduring protection for priority lands within Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance watersheds. Lands acquired in fee will be conveyed to long-term managing entities, including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, county land departments, Tribal governments, or federal partners, which have the capacity and authority to manage these lands in perpetuity for conservation, habitat protection, and public benefit.

This program also builds upon existing public conservation lands and prior Outdoor Heritage Fund investments, creating larger connected habitat complexes that are more resilient and cost-effective to manage over time. By strategically protecting lands adjacent to existing protected areas, the program strengthens long-term ecological function while reducing future fragmentation and development pressure.

NWLT maintains strong partnerships with local governments, lake associations, Tribal partners, and conservation organizations to support ongoing coordination, stewardship, and community support for protected lands.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2031 and in perpetuity	managing government agency	Ongoing management in line with developed management plans	-	-

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

NWLT deeply values inclusiveness, collaboration, teamwork and diversity in all of our programs, projects, and community work. We believe that enduring conservation success depends on the active involvement of people and partners whose lives and cultures are linked to the natural systems we seek to conserve. Currently, NWLT is directly including Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in these protection efforts by engaging in regular discussions, acknowledging which lands have cultural and ecological significance, and engaging in partnership on conservation projects where possible. NWLT is focused on building relationships based on trust, listening, and mutual respect. We will listen and seek out potential authentic partnerships that can advance our goals of conserving the best of Minnesota's remaining habitats while building relationships with and working collaboratively with diverse communities such as Tribal Nations, rural landowners, and multi-generational families. The Environmental Protection Agency has developed an environmental justice mapping and screening tool. This tool indicates several of the proposed parcels fall within areas identified as environmental justice areas of concern. Demographic

indicators used are: percent low-income, percent people of color, less than high school education, linguistic isolation, age under 5 and over 64. Protecting these lands mitigates some of the environmental justice concerns for at-risk populations.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**
Yes

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

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
The land will be transferred to a public entity and will be publicly accessible for hunting and fishing.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

County

Federal

Local Unit of Government

Tribal

NGO

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

SNA

AMA

State Forest

County Forest

Tribal

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
We anticipate closing 5 acquisitions with this appropriation.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
No

NWLT will not be completing restoration or enhancement work through this grant, however after land is acquired and conveyed to the MN DNR, they will execute initial restoration activities as outlined in the DNR IDP plan. We have allocated the appropriate funds for this in the DNR IDP budget line.

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?
No

Explain how and when the restoration/enhancement work will be completed and identify the source of funding:
NWLT will not be completing restoration or enhancement work through this grant, however after land is acquired and conveyed to the MN DNR, they will execute initial restoration activities as outlined in the DNR IDP plan. We have allocated the appropriate funds for this in the DNR IDP budget line.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Protection of 374 acres via fee acquisition; conveyance to governmental agency.	June 2031
Landowner outreach for fee acquisition program	Ongoing through 2031

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2031

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	$170,000	-	-	$170,000
Contracts	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$2,430,000	$243,000	Landowners, Lake Associations	$2,673,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$4,000	-	-	$4,000
Professional Services	$170,000	-	-	$170,000
Direct Support Services	$43,000	-	-	$43,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$73,000	-	-	$73,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$2,500	-	-	$2,500
DNR IDP	$65,500	-	-	$65,500
Grand Total	**$2,988,000**	**$243,000**	**-**	**$3,231,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
NWLT Land Protection Staff	0.75	4.0	$170,000	-	-	$170,000

Amount of Request: $2,988,000
Amount of Leverage: $243,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 8.13%
DSS + Personnel: $213,000
As a % of the total request: 7.13%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
We received 41% of our requested appropriation. Acquisition dollars were reduced to 41% of what was proposed. Personnel was reduced to 48% of what was proposed. This is because the majority of staff time is tied to fixed administrative, coordination, and compliance tasks that remain constant regardless of projects completed.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
NWLT leverages multiple funding sources to support acquisitions, including landowner donations, lake association contributions, private philanthropy, and individual donors. We anticipate $243,000 of leverage; not confirmed. Any expenses not covered by this grant will be funded through general operating income.

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?
This proposal is true to budget and protection goals and would be most effective if funded fully. If 50% funding was received, outputs would be reduced by approximately 50-65%.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS costs would be reduced, but less than proportionally to the reduction in acquisition funding. Certain costs, including landowner outreach, project development, grant administration, and due diligence, are necessary regardless of project size. Some projects also require substantial staff time before feasibility can be fully determined.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Funds in the contract line are for outreach services (with appropriate approval) and for pre-conveyance site cleanup services, such as well sealing, building removal, and general contracting, etc.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Environmental assessments, project mapping

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
We anticipate completing 5 acquisitions with the proposed funds.

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?

In a process annually reviewed and approved by MNDNR Grants (most recently in August of 2025), NWLT determined our direct support services rate to include all allowable direct and necessary expenditures not captured in other line items in the budget. NWLT also provides MNDNR Grants with a copy of our financial audit as an additional validation as part of the request for DSS rate approval.

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	-	-	-	374	374
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**374**	**374**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$2,988,000	$2,988,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,988,000**	**$2,988,000**

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	-	-	-	-	374	374
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**374**	**374**

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	-	-	-	-	$2,988,000	$2,988,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,988,000**	**$2,988,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$7,989
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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	$7,989
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

.5

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Parcels are identified and prioritized through a science-based ranking framework designed to evaluate their conservation value for protecting forested lake watersheds, sensitive shorelines, and connected habitat complexes. The system emphasizes maintaining intact forest cover, protecting sensitive shorelines, and reducing habitat fragmentation and watershed degradation.

Initial parcel identification is guided by geographic analysis of priority LOBS lake watersheds. Parcels are screened using ecological and landscape criteria including adjacency to protected lands, shoreline characteristics, hydrologic connectivity, land cover diversity, documented rare features, Minnesota Biological Survey biodiversity rankings, and risk of conversion to urban or agricultural land uses.

For fee-title acquisitions, the framework places strong emphasis on adjacency to existing protected lands in order to expand contiguous habitat complexes, maintain intact forested shorelines, and improve long-term management efficiency. Additional priority factors include presence of LOBS shoreline, proximity to riparian areas, location within sensitive shoreland zones, hydrologic connectivity, and documented rare species or habitats.

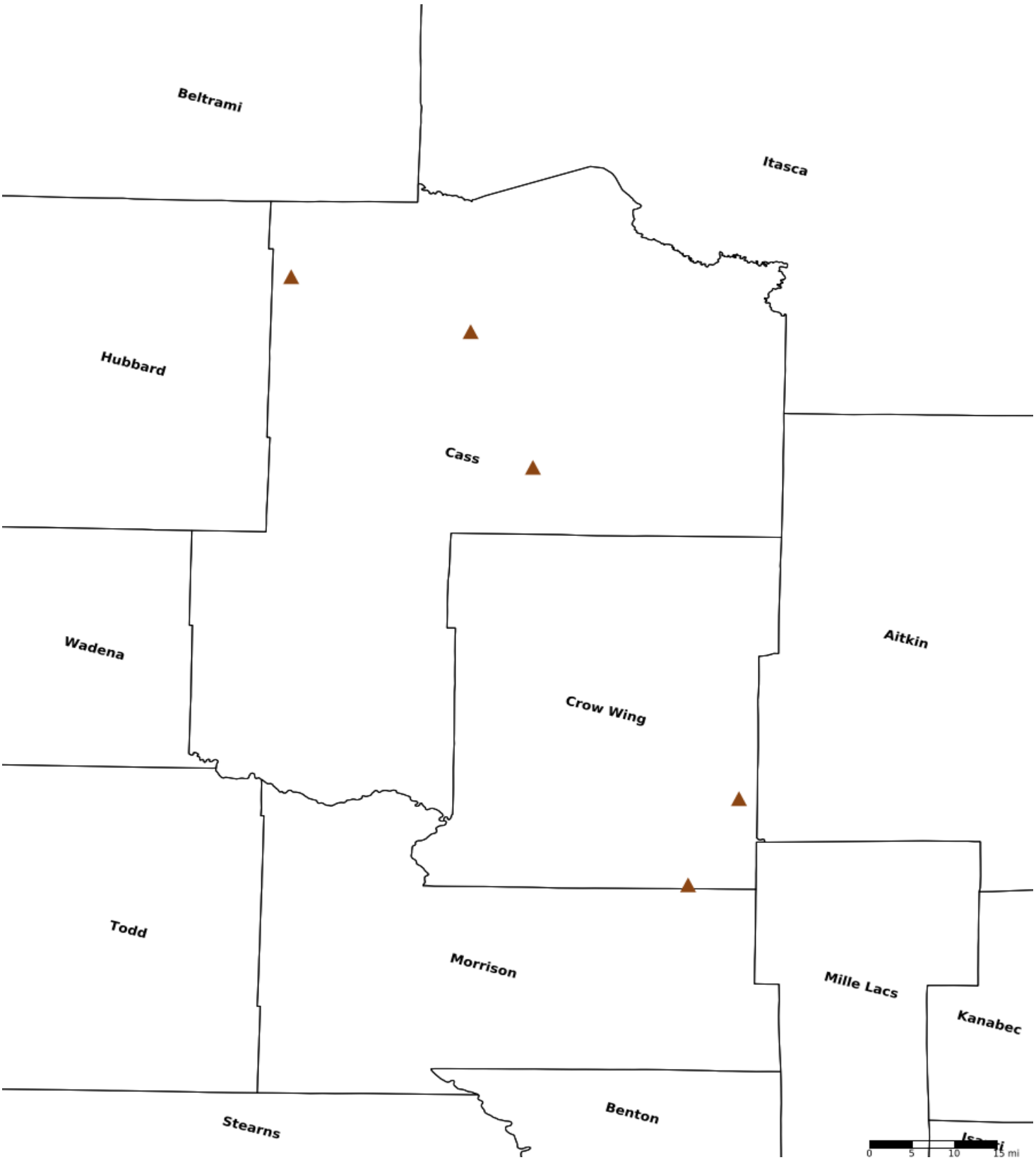
The ranking process uses a benefit index that combines parcel adjacency with ecological priority factors. Final rankings also consider project cost through a benefit-cost ratio analysis to maximize conservation return on investment and ensure strategic use of Outdoor Heritage Funds.

Parcels included in the proposal represent high-priority properties where landowners have expressed interest or engaged in direct discussions with project staff. Ongoing outreach within priority watersheds will continue throughout the grant period to expand the pipeline of willing participants and future conservation opportunities.

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
NWLT - Leech Lake	Cass	14329226	38	$0	No
NWLT - Steamboat Lake	Cass	14431220	23	$550,000	No
NWLT - Wabedo Lake	Cass	14028222	33	$351,900	No
NWLT - Platte Lake	Crow Wing	04328231	44	$643,900	No
NWLT - Round Rice Mille Lacs	Crow Wing	04428202	220	$416,000	No

Parcel Map



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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance - Phase 6

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance - Phase 6
Organization: Northern Waters Land Trust
Manager: Annie Knight

Budget

Requested Amount: $7,330,000
Appropriated Amount: $2,988,000
Percentage: 40.76%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$355,000	-	$170,000	-	47.89%	-
Contracts	$60,000	-	$30,000	-	50.0%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$6,000,000	$600,000	$2,430,000	$243,000	40.5%	40.5%
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$13,000	-	$4,000	-	30.77%	-
Professional Services	$492,000	-	$170,000	-	34.55%	-
Direct Support Services	$95,700	-	$43,000	-	44.93%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$180,000	-	$73,000	-	40.56%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,000	-	$2,500	-	83.33%	-
DNR IDP	$131,300	-	$65,500	-	49.89%	-
Grand Total	**$7,330,000**	**$600,000**	**$2,988,000**	**$243,000**	**40.76%**	**40.5%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This proposal is true to budget and protection goals and would be most effective if funded fully. If 50% funding was received, outputs would be reduced by approximately 50-65%.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS costs would be reduced, but less than proportionally to the reduction in acquisition funding. Certain costs, including landowner outreach, project development, grant administration, and due diligence, are necessary regardless of project size. Some projects also require substantial staff time before feasibility can be fully determined.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This proposal is true to budget and protection goals and would be most effective if funded fully. If 30% funding was received, outputs would be reduced by approximately 70-80%.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS costs would be reduced, but less than proportionally to the reduction in acquisition funding. Certain costs, including landowner outreach, project development, grant administration, and due diligence, are necessary regardless of project size. Some projects also require substantial staff time before feasibility can be fully determined.

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	750	374	49.87%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$7,330,000	$2,988,000	40.76%
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	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	750	374	49.87%
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$7,330,000	$2,988,000	40.76%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

RIM Priority Habitat

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/12/2026

Project Title: RIM Priority Habitat

Funds Recommended: $1,958,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Kevin Roth
Title: Easement Programs Coordinator
Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources
Address: 110 2nd St. S. Suite 307
City: Waite Park, MN 56387
Email: kevin.roth@state.mn.us
Office Number:
Mobile Number: 651-539-2521
Fax Number:
Website: https://bwsr.state.mn.us/

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Southeast Forest

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Prairie

Habitat

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

BWSR's RIM Priority Habitat Easement Program will protect and restore 165 acres through three easements targeting habitat blocks adjacent to or near permanently protected public lands. The program combines Outdoor Heritage Fund habitat priorities with locally identified conservation priorities to strategically secure easements in areas with the greatest potential for positive habitat impacts. By integrating science-based planning together with local knowledge, the program advances the protection and restoration of priority habitats across all regions of Minnesota.

Design and Scope of Work

This BWSR RIM easement program prioritizes habitat protection and restoration across Minnesota, addressing priority habitat types not fully served through other BWSR RIM programs. The program fills important conservation gaps by protecting and restoring tallgrass prairies, oak savannas, blufflands, cold-water trout streams, re-meandered streams, wetlands, riparian corridors, central hardwood forests, and boreal forests.

The program integrates statewide habitat priorities with locally developed conservation plans to identify the highest-value habitats and habitat corridors for permanent protection. While statewide habitat plans effectively establish broad regional conservation goals, local Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans (CWMPs) provide finer-scale prioritization based on local input and modeling tools. Developed at the HUC-8 watershed scale, CWMPs identify priority habitat areas, water quality goals, and locally important habitat corridors that may not be fully captured in statewide plans. These local plans are updated more frequently and reflect the most up-to-date priority areas across the state.

Program scoring and ranking prioritizes easement locations that expand or connect existing habitat corridors and complexes, particularly those adjacent to permanently protected lands, including lands open to public recreation. This approach maximizes landscape connectivity, strengthens wildlife populations, and increases the long-term ecological value of protected lands. Projects that contribute to or create larger permanently protected habitat complexes receive additional priority.

All easement lands are evaluated for restoration potential to ensure each acre provides high-quality habitat benefits. Restoration activities will be tailored to site conditions and habitat goals, and all easements will include long-term management plans to maintain habitat quality in perpetuity.
The RIM easement program is administered by BWSR and implemented through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), ensuring local expertise guides project development and landowner engagement. SWCDs

submit landowner applications to BWSR, where projects are reviewed, ranked, and selected for funding. Permanent easements are secured prior to restoration or enhancement activities.

Through this program, 165 acres will be permanently protected and restored through three easements across Minnesota.

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

This proposal supports the protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for fish, game, wildlife, and threatened or endangered species through targeted, science-based habitat conservation strategies. By integrating statewide habitat priorities with locally developed conservation plans, the RIM Priority Habitat program focuses on protecting and restoring tallgrass prairies, oak savannas, blufflands, cold-water trout streams, re-meandered streams, wetlands, riparian corridors, central hardwood forests, and boreal forests.

This program expands habitat connectivity, strengthens ecological corridors, and increases opportunities for public recreation. Each easement is evaluated for restoration and vegetation enhancement potential, and restoration practices are implemented whenever feasible to maximize habitat quality and wildlife carrying capacity on protected acres.

Grassland restoration benefits more than 150 Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), including greater prairie-chicken, eastern and western meadowlark, grasshopper sparrow, chestnut-collared longspur, bobolink, Wilson's phalarope, sedge wren, plains hog-nosed snake, American badger, prairie vole, plains pocket mouse, eastern spotted skunk, monarch butterfly, and regal fritillary. These species depend on healthy grassland systems for breeding, migration, and foraging habitat.

Forest-prairie transition and prairie regions: the proposal addresses habitat fragmentation, land conversion, and climate-related impacts affecting migratory birds, gray wolves, and northern long-eared bats by improving habitat quality and connectivity in priority landscapes. In Southeast Minnesota's blufflands, which contain some of the state's highest concentrations of SGCN diversity, the project will protect and enhance critical habitat resources that support these populations.

Northern forest regions: protection of cold-water aquatic habitats that support species such as cisco and lake trout, which are increasingly vulnerable to land conversion and climate impacts. The project also benefits cool-water fisheries, including walleye and northern pike, which face increasing competition from warm-water species. Protection and restoration of riparian corridors and sensitive shorelines will improve habitat for common loon, bald eagle, gray wolf, and more than 55 SGCN, including red-shouldered hawk, northern goshawk, black-throated blue warbler, wood turtle, and four-toed salamander.

Where overlap exists with other BWSR-held easement programs, this program serves a complementary role. The intent of the RIM Priority Habitat program is to target high-priority habitat types and conservation opportunities not already addressed through existing BWSR programs.

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

Land values have plateaued across the state meaning demand for easements on private land is at its peak. Right now, we have a window of opportunity to secure easements on large tracts of land evidenced by easement applications and funded RIM easements over the past 2 years.

Funding from ML25 and for ML26 has been committed to new easements within the first month of funds becoming available. It is critical we are funding private land conservation easements right now. The next time land values increase, demand for easements will decrease. Funding for ML27 is critical to secure large, high quality easements.

Additionally, over 178,603 acres of CRP contracts in Minnesota will expire in federal fiscal years 2026–2027, increasing habitat fragmentation due to farming pressures and lack of CRP acres available nationwide. Private land easements are a great option for landowners to permanently protect habitat.

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

RIM Priority Habitat prioritizes habitat corridors and combats fragmentation, guided by scoring and ranking criteria. It accounts for both locally identified priority areas and statewide goals, expanding opportunities to protect and restore habitat corridors and complexes statewide. Larger blocks of habitat and expansion of existing habitat corridors are priorities for ranking easements.

Additionally, easements near permanently protected habitats, public hunting lands, and areas with Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), endangered, or threatened species are prioritized.

Maximizing vegetative diversity on these easements increases the number of species the easement will host.

Measurable metrics track progress. In the forested region, for instance, keeping land disturbance below 25% supports high water quality and habitat integrity. Once protection of this level has been achieved, local priorities move to new areas. In the prairie and transition ecoregions of the state, habitat complex size is used to determine when we have reached a point of diminishing returns.

The BWSR scoring system prioritizes projects that strengthen habitat corridors, form complexes, and reduce fragmentation.

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 : Locally developed comprehensive watershed management plans (CWMPs)

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

Metro / Urban

Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

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

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 forest-prairie transition region:

Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *A summary of wetland acres and associated native grasslands acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure outcomes are maintained. An increase of wetland and associated grassland habitat are expected to increase the carrying capacity of wetland and grassland dependent wildlife. This has a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as complexes are restored.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna ~ *A summary of wetland acres and associated native grasslands acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure outcomes are maintained. An increase of wetland and associated grassland habitat are expected to increase the carrying capacity of wetland and grassland dependent wildlife. This has a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as complexes are restored.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species. A summary of the total number of forest land secured under easement through this appropriation will be reported. We expect sustained populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these easements are secured. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes.*

Programs in prairie region:

Restored and enhanced upland habitats ~ *A summary of upland acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure outcomes are maintained. An increase of wetland and associated grassland habitat are expected to increase the carrying capacity of wetland and grassland dependent wildlife. This has a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as complexes are restored.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Stream to bluff habitat restoration and enhancement will keep water on the land to slow runoff and degradation of aquatic habitat ~ *A summary of forest acres acquired through this appropriation will be reported. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure outcomes are maintained. An increase of wetland and associated grassland habitat are expected to increase the carrying capacity of wetland and grassland dependent wildlife. This has a positive impact on both game and non-game species. We expect more abundant populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as complexes are restored.*

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 funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

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

BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement of RIM easements. BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry out oversight, monitoring and inspection of conservation easements. Easements are inspected every year for the first five years beginning the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs document findings and report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations are identified.
Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027-ongoing	Landowner Responsibility or Limited Enhancement Funding	Maintain compliance with easements.	Manage habitats for diverse habitat benefits.	-
2027-ongoing	Stewardship Account	Inspections every year for the first five years; then every third year.	Corrective actions of any violations.	Enforcement action taken by MN Attorney General's office.

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

Generally, RIM priority areas are focused on rural communities across the state due to the nature of the program and payment rates. Review of the Environmental Justice map produced by the MPCA shows RIM easement programs overlap with many identified environmental justice areas across the state, particularly those areas that are identified by lower than state median incomes. Lower annual income areas of the state benefit from RIM in several ways, including financial benefits for landowners through easement payments. The individual program may also require seeding and wetland restoration work by local contractors. The work by SWCD staff also includes outreach, monitoring and maintenance which helps maintain and grow rural jobs and economies.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
SWCD, Landowner, BWSR

Who will be the easement holder?
BWSR

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
3

Land Use

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

> **Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:**
> In certain circumstances, wildlife food plots are an allowable use on RIM easements as part of an approved Conservation Plan. Annual or perennial food plots may be allowed at the owner's expense. Food plots must be maintained annually. If a food plot is discontinued, it must be immediately replanted to appropriate high-quality, permanent native vegetative cover and the associated establishment cost is the responsibility of the landowner(s). Food plot size and the number of food plots allowed are based on the size of the easement. Food plots will not exceed more than 10% of the easement area or will not exceed a maximum acreage depending on the size of the easement.

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

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

> **Describe the expected public use:**
> RIM easements do not require that private land is open to the public; however, this question is also evaluated on public benefit and RIM easements do provide a significant public benefit; often expand wildlife habitat near public lands. Many of these easements will be taken where there already is a large percentage of public land. Strategically placed easements improve habitat for wildlife that use wild rice water bodies in addition to improving terrestrial habitats located adjacent to these water bodies.
>
> RIM easement land remains in private ownership and the landowner still pays property taxes. Statutory

goals of the Outdoor Heritage Fund for protection and restoration of habitat. Minnesota Statute 97A.056 states ". . .the fund must be expended to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife." and "The council shall make recommendations . . . that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie."

Criteria in all RIM program scoresheets used to evaluate and prioritize parcels funded include proximity of the easement land to lands that are in public ownership and/or open to public hunting. Parcels adjacent to public land or that would connect or expand larger existing habitat areas receive additional points in the scoring and ranking process. Wildlife typically travel far enough distances where a mixture of habitat on public and private land is necessary in order to maximize wildlife carrying capacity in that area. Private lands provide refuge in heavily pressured hunting areas as well.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:
Though uncommon, new trails may be developed if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (fire breaks, berm maintenance, forest stewardship) and are noted on the conservation plan. Narrow mowed trails for personal use are allowed for landowner access on RIM easements. Unauthorized trails are a violation of the easement.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?
Under the terms of the easement, a conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement and the conservation plan. BWSR, in cooperation with SWCDs, implements a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms and the conservation plan.

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

Each parcel will be evaluated for restoration and/or enhancement potential. Opportunities to improve habitat quality will be pursued.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Restorations complete	June 30, 2035
Easements recorded	June 30, 2031

Date of Final Report Submission: 09/30/2031

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	$106,700	-	-	$106,700
Contracts	$9,400	-	-	$9,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,769,100	-	-	$1,769,100
Easement Stewardship	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Travel	$3,400	-	-	$3,400
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$33,000	-	-	$33,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,900	-	-	$4,900
Supplies/Materials	$1,500	-	-	$1,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,958,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,958,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Engineering	0.03	4.0	$17,200	-	-	$17,200
Easements	0.16	4.0	$89,500	-	-	$89,500

Amount of Request: $1,958,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $139,700
As a % of the total request: 7.13%
Easement Stewardship: $30,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 1.7%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Proportional reductions have been made to the budget and acres.

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?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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 contracts line is used for payments to SWCD staff for easement acquisition and technical assistance, as appropriate. Estimated restoration costs are included in the easement acquisition line.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
3 easements at $10,000 per easement. The total stewardship amount will ultimately be dependent on the cost of easements and if the proposed easement number is reached. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

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
The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs.

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?
BWSR annually reviews and updates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done and the program staff time involved.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Steel posts and signs to mark easement boundaries.

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	20	90	40	15	165
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**20**	**90**	**40**	**15**	**165**

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	$200,000	$1,378,000	$190,000	$190,000	$1,958,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$200,000**	**$1,378,000**	**$190,000**	**$190,000**	**$1,958,000**

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	10	30	20	80	25	165
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**10**	**30**	**20**	**80**	**25**	**165**

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	$40,000	$400,000	$195,000	$1,200,000	$123,000	$1,958,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$40,000**	**$400,000**	**$195,000**	**$1,200,000**	**$123,000**	**$1,958,000**

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	$10,000	$15,311	$4,750	$12,666
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$4,000	$13,333	$9,750	$15,000	$4,920
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2,000

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:
Local partnerships set priorities by looking at multiple information sources and local values. Commonly used data include water quality trends, biological indicators (fish, plants, aquatic species), land disturbance and associated pollution loading, habitat quality including MN County Biological survey, current land ownership status, stream stability, forest health, future risk of land conversion, demographics, recreational value, and more. Targeting is selecting conservation projects, practices, or programs that address the priority issue and and specific placement on the landscape.

Partnerships set measurable goals to gauge their pace of progress. For example, they can easily measure progress toward their forest protection goals with the land disturbance indicator. Once they have reached the goal for a subwatershed, they can move on to the next. Another example is each watershed plan is required to have a quantifiable water storage goal, which can be met with wetland restoration and protection. Other indicators in watershed plans include water quality, miles of shoreline protection, index of biological integrity, and metrics for stream stability and connectivity. These will be addressed through CWF-supported projects along with permanent protection.

BWSR will established and will continue to adjust a scoring and ranking system to evaluate easement requests from partnerships with approved watershed plans. The scoring and ranking approach will incorporate plan priorities, the degree to which projects are paired with CWF dollars, and progress toward measurable goals set by local partnerships. Additional criteria will be set based on statewide datasets and priorities to maximize habitat befits for game, fish and wildlife.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

RIM Priority Habitat

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - RIM Priority Habitat
Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources
Manager: Kevin Roth

Budget

Requested Amount: $5,000,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,958,000
Percentage: 39.16%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$274,100	-	$106,700	-	38.93%	-
Contracts	$21,900	-	$9,400	-	42.92%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$4,526,400	-	$1,769,100	-	39.08%	-
Easement Stewardship	$70,000	-	$30,000	-	42.86%	-
Travel	$8,800	-	$3,400	-	38.64%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$82,500	-	$33,000	-	40.0%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$12,500	-	$4,900	-	39.2%	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,800	-	$1,500	-	39.47%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$5,000,000**	**-**	**$1,958,000**	**-**	**39.16%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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?
A 30% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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	380	165	43.42%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$5,000,000	$1,958,000	39.16%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	380	165	43.42%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$5,000,000	$1,958,000	39.16%
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 15

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 15

Funds Recommended: $3,666,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: David Ruff
Title: Associate Director of Forest Strategies
Organization: The Nature Conservancy
Address: 102 Walnut St Suite 203
City: Winona, MN 55987
Email: david.ruff@tnc.org
Office Number: (507) 646-9662
Mobile Number: (507) 261-4954
Fax Number:
Website: nature.org/

Partners Contact

Minnesota Land Trust: Wayne Ostlie - wostlie@mnland.org - (651) 917-6292

The Nature Conservancy: David Ruff - david.ruff@tnc.org - (507) 646-9662

Trust for Public Land: DJ Forbes - DJ.Forbes@tpl.org - (651) 308-5531

Location Information

County Location(s): Winona, Olmsted, Wabasha, Fillmore, Houston and Goodhue.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Protect in Fee

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Phase 15 of the Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration program will protect approximately 313 acres using conservation easements and fee-title acquisition, as well as restore and enhance approximately 590 acres of declining habitat for important wildlife species. Work will occur in strategically targeted, resilient corridors of biodiversity significance within the Blufflands of Southeast Minnesota, resulting in increased public access and improved wildlife habitat.

Design and Scope of Work

The Southeast Blufflands is Minnesota's most biodiverse region. Some 86 different native plant communities have been mapped by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) in the program area, covering nearly 150,000 acres. These communities provide habitat for 183 rare state-listed plants and animals and more Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) than anywhere else in the state. These imperiled species are concentrated within 749 Sites of Biodiversity Significance.

Despite this biological richness, only 5% of the region has been protected to date.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) and Trust for Public Land (TPL), in partnership, are working to change this. Through our Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Program, we are expanding and connecting contiguous blocks of protected lands, allowing land managers to restore, enhance and maintain high-quality habitats at a scale difficult to accomplish with fragmented ownership. Protecting and managing these lands is not only important for ecological reasons but it also allows public enjoyment of these lands and the resources they provide. This program is increasing access to public lands to meet the continued high demand for outdoor recreation within the region.

This Program has a long, proven track record of protecting, restoring and enhancing lands that meet both state and local priorities for biodiversity conservation, land access, and watershed health. To date, the Partnership has protected 16.8 square miles (10,753 acres) of priority lands and 52 stream and river miles, and has restored/enhanced 18.9 square miles (12,087 acres) of habitat. Great results, but our work is not finished.

This 15th Phase of our Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Program continues this body of work:

1. Conservation Easements: MLT will protect 183 acres of high-quality private land through conservation easements. Alongside existing high-priority projects, MLT will identify potential projects within targeted priority areas through an RFP process. This competitive landowner bid process incentivizes landowner donation of easement value, ranking projects based on ecological value and cost, prioritizing the best projects and securing them at the lowest cost to the state.

2. Fee Acquisition: TPL will coordinate with MN DNR on all potential fee title acquisitions. TPL will assist the participating DNR Divisions by conducting all or some of the following activities: initial site reviews, negotiations with the willing seller, appraisals, environmental reviews and acquisition of fee title. TPL will transfer lands to the DNR except when county or municipal ownership is appropriate. Fee acquisition of 130 acres of forest, prairie, and other habitat and 1 mile of coldwater trout stream is planned.

3. Restoration and Enhancement: TNC will use a stewardship crew and contractors to restore/enhance approximately 570 acres of bluff prairie, forest, and riparian habitat within priority protected lands. Ecological restoration enhancement management plans will be developed in coordination with the DNR staff, landowners and/or hired subcontractors. MLT will enhance 20 acres of high-quality habitat in bluff prairies and oak woodlands on private lands protected through conservation easements in prior phases of this program.

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

Working in the biodiversity hotspot of Minnesota, our goal is to expand and improve connected complexes of habitat that support the full diversity of plants, wildlife, and fish in Minnesota's Driftless Area. We target areas of biodiversity significance identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), and protect and restore connected habitat to give SGCN species new opportunities to expand, migrate, and adapt to changing conditions. Protecting and expanding large areas preserves the full range of habitat types that supports the region's biodiversity. In addition to the numerous SGCN that benefit from our work, the mosaic of habitats we protect and manage support bedding areas for deer, roosting and foraging for turkeys, cold, clean water for trout, and key habitat needs for other popular small game species.

Sedimentation and erosion are major threats to fish in the region. Protecting and enhancing upland natural communities, especially on the steep bluffs that flank most trout streams, will help prevent additional erosion. Aquatic habitat also benefits from protection of trout stream banks and floodplains. The water-quality benefit that comes with the protection of forested upland areas is significant and contributes to improved trout and non-game fish and mussel habitat.

This program has benefited habitat for over 2,721 documented occurrences of some 112 SGCN identified by the Natural Heritage Inventory. This proposal will continue with high impact projects that protect, restore, and enhance habitat for Minnesota's rarest and most vulnerable species. Specific habitats include bluff prairie, oak savanna, oak-hickory woodland, and white pine - oak/maple forest. These habitats support rare species including: tri-colored and northern long-eared bats, timber rattlesnake, Blanding's turtle, western foxsnake, North American racer, American ginseng, tuberous Indian plantain, plains wild indigo and red-shouldered hawk.

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

Fragmentation, infrastructure development, and cropland conversion are constant threats to habitat. It is essential to seize the increasingly rare opportunities to protect large parcels when they become available, something our

partnership has a strong history of accomplishing.

In Southeast Minnesota, landowner interest and conservation demand exceed available funding. Although MLT typically releases an RFP to identify projects after funding is secured, there is a backlog of 8 high-priority conservation easement parcels included on this parcel list totaling 1,150 acres ahead of any RFP process.

Invasive species threaten many of the high-quality habitat complexes in the region. Active management is needed to maintain native plant communities. Likewise, the lack of fire and grazing on bluff prairies and oak savannas within larger disturbance dependent habitat threatens the long-term ecosystem viability. Delaying action in those habitats by even a couple years can make future management more difficult and costly.

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

A number of conservation plans covering Southeast MN have identified habitat corridors and complexes with high biodiversity significance and potential to expand areas of protected land. These include watershed-based Landscape Stewardship Plans and DNR's Wildlife Action Network along with the Conservation Focus Areas in the Root River and Whitewater watersheds.

Our work will focus on these areas, working towards a long-term vision of high-quality protected habitat complexes within larger connected corridors. Protection projects will prioritize parcels that are either 1) connected to existing protected lands, or 2) are of significant standalone size and have potential for future expansion. These two criteria directly address expanding habitat complexes and protecting large parcels from parcelization and fragmentation.

Restoration projects fill in gaps within these habitat corridors resulting from past land use, reducing fragmentation and increasing landscape connectivity. Enhancement work will focus on improving habitat within the core complexes. We strive to bring habitat within these cores to the highest quality, creating resilient hubs for species along natural corridors.

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?

Southeast Forest

Protect forest habitat though acquisition in fee or easement to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties

Outcomes

Programs in southeast forest region:

Large corridors and complexes of biologically diverse wildlife habitat typical of the unglaciated region are restored and protected ~ *We will track the acres of priority parcels protected within the Conservation*

Opportunity Areas (COA) identified as priorities in regional planning. Success within each COA will be determined based on the percentage of area protected, restored and/or enhanced.

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?

Tracts acquired in fee title will be transferred to the state for ongoing management except when local ownership is appropriate. Acquisition projects will be near or adjacent to existing protected lands, including state-owned lands and lands under conservation easement, allowing for the expansion of management activities that are already taking place. Habitats cleared of invasive species will be maintained with prescribed fire and other practices depending on funding. Protection and restoration projects will improve future prescribed fire and maintenance activities through economies of scale. The tracts protected and enhanced as part of this proposal also meet the prioritization for Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan. MN DNR has been successful in securing federal habitat enhancement funding.

Land protected through conservation easements will be sustained by MLT through a state-of-the art easement stewardship standards and practices. MLT is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a successful easement stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring and defending the easements as necessary. In addition, MLT encourages landowners to undertake active ecological management of their properties, provides them with habitat management plans and works with them to secure resources (expertise and funding) to undertake these activities over time.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027 and perpetually	MLT Easement Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring in perpetuity	Enforcement as necessary	-
Every 4-6 years	Game and Fish Fund	prescribed fire	-	-
Every 4-6 years	US Fish and Wildlife Service	prescribed fire	-	-

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

This program focuses on protecting and restoring habitat critical to biodiversity in the most biologically diverse region of Minnesota. While that primary goal does not directly engage specific human communities, protecting, restoring, and enhancing diverse and resilient habitat benefits all Minnesotans. It keeps our air and water clean, mitigates the impacts of climate change, and conserves the biological diversity that is every Minnesotan’s natural heritage.

Our program also works to increase public access to opportunities for recreation. Outdoor recreation provides benefits to all people, from the physical, mental, and spiritual health rewards of being in nature to the social benefits of family and group recreation. In Southeast Minnesota, the rising price of land is quickly turning access to natural spaces into a luxury good. With less than 5 percent of the land protected, opening new opportunities for public access to the outdoors helps make sure economic status never becomes a barrier to enjoying the wealth of nature available in the Driftless Area. The opportunities public land provides are especially important to members of indigenous communities who were displaced from the land and other historically marginalized or disadvantaged

communities who have had fewer opportunities to access or acquire it. Indeed, public land in Southeast Minnesota is used heavily by members of BIPOC communities who lack places to hunt, fish, or hike closer to home.

The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, and Minnesota Land Trust all hold a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice as a core value. Examples of that commitment include, but are not limited to, working with diverse communities to put a park, trail, or natural area within a 10-minute walk of every Minnesotan living within a city; programs to protect camps and nature centers that serve a diversity of Minnesota Youth; partnerships with indigenous communities to protect culturally important resources like wild rice; and to undertake shared learning around cultural practices like prescribed fire. We are committed to seeking more ways to close the outdoor access gap and support diverse human communities as we continue preserving the biological diversity of Minnesota.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
Minnesota Land Trust

Who will be the easement holder?
Minnesota Land Trust

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
Minnesota Land Trust anticipates accomplishing approximately 2-4 easements with this appropriation.

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

SNA

AMA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

County/Municipal

Public Waters

State Forests

Other : TNC Preserve acquired with Outdoor Heritage Funds

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
MLT - The purpose of the Minnesota Land Trust's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. As such, we restrict any agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases in which there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either carve the agricultural area out of the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to carve those areas out. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement.

TNC and TPL - We do not anticipate planting of any crops on land acquired in fee or restored in this program outside of the initial restoration of the land. Crops may be planted on pre-existing fields for a short period following acquisition until all such lands can be restored to native habitat, however that would be considered part of the initial restoration. In rare cases, crops may be used as an accepted method of preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example, short-term use of soybeans could be used for restorations in order to control weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases, this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank, however neonicotinoids will not be used.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
None

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

NGO

County

Local Unit of Government

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

SNA

State Forest

Other : TNC Preserve; County- or City-owned natural area

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
1 - 2.

Will the eased land be open for public use?
No

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
No

Some restoration and enhancement work on fee acquisitions may continue beyond this proposal's funding and availability. In these cases, additional restoration will be funded by a combination of future OHF proposals, other grants, or DNR funding.

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?
No

Explain how and when the restoration/enhancement work will be completed and identify the source of funding:
Restoration expenses include program development activities in addition to restoration construction expenses. MLT restoration personnel will conduct outreach with easement landowners to evaluate, scope, design and schedule additional restoration projects. These activities will improve the project selection, cost-estimates and outcomes for future OHF funding requests. Some restoration and enhancement work on

fee acquisitions may continue beyond this proposal's funding and availability. In these cases, additional restoration will be funded by a combination of future OHF proposals, other grants, or DNR funding.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Easement acquisition	June 30, 2031
Acquisition of fee land	June 30, 2031
Restoration/Enhancement on parcels protected without grant	June 30, 2032
Restoration/Enhancement on parcels protected with grant	June 30, 2035
Purchase agreements or options on acquisition of fee land	June 30, 2031

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	$571,100	-	-	$571,100
Contracts	$625,000	-	-	$625,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,306,000	-	-	$1,306,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$582,000	$58,000	-, Landowner Donation	$640,000
Easement Stewardship	$112,000	-	-	$112,000
Travel	$69,000	$3,000	-, Private	$72,000
Professional Services	$164,500	-	-	$164,500
Direct Support Services	$148,400	$106,500	-, Private, Private	$254,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$39,000	-	-	$39,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,500	-	-	$1,500
Supplies/Materials	$24,500	-	-	$24,500
DNR IDP	$23,000	-	-	$23,000
Grand Total	**$3,666,000**	**$167,500**	**-**	**$3,833,500**

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$256,000	-	-	$256,000
Contracts	$130,000	-	-	$130,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$582,000	$58,000	Landowner Donation	$640,000
Easement Stewardship	$112,000	-	-	$112,000
Travel	$8,000	-	-	$8,000
Professional Services	$139,500	-	-	$139,500
Direct Support Services	$69,500	-	-	$69,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,500	-	-	$1,500
Supplies/Materials	$1,500	-	-	$1,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,300,000**	**$58,000**	**-**	**$1,358,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Restoration Program Staff	0.14	5.0	$76,000	-	-	$76,000
MLT Staff, including CEO; Directors of Land Protection, Development & Communications, Finance & Operations, and Stewardship; General Counsel; and various Sr. Managers, Managers, and others	0.45	4.0	$180,000	-	-	$180,000

Partner: The Nature Conservancy

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$210,100	-	-	$210,100
Contracts	$450,000	-	-	$450,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$61,000	-	-	$61,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$55,900	$83,500	Private	$139,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$23,000	-	-	$23,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$800,000**	**$83,500**	**-**	**$883,500**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TNC Restoration/Enhancement Crew	1.75	1.0	$101,100	-	-	$101,100
TNC Project Management and Grants Admin	1.3	1.0	$109,000	-	-	$109,000

Partner: Trust for Public Land

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$105,000	-	-	$105,000
Contracts	$45,000	-	-	$45,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,306,000	-	-	$1,306,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$3,000	Private	$3,000
Professional Services	$25,000	-	-	$25,000
Direct Support Services	$23,000	$23,000	Private	$46,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$39,000	-	-	$39,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	$23,000	-	-	$23,000
Grand Total	**$1,566,000**	**$26,000**	**-**	**$1,592,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project and Legal Staff	0.14	4.0	$105,000	-	-	$105,000

Amount of Request: $3,666,000
Amount of Leverage: $167,500
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 4.57%
DSS + Personnel: $719,500
As a % of the total request: 19.63%
Easement Stewardship: $112,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 19.24%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Our program received 22% of our requested amount. To accommodate this reduction, all program activities will be significantly reduced, resulting in fewer anticipated outputs of both protection and restoration acres. Personnel and Direct Support Services have also been reduced to account for the reduced workload.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
TPL and TNC will leverage privately sourced funds to cover direct support services (DSS) costs not reimbursed. TPL has leveraged private funds for travel.
MLT encourages landowners to donate value as a participant in the program. This leverage ($58,000) is a conservative estimate of expected landowner contribution.

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?
A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) slightly more than proportionately. Some costs related to program development and oversight remain constant regardless of appropriation amount. The costs of many professional services related to land protection also do not scale proportionately, forcing a larger reduction in acres/activities.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well. However, not exactly proportionately as program development and oversight costs 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?
TNC and TPL contracts support enhancement and restoration work. Contractors include private vendors and Conservation Corps of MN/IA.

MLT will use contract funds for three purposes: to complete habitat management plans on new easement acquisitions; for restoration projects; and landowner outreach (printing/mail services for direct mailings, newspaper ads).

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Environmental assessments

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

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

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?

Minnesota Land Trust anticipates accomplishing approximately 2-4 easements with this appropriation. The average cost per easement to perpetually fund the Minnesota Land Trust's long-term monitoring and enforcement obligations is $28,000; in extreme circumstances, a larger amount may be sought. This figure has been determined by using a stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is the industry standard according to the Land Trust Accreditation process. Periodic updates to this cost analysis are provided to LSOHC staff.

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
Leases for a TNC staff vehicle and a skid steer used by the management crew for restoration and enhancement work on LSOHC projects are included. It also includes a long-term apartment lease for seasonal management crew staff. These expenses make up 68% of TNC's travel expenses, and 60% of the partnership's travel budget. Vehicle rental is also included for TPL and MLT's travel.

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?
TNC: DSS is based on The Nature Conservancy's Federal Negotiated Rate (FNR) as proposed and approved by the US Dept. of Interior on an annual basis. In this proposal we are requesting reimbursement of 7.5% of eligible base costs as determined by our annual FNR and based on suggestions from the Council in prior years' hearings. The amount requested for reimbursement represents 40% of the total reimbursable costs allowed under the FNR. Examples of expenses included in the FNR include services from in-house legal counsel; finance, human resources; and information technology support, all of which contribute directly to the implementation of the project. The FNR is not applied to capital equipment over $50,000 or land acquisition.

MLT: In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of the direct support services.

TPL: The Trust for Public Land's DSS request is based upon our federally approved rate, which has been approved by the DNR. 50% of these costs are requested from the grant and 50% is contributed as leverage.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Equipment and tools to be purchased will be those necessary for protection, restoration and management activities. Examples include Personal Protective Equipment, other field safety equipment, GPS units, backpack sprayers for herbicide application, bladder bags, and assorted hand tools for prescribed fire.

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	-	20	20	-	40
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	130	130
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	183	183
Enhance	-	200	330	20	550
Total	**-**	**220**	**350**	**333**	**903**

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	20
Total	**20**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	$30,000	$30,000	-	$60,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$1,566,000	$1,566,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$1,100,000	$1,100,000
Enhance	-	$300,000	$440,000	$200,000	$940,000
Total	**-**	**$330,000**	**$470,000**	**$2,866,000**	**$3,666,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	40	-	-	40
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	130	-	-	130
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	183	-	-	183
Enhance	-	-	550	-	-	550
Total	**-**	**-**	**903**	**-**	**-**	**903**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	$1,566,000	-	-	$1,566,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	$1,100,000	-	-	$1,100,000
Enhance	-	-	$940,000	-	-	$940,000
Total	**-**	**-**	**$3,666,000**	**-**	**-**	**$3,666,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	$1,500	$1,500	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$12,046
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$6,010
Enhance	-	$1,500	$1,333	$10,000

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	$1,500	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	$12,046	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	$6,010	-	-
Enhance	-	-	$1,709	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2

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:

For Protection in Fee Simple, parcels are prioritized based on:

- Location within a Conservation Opportunity Area or Area of Significant Native Biodiversity (allows for large landscape management and management efficiencies, i.e. large scale Rx fire)
- Presence of Minnesota Biological Survey mapped native plant communities
- Parcels equal to or greater than 80 acres in size are strongly preferred
- Proximity to a state-owned parcel
- A Conservation Partner willing to accept the property/meets partner objectives (SNA, WMA, Forestry)
- Must have a willing seller

Additionally, the Land Trust uses the attached criteria to prioritize conservation easement parcels currently on and not currently on the parcel list. All protection parcels will be added to the parcel list before incurring any expenses in accordance with LSOHC guidance.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Lone Pine Bluff	Fillmore	10208203	25	$37,500	Yes	Lone Pine Invasive Species Herbicide and Interseeding
Schueler Bluffs	Fillmore	10408203	100	$75,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal and Structural Treatment with seeding/planting
Schueler Pasture	Fillmore	10408203	50	$75,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
Brownsville Bluff (Hey) phase 2	Houston	10304226	20	$100,000	Yes	Oak woodland enhancement at the top of bluff prairie
Dougherty Tract	Houston	10307231	75	$75,000	Yes	Dougherty Tract Invasives + Seeding/Enhancement
Kronseder Burn Unit	Houston	10105213	500	$8,000	Yes	Burn Unit Prep
Vinegar Ridge Bluffs	Houston	10407227	200	$175,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal and Seeding/Planting with structural treatment
Wet Bark Ag Fields	Houston	10307211	100	$350,000	Yes	Direct Hardwood Seeding
Wet Bark Bluffs 1	Houston	10307214	100	$20,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal and Seeding/Planting
Wet Bark Bluffs 2	Houston	10307212	50	$100,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal and Seeding/Planting
HCVF - North Fork	Olmsted	10711202	100	$25,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal and Structural Treatment
ST Whitewater North Branch - Olmsted	Olmsted	10711202	100	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
ST Whitewater Hoosier Ridge	Wabasha	10910235	200	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie

ST Whitewater North Branch - Wabasha	Wabasha	10811234	100	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
West Indian Creek	Wabasha	10911221	200	$40,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal (Hunt and Peck)
Zumbro Bottoms Burn Units	Wabasha	11011222	700	$10,000	Yes	Burn Unit Prep
Bronk North Burn Units	Winona	10708214	700	$80,000	Yes	Burn Unit Prep, invasive species control + TSI
Burnt Oaks Savanna	Winona	10810214	150	$25,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal and Seeding/Planting
HCVF - Cuthrell Valley	Winona	10810223	150	$150,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal and Structural Treatment
HCVF - Historic Valley	Winona	10810223	50	$10,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal and Seeding/Planting
HCVF - Lupine Valley Savanna	Winona	10810201	150	$50,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal and Seeding/Planting
HCVF - South Fork	Winona	10710236	50	$15,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal to buffer Algific Talus Slope
Hwy 26 Bluff	Winona	10710211	50	$10,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal and Seeding/Planting
LaMoille West Burn Units	Winona	10606212	500	$8,000	Yes	Burn Unit Prep and bluff prairie enhancement
Marnach Valley Bluff	Winona	10810228	25	$15,000	Yes	Structural Treatment and Seeding/Planting
ST Whitewater Beaver Creek	Winona	10810216	200	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
ST Whitewater Callahans	Winona	10707219	100	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
ST Whitewater Demonstration Farm	Winona	10710223	100	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
ST Whitewater Fire Tower	Winona	10710210	200	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
ST Whitewater Glendale Hollow	Winona	10810203	100	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
ST Whitewater Governor Ridge	Winona	10810216	200	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
ST Whitewater Hubeleins	Winona	10710235	100	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
ST Whitewater Kramer Ravine	Winona	10710202	200	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie

ST Whitewater Leisen Ridge	Winona	10710212	200	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
ST Whitewater North Branch - Winona	Winona	10710206	100	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
ST Whitewater Siebenaler	Winona	10810214	100	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
ST Whitewater Trout Valley	Winona	10810212	100	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
ST Whitewater Turkey Valley	Winona	10810226	200	$10,000	Yes	Management unit in Whitewater WMA with mix of floodplain and upland forest and prairie
Turkey Valley Savanna	Winona	10810226	100	$25,000	Yes	Invasive Species Removal and Seeding/Planting
WW Ag Fields	Winona	10810226	50	$75,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
William Pease WMA Addition	Fillmore	10411207	100	$1,000,000	No
Dorer State Forest Addition - Minneiska	Winona	10809202	142	$900,000	No
Dorer State Forest Addition - Weber Springs	Winona	10505228	80	$500,000	No
Whitewater WMA Main III	Winona	10809205	40	$200,000	No

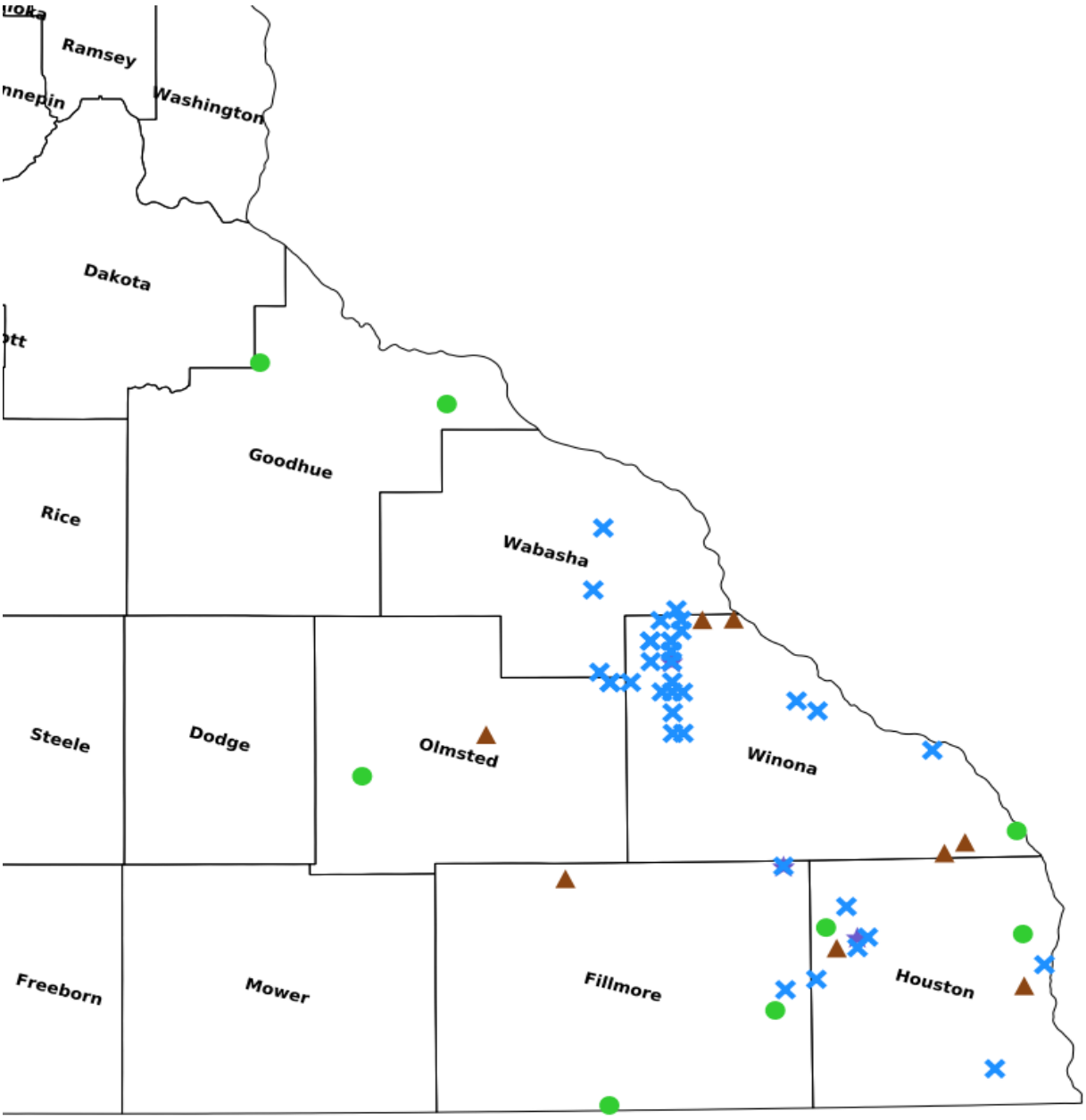
Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Dorer State Forest Addition - Pine Creek	Houston	10505231	66	$450,000	No	1	$0
Dorer State Forest Addition - Reno Unit II	Houston	10204204	217	$1,900,000	No	2	$47,700
Yucatan WMA Addition	Houston	10307216	217	$2,100,000	No	3	-
Haverhill WMA Addition	Olmsted	10713235	80	$1,000,000	No	1	$32,300

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
South Fork Root River - MLT	Fillmore	10208216	60	$288,000	No
Upper Iowa River - MLT	Fillmore	10111235	165	$775,000	No
Cannon River - MLT	Goodhue	11316231	80	$445,000	No
Wells Creek - MLT	Goodhue	11213219	60	$120,000	No
Butterfield Creek - MLT	Houston	10304209	130	$390,000	No
Daley Creek - MLT	Houston	10307205	300	$750,000	No
Zumbro River - MLT	Olmsted	10615223	188	$760,000	No
Mississippi River - MLT	Winona	10504220	167	$700,000	No

Parcel Map


Ramsey
Washington
Dakota
Goodhue
Rice
Wabasha
Steele
Dodge
Olmsted
Winona
Freeborn
Mower
Fillmore
Houston
0
5
10
15 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 15

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 15
Organization: The Nature Conservancy
Manager: David Ruff

Budget

Requested Amount: $16,585,600
Appropriated Amount: $3,666,000
Percentage: 22.1%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$1,736,100	-	$571,100	-	32.9%	-
Contracts	$2,112,000	-	$625,000	-	29.59%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$6,500,000	-	$1,306,000	-	20.09%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$4,200,000	$420,000	$582,000	$58,000	13.86%	13.81%
Easement Stewardship	$392,000	-	$112,000	-	28.57%	-
Travel	$70,000	$3,000	$69,000	$3,000	98.57%	100.0%
Professional Services	$563,000	-	$164,500	-	29.22%	-
Direct Support Services	$470,500	$368,400	$148,400	$106,500	31.54%	28.91%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$195,000	-	$39,000	-	20.0%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$6,000	-	$1,500	-	25.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$179,000	-	$24,500	-	13.69%	-
DNR IDP	$162,000	-	$23,000	-	14.2%	-
Grand Total	**$16,585,600**	**$791,400**	**$3,666,000**	**$167,500**	**22.1%**	**21.17%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) slightly more than proportionately. Some costs related to program development and oversight remain constant regardless of appropriation amount. The costs of many professional services related to land protection also do not scale proportionately, forcing a larger reduction in acres/activities.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well. However, not exactly proportionately as program development and oversight costs 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?
A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) more than proportionately. Some costs related to program development and oversight remain constant regardless of appropriation amount. The costs of many professional services related to land protection also do not scale proportionately, forcing a larger reduction in acres/activities.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well. However, not exactly proportionately as program development and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	200	40	20.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	650	130	20.0%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	1,320	183	13.86%
Enhance	2,550	550	21.57%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$200,000	$60,000	30.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$7,815,000	$1,566,000	20.04%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$5,752,800	$1,100,000	19.12%
Enhance	$2,817,800	$940,000	33.36%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	200	40	20.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	650	130	20.0%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	1,320	183	13.86%
Enhance	2,550	550	21.57%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$200,000	$60,000	30.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$7,815,000	$1,566,000	20.04%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$5,752,800	$1,100,000	19.12%
Enhance	$2,817,800	$940,000	33.36%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Phase X

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/12/2026

Project Title: Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Phase X

Funds Recommended: $1,770,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Kevin Roth
Title: Easement Programs Coordinator
Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources
Address: 110 Second Street South Suite 307
City: Waite Park, MN 56387
Email: kevin.roth@state.mn.us
Office Number:
Mobile Number: 651-539-2521
Fax Number:
Website: BWSR.state.mn.us

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

Phase 10 of the Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program will utilize permanent conservation easements to protect 420 acres and 6,000 feet of wild rice shoreland habitat. Development trends pose a serious threat to wild rice habitat. Sites are selected through a ranking process that considers development risk, surrounding habitat, and existing wild rice lake quality. BWSR will utilize the RIM easement process in partnership with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) within the Northern Forest and Forest Prairie Transition to accomplish protection. Previous phases of this project have protected 7,124 acres of wild rice shoreland protection.

Design and Scope of Work

Historically, wild rice occurred throughout Minnesota and extended into northern Iowa. Wild rice has since been extirpated from most of its southern range due to human impacts including changes to water quality and chemistry, sedimentation, drainage, flow alteration, boat traffic and competition from introduced aquatic invasive species. Today, the heart of the state's wild rice acreage falls within this project work area comprised of 15 counties -- Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Morrison, Otter Tail, St. Louis, Stearns, Todd, and Wadena.

Development trends have reduced the availability of developable shoreline on recreational lakes, resulting in shallow lakes, rivers, and shallow bays containing wild rice being increasingly targeted for shoreline development; posing a serious threat to remaining wild rice habitat. Many wild rice shoreland complexes are still intact with good water quality, but are subject to development pressure that, if allowed, will degrade the resource. This proposal will continue to fill a need for shoreland protection on key water bodies supporting wild rice in the Northern Forest and Forest Prairie Transition Sections.

Most wild rice waterbodies are public waters and offer some form of public access. Protecting wild rice by protecting parcels from shoreland development leads to assurance that recreation opportunities on public wild rice waterbodies are maintained.

The Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) and fifteen local SWCDs will continue to offer permanent watershed protection on shallow lakes, rivers and shallow bays that produce wild rice. BWSR's Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program will acquire approximately 420 acres of shoreline habitat through permanent conservation easements. Parcels will be selected based on the degree to which they help permanently protect the land around a given wild rice water body and protect existing habitat.

SWCD generated landowner applications will be reviewed and parcels ranked by the local technical committee using the "Wild Rice Shoreland Protection scoresheet" (attached).

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

Wild rice shoreland encompasses a complex of shallow lakes, rivers, and shallow bays of deeper lakes that support rice and provide some of the most important habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife species in Minnesota. Wild rice habitat is especially important to Minnesota's migrating and breeding waterfowl. More than 17 species of wildlife listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) use wild rice areas as habitat for breeding, migration, and/or foraging.

Targeted SGCN are as follows: Common Loon, Trumpeter Swan, Bald Eagle, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Red-necked Grebe, Sora Rail, Virginia Rail, Yellow Rail, Black Tern, Rusty Blackbird, Sedge Wren, Lesser Scaup, Northern Pintail, and American Black Duck.

Wild rice is some of the most important habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife species in Minnesota as noted in the MNDNR's Natural Wild Rice in Minnesota report to the legislature (2008). Important game species supported by wild rice include the Ring-necked Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Scaup, and Bufflehead.

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

Lake lot development has reduced the availability of developable shorelines on recreational lakes, resulting in shallow lakes, rivers, and shallow bays containing wild rice being increasingly targeted for shoreline development. Many of these wild rice shoreland complexes currently remain intact with good water quality, but are subject to development pressure that, if allowed, will degrade the resource.

Easement acquisition is critical at this time to head off development and habitat fragmentation along these sensitive lakes. Beyond public ownership, current shoreline protection on wild rice shoreland is limited to county shoreland ordinances, and limited conservation efforts by non-governmental organizations. Shoreland ordinances do not prevent wild rice habitat fragmentation and degradation. Further, even the most stringent ordinances still allow for some subdivision and development, which is detrimental to wild rice shoreland complexes.

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

To target sites, aerial photos of wild rice waterbodies are reviewed during a preliminary screening to find those that are the most intact, provide the most wild rice, have the most waterfowl use, and can be protected for the lowest cost. Waters are sorted into Low, Medium and High categories. Once the waters have been ranked, the SWCD contacts landowners on the high and some of the medium priority waters. Prioritization is done in collaboration with DNR shallow lakes staff.

Easement selection occurs with a goal of maximum wild rice habitat complex protection along shorelands. Easement parcels are further targeted and prioritized by adjacency to current protected lands/public lands and a low level of lake development. The following additional factors are considered to ensure site selection reflects current science-based measures for wild rice habitat protection: DNR wild rice water designation, feet of shoreline protected, development potential of site, acquisition urgency, depth from shore, watershed considerations, easement size relative to the parcel, and an analysis of stakeholder support. Sites that contain a wild rice lake outlet are also prioritized for potential DNR management of water levels to ensure protection.

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?

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

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 ~ *Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species. A summary of the total number of wetland acres and associated forest land secured under easement through this appropriation will be reported. We expect sustained populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these easements are secured. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species. A summary of the total number of wetland acres and associated forest land secured under easement through this appropriation will be reported. We expect sustained populations of endangered, threatened, special concern and game species as these easements are secured. On-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years to ensure maintained outcomes.*

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 funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

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

BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement of RIM easements. BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry out oversight, monitoring and inspection of conservation easements. Easements are inspected every year for the first five years beginning the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs document findings and report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations are identified.
Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

Monitoring by local staff also provides a local connection with the landowner to provide current and future strategies for maintenance and management of easement lands.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027-Ongoing	Stewardship Account	Inspections every year for the first five years; then every third year.	Corrective actions of any violations	Enforcement action by MN Attorney General Office
2027-Ongoing	Landowner Responsibility	Maintain compliance with easement terms	-	-

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

Wild rice is a culturally important resource for Native Americans in Minnesota. This proposal specifically works to protect wild rice resources. BWSR will continue to engage tribes in the easement selection and future funding proposals process. BWSR hopes to add wild rice lake restoration to this proposal in the future. Initial discussions with the Fon du Lac tribe on this have already begun.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
SWCD, Landowner, BWSR

Who will be the easement holder?
BWSR

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
6

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

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

Describe the expected public use:
This easement program specifically allows for more recreation opportunities on wild rice water bodies with public access.

RIM easements do not require that private land is open to the public; however, this question is also evaluated on public benefit and RIM easements do provide a significant public benefit; often expand wildlife habitat near public lands. Many of these easements will be taken where there already is a large percentage of public land. Strategically placed easements improve habitat for wildlife that use wild rice water bodies in addition to improving terrestrial habitats located adjacent to these water bodies.

RIM easement land remains in private ownership and the landowner still pays property taxes. Statutory goals of the Outdoor Heritage Fund for protection and restoration of habitat. Minnesota Statute 97A.056 states ". . .the fund must be expended to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife." and "The council shall make recommendations . . . that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie."

Criteria in all RIM program scoresheets used to evaluate and prioritize parcels funded include proximity of the easement land to lands that are in public ownership and/or open to public hunting. Parcels adjacent to public land or that would connect or expand larger existing habitat areas receive additional points in the scoring and ranking process. Wildlife typically travel far enough distances where a mixture of habitat on public and private land is necessary in order to maximize wildlife carrying capacity in that area. Private lands provide refuge in heavily pressured hunting areas as well.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?

Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Though uncommon, new trails may be developed if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (fire breaks, berm maintenance, forest stewardship) and are noted on the conservation plan. Narrow mowed trails for personal use are allowed for landowner access on RIM easements. Unauthorized trails are a violation of the easement.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

Under the terms of the easement, a conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement and the conservation plan. BWSR, in cooperation with SWCDs, implements a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms and the conservation plan.

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?

Yes

The potential for habitat enhancements will be considered for each easement. No funding from LSOHC will be used for these projects, other funding methods will be considered when opportunities arise.

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

Yes

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Final Report Submitted	November 1, 2035
RIM easements secured	June 30, 2031

Date of Final Report Submission: 09/30/2031

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	$115,600	-	-	$115,600
Contracts	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,539,900	-	-	$1,539,900
Easement Stewardship	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Travel	$3,100	-	-	$3,100
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$30,700	-	-	$30,700
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,400	-	-	$4,400
Supplies/Materials	$1,300	-	-	$1,300
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,770,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,770,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Easements	0.21	4.0	$115,600	-	-	$115,600

Amount of Request: $1,770,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $146,300
As a % of the total request: 8.27%
Easement Stewardship: $60,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 3.9%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
Proportional reductions across the entire budget as well as acres protected have been made.

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?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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 contracts line is used for payments to SWCD staff for easement acquisition and technical assistance, as appropriate. Estimated restoration costs are included in the easement acquisition line.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
6 easements at $10,000 per easement. The total stewardship amount will ultimately be dependent on the cost of easements and if the proposed easement number is reached. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

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
The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs.

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?
BWSR annually reviews and updates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done and the program staff time involved.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Steel posts and signs to mark easement boundaries.

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	30	-	390	-	420
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**30**	**-**	**390**	**-**	**420**

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	$50,000	-	$1,720,000	-	$1,770,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$50,000**	**-**	**$1,720,000**	**-**	**$1,770,000**

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	-	50	-	-	370	420
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**50**	**-**	**-**	**370**	**420**

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	-	$250,000	-	-	$1,520,000	$1,770,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**$250,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,520,000**	**$1,770,000**

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	$1,666	-	$4,410	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	$5,000	-	-	$4,108
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

6,000 ft

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:
Wild Rice waters are identified for priority protection by DNR shallow lakes staff in conjunction with BWSR and SWCD staff. Each waterbody is given a high, medium or low priority based on several factors including the water's ability to produce the most wild rice, attract the greatest numbers of waterfowl and has currently intact shoreline .

SWCDs complete outreach to landowners on high and medium priority waters.

Further prioritization is made utilizing the scoring and ranking sheet and a technical review committee. Scoring and ranking places an emphasis on adjacent public lands, other permanently protected lands and critical habitat features are priorities. It also considers the amount of shoreland protected and percentage of the lake that has protection. Once a lake has adequate protection, we move that lake to a low priority and move to protection of additional lakes.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Phase X

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Phase X
Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources
Manager: Kevin Roth

Budget

Requested Amount: $3,500,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,770,000
Percentage: 50.57%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$228,500	-	$115,600	-	50.59%	-
Contracts	$30,000	-	$15,000	-	50.0%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$3,043,200	-	$1,539,900	-	50.6%	-
Easement Stewardship	$120,000	-	$60,000	-	50.0%	-
Travel	$6,100	-	$3,100	-	50.82%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$60,800	-	$30,700	-	50.49%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$8,800	-	$4,400	-	50.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$2,600	-	$1,300	-	50.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,500,000**	**-**	**$1,770,000**	**-**	**50.57%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A 50% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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?
A 30% reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
A small portion of easement staff time specifically for appropriation and program management and reporting remains relatively 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	840	420	50.0%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$3,500,000	$1,770,000	50.57%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	840	420	50.0%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$3,500,000	$1,770,000	50.57%
Enhance	-	-	-

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
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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.

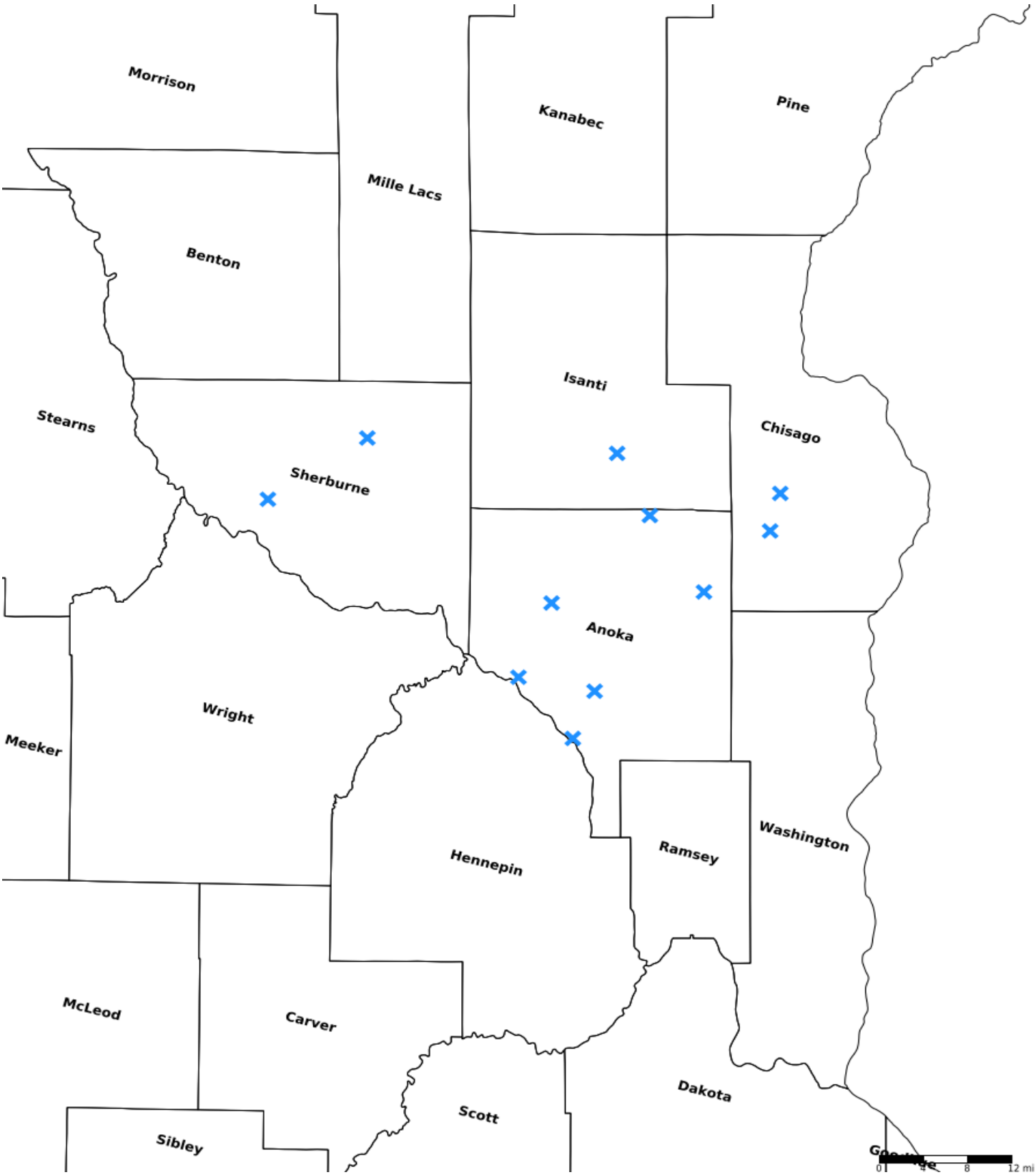
Note that in addition to the parcels below, we have included Anoka Conservation District's Rare Plant Rescue Program, with program write-up and criteria included as an attachment.

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
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Mobile Number: 507-313-3428
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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

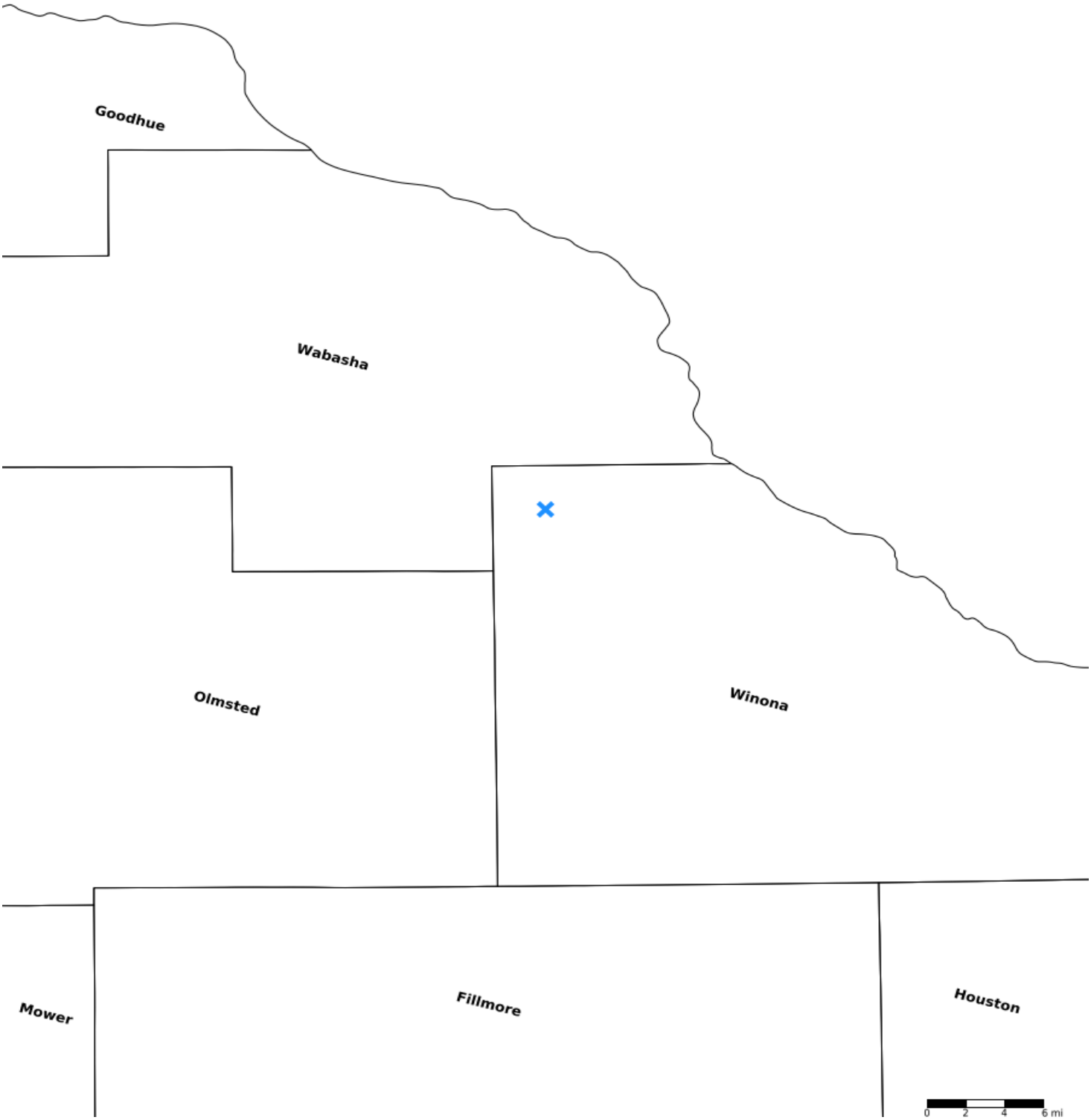
Sign-up Criteria?
No

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
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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

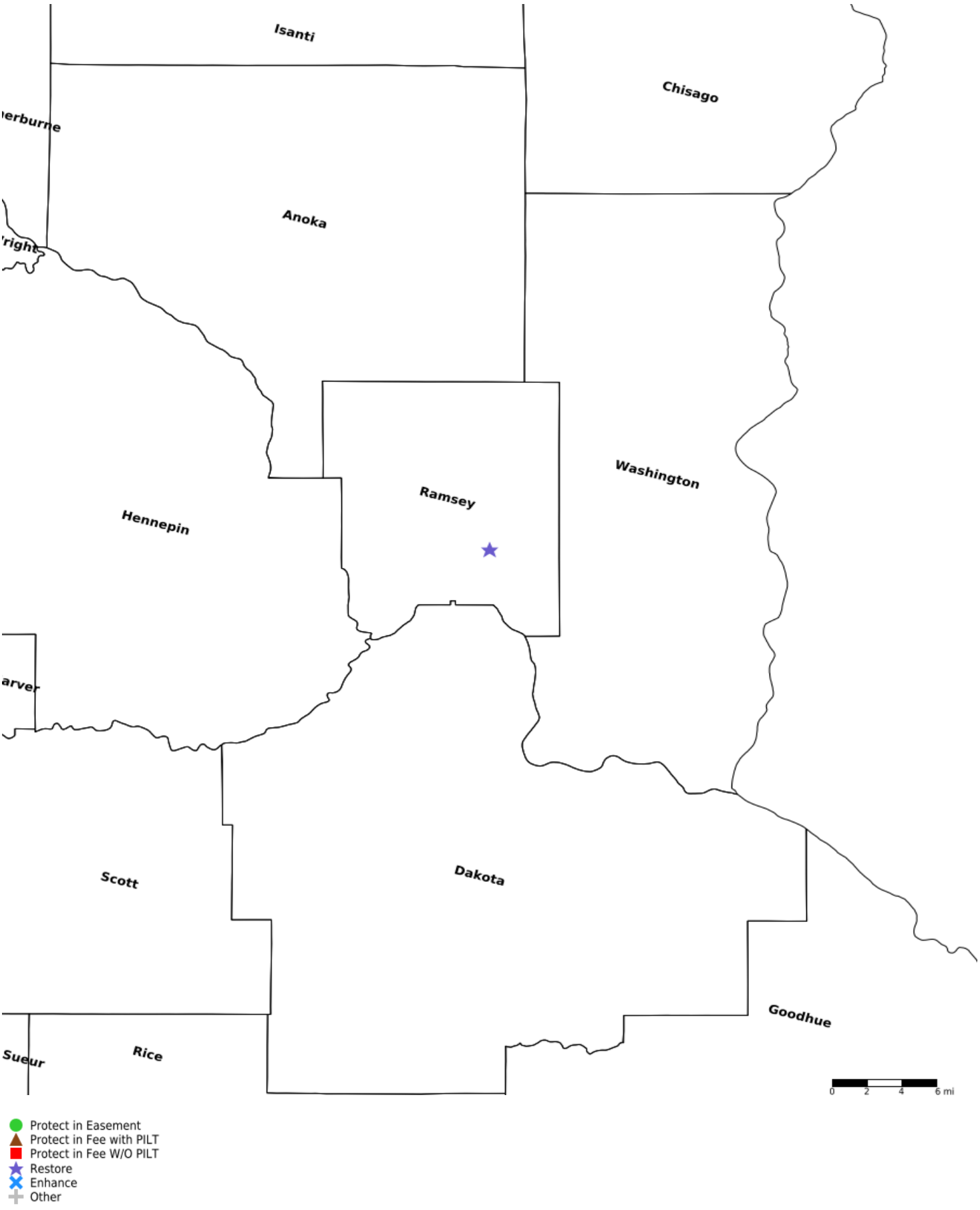
Sign-up Criteria?
No

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

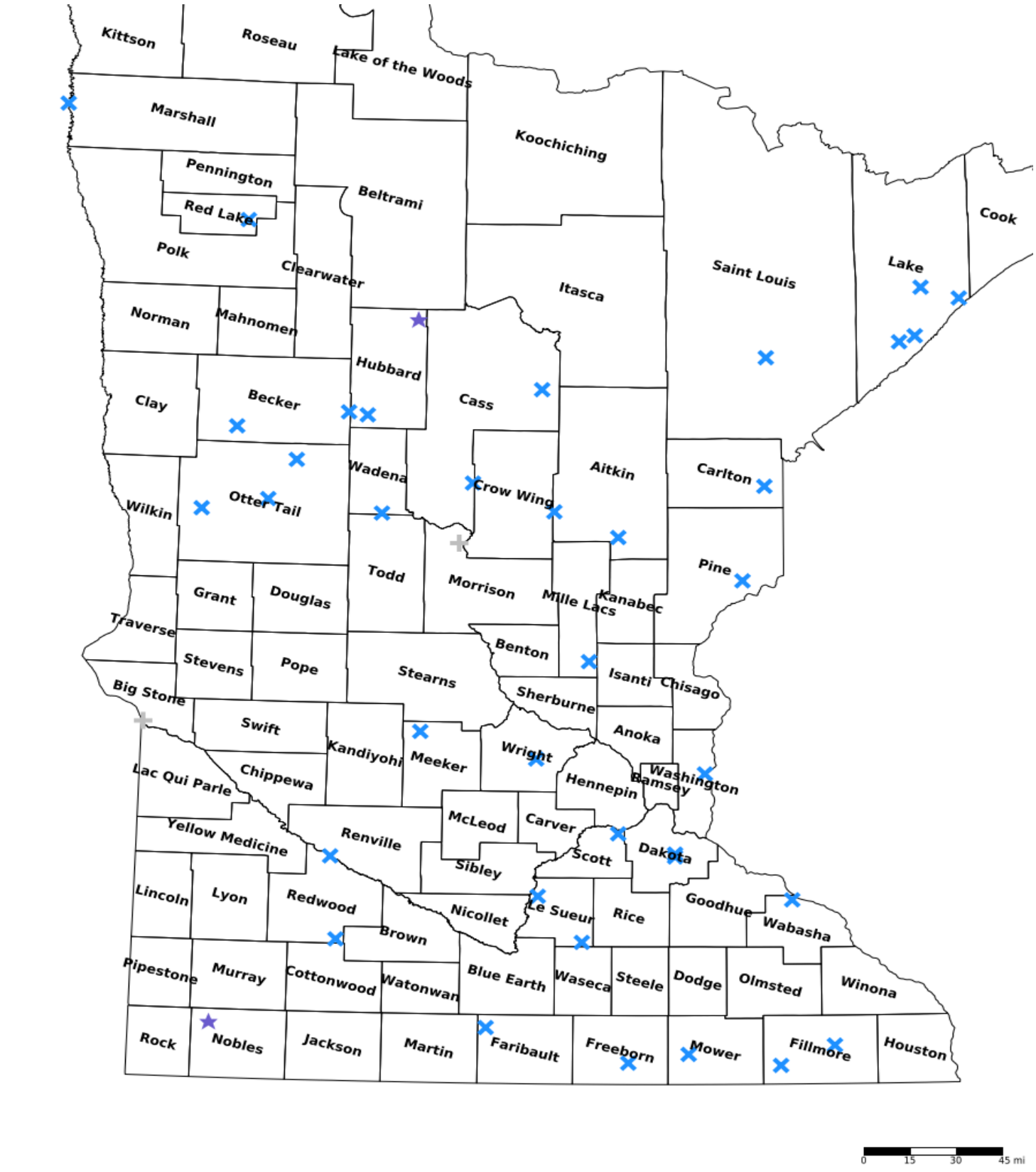
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Le Seuer Creek Dam	-	11125206	1	$920,000	Yes	Dam modification
Mud River AMA	Aitkin	04527207	9	$10,000	Yes	Ash Stand Planting Maintenance
Monson Lake AMA	Becker	13841206	5	$10,000	Yes	Buckthorn Control
Straight River AMA	Becker	13936201	3	$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

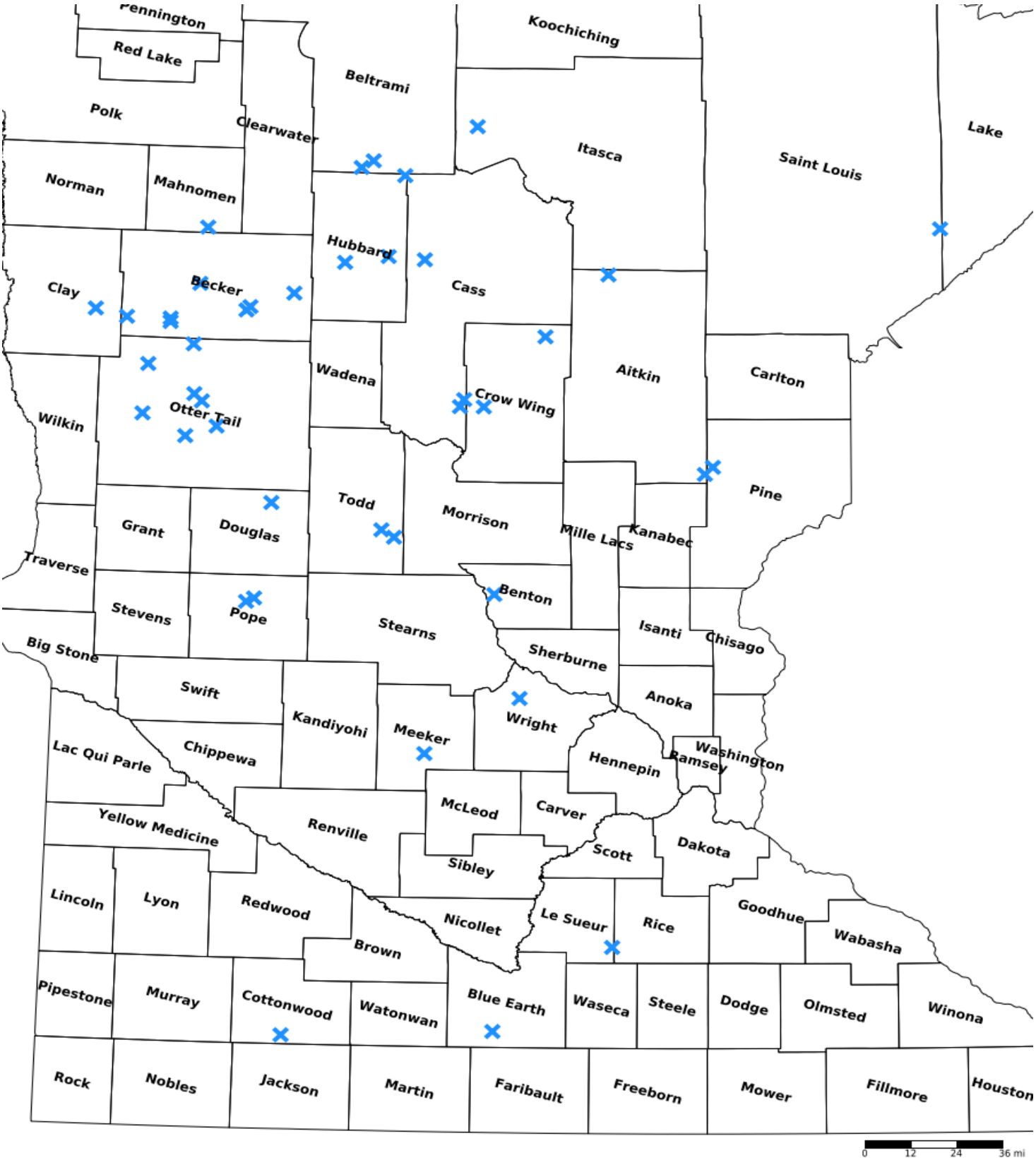
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
MN DNR uses a prioritized list to select habitat projects for submission. Project submissions are solicited from MN DNR staff as well as partner organizations. Criteria used to rank projects includes the scale of impact, 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
Crow Wing
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Pine
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
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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

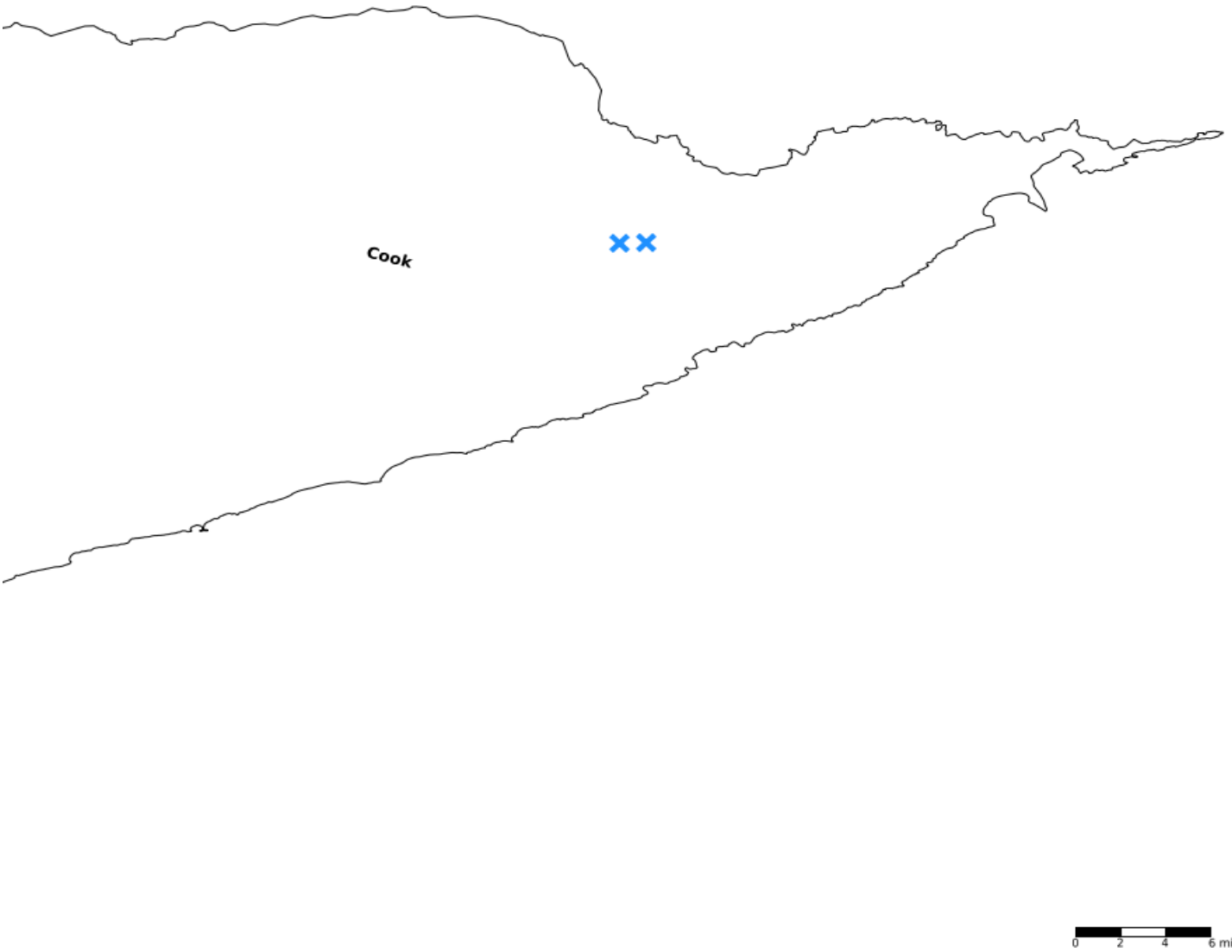
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
The SLR-LS is a partner to the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP), working within the nexus between GLRI, LAMP, and state priorities for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

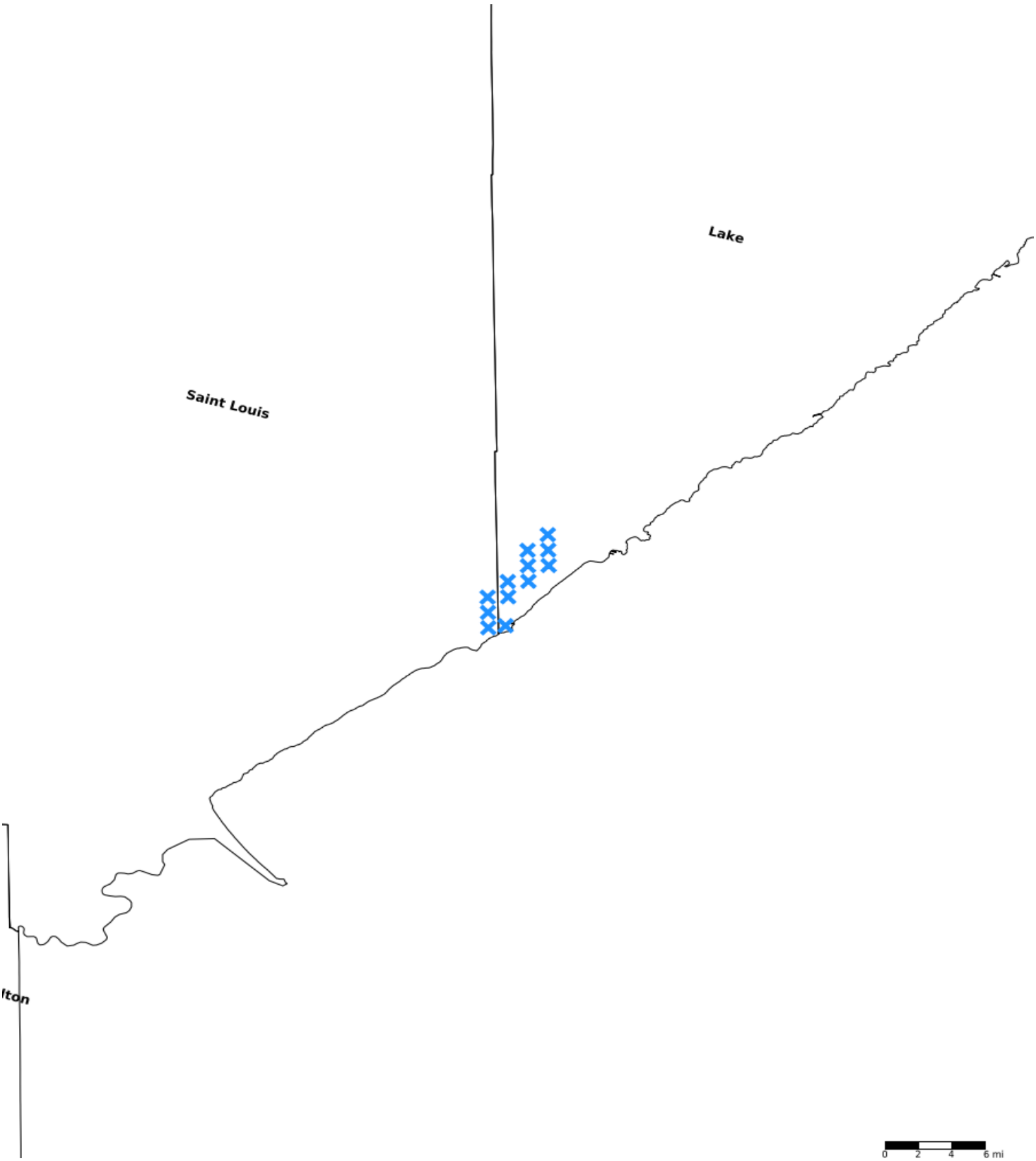
The LSSA also has a policy to work from the top of a reach downstream. Our top-down restoration approach eliminates re-impacting restored reaches downstream and reduces future downstream flooding and sedimentation. As mentioned in the "Design and Scope of Work", the LSSA incorporates a Watershed Restoration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

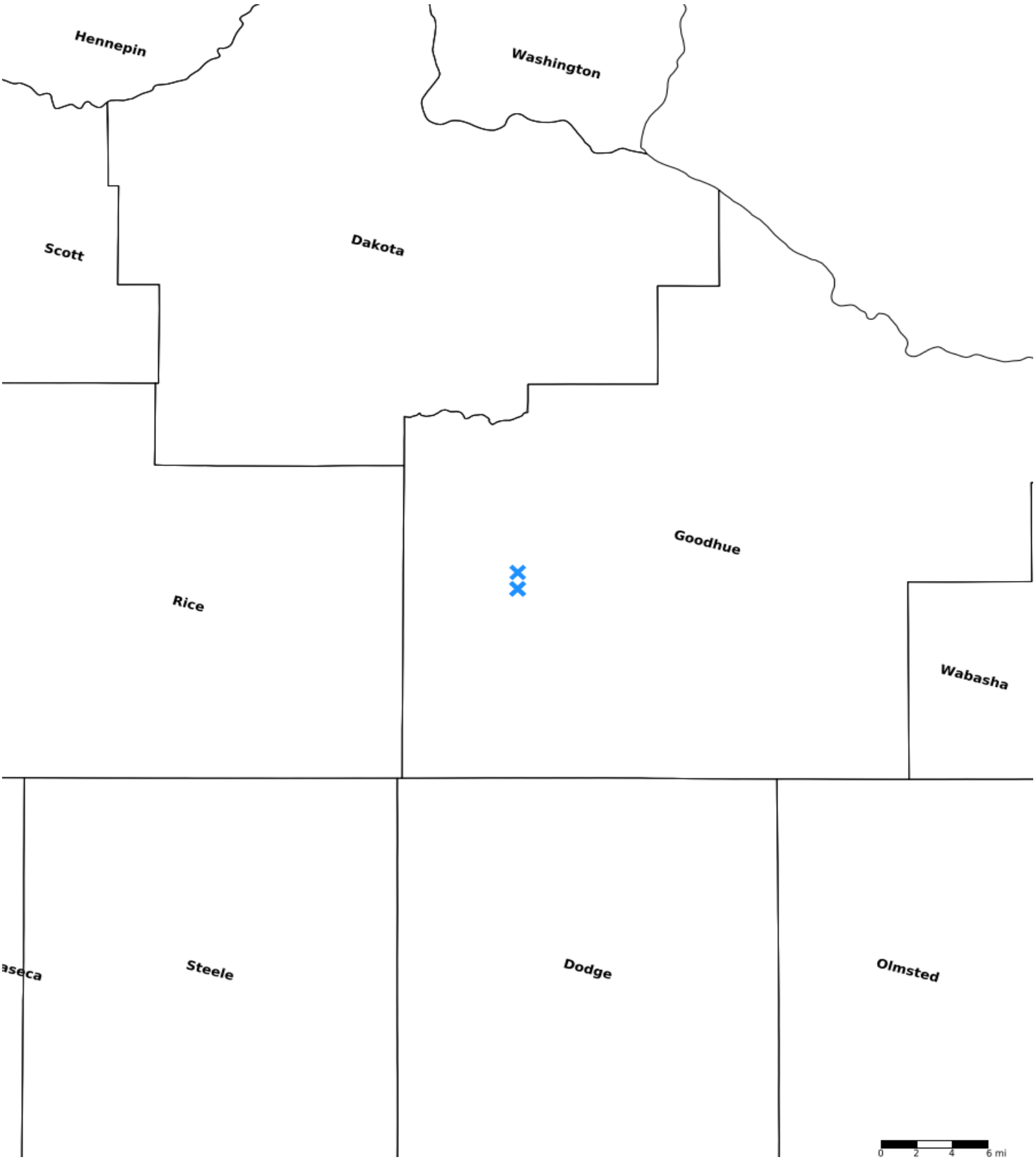
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Great River Greening works with land owning entities (public and protected private) and interested stakeholders to identify parcels where there is a need for restoration or enhancement of lands and water resources. 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

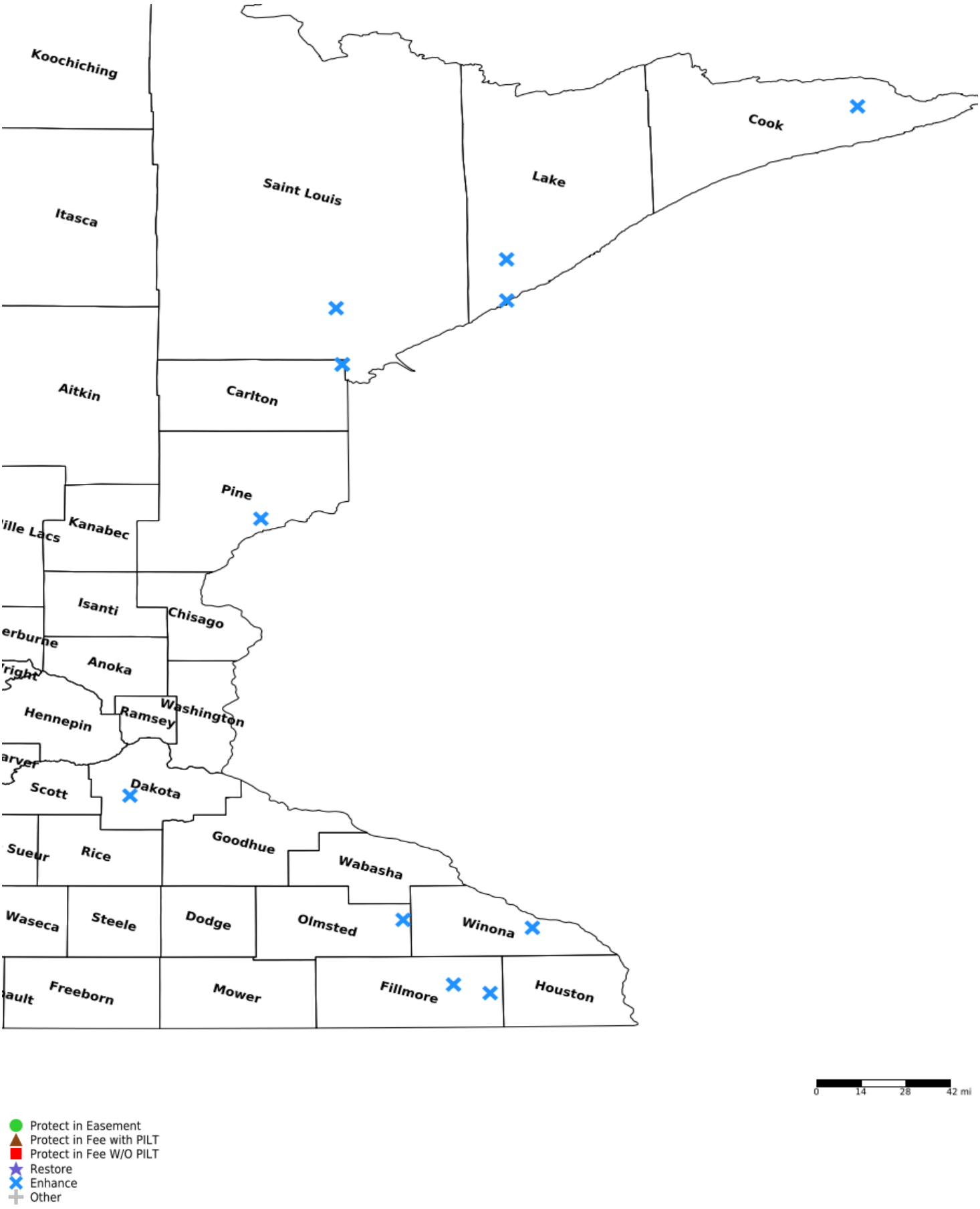
Sign-up Criteria?
No

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
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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

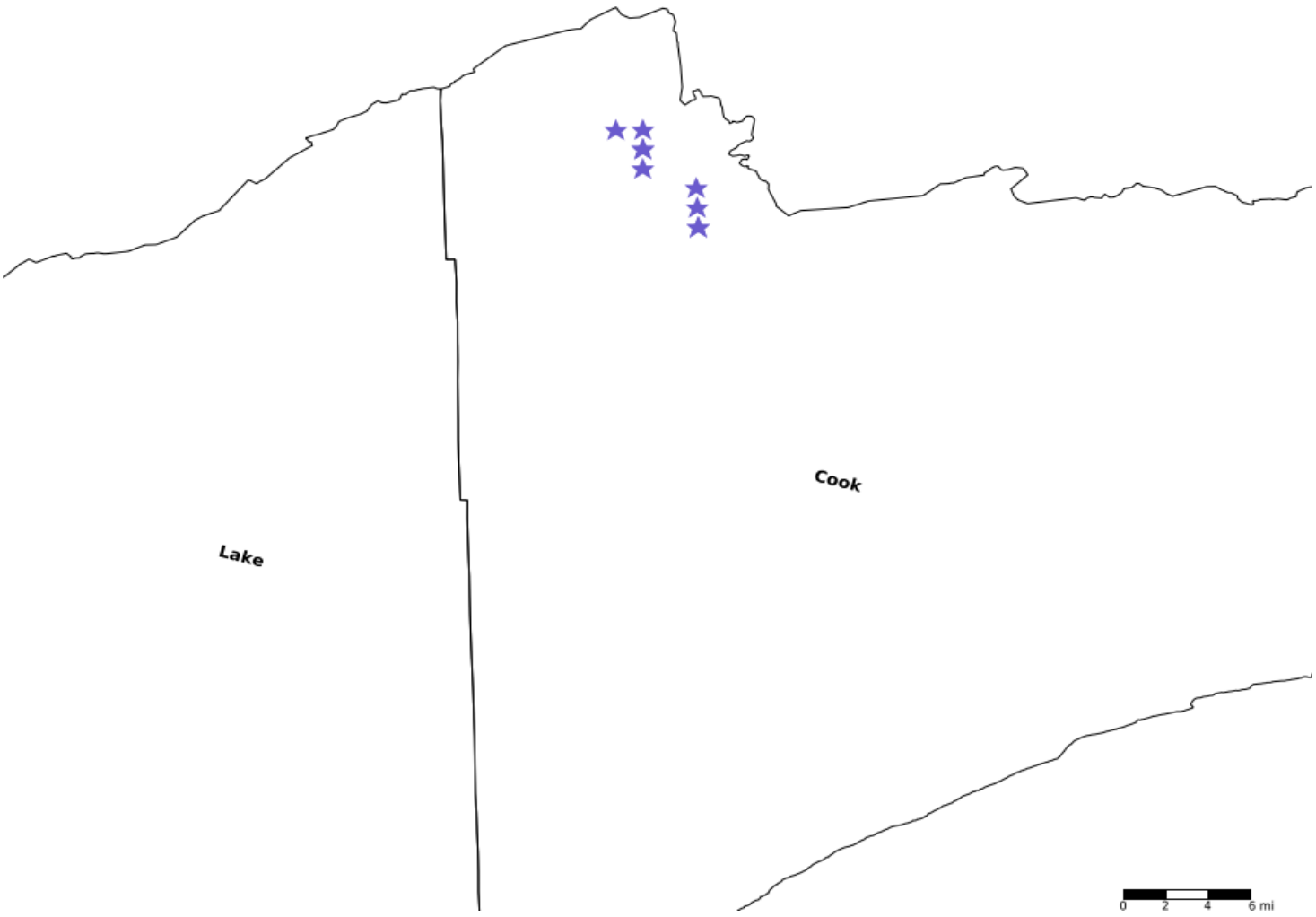
Sign-up Criteria?
No

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.

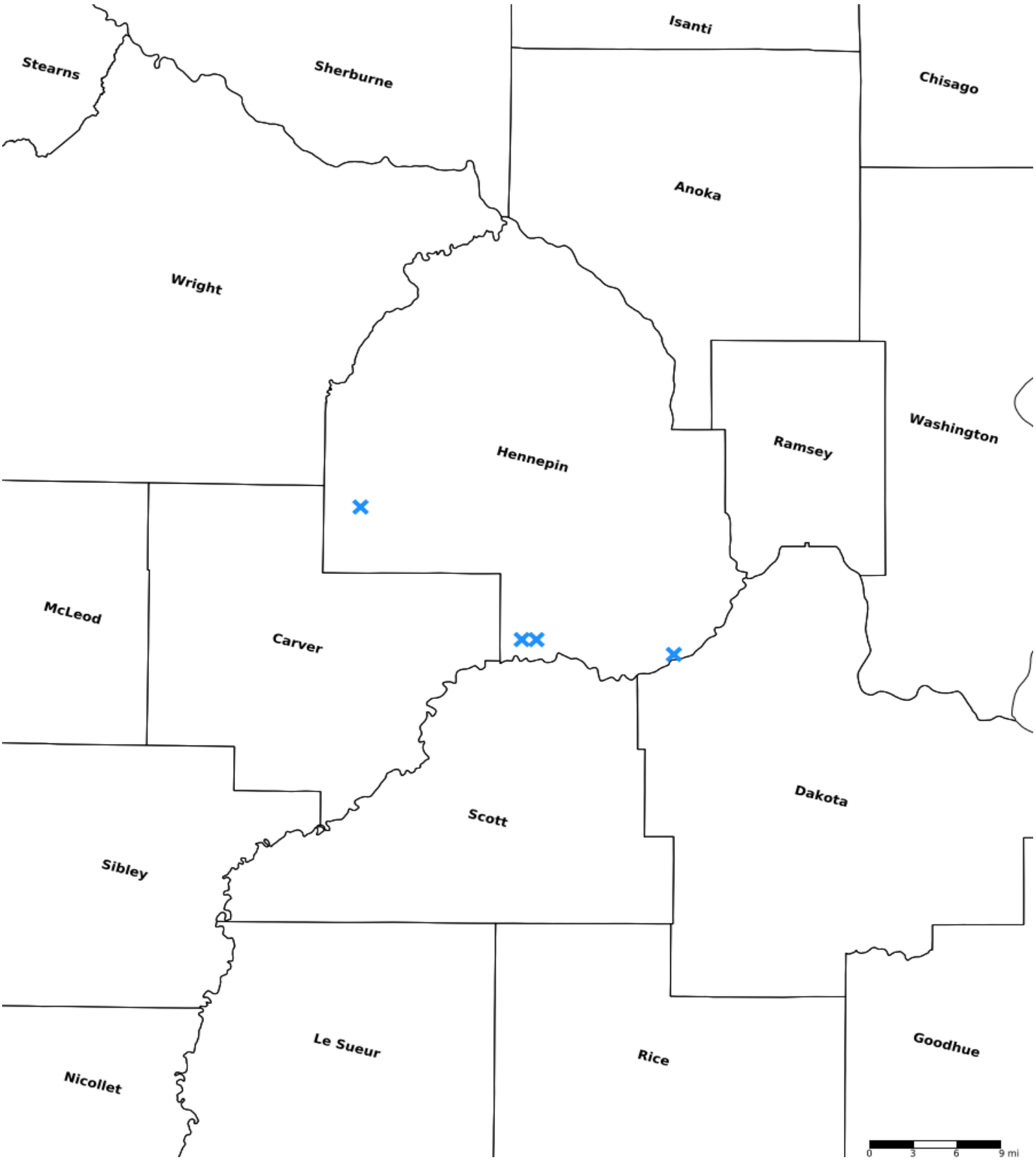
The four parcels in this proposal score highly across these criteria, each lying within a designated natural resource corridor on publicly accessible land and with a city, watershed or park district partner contributing to the success of the project.

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

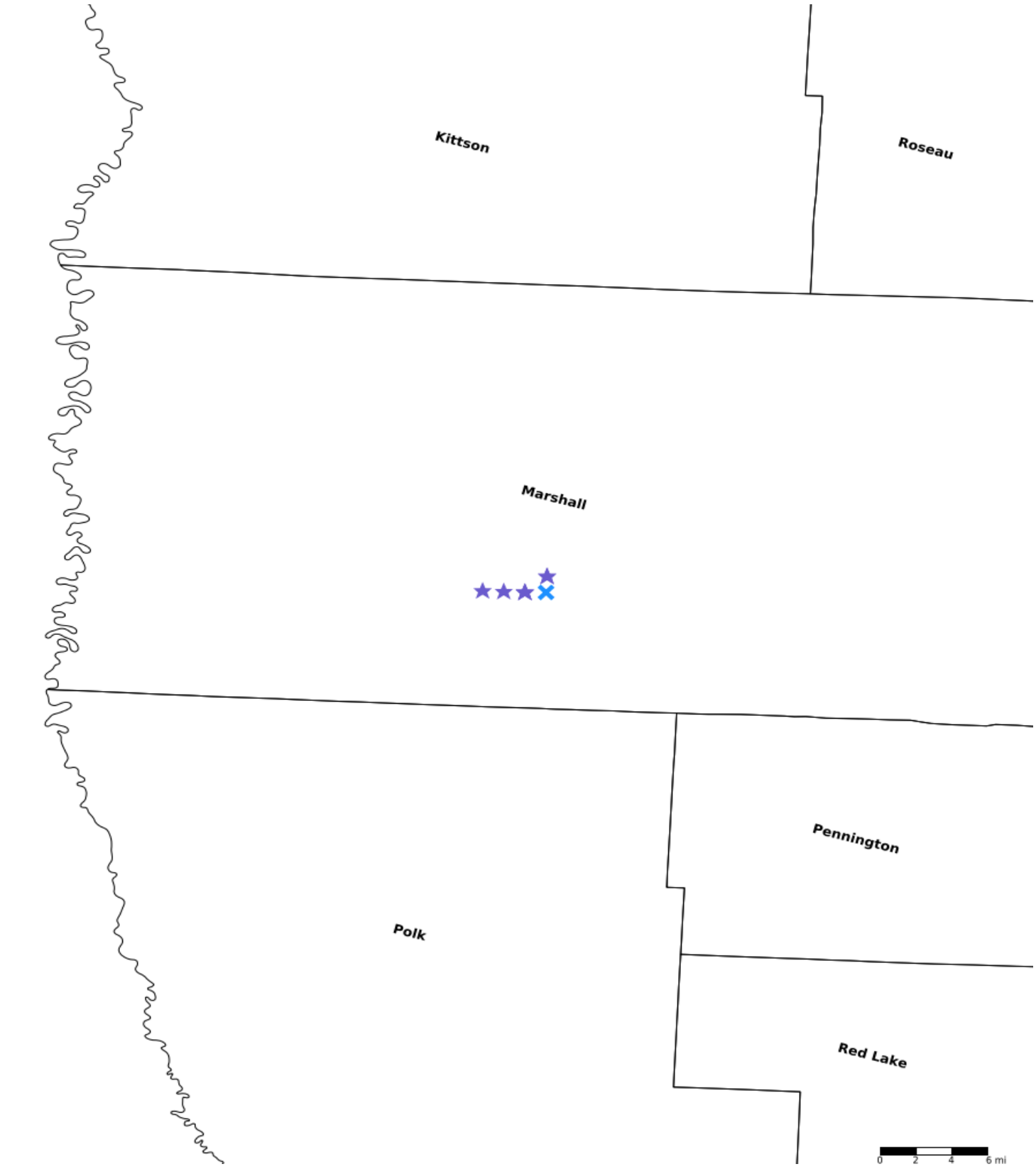
Sign-up Criteria?
No

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

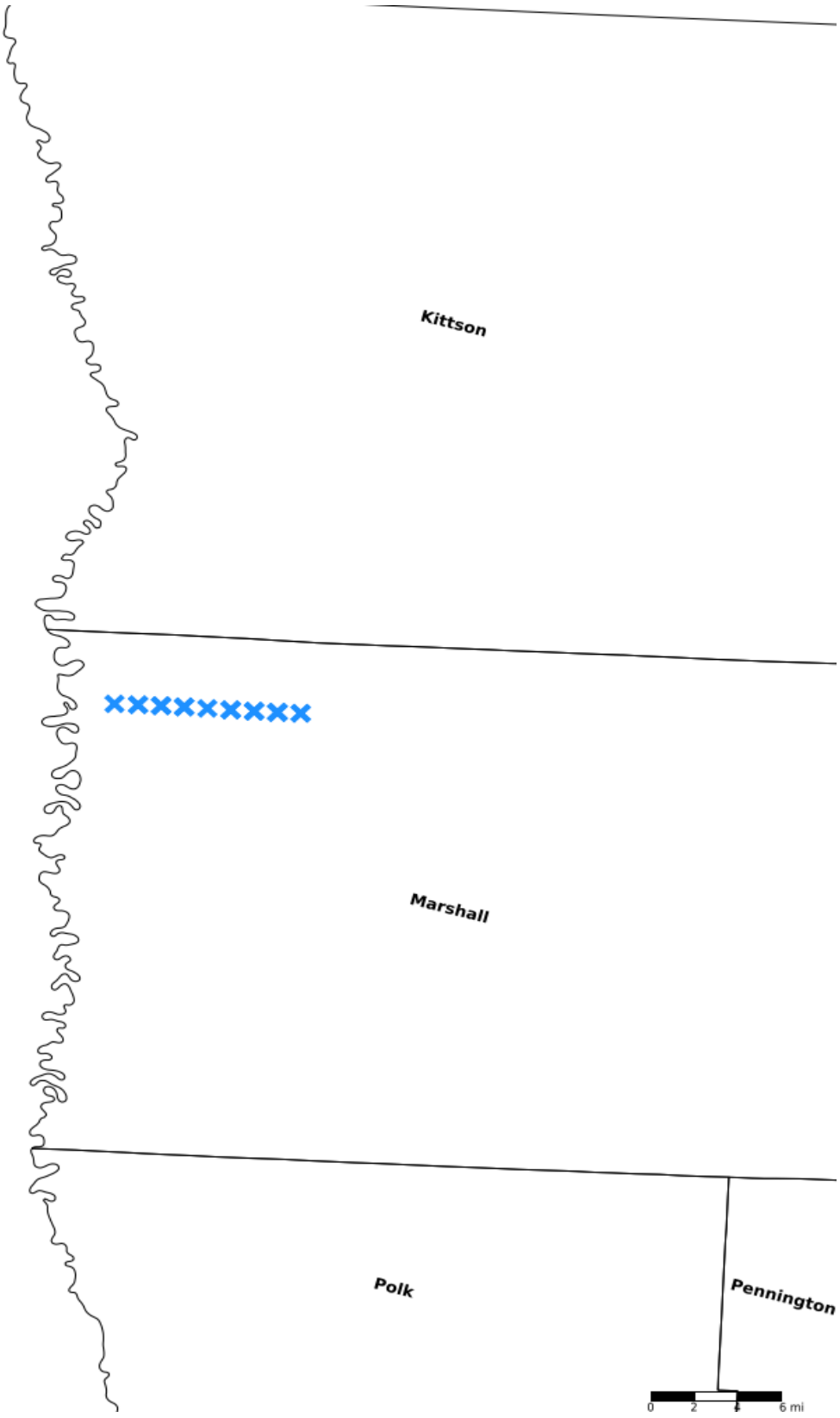
Sign-up Criteria?
No

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%

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program ML27/FY28

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program ML27/FY28

Funds Recommended: $13,109,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: David Stein
Title: CPL Coordinator
Organization: DNR
Address: 500 Lafayette Rd.
City: St. Paul, MN 55155
Email: david.stein@state.mn.us
Office Number: 651-259-5375
Mobile Number: 612-203-3823
Fax Number:
Website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/cpl/index.html

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Southeast Forest

Metro / Urban

Prairie

Activity types:

Enhance

Protect in Fee

Restore

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Prairie

Wetlands

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program is managed by the Department of Natural Resources to Provide competitive matching grants of up to $500,000 to local, regional, state, and national non-profit organizations and government entities. Since 2011, the CPL program has provided over 1160 grants, totaling over $130 million to over 290 different grantee organizations, enhancing, restoring, or protecting over 630,000 acres of habitat. Demand continues as successful organizations return for additional grants and new organizations apply each year.

Design and Scope of Work

The CPL Program fulfills MS 97a.056 Subd. 3a, directing LSOHC to establish a conservation partners grant program encouraging/supporting local conservation efforts. $12,509,000 of the requested $13,109,000 will be available for grants. Of this amount, at least $3,000,000 will be used for projects submitted from applicants who have not received CPL funds before, and at least $3,000,000 will be used for projects in the 7-county metro area and in cities with a population of 50,000 people or greater. If funds remain from the $3,000,000 new applicant fund and the $3,000,000 metro fund after one grant round, they may be used for projects statewide. Statewide funds may be used in the metro area and for new applicants. Grant activities include enhancement, restoration, and protection of forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. A 10% match from non-state sources is required for all grants and may be in-kind or cash.

Applicants must describe the project goals, methods, location, activity, habitat, urgency, and overall benefit. Staff works with applicants to submit applications, oversee grant selection, prepare/execute grant documents, review expenditures, approves payments/reports, monitor work, and assist recipients with close-out. Staff complies with Office of Grants Management policies. Grantees are required to submit annual and final accomplishment reports. The CPL program has 4 annual grant cycles- Traditional, Metro, New Applicant, and Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP). The Traditional and Metro cycles will have one grant round beginning August 2027 and a second round if funds remain.

Projects under $25,000 will have a simplified application. The ECP grant cycle will be open continuously for eligible projects under $75,000 beginning August 2027, and applications will be awarded up to 5 times through May 2028,

depending on available funds. DNR may choose to make additional awards, consistent with DNR and OHF policy and guidance, if additional funding becomes available.
CPL staff provides an administrative review of applications. Technical Review Committees, comprised of habitat experts across the state, review and score Traditional and Metro applications based on evaluation criteria (attached). The DNR Directors of Fish and Wildlife, Ecological and Water Resources, and Forestry review the committees' recommendations and provide a ranking to the Commissioner. Final decisions are made by the Commissioner. ECP grants are reviewed by CPL staff and DNR habitat experts using established criteria. The Director of Fish and Wildlife makes final decisions for ECP.

CPL staff conducts site visits for most projects over $50,000 and smaller projects if needed. For projects over $250,000, staff may conduct site visits annually for the duration of the grant to ensure that project objectives are being met. Administration costs of $600,000 include salary/fringe, direct support services, travel, outreach, ongoing application system/database maintenance, and other professional services. 3.0 FTEs are needed to manage and promote the program, monitor grants, assist with applications and technical review meetings, and meet state requirements.

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

All CPL projects include a Natural Heritage Database Review, which addresses wildlife species of greatest conservation need, the MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories. These results are incorporated into the requests, along with mitigation measures if needed. Habitat value/species benefits is also one of the evaluation criterion used to score applications. When the projects are reviewed by the technical habitat experts, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, targeted species, and threatened/endangered species are all discussed, and add to the overall habitat quality and urgency of applications which is reflected in the scoring and funding recommendations.

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

The CPL program will prioritize habitat projects of which applicants have demonstrated a conservation urgency. This may include protecting lands of high conservation value that are at immediate risk of development, preventing the spread of invasive species on public lands or waters, etc. Urgency is one of the six evaluation criterion used in the review process. CPL involvement continues to grow every year and supporting this appropriation will keep the momentum going with the local conservation culture.

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

The CPL program has a Technical Review Committee that reviews and scores projects based on evaluation criteria. One of the evaluation criterion addresses the overall project value and includes the habitat quality and quantity of the site, whether or not it is part of a habitat corridor, and the use of currently accepted practices based on sound conservation science. A second evaluation criterion addresses the habitat benefits of the proposal, such as protecting areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey. A third evaluation criterion addresses public use and access, and the project's proximity to other protected lands. The technical experts ensure that CPL proposals recommended for funding are using current conservation science and best management practices.

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

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

Metro / Urban

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

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

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 forest-prairie transition region:

Other ~ *Outcomes depend on applications received and projects funded*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Other ~ *Outcomes depend on applications received and projects funded*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Other ~ *Outcomes depend on applications received and projects funded*

Programs in prairie region:

Other ~ *Outcomes depend on applications received and projects funded*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Other ~ *Outcomes depend on applications received and projects funded*

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 for the continuation of a program that did not exist prior to the legacy fund and would not continue to exist without an OHF appropriation.

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

Applicants are asked to describe or submit their long-term management plans when submitting a project proposal, and the Technical Review Committee considers these plans when scoring proposals and making funding recommendations. The sustainability of the project is also addressed through one of the evaluation criterion. Long term maintenance commitment from the applicant is crucial to a successful proposal. The CPL program has a monitoring process to ensure that funds are being used to complete work as described in the grantee's work plans. The CPL program manager and natural resource specialist conducts site visits for projects that are over $50,000 and smaller projects as needed. When conducting site visits, CPL staff meets with the project manager and land manager to discuss and evaluate the work, and to address any issues that may have come up during the grant period, as well as discuss long-term management goals.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
ML 2027	LSOHC	CPL Request for Proposals will be made publicly available and application system will open.	CPL Technical Review Committee will meet to score projects based on application quality and outcomes.	DNR Division Directors and Commissioners will approve or deny funding for projects based on Technical Review Committee findings.

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

The Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program has the following specific ties to BIPOC and diverse communities:

- Tribes have been grantees or partners for CPL projects
- Many metro grantees and partners have CPL projects that restore or enhance public land in diverse communities
- Staff members will be providing outreach to BIPOC, diverse, and low to moderate income communities- informing them of the project and funding opportunities with CPL

The Minnesota DNR has adopted advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) 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 building partnerships with diverse communities. 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. OHF achieves high quality habitat that provides ecosystem services like clean water and carbon sequestration that support environmental justice. OHF also supports public access and recreational opportunities on these lands. Project scoring and implementation 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 county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**
No

> **Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:**
> County board/LGU approval will be sought for WMA and SNA acquisitions, for all other acquisitions partners will notify the county board/LGU of the acquisition.

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
The easement manager will be specified in each CPL application and work plan.

Who will be the easement holder?
The easement holder will be specified in each CPL application and work plan.

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
This depends on the amount of CPL grants received and awarded.

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
>
> SNA
>
> Permanently Protected Conservation Easements
>
> Refuge Lands
>
> State Wilderness Areas

State Forests

WPA

AMA

County/Municipal

Public Waters

State Recreation Areas

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
Short term cover crops such as annual rye, winter wheat, oats, clover, etc. may be planted to prepare sites for restoration.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
The land may be open for hunting and fishing, depending on individual project applications. For acquisitions, the land will be open to hunting and fishing unless otherwise provided by law.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Federal

Tribal

County

Local Unit of Government

NGO

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

County Forest

National Wildlife Refuge

Tribal

SNA

State Forest

WPA

SRA

City Owned : This will vary depending on applicants

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
This will vary depending on applications received.

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

Describe the expected public use:
Public use will depend on the conditions of the easement. Most but not all CPL projects are on public lands/waters open for public use.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
No

Acquired parcels may or may not be restored and enhanced under this appropriation depending on awarded CPL project scopes.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Final report due to council	October 2031
Grantees complete projects and submit final reports	June-July 2031
Ongoing monitoring, per OGM policy	Summer 2029,2030,2031
Status updates due to council	2028,2029,2030,2031
Second round grants encumbered, grantees begin work	May-June 2028
Second round applications due	March 2028
Second round applications awarded	April 2028
Solicit second round applications if needed	January 2028
First round grants encumbered, grantees begin work	January-April 2028
First round grantees announced	December 2027
First round applications due (ECP applications accepted continuously)	September 2027
Solicit Applications: RFP posted online	August 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2031

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	$450,000	-	-	$450,000
Contracts	$12,509,000	$1,250,900	Grantees	$13,759,900
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Professional Services	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Direct Support Services	$69,200	-	-	$69,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$20,800	-	-	$20,800
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$13,109,000**	**$1,250,900**	**-**	**$14,359,900**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Grants Specialist	1.0	2.0	$150,000	-	-	$150,000
CPL Administrator	1.0	2.0	$150,000	-	-	$150,000
CPL Coordinator	1.0	2.0	$150,000	-	-	$150,000

Amount of Request: $13,109,000
Amount of Leverage: $1,250,900
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 9.54%
DSS + Personnel: $519,200
As a % of the total request: 3.96%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
With the reduced appropriation recommendation, the CPL program will implement a reduced budget structure. Under this budget structure, $12,509,000 will be allocated toward grant contracts, and $600,000 will be allocated towards administrative costs.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Leverage will be provided through local match of a minimum of 10% of each grant awarded. CPL grantees contribute cash, in-kind contributions, and donations as leverage to grants.

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?
If the program receives less funding, less projects will be awarded and funded. Acres will be somewhat proportionally reduced, but this is unknown until applications are submitted.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses will not be proportionally reduced. In order to operate the CPL program, two staff are needed to work with applicants and grantees.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
All partner grant projects.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Other : Online Application System Maintenance and Improvement

Travel

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

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

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

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?
The DNR Direct and Necessary Cost Calculator.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-

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	-	-	-	-	-

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:
Parcels are determined by project applications, and will be selected through the technical review process of the CPL program.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program ML27/FY28

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program ML27/FY28
Organization: DNR
Manager: David Stein

Budget

Requested Amount: $15,000,000
Appropriated Amount: $13,109,000
Percentage: 87.39%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$450,000	-	$450,000	-	100.0%	-
Contracts	$14,400,000	$1,440,000	$12,509,000	$1,250,900	86.87%	86.87%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$30,000	-	$30,000	-	100.0%	-
Professional Services	$30,000	-	$30,000	-	100.0%	-
Direct Support Services	$69,200	-	$69,200	-	100.0%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$20,800	-	$20,800	-	100.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$15,000,000**	**$1,440,000**	**$13,109,000**	**$1,250,900**	**87.39%**	**86.87%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If the program receives less funding, less projects will be awarded and funded. Acres will be somewhat proportionally reduced, but this is unknown until applications are submitted.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses will not be proportionally reduced. In order to operate the CPL program, two staff are needed to work with applicants and grantees.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If the program receives less funding, less projects will be awarded and funded. Acres will be somewhat proportionally reduced, but this is unknown until applications are submitted.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses will not be proportionally reduced. In order to operate the CPL program, two staff are needed to work with applicants and grantees.

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	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	-	-	-

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	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	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2027 Contract Management

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/12/2026

Project Title: 2027 Contract Management

Funds Recommended: $550,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Andrea Sternberg
Title: OMBS Pass-Thru Grants Supervisor
Organization: DNR
Address: 500 Lafayette Road
City: Saint Paul, MN 55155
Email: Andrea.Sternberg@state.mn.us
Office Number: 6512595177
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website:

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Other : Contract Management

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Narrative

Abstract

Provide contract management and customer service to OHF pass-through appropriation recipients for approximately 330 open grants. Ensure funds are expended in compliance with appropriation law, state statute, grants policies, and approved accomplishment plans.

Design and Scope of Work

This appropriation will be used to continue and enhance contract management services to pass-through recipients of Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations to the Commissioner of Natural Resources. The goal of contract management is to ensure that grantees are properly reimbursed and that organizations operate in compliance with OHF pass-through appropriation procedures, policies from the Department of Administration's Grants Management, OHF statute, and the recommendations of the Legislative Auditor. Contract management includes: grant agreements and amendments, training, technical assistance, reporting, fiscal monitoring, reimbursement request processing, and close-out of grants.

The DNR is currently the administrative agent for this program. The DNR's Office of Management and Budget (OMBS) Grants Unit is applying to continue to provide contract management services to pass-through grant recipients. The OMBS Grants Unit's goal is to provide pass-through recipients with the contract management, technical assistance, and grant monitoring they need to successfully complete their conservation work. The Grants Unit provides grantees with one consistent point of contact for their agreements and delivers timely, responsive, customer service.

This proposal includes a funding request of $550,000, an increase of $100,000 from the ML 2026 appropriation. The increase will fully support the increased FTE from ML26, in order to allow the DNR to continue to provide effective contracts management as activities continue to increase.

Contract management services are billed using a professional services rate. In FY28, 5.5 FTE will be dedicated to contract management. The professional services hourly rate includes salary and fringe for grants management staff, supervisory time, travel costs, supplies, and allocated administrative costs including rent and printing as well as other related costs necessary to carry out the pass-through grant management program. Multiple staff with a variety of grants, financial or other responsibilities provide contract management services to OHF as well as the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The Grants Unit consults with Lands and Minerals and Fish and Wildlife staff as necessary on technical issues. Cost coding is used to record and differentiate time spent on ENRTF and OHF pass-through grant management. Services not received or provided will not be billed. The rate for FY26-7 is $92.00/hr and is re-calculated at least biennially. If the rate changes, LSOHC staff will be informed immediately.

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

N/A

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

Contract management provides oversight of reimbursement for project deliverables and ensures that pass-through recipients are compliant with the Department of Administration's Office of Grants Management procedures as well as the recommendations of the Legislative Auditor.

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

N/A

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

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Other ~ *Pass-through grants are managed appropriately and grantee expenditures are reimbursed efficiently and correctly.*

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 for work related to Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations. It would not be implemented but for the appropriation. No outside funding has been used for this purpose.

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

N/A

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

The Grants Unit is bringing more focus to BIPOC and diverse communities in our grant management work. The Minnesota DNR has adopted advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) as a key priority in its 2020-22 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 DNR has DEI 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. Subcontracting requirements for pass-through organizations also follow these guidelines.
- Public engagement seeks out BIPOC voices and involves diverse communities. Outreach and marketing of projects has this focus as well.

The Grants Unit participates in all trainings and have been leaders in developing the grants guidance, and members of our team helped launch the OGM's DEI community of practice. The Grants Unit only provides contract management activities to organizations who receive pass-through appropriations, so our scope for some activities is limited. In OHF contract management work, we concentrate on identifying and improving elements in our processes that may fall more heavily on or become barriers to participation by organizations from communities that have experienced disparities, and increasing our capacity for technical assistance. In FY21 we made several revisions to our reimbursement processes to:

- reduce the administrative burden on partners and provide flexibility in our process, while maintaining our high levels of risk mitigation

- focus on reaching out proactively to new organizations to set new projects up for success.

Our goal is to continue and increase these efforts, so that OHF contract management work is responsive to and supports the success of organizations and projects from BIPOC and diverse communities, as well as all pass-through organizations.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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
Pass-through grant agreements prepared and provided to recipients	August 2027
Submit final report	August 2029
Contract management for Pass-through grant recipients	June 2029
Submit first annual status report	August 2028

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	-	-	-	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$550,000	-	-	$550,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$550,000**	**-**	**-**	**$550,000**

Amount of Request: $550,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
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?

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
No

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Other : DNR grants unit activities, billed using a professional services rate for actual hours worked.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-

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	-	-	-	-	-

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:
N/A

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2027 Contract Management

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - 2027 Contract Management
Organization: DNR
Manager: Andrea Sternberg

Budget

Requested Amount: $550,000
Appropriated Amount: $550,000
Percentage: 100.0%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$550,000	-	$550,000	-	100.0%	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$550,000**	**-**	**$550,000**	**-**	**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?

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	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	-	-	-

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	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	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2027 Restoration Evaluations - ML 2027

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/14/2026

Project Title: 2027 Restoration Evaluations - ML 2027

Funds Recommended: $175,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Wade Johnson
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Fax Number:
Website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/legacy/restoration-evaluation.html

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Activity types:

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Narrative

Abstract

This proposal supports the work of the Restoration Evaluation Program (REP). The REP carries out the statutory charge to annually evaluate a subset of Outdoor Heritage Fund supported projects with the goal of improving future restorations and enhancements. The REP coordinates the evaluation work, presents the evaluation results

to a technical panel of experts, and collates resulting recommendations. The REP produces a related report and offers various targeted outreach to practitioners highlighting successes, failures, lessons learned, and recommendations for improving restoration practice.

Design and Scope of Work

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) are jointly responsible for convening a Restoration Evaluation Panel (Panel) of technical experts to annually evaluate a sample of habitat restoration and enhancement projects completed with Outdoor Heritage funding, as provided in M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10. Primary goals of the restoration evaluation program are to provide on the ground accountability for the use of Legacy funds and to improve future habitat restorations in the State. Per statute, the Panel will evaluate the selected habitat restoration projects relative to the law, current science, and the stated goals in the restoration plan. Program staff will identify projects to be evaluated, coordinate field assessments and provide a report to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and the legislature determining if the restorations are meeting planned goals, any problems with implementation, and, if necessary, recommendations on improving restorations.

The anticipated long-term outcome of this program is to promote and increase impactful, long-lasting habitat restoration projects. This is accomplished by advancing awareness among practitioners and decision-makers of common challenges and recommended management options to improve future restoration projects. The primary mechanism for advancing awareness is through program staff coordinating various communications including the annual report, website, webinars, field trainings, conference seminars and workshops and integration in technical guidance (e.g. https://bwsr.state.mn.us/native-vegetation-guidelines). Program staff are working with the Panel, LSOHC, and project managers to explore novel approaches to advance the intent of M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10.

Funding for this proposal will:

- Complete up to twenty initial Outdoor Heritage Fund project evaluations and three follow up evaluations of previously assessed sites. Follow up assessments provide valuable insight into tracking progress and estimating trajectory towards planned goals. Site evaluations will be conducted by a state staff and contacted assessors. Contracted assessors add value by providing deep knowledge of practice implementation and avoiding conflict of interest.
- Coordinate review by the technical evaluation panel, synthesize and organize their findings and recommendations and report the results in 2027 Legacy Restoration Evaluation report.
- Continue creating, disseminating and promoting targeted guidance for improving restoration and enhancement practices based on panel recommendations.

During 2026 the evaluation program is focused on reviewing projects completed more than 7 years ago to gauge longevity/durability and ongoing management. Outcomes will be reported to the Council in 2027. Continued discussion with the Panel and Council members will guide areas of focus in 2027.

The most recent Restoration Evaluation report, appendix of project evaluations and an overview of ongoing recommendations for improving practices are available on the MN DNR website https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/legacy/restoration-evaluation.html.

A permanent record of all Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation reports beginning in 2012 are available from the Legislative Library: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/edocs/edocs.aspx?oclcnumber=823766285.

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

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

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

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

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Outcomes

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 program is dedicated to Legacy Fund work and does not supplant or substitute for previous funding.

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

It is anticipated that the evaluation program outputs will help to create a framework for continuous improvement in restoration practice. Direct work of the Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation Program will be sustained for the period of funding.

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

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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
2026 Restoration Evaluation report submitted to Legislature and LSOHC	April 28, 2028
Site assessors (State staff and contractors) conduct field surveys of selected sites	October 1, 2027
Program staff select up to twenty-five project sites for evaluation	July 1, 2027
Evaluation Panel establishes annual priorities	July 1, 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 06/29/2029

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	$147,900	-	-	$147,900
Contracts	$8,100	-	-	$8,100
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$15,500	-	-	$15,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$1,500	-	-	$1,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$175,000**	**-**	**-**	**$175,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
State Assessors	0.02	0.5	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
Evaluation Specialist	0.53	1.0	$67,900	-	-	$67,900
Program Coordinator	0.53	1.0	$78,000	-	-	$78,000

Amount of Request: $175,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $163,400
As a % of the total request: 93.37%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?

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?
Technical evaluation of completed restorations and enhancements.

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?
DNR Direct and Necessary calculator.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-

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	-	-	-	-	-

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:

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2027 Restoration Evaluations - ML 2027

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - 2027 Restoration Evaluations - ML 2027
Organization: DNR
Manager: Wade Johnson

Budget

Requested Amount: $206,000
Appropriated Amount: $175,000
Percentage: 84.95%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$165,000	-	$147,900	-	89.64%	-
Contracts	$19,500	-	$8,100	-	41.54%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,000	-	$2,000	-	100.0%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$17,500	-	$15,500	-	88.57%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$2,000	-	$1,500	-	75.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$206,000**	**-**	**$175,000**	**-**	**84.95%**	**-**

If the project received 70% 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?

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	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	-	-	-

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	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	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/12/2026

Project Title: DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions

Funds Recommended: $124,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jennifer Olson
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Fax Number:
Website:

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Southeast Forest

Metro / Urban

Prairie

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Narrative

Abstract

The DNR Initial Development Plan (IDP) Coordinator position is responsible for communicating with conservation partners, DNR divisions, and with MN Historical Society archaeologists related to OHF acquisitions. With every partner-led fee title acquisition, or conservation easement, there are a core set of activities dealing with DNR land acquisition costs and/or DNR initial development needs which make sure the State's interests are protected against future liabilities, cultural resources properties are protected, and public access on new acquisitions meets minimum standards. These core functions are most efficiently covered in a single administrative appropriation instead of multiple Use of Funds transfers.

Design and Scope of Work

The IDP Coordinator and DNR Land Acquisition Consultants currently work with eleven partner organizations to strategically acquire fee title land and/or conservation easements from willing sellers. The eleven organizations include: 1) Ducks Unlimited, 2) Fox Lake Conservation League, 3) Minnesota Land Trust, 4) Minnesota Valley Trust, 5) Northern Waters Land Trust, 6) Pheasants Forever, 7) Ruffed Grouse Society / American Woodcock Society, 8) Shell Rock River Watershed District, 9) The Conservation Fund, 10) The Nature Conservancy, and 11) Trust for Public Land. Some of the parcels being acquired by partner organizations will be conveyed to the State of Minnesota to become part of the state's Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Aquatic Management Area (AMA), Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) and/or State Forest system. Partner accomplishment plans will explain how much will be spent on acquisitions, how many acres will be acquired, and whether parcels are expected to convey to the Minnesota DNR. A technical appraisal review is required, by the DNR Land and Minerals Division - Acquisition and Appraisal Unit, when the value of property is over $1 million regardless of whether the property is conveyed to the DNR or not (see DNR Attachment E: Land Acquisition Reporting Procedures for OHF at: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/passthrough/lag.html). The DNR Land Acquisition Cost formula is $15,000 for every $500,000 in fee acquisition with PILT.

Activities that are covered by DNR Land Acquisition Costs include:

- DNR Land & Mineral Division project manager time
- Appraisal reviews
- Land survey reviews
- Title reviews
- Drainage agreement reviews
- Access agreements reviews
- Other agreements/encumbrances (lease, CRP, boundary lines, etc.)
- Property taxes
- Recording fees
- Deed taxes

Within the Division of Fish and Wildlife, an approved Initial Development Plan (IDP) is required for all land

acquisitions, regardless of whether they are being acquired by DNR or one of our partners, and regardless of the funding source of the acquisition. The IDP is used to identify the funding that will be used to develop a new parcel to minimum standards (DNR Directive #070605 - Development Standards for WMA/AMAs). Only limited activities in an IDP will be covered under the DNR Core Functions proposal. The DNR Initial Development Plan cost formula is $21,000 for every 120-acre goal associated with fee title acquisitions.

- Cultural resource review – Compliance with the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act and Minnesota Historic Sites Act (MN Statutes 138.40 and 138.655)
- Boundary posts
- Signs and hardware - OHF and DNR signs, posts and hardware.
- Fencing - if needed
- Access / parking lots – improvement of ROW, easement or approach from public road, maintenance of existing trails/roads, parking capacity needs (gravel, geotextile fabric, posts, gates, culvert).

Partner accomplishment plans will be reviewed and DNR Land Acquisition Costs and DNR IDP budgets will be swept into the DNR Core Functions proposal. If partner organizations would like the DNR to assist with site cleanup or habitat restoration, separate funds would need to be released to the DNR through the Use of Funds process.

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

Fee title acquisition and conservation easements are two tools that protect species by ensuring habitat exists and development rights are limited to the purposes designated within DNR Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Aquatic Management Areas (AMA), Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) and/or State Forest systems. Fee title purchases are voluntary transactions between a landowner (seller) and purchaser (buyer). In this case, the buyer is a partner organization that will convey the property to the DNR or the property is valued at over $1 million and requires a technical appraisal review.

Potential acquisitions for WMAs, AMAs and SNAs are scored for their habitat value. The DNR uses weighted criteria and prioritizes high scoring parcels for acquisition. For example, candidate parcels for WMAs score higher if they include a known prairie grouse lek, are within a pheasant habitat complex, include the presence of shallow lakes, and/or include deer wintering areas.

Candidate parcels for SNAs score higher when they have known records of threatened, endangered, species of greatest conservation need and/or include high quality native plant communities. Examples of native plant communities with exceptional value as wildlife habitat include southern dry prairie, dry sand-gravel prairie, mesic prairie, dry hill prairie, northern wet prairie, mesic brush prairie, wet seepage prairie, southern dry mesic oak hickory woodland, mesic hardwood forest, wet forest, open rich peatlands, and northern jack pine/black spruce woodland.

Aquatic Management Areas permanently protect high quality aquatic habitats and watersheds, and lakes designated as having biological significance. A lake of biological significance is a lake that has unique plants or animals such as aquatic plants, fish, birds, or amphibians. The DNR has assigned biological significance classes (outstanding, high, or moderate) to this group of lakes. Some examples of how a lake would classify as "outstanding" for fish include lakes meeting at least one of the following criteria: self-sustaining walleye, quality northern pike, native muskie, lake trout lake, or cisco (tullibee) refuge lake.

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

Most private landowners will wait and work with a partner organization for a short time but won't wait indefinitely for the acquisition to be completed. A generation, or more, may pass before parcels may become available for purchase again.

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

The DNR uses GIS-based scoring systems to objectively rank potential acquisitions and develop statewide priority lists. These systems incorporate scientific data giving priority to locations within and that add to: 1) an important habitat corridor or complex (such as identified by the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Pheasant Action Plan, SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan, and the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan), 2) native plant communities and sites of outstanding and high biodiversity significance mapped by Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), and 3) parcels that adjoin existing units or other conservation lands. The end result is the prioritization of acquisitions that protect larger blocks of habitat or natural intact communities, improve riparian and terrestrial connectivity or maintain ecosystem services through protection of climate resilient, high biodiversity areas.

I am going to cover "why" I chose the two conservation plans below since there is no space to address it elsewhere and it is relevant to this question.
The Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda (2015-2025) has two strategies under the Natural Resource Conservation goal to: 1) Conserve Natural Areas - Retain natural areas and working lands containing important habitats, especially habitats in jeopardy, such as native prairies, wetlands, shallow lakes, and shorelines. Connect fragments of high-quality habitat. Conserve endangered, threatened, rare, declining and vulnerable species, and 2) Monitor and fine-tune management actions - Track and continually improve the effectiveness of our conservation work.

Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years (2002-2052) has a statewide recommendation: The Division of Wildlife (old name) needs to work collaboratively with other agencies and units of government, public and private partners, legislators, landowners, and citizens to seek additional, creative funding to implement the recommendations in this report and find ways to expedite the WMA land acquisition process.

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 Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

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

Metro / Urban

Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

Northern Forest

Provide access to manage habitat on landlocked public properties or protect forest land from parcelization and fragmentation through fee acquisition, conservation or access easement

Prairie

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

Southeast Forest

Protect forest habitat though acquisition in fee or easement to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the forest-prairie transition region.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Protected habitats will hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the metropolitan urbanizing region.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the northern forest region.*

Programs in prairie region:

Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the prairie region.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

High priority riparian lands, forestlands, and savannas are protected from parcelization and fragmentation ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the southeast forest region.*

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 Outdoor Heritage Funds supplement state small game Surcharge funds, state Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) funds, and federal Pittman-Robertson funds that are used for fee title acquisitions within the MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife.

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

Long term maintenance and habitat management costs on WMA/AMAs are covered by a combination of DNR Fish and Wildlife funding including, but not limited to: Game and Fish Operations Account (license fees, Federal Aid reimbursements, etc.), Deer Management Account (deer license fee), Heritage Enhancement Account (lottery payments in lieu of sales tax on lottery tickets), Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account (pheasant stamp), RIM funds (license plate fees), Trout and Salmon account (trout and salmon stamps), Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account (MN migratory waterfowl stamp), Wildlife Acquisition Account (small game surcharge license fee), Wild Turkey Management Account (turkey license fee), federal Pittman-Robertson funds, and/or other grant funds, etc.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2031	Game & Fish Fund	Area staff will maintain signs and parking lots.	Area staff can submit larger maintenance projects through annual work plan software for funding evaluation.	Area staff can partner with local conservation organizations to gain additional assistance on maintenance projects.

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

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are key values of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). We are committed to living out these values in all of our work, whether it's getting people outdoors, creating accessible facilities in state parks, or recruiting a diverse workforce. Here are some ways we are engaging in various efforts:
The Minnesota DNR opens the outdoors to people with disabilities including hosting accessible camp sites, providing accommodations to people who use powered mobility devices, offering accessible hunting areas and fishing piers, and issuing discounted permits.
The DNR hosts hunting and fishing education programs, such as Becoming an Outdoors Woman and I Can Fish! to introduce people to outdoor recreation. We also offer educational materials, including the Hunting & Trapping Regulations and Fishing Regulations, in multiple languages such as Hmong, Karen, Somali and Spanish.
We strive to be a workplace that represents the diversity of the state and includes people of all backgrounds. The DNR is a veteran-friendly Yellow Ribbon employer. We also participate in Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers, which is a college-to-careers pathway program for underrepresented STEM college students interested in pursuing a career in environmental and natural resources.
The DNR has adopted a Language Access Plan to communicate effectively with people with limited English proficiency (LEP) and to provide meaningful access to DNR program information and services for every Minnesotan.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:
According to Statute 97A.056 subd 13(j), Non-governmental organizations must notify in writing the county board and town board where the land is located and furnish them a description of the land to be acquired. NGOs do not have to seek formal approval prior to the acquisition. In cases where there is interest, NGOs are willing to attend county or township meetings to communicate their interest in the parcel and answer questions.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?
No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:
A limited number of partner-led acquisitions may have federal or state easements on a portion of the desired tract. If a parcel has one of these encumbrances, and it is still deemed a high priority by the partnership, the partner will follow guidance established by the Outdoor Heritage Fund to proceed, or use non-OHF funding to acquire the residual value of the protected portion of the property.

Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) free of any other permanent protection?
No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:
A limited number of partner-led acquisitions may have federal or state easements on a portion of the desired tract. If a parcel has one of these encumbrances, and it is still deemed a high priority by the partnership, the partner will follow guidance established by the Outdoor Heritage Fund to proceed, or use non-OHF funding to acquire the residual value of the protected portion of the property.

Who will manage the easement?

Who will be the easement holder?

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
The IDP Coordinator is not aware of any planned food plots beyond the initial restoration of farmland (most likely soybeans, corn or oats to native grasses) that may occur on new partner-led acquisitions. Future management goals by the DNR Division (ex. DNR Wildlife Management Area) may include a food plot option. As defined by State Statute 86A.05, the primary purpose of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are "to protect those lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and to develop and manage these lands and waters for the production of wildlife, for public hunting, fishing, and trapping, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses."
At its core, wildlife management is the manipulation of food and cover (i.e. habitat) across the landscape.

Management decisions are based on the local site characteristics while understanding the broader landscape setting. Area wildlife managers are charged with habitat development and management decisions on WMAs in their work areas. This includes the decision to establish food plots. Area wildlife managers have the delegated authority to enter into and sign Cooperative Farming Agreements. Regional wildlife managers have the delegated authority and must sign and approve all Cooperative Farming Agreements. Based on 2022 data, a small percentage of WMAs (less than 1%) are actively farmed (10,623 acres out of 1.37 million acres). Farming on WMAs is a wildlife management tool which is targeted and limited in scope.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
All fee title land that will be conveyed as Wildlife Management Area (WMA) lands will be open for hunting and fishing with no variations from State of Minnesota regulations. All feet title land that will be conveyed as Aquatic Management Area (AMA) and State Forest lands will be open for hunting and fishing with no variations from State of Minnesota regulations. It is my understanding that conservation easements purchased by partners are likely to remain under private interest.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Federal

County

Local Unit of Government

NGO

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

State Forest

SNA

WPA

County Forest

National Wildlife Refuge

SRA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

Will the eased land be open for public use?
No

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
-

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR or that require technical appraisal review. End of first fiscal year.	June 2028
Appropriation becomes available	July 2027
Submit status report	August 2029
Submit status report	February 2029
Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR or that require technical appraisal review. End of second fiscal year.	June 2029
Submit status report	August 2029
Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR or that require technical appraisal review. End of third fiscal year.	June 2030
Submit status report	February 2030
Submit status report	August 2030
Submit status report	February 2031
Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR or that require technical appraisal review. End of fourth fiscal year.	June 2031
Submit status report	August 2031
Submit status report	February 2032
Submit status report	August 2032
Pay for core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of fifth fiscal year.	June 2032
Submit status report	February 2033
Pay for core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of six fiscal year.	June 2033

Submit status report	August 2033
Submit status report	February 2034
Pay for core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of seventh fiscal year.	June 2034
Submit status report	August 2034
Submit status report	February 2035
Close out appropriation. Pay for core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of eighth and final fiscal year.	June 2035
Submit final report	October 2035

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2035

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	$110,000	$28,000	Game & Fish funds	$138,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$1,500	-	-	$1,500
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$12,500	-	-	$12,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$124,000**	**$28,000**	**-**	**$152,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Initial Development Plan Coordinator	0.8	1.0	$110,000	$28,000	Game & Fish funds	$138,000

Amount of Request: $124,000
Amount of Leverage: $28,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 22.58%
DSS + Personnel: $122,500
As a % of the total request: 98.79%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
N/A

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
The Initial Development Coordinator position will include 0.2 FTE from Game & Fish Funds. This covers time on non-OHF activities such as chronic wasting disease deer check station work, State Fair DNR building staffing, professional development trainings, etc.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
No

Personnel

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

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?
Direct Support Services are determined by a standard DNR process taking into account the amount of funding and the number of allocations made with that funding. We work with the DNR Office of Management and Budget Services to determine 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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	$24,800	$24,800	$24,800	$24,800	$24,800	$124,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$24,800**	**$24,800**	**$24,800**	**$24,800**	**$24,800**	**$124,000**

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	-	-	-	-

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	-	-	-	-	-

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:
Eleven organizations coordinate and communicate with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and Minnesota DNR to strategically acquire fee title land and/or conservation easements from willing sellers. The partner organizations will maintain the parcel lists in their respective OHF acquisition grants. The DNR will ensure the parcels are on the partner's parcel list before OHF funds are spent.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions
Organization: DNR
Manager: Jennifer Olson

Budget

Requested Amount: $124,500
Appropriated Amount: $124,000
Percentage: 99.6%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$110,000	$28,000	$110,000	$28,000	100.0%	100.0%
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,000	-	$1,500	-	75.0%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$12,500	-	$12,500	-	100.0%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$124,500**	**$28,000**	**$124,000**	**$28,000**	**99.6%**	**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?

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	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	-	-	-

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	-	-	-
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	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$124,500	$124,000	99.6%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Roving Crew 4

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/09/2026

Project Title: DNR Roving Crew 4

Funds Recommended: $13,007,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Greg Hoch
Title: Prairie Habitat Supervisor
Organization: DNR
Address: 500 Lafayette Rd
City: St Paul, MN 55055
Email: greg.hoch@state.mn.us
Office Number: 651-259-5230
Mobile Number: 651-259-5230
Fax Number:
Website: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location Information

County Location(s): Roseau, Faribault, Lake of the Woods, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Pennington, Mille Lacs, Polk, Chippewa, Goodhue, Benton, Lyon, Cottonwood, Cass, Morrison, Pipestone, Marshall, Fillmore, Redwood, Cook, Freeborn, Carlton, Washington, Stearns and Aitkin.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Grasslands and wetlands in western Minnesota continues to be the most threatened habitat in the state. At the same time, the DNR continues to work to make the forests on public lands more productive for wildlife. This proposal will enhance wildlife habitat on permanently protected lands. While the majority of restoration and enhancement action will be on WMAs, Crews will also work, when needed, on DNR SNAs, AMAs, NPB easements, and State Forests, as well as National Forests, WPAs and NWRs to meet specific wildlife habitat goals and further develop habitat complexes.

Design and Scope of Work

Roving Crews are fully equipped to conduct a range of habitat projects. The staff on these crews are solely dedicated to habitat enhancement and restoration. In the prairies and western prairie pothole wetlands, they focus on prescribed burns, tree removal, grassland restorations, removal of old fencing, and installing fenceposts for conservation grazing. In wetlands the focus is on wild rice collection and seeding, wetland restoration, invasive species control, and sediment removal. Forest projects include prescribed burns in fire-dependent forests and brushlands, seed harvesting and planting, seedling planting, release cuttings for of species such as oak and winter cover such as conifer; mowing and shearing of brushlands.

In the farmland region, we continue to lose ground on wetlands and grasslands. Therefore, its critical that the remaining public and protected habitats are in as high a quality as possible to both produce resident wildlife, such as pheasants, and be attractive to migratory waterfowl that breed to our north. These same habitats benefit dozens of non-game species and hundreds of pollinators. Our forests also need enhancements to maintain high quality wildlife habitat, especially to increase the numbers of mast producing species like oaks, which provide food for a number of wildlife species.

This proposal will fund five Roving Crews. These include the 8 person Crews near Crookston (DNR Region 1), 8 person Crew at Lac Qui Parle (Region 4), 8 person Crew at Rosemount (Region 3), 6 person Crew south of Fergus Falls (Region 1), and the 4 person Crew near Grand Rapids (Region 2).

We estimate that on a good to average year the crews will restore and enhance approximately 27,000 acres of habitat annually, or 54,000 acres over two years, across the state. However, droughts or wet spring and other issues can affect the large acre projects such as prescribed fire. Warm winters make it hard to do projects that

require frozen ground. In other years the weather may be very cooperative and we can conduct numerous large burns or do a large acreage of brushland shearing. Given Midwestern weather, it's difficult to make an exact estimate of our accomplishments.

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

Because these Crews are working in grasslands, wetlands, forests, as well as brushland and savanna, they will be able to benefit wildlife that depend on a wide range of habitat types. In the forests, many game and non-game species depend on brushlands and early successional forests. These often require mechanical treatment such as shearing. Similarly, many of our pine and oak forests are dependent on prescribed fire. In other areas, seeds or seedlings can be planted to enhance forest diversity and benefit wildlife. These include mast bearing trees such as oak or hickory, or trees and shrubs that produce fruits such plums and cherries. In grasslands and wetland margins, tree encroachment and invasive species are a common and recurring threat. In most cases, once a tree removal is completed, the site should not need any follow-up in the near future. However, grasslands need repeated fire over time to continue to enhance their benefits for wildlife. Installing grazing infrastructure is a one-time project that can have long-term benefits from periodic grazing over the followng years.

There are a number of game species, nongame species, SGCN, and T&E species all these habitats. Each has a slightly different habitat requirement and all species use different habitats at different seasons and ages. To satisfy all species and all their habitat requirements over the year, we need a range of wetland sizes and depths, taller and shorter vegetation with a high plant species diversity in our grasslands, and a range of forest types and strucutures. This can only be achieved with long-term enhancement programs.

While the work proposed here will benefit many wildlife species, it will also go beyond these objectives to provide numerous ecosystem services for people. These include water filtration, nitrate reduction, floodwater retention and reduced flood damage. These habitats also create pollinator habitat to help sustain segments of the agricultural economy. All of these habitats are very good at carbon storage and removing carbon from the air.

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

Traditionally, habitats have been seen as primarily benefiting wildlife. In recent years researchers in Minnesota and surrounding states have been demonstrating how strategic landscape planning for habitat work can improve water quality. Water quality issues continue to be an economic and health problem in rural Minnesota. Combining wildlife habitat and water plans shows how strategic planning can benefit wildlife and people at the same time.

From a wildlife perspective, it is far cheaper to maintain habitat, such as grassland with prescribed fire, than to leave it unmanaged for decades followed by an expensive tree removal project. The earlier we get to these projects the better and more cost effective our work.

Providing diverse and healthy habitats produces more wildlife making hunting more attractive to both experienced and new hunters. They will also provide opportunities for birdwatching, nature photography, and related activities.

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

The grassland and wetland projects in this proposal will be guided primarily by the Prairie Conservation Plan, and Pheasant and Duck Action Plans. These Plans outline focal areas (Core Areas and Habitat Complexes) where we can

build on an existing base of conservation lands and improve the habitat there. The Prairie Plan identifies specific corridors and complexes that connect larger core areas. The latest science is telling us that it isn't the size of an individual habitat parcel that matters as much as the amount of habitat in the larger surrounding landscape. These Plans, and the work proposed here, build on these concepts of landscape level habitat planning. We will not restrict ourselves to these focal areas. There are critical habitats outside these areas. However, we will use these Plans to focus our efforts in areas where they can have the greatest wildlife benefits.

The DNR has a number of plans for forests in different parts of the states including the DNR's Conservation Agenda, Deer Plan, Wildlife Action Plan, Forest Action Plan, and Section Forest Resource Management Plans. These plans coordinate the management of types and ages of forests across the landscape, as well as the local management of each unit and regional management of the larger landscape to assure there are multiple forest habitat types that benefit all forest wildlife species.

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

Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN

Minnesota Prairie Conservation 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

Metro / Urban

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

Northern Forest

Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

Prairie

Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

Southeast Forest

Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

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 ~ *Migratory game and non-game birds will be some of the primary beneficiaries of this work. Audubon is developing some bird use models for Minnesota and are seeing some interesting results for parts of this region. It will be interesting to see if we can integrate all of the collective OHF work into this and similar models in the future.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna ~ *Monitoring will take place with the base level monitoring conducted by DNR staff and staff from other agencies/NGOs.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *Monitoring will take place with the base level monitoring conducted by DNR staff and staff from other agencies/NGOs. This includes surveys such as moose, sharp-tailed and ruffed grouse, and woodcock, which are all dependent on open areas.*

Programs in prairie region:

Restored and enhanced upland habitats ~ *The multi-agency/NGO Grassland Monitoring Team (GMT) has developed standardized protocols for sampling grassland vegetation and a number of the sites on this request will be sampled over the 5 year period. There are also a number of wildlife surveys such as the DNR's grouse and pheasant surveys and waterfowl surveys conducted by both DNR and USFWS. These, along with the USGS Breeding Bird Survey, give us a landscape level context for evaluating these habitat projects.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Healthier populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *DNR non-game staff will continue ongoing, long-term monitoring of a range of wildlife species.*

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 for additional enhance/restoration work beyond what the DNR is already conducting. These funds are not supplanting or substituting any funds.

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

We select projects with these funds that strategically enhance priority habitats. The OHF provides Minnesota's conservation community with a large amount of non-Federal dollars as match that other Midwestern states don't have. In recent years, the conservation partners have been coordinating to maximize our efforts with funding sources such as the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) as well as the American Bird Conservancy's RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) for young forests, to name just a couple of examples. The DNR will continue to develop existing and new partnership for habitat enhancement and restoration to work in tandem with DNR funds to ensure the good work done under the OHF isn't lost over time.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2028 and beyond	OHF, DNR funds, partner funds	conduct enhancements	monitor vegetation and wildlife responses	-

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

The Minnesota DNR has adopted advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) as a key priority in its 2020-22 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. Work such as seeding new wetland with wild rice has both strong wildlife and cultural benefits.

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. OHF achieves high quality habitat that provides ecosystem services like clean water and carbon sequestration that support environmental justice. For instance, work in the upper reaches of a watershed can often capture floodwater and reduce downstream flooding, where many of our rural cities are. OHF also supports public access and recreational opportunities on these lands. Project scoring and implementation benefit BIPOC and diverse communities through recreational opportunities that are close-to-home, culturally responsive and accessible to Minnesotans with disabilities.

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

WPA

SNA

AMA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

County/Municipal

Refuge Lands

Public Waters

State Forests

Other : potentially Con-con lands or national forests, if there is a clear long-term wildlife habitat benefit to the work. Also TNC lands if needed as part of a larger project to make the project more efficient or safer for Crew members.

Land Use

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

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
Corn or soybeans plantings for a year or two may be used to prepare soil for restoration.

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
Enhance and restore habitats across Minnesota	FY2029-30, complete July 2030

Date of Final Report Submission: 09/15/2030

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	$8,850,000	-	-	$8,850,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,800,100	-	-	$2,800,100
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$806,900	-	-	$806,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$250,000	-	-	$250,000
Supplies/Materials	$300,000	-	-	$300,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$13,007,000**	**-**	**-**	**$13,007,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Crew Supervisor	0.25	2.0	$90,000	-	-	$90,000
Roving Crew	34.0	2.0	$8,760,000	-	-	$8,760,000

Amount of Request: $13,007,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $9,656,900
As a % of the total request: 74.24%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
This proposal is composed of numerous projects. We would simply eliminate projects or scale down the size of some 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?
This proposal is composed of numerous projects. We would simply eliminate projects or scale down the size of some projects.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
They would be proportionally reduced using the DNR calculator.

Personnel

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

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
All activities related to travel for the Roving Crews we place in the travel line. This includes basic mileage and lodging as well as equipment/vehicle rentals and leases, etc.

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?
We used the DNR's standard Direct and Necessary calculator designed for OHF and ENRTF proposals.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Chainsaws, drip torches, and related.

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?
These funds would be matched to Pittman-Roberson funds on an annual cycle through the DNR.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	9,000	39,500	3,500	-	52,000
Total	**9,000**	**41,500**	**3,500**	**-**	**54,000**

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	1,500
Total	**1,500**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	$481,700	-	-	$481,700
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$2,167,800	$9,514,400	$843,100	-	$12,525,300
Total	**$2,167,800**	**$9,996,100**	**$843,100**	**-**	**$13,007,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	3,630	19,820	600	22,820	5,130	52,000
Total	**3,630**	**19,820**	**600**	**24,820**	**5,130**	**54,000**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$481,700	-	$481,700
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$874,400	$4,774,000	$144,500	$5,496,700	$1,235,700	$12,525,300
Total	**$874,400**	**$4,774,000**	**$144,500**	**$5,978,400**	**$1,235,700**	**$13,007,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	$240	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$240	$240	$240	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	$240	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$240	$240	$240	$240	$240

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

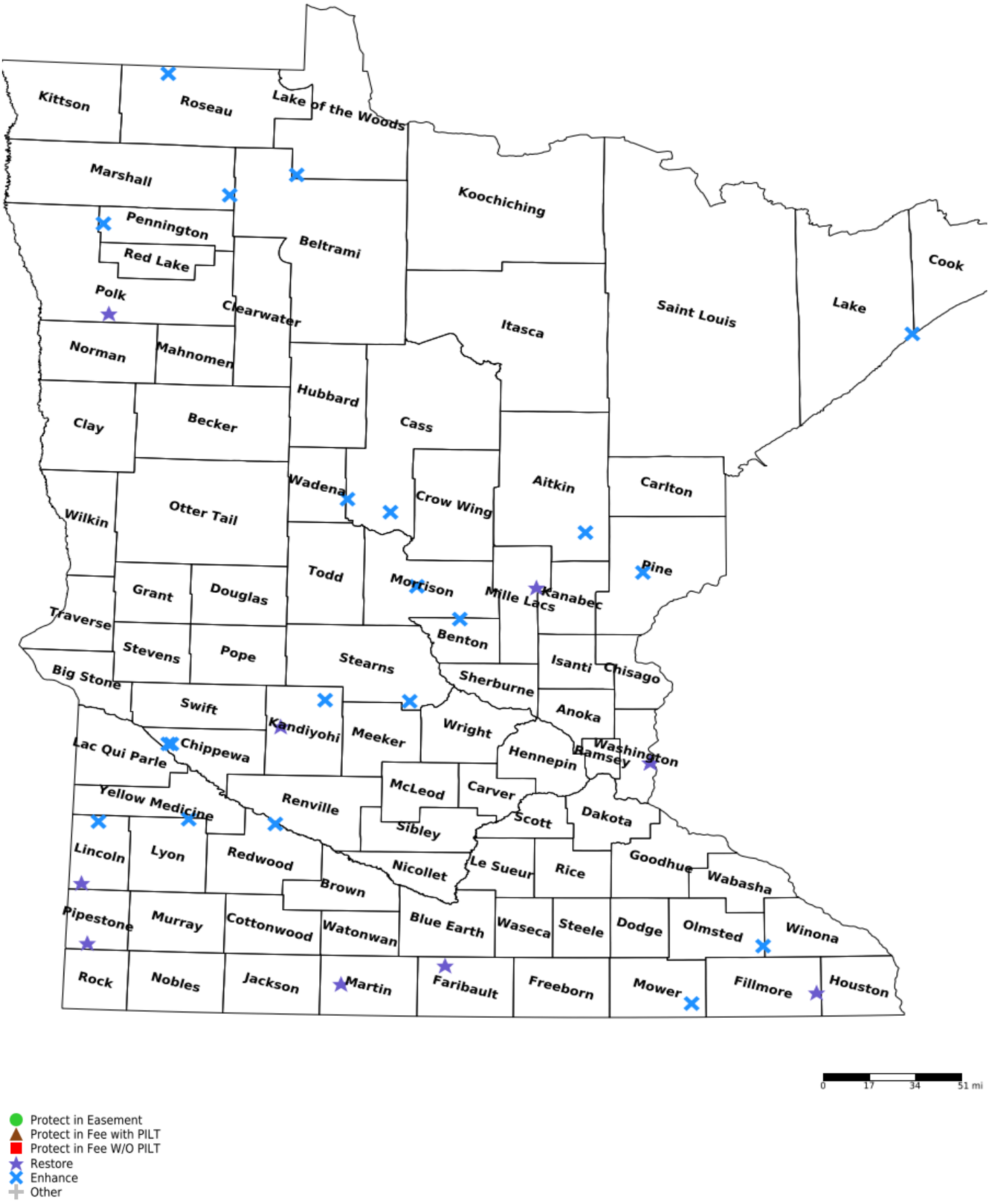
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Parcels are identified by Area Wildlife Managers and approved by Regional Managers. Priorities are set by the Plans identified earlier in this proposal. The parcels listed below are representative of the types of projects Roving Crews would work on. The parcel list below are simply some placeholder projects. New projects are always coming to the Crews' attention or they need to switch from one project to another due to weather or other issues. It is difficult at this time to identify with any accuracy the projects the Crews will actually work on.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Aitkin WMA: Main Unit	Aitkin	04423202	300	$118,500	Yes	Forest Stand Improvement
Graham WMA: Main Unit	Benton	03830201	24	$19,500	Yes	Woody Removal
Blackhoof River WMA	Carlton	04220226	550	$750	Yes	Forest Stand Improvement
Birchdale WMA	Cass	13430208	200	$92,000	Yes	Forest Stand Improvement
Farnham Lake WMA	Cass	13532218	100	$50,000	Yes	Forest Stand Improvement
Lac qui Parle WMA: Controlled Hunting Zone	Chippewa	11842201	5	$12,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Lac qui Parle WMA: Controlled Hunting Zone	Chippewa	11841206	276	$150,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Caribou Falls WMA: West Unit	Cook	05806236	103	$16,860	Yes	Forest Stand Improvement
Four Corners WMA	Cottonwood	10332231	33	$23,000	Yes	Grassland Restoration
Rice Lake WMA	Faribault	10427221	27	$27,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Choice WMA	Fillmore	10208214	70	$56,000	Yes	Grassland Restoration
Boyd Sartell WMA: Main Unit	Freeborn	10114205	1,500	$250,000	Yes	Grassland Grazing
Izaak Walton League WMA	Goodhue	10511212	80	$120,000	Yes	Forest Stand Improvement
Gopher Ridge WMA	Kandiyohi	12233231	15	$80,000	Yes	Wetland Water Control Structures
RIM Memorial WMA	Kandiyohi	12036226	11	$45,000	Yes	Wetland Restoration
Red Lake WMA: Main Unit	Lake of the Woods	15735229	400	$60,000	Yes	Brushland Shearing
Chain-O-Sloughs WMA	Lincoln	10946222	95	$75,600	Yes	Grassland Restoration
Prairie Dell WMA	Lincoln	11345216	38	$15,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Gabriel Anderson WMA	Lyon	11340206	10	$7,500	Yes	Woody Removal
Eckvoll WMA	Marshall	15539211	500	$125,000	Yes	Brushland Shearing
Mille Lacs WMA	Mille Lacs	04125229	100	$115,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Ereaux WMA	Morrison	04131230	86	$68,800	Yes	Brushland Management
Pembina WMA: Pennington County Unit	Pennington	15345217	20	$50,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Eden WMA	Pipestone	10546224	135	$96,000	Yes	Grassland Restoration
Liberty WMA	Polk	14745216	75	$30,000	Yes	Grassland Restoration
Cedar Rock WMA: South East Unit	Redwood	11336210	87	$90,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Roseau River WMA	Roseau	16342209	904	$45,555	Yes	Wetland Enhancement
Alice Hamm WMA	Stearns	12229233	425	$72,100	Yes	Grassland Burns
Bayport WMA	Washington	02920222	75	$270,125	Yes	Woody Removal
Bayport WMA	Washington	02920222	16	$45,600	Yes	Grassland Restoration

Parcel Map


Kittson
Roseau
Lake of the Woods
Marshall
Pennington
Red Lake
Polk
Clearwater
Beltrami
Koochiching
Itasca
Saint Louis
Lake
Cook
Norman
Mahnomen
Hubbard
Clay
Becker
Cass
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Wadena
Crow Wing
Aitkin
Carlton
Pine
Grant
Douglas
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Traverse
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Benton
Isanti
Chisago
Big Stone
Swift
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Sherburne
Wright
Anoka
Lac Qui Parle
Chippewa
Hennepin
Ramsey
Washington
Yellow Medicine
Renville
McLeod
Carver
Scott
Dakota
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Sibley
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
17
34
51 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Roving Crew 4

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - DNR Roving Crew 4
Organization: DNR
Manager: Greg Hoch

Budget

Requested Amount: $13,006,900
Appropriated Amount: $13,007,000
Percentage: 100.0%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$8,850,000	-	$8,850,000	-	100.0%	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,800,000	-	$2,800,100	-	100.0%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$806,900	-	$806,900	-	100.0%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$250,000	-	$250,000	-	100.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$300,000	-	$300,000	-	100.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$13,006,900**	**-**	**$13,007,000**	**-**	**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?
This proposal is composed of numerous projects. We would simply eliminate projects or scale down the size of some projects.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
They would be proportionally reduced using the DNR calculator.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This proposal is composed of numerous projects. We would simply eliminate projects or scale down the size of some projects.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
They would be proportionally reduced using the DNR calculator.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	2,000	2,000	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	52,000	52,000	100.0%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$481,700	$481,700	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$12,525,200	$12,525,300	100.0%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	2,000	2,000	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	52,000	52,000	100.0%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$481,700	$481,700	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$12,525,200	$12,525,300	100.0%