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
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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

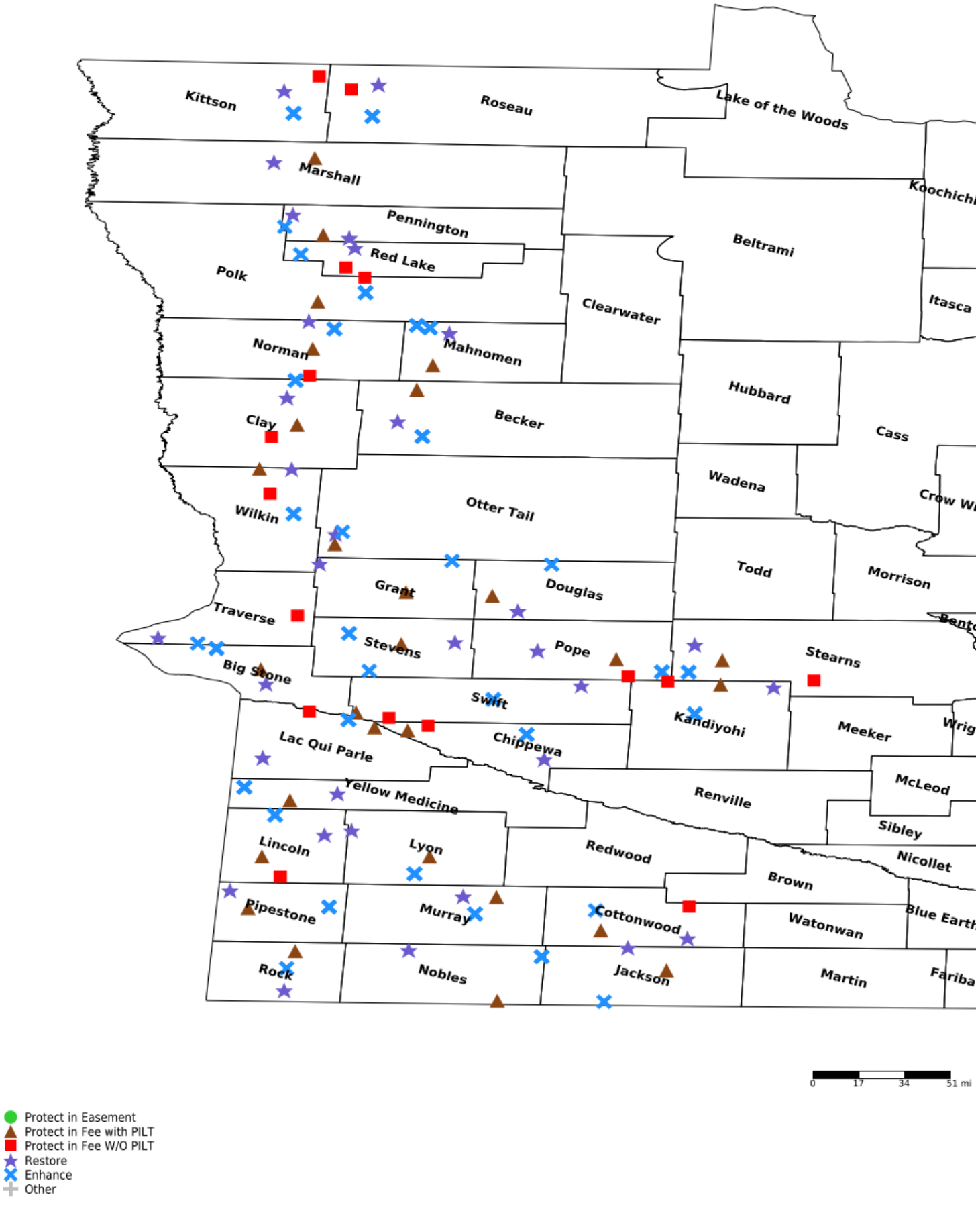
NA	Pope	12439203	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Red Lake	15144202	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Red Lake	15145221	375	$20,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Rock	10345227	400	$20,000	Yes	Prescribed Fire
NA	Rock	10145210	10	$25,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
NA	Roseau	16043207	1,100	$75,000	Yes	Prescribed 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%