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
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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

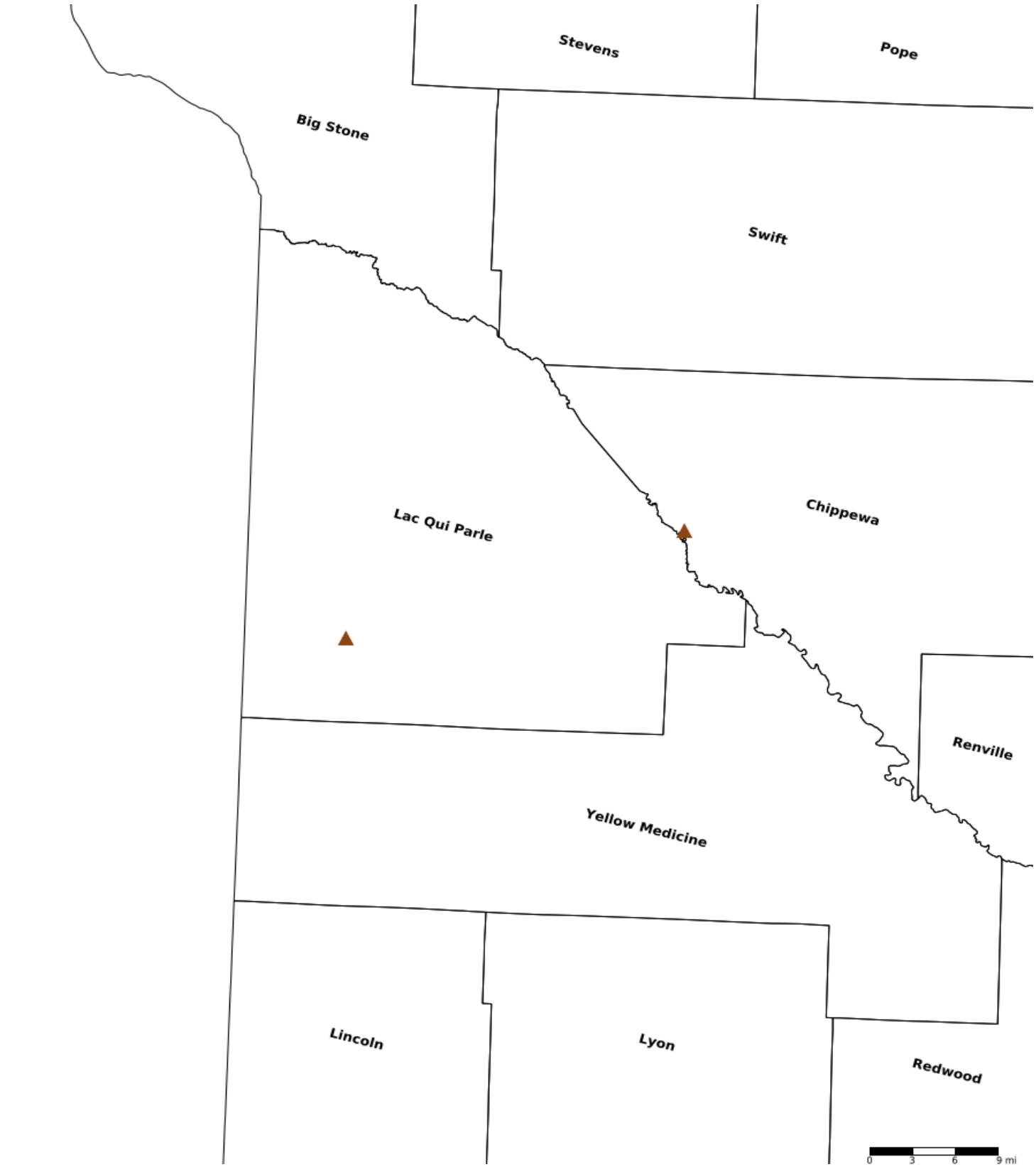
Sign-up Criteria?
Yes - Sign up criteria is attached

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	-	-	-