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

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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.

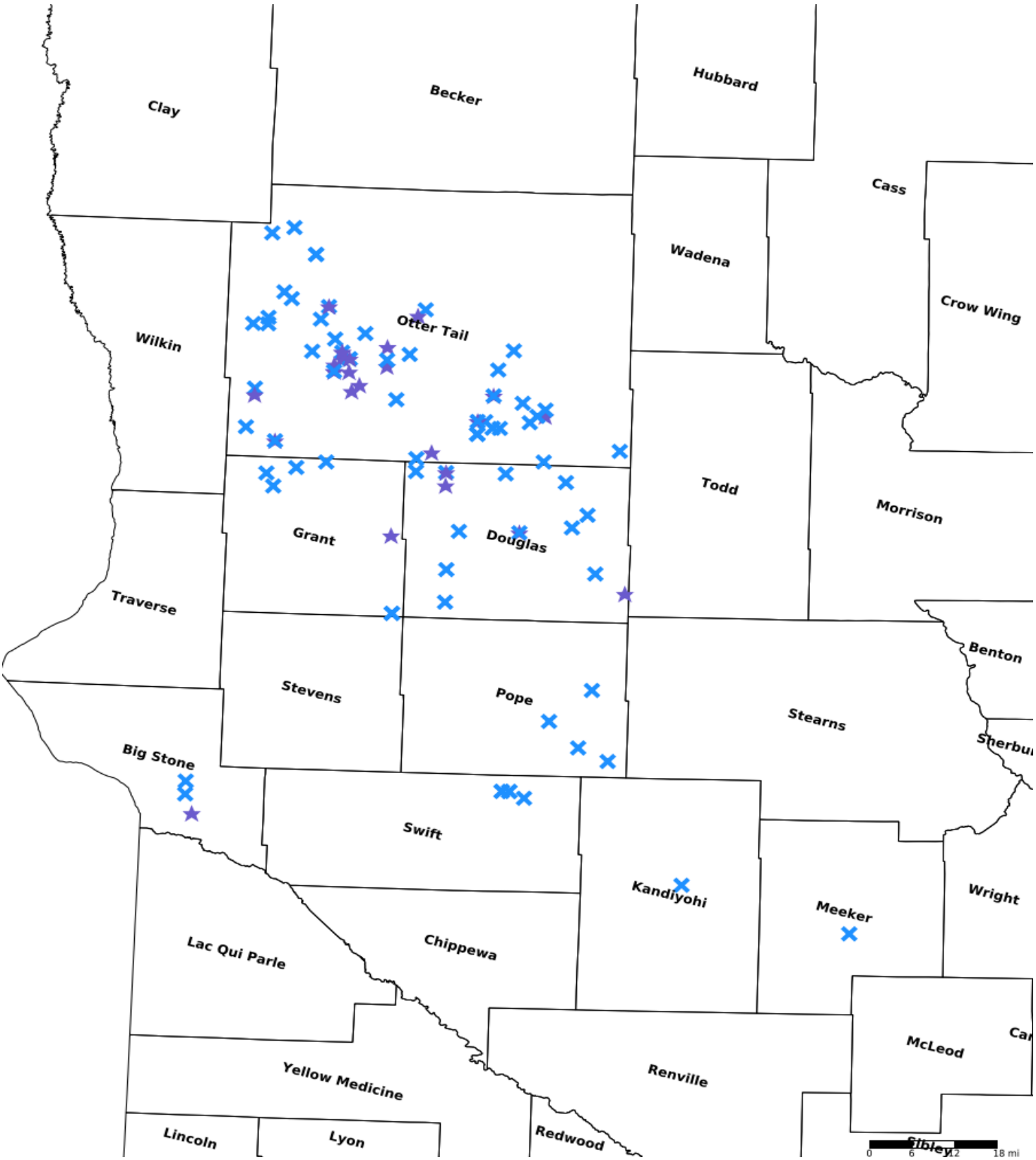
Keith Wilson Phase 2	Douglas	12938227	40	$250,000	Yes	DU wetland restoration on USFWS habitat easement.
Kenny Behrens USFWS Easement DU Restoration	Douglas	13040212	12	$45,000	Yes	DU prairie and wetland restoration on USFWS easement.
Tim Zunker Easement Enhancement	Douglas	13037215	45	$70,000	Yes	Habitat 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%