



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Restoring Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Ecosystem - Phase 1  
ML 2027 Request for Funding

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### General Information

**Date:** 06/22/2026

**Proposal Title:** Restoring Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Ecosystem - Phase 1

**Funds Requested:** \$6,960,000

**Confirmed Leverage Funds:** \$2,052,500

**Is this proposal Scalable?:** Yes

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Wayne Ostlie

**Title:** Director of Land Protection

**Organization:** Minnesota Land Trust

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### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Otter Tail, McLeod, Grant, Wadena, Becker, Big Stone, Stevens, Pope, Swift and Douglas.

### Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Northern Forest

Metro / Urban

**Activity types:**

Restore

Enhance

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

**Narrative****Abstract**

The Restoring Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Ecosystem's objective is to restore an additional 10,000 acres of high priority wetlands and associated uplands in North America's most important flyway by 2034. This work is designed specifically to benefit important waterfowl, migratory birds in decline and pollinators in Minnesota's prairie pothole region. We prioritize building complexes of quality habitat primarily in Prairie Core Areas with the highest waterfowl production indices. We propose this project in 4 phases. This first phase will complete 2,500 acres of restoration and enhancement.

**Design and Scope of Work**

This is a new proposal that builds on the success of the restoration partnership between the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Wildlife (USFWS-PFW) program previously included in MLT's Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program and Accelerating Habitat Conservation in Southwest Minnesota Program. Thanks to the support of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, this partnership has restored 15,000 acres through the Outdoor Heritage Fund and the Conservation Partners Legacy program.

In this proposal, the MLT continues to serve as the OHF Project Manager and the USFWS-PFW leads the project restoration design. Together, we complete restorations utilizing local small business construction contractors and vendors. MLT and USFWS-PFW closely coordinate with other public agencies and non-profit organizations to ensure strategic conservation delivery. MLT and USFWS-PFW will develop additional projects as part of this proposal. All restoration projects on land permanently protected either in fee title or conservation easements held by the USFWS or MLT.

The majority of the sites included in this proposal are protected with Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF), or "Duck Stamp" dollars. These funds are primarily generated through Federal Duck Stamp sales and are earmarked for acquisition to benefit waterfowl conservation. These funds, however, cannot be used for restoration, and the Outdoor Heritage Fund plays an integral role elevating the conservation investment in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) landscape – through habitat restoration. Other projects included in this proposal occur on properties protected with previous OHF funds.

All proposed project sites occur within Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Region, extending from the Canadian border to Iowa along the glacial moraine system of western Minnesota. Projects are selected and prioritized using USFWS's landscape-scale spatial models and other science-based tools. These models are used to identify upland cover and

prairie-wetland complexes for nesting waterfowl and other species. Each project design directly improves small shallow wetlands and associated grassland habitats to maximize breeding habitat for waterfowl and grassland dependent species. Wetlands are restored only where a combination of imagery, topographic features, or soil conditions identify the historic presence of basins. Restorations include various combinations of the following activities:

Wetland basin restorations include sub-surface drainage tile removal, sediment removal via surface grading, ditch plug and dike construction, or a combination of these practices. In the uplands, prairie restorations occur on sites where a land manager wants to sunset a crop field and plant native prairie species, reconstructing the prairie. Enhancement activities for prairie and wetland work can include a combination of prescribed burning, grassland inter-seeding, wetland vegetation removal, tree and invasive species removal, and infrastructure for conservation grazing.

Our intention is to restore 25,000 acres of prairie pothole wetlands and grasslands by the conclusion of the 2008 Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment. This equals 40 square miles of new habitat for 2400 breeding waterfowl pairs, which we estimate could produce an additional 10,000 ducks every year to Minnesota's waterfowl populations.

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

This project benefits SGCN and other important game and non-game wildlife species directly by restoring and enhancing habitats degraded by past land use practices. Our objective is to rebuild shallow wetlands and associated grassland complexes in areas of maximum benefit.

Our Restoring Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Ecosystem proposal relies heavily on Minnesota's Prairie Plan, the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV), and science from USFWS. These plans provide a solid scientific basis calling for extensive wetland and grassland restoration and enhancement in Minnesota's prairie pothole region to provide critical habitat for wildlife, especially migratory waterfowl, pollinators and grassland birds.

The USFWS's Habitat Population Evaluation Team's "Thunderstorm Map" is a tool developed to identify and prioritize upland nesting cover for breeding waterfowl. The map uses a combination of National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) wetland data, waterfowl pair per wetland relationship models, and distances that hen mallards, blue-winged teal, northern pintails, gadwall, and northern shovelers commonly travel from wetlands to upland nesting sites. USFWS-PFW uses the results of this model to prioritize our restoration and enhancement projects.

### **What are the elements of this proposal that are critical from a timing perspective?**

More than 90% of the millions of historic "potholes" in Minnesota have been ditched, drained or otherwise degraded by land use practices. The PPJV calls for the restoration of 100,000's of acres to recover stable populations of waterfowl. Meeting this need calls for immediate, intensive coordinated action.

Currently, the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) allocates approximately 70% of its revenue toward the acquisition of wetland and grassland habitats (fee title and easements) within the PPR. While this allocation may shift over time, MBCF resources remain dedicated exclusively to habitat acquisition.

By accelerating the pace of restoration and leveraging these federal investments within the PPR, this proposal enhances both the quality and quantity of high-value wetland and grassland habitats. Importantly, the timing of

this effort positions Minnesota to demonstrate exceptional land stewardship, reinforcing the value of continued MBCF investment in Minnesota's portion of the PPR.

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

This proposal serves to build upon past conservation investment in the program area, expand the footprint of quality habitat, facilitate the creation of high-quality habitat corridors, and reduce the potential for fragmentation. This proposal focuses on restoring prairie and wetland habitats on protected lands within priority prairie core complexes guided primarily by the Minnesota Prairie Plan, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture and the USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team.

The Prairie Plan and other data sets have identified core areas for coordinated action among conservation partners. These landscape-scale Prairie Cores enhance the conservation outcomes by combining important wetland complexes with other high-quality habitat, existing protected areas and working conservation lands. These core areas with highly adjacent diverse habitat types at a landscape scale enable each species to more readily adapt to changing land cover and climatic conditions maximizing survival and productivity.

We work closely with other conservation partners in the region to coordinate help build large habitat core areas comprised of both public and private protected lands. Project selection and development is based on the amount of existing habitat on the property, the potential for adding quality habitat and the project's context relative to nearby habitats.

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

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

**Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?**

**Forest / Prairie Transition**

Protect, restore, and enhance habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need

**Metro / Urban**

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

**Northern Forest**

Restore and enhance habitat on existing protected properties, with preference to habitat for rare, endangered, or threatened species identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey

**Prairie**

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

## **Describe how this project/program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife:**

There is clear evidence that USFWS-PFW restorations yield almost immediate improvements in the quality of available waterfowl nesting and foraging habitats. Significance comes from deploying these strategies at a large scale. The MLT/USFWS-PFW partnership has developed the capacity to restore more than 1,000 acres/year.

As a point of reference, 25,000 acres of prairie pothole wetlands and grasslands equal 40 square miles of new habitat for an estimated 2400 breeding waterfowl pairs, which could produce an additional 10,000 ducks every year to supplement Minnesota's waterfowl populations. We hope this scale of effort will help demonstrate the value of the Outdoor Heritage Fund to Minnesota's citizens.

The Land Trust and USFWS-PFW have completed 15,000 acres of prairie pothole R/E through the Wetlands Program phases 3-11 and various Conservation Partner Legacy grants. This accounts for 60% of the 25,000 acres included above.

This program - if fully funded over the next eight years - will add 10,000 acres of new and improved habitat, yielding an estimated 960 breeding pairs which could account for increasing waterfowl productivity by 4,800 fledglings/year or more.

We also recognize there will be collateral benefits to many species and systems, such as species of greatest conservation need, water quality and flood retention. The benefits to pollinators and migratory songbirds in decline are just a couple examples of positive conservation legacy in this proposal.

## **If this project/program does not have permanent outcomes, describe why it is important to undertake at this time:**

N/A, this program results only in permanent conversions to habitat on lands permanently protected for conservation.

## **Outcomes**

### **Programs in forest-prairie transition region:**

Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need ~ *Additional and improved nesting and foraging habitat for migratory waterfowl, upland birds, and pollinators ~ We estimate approximately 30% of the work proposed will occur in the Forest-prairie transition region. This proposal includes 515 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes that could yield 66 breeding pairs of waterfowl. If we assume 5 fledged young/pair this will increase annual productivity by 330 waterfowl/year.*

### **Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:**

Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna ~ *Additional and improved nesting and foraging habitat for migratory waterfowl, upland birds, and pollinators ~ We estimate 5% of the work proposed will occur in the metro region. This proposal includes 13 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes that could yield 18 breeding pairs of waterfowl. If we assume 5 fledged young/pair this will increase annual productivity by 90 waterfowl/year.*

**Programs in the northern forest region:**

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Additional and improved nesting and foraging habitat for migratory waterfowl, upland birds, and pollinators ~ We estimate 5% of the work proposed will occur in the Forest region. This proposal includes 634 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes that could yield 60 breeding pairs of waterfowl. If we assume 5 fledged young/pair this will increase annual productivity by 300 waterfowl/year.*

**Programs in prairie region:**

Remnant native prairies and wetlands are perpetually protected and adequately buffered ~ *Additional and improved nesting and foraging habitat for migratory waterfowl, upland birds, and pollinators ~ We estimate 60% of the work proposed will occur in the prairie region. This proposal includes 1,338 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes that could yield 126 breeding pairs of waterfowl. If we assume 5 fledged young/pair this will increase annual productivity by 630 waterfowl/year.*

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

Funding procured by MLT through the Outdoor Heritage Fund through this proposal will not supplant or substitute any previous funding from a non-Legacy fund used for the same purpose.

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

The USFWS and MLT (as easement holders on respective properties) will work with landowners on an ongoing basis to provide habitat restoration plans, resources, and technical expertise to undertake restoration, enhancement, and ongoing management of these properties.

**Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes**

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Every 4 to 6 years post construction	USFWS, Landowners, MLT	Prescribed fire, tree control, invasive species control as needed	-	-
-	-	-	-	-

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

One of MLT’s core values is a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We work to demonstrate this commitment whenever possible across our work. Included in this proposal is a project to restore a property of importance to the Yankton Sioux near Pipestone National Monument.

MLT continues to use diversity, equity, and inclusion as a lens in project, partner, and contractor selection. We will continue to listen and seek out potential, authentic partnerships that can advance our goals of conserving the best of Minnesota’s remaining habitats and, at the same time, being a more inclusive organization. To that end, we intentionally build relationships and work collaboratively with diverse communities throughout the state, such as summer camps for youth, Tribal Nations, rural farmers, and multi-generational families.

## Activity Details

### Requirements

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

Yes

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

Yes

**Where does the activity take place?**

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Other : Public Lands

### Land Use

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

No

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

No

### Previous OHF Appropriations

**Have you received OHF dollars through LSOHC for this program or project in the past?**

Yes

**Are there any of these past appropriations still OPEN?**

Yes

**If needed, please include any explanation of unspent funds.**

This proposal is related to the restoration/enhancement component of both MLT's Wetlands Program and Southwest Minnesota Program. The table below shows the appropriations for all open Wetland and SWMN Program grants. Of these appropriations, the restoration and enhancement component consists of 41% (\$9,613,800) of the total. Of that, \$3,127,135 has been spent or is under contract, and the remaining \$6,486,665 is committed to in-progress projects included in each accomplishment plan. This accounts for all remaining funds.

**Open OHF Appropriations - Data from Most Recent Status Update**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding Amount Received</b>	<b>Amount Spent to Date</b>	<b>Funding Remaining</b>	<b>% Spent to Date</b>
ML 2026 - Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 11	\$3,167,000	-	\$3,167,000	0.0%
ML 2025 - Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 10	\$2,853,000	\$221,700	\$2,631,300	7.77%
ML 2024 - Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 9	\$2,128,000	\$573,000	\$1,555,000	26.93%
ML 2024 - Accelerating Habitat Conservation in Southwest Minnesota - Phase 3	\$2,872,000	\$313,600	\$2,558,400	10.92%
ML 2023 - Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 8	\$3,012,000	\$1,650,800	\$1,361,200	54.81%
ML 2023 - Accelerating Habitat Conservation in Southwest Minnesota - Phase 2	\$3,071,000	\$607,900	\$2,463,100	19.79%
ML 2022 - Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 7	\$3,330,000	\$2,280,300	\$1,049,700	68.48%
ML 2021 - Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 6	\$3,088,000	\$2,822,900	\$265,100	91.42%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$23,521,000</b>	<b>\$8,470,200</b>	<b>\$15,050,800</b>	<b>36.01%</b>

**Timeline**

<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
Restoration and enhancement projects completed	June 30, 2032

**Budget**

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$600,000	\$52,500	USFWS In-Kind	\$652,500
Contracts	\$6,172,000	-	-	\$6,172,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	\$2,000,000	USFWS Migratory Bird Conservation Fund	\$2,000,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Professional Services	\$5,000	-	-	\$5,000
Direct Support Services	\$162,000	-	-	\$162,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$500	-	-	\$500
Supplies/Materials	\$500	-	-	\$500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$6,960,000</b>	<b>\$2,052,500</b>	-	<b>\$9,012,500</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
FWS Restoration Designer	0.1	5.0	-	\$52,500	USFWS In-Kind	\$52,500
MLT Restoration Staff	1.2	5.0	\$600,000	-	-	\$600,000

**Amount of Request:** \$6,960,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$2,052,500

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 29.49%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$762,000

**As a % of the total request:** 10.95%

**Easement Stewardship:** -

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

**Leverage Funding Table**

	Leverage Amount Committed	Leverage Amount Confirmed (of Committed Funds)	Leverage Amount Anticipated	Total Leverage
Amount:	\$2,052,500	\$2,052,500	-	\$2,052,500
% of Total Leverage:	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	

N/A

**Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:**

USFWS will provide \$2,000,000 in leverage in the form of newly acquired permanent conservation easements funded by the USFWS and the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, plus \$52,500 of in-kind leverage for staff time, contracts and supplies for restoration and enhancement projects. All are confirmed.

**Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?**

Yes

**If the project received 50% of the requested funding**

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

We would reduce the number of R/E projects to best meet scaling requirements. Output acres would be reduced 40% to 60% depending on individual project costs. We would submit our phase 2 proposal next year instead of 2 years out.

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

Personnel and DSS would be scaled directly.

**If the project received 30% of the requested funding**

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

We would reduce the number of R/E projects to best meet scaling requirements. Output acres would be reduced 70% to 80% depending on individual project costs. We would submit a larger phase 2 proposal next year instead of 2 years out to include delayed projects.

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

Personnel and DSS would be scaled directly.

**What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this proposal?**

**Personnel**

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

Yes

**Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?**

FTEs listed in the proposal are an estimate of the personnel time required to complete the grant outputs included in this proposal. MLT uses a timesheet based payroll system. Our reimbursements are based on actual personnel time expended for each project. This ensures project billing is specific to the appropriate grant award and in cases where we have multiple open appropriations this method ensures there is no overlapping allocation of personnel expenses to multiple grant awards. Multiple staff positions may work to complete legal review, sub- contracts, payments and complete status reports related to projects on each grant award.

**Contracts**

**What is included in the contracts line?**

Restoration and enhancement construction accounts for 100% of the contracts line amount.

## Professional Services

### What is included in the Professional Services line?

Other : Vegetation surveys, bird surveys to inform project design.

## Travel

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

Yes

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

Land Trust staff rents vehicles for grant-related purposes when it is a significant cost savings over use of personal vehicles.

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

Yes

## Direct Support Services

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

Minnesota Land Trust has a direct support services rate approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017. We applied this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses included in this proposal to determine the total amount of direct support services requested through this grant.

## Other Equipment/Tools

### Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?

GPS/tablet devices, R/E tools, Personal Protective Equipment.

## Federal Funds

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

Yes

#### Are the funds confirmed?

Yes

In Kind : \$52,500

Other : \$2,000,000 USFWS easement acquisition (Migratory Bird Conservation Fund)

**Output Tables**

**Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	18	4	0	421	443
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	1,927	0	130	2,057
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,931</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>2,500</b>

**Restoration/Enhancement Acres Breakdown of Existing Protected Lands (Table 1a.2)**

	RESTORE: Lands acquired with OHF	RESTORE: Lands NOT acquired with OHF	ENHANCE: Lands acquired with OHF	ENHANCE: Lands NOT acquired with OHF
DNR Lands (WMA, State Forests, etc.)	-	-	-	-
Non-DNR Lands (city, state, federal, etc.)	-	4	-	-
Easements	0	439	275	1,782
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>1,782</b>

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

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>

**Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	\$50,100	\$11,100	-	\$1,172,100	\$1,233,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	\$5,364,800	-	\$361,900	\$5,726,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,100</b>	<b>\$5,375,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,534,000</b>	<b>\$6,960,000</b>

**Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	13	30	0	400	0	443
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	485	0	938	634	2,057
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,338</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>2,500</b>

**Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	\$36,200	\$83,500	-	\$1,113,600	-	\$1,233,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	\$1,350,200	-	\$2,611,400	\$1,765,100	\$5,726,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,200</b>	<b>\$1,433,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$3,725,000</b>	<b>\$1,765,100</b>	<b>\$6,960,000</b>

**Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	\$2,783	\$2,775	-	\$2,784
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	\$2,784	-	\$2,783

**Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	\$2,784	\$2,783	-	\$2,784	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	\$2,783	-	\$2,784	\$2,784

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

**Parcels**

**Sign-up Criteria?**

No

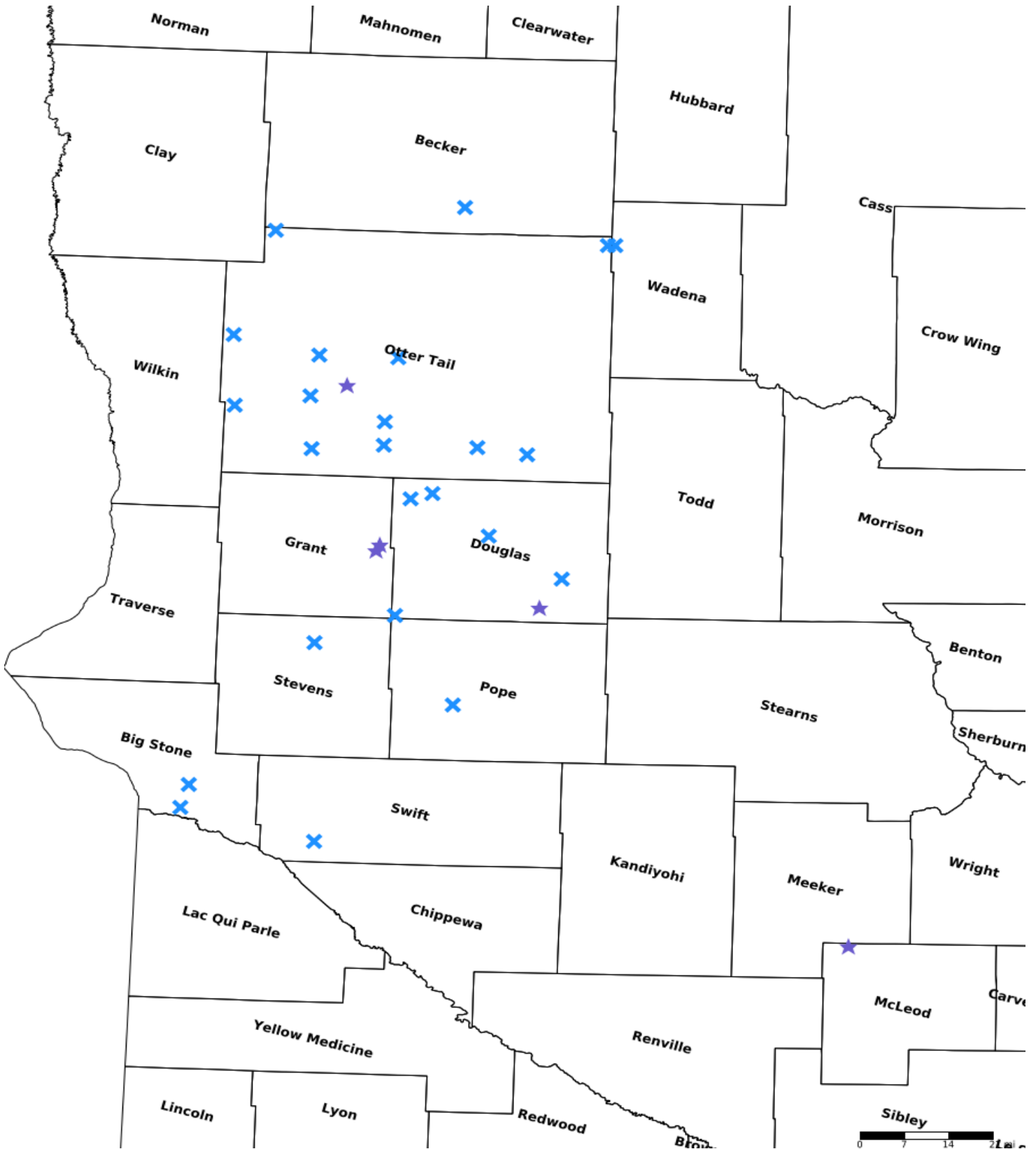
**Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:**

The projects included in the parcel list were identified as priorities for restoration/enhancement by USFWS and MLT biologists utilizing FWS priority mapping tools and adjacency to other protected habitats.

**Restore / Enhance Parcels**

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
HuLa	Becker	13839210	40	\$100,000	Yes	Prairie
AndC	Big Stone	12145220	200	\$425,000	Yes	Prairie
Smit	Big Stone	12245233	40	\$85,000	Yes	Prairie
CKBett	Douglas	12938220	110	\$250,000	Yes	Prairie
ClVi	Douglas	12837225	37	\$115,625	Yes	Prairie
DiSc	Douglas	12737221	9	\$125,000	Yes	Habitat
LeTo	Douglas	12740231	40	\$125,000	Yes	Prairie
MiOIEPh2	Douglas	13040213	20	\$125,000	Yes	Prairie
MiSt	Douglas	13040221	70	\$187,500	Yes	Prairie
DaFr	Grant	12941235	33	\$156,250	Yes	Habitat
ToBo	Grant	12841203	5	\$50,000	Yes	Wetland
LFRM	McLeod	11730203	13	\$25,000	Yes	Wetland
BoPr	Otter Tail	13137207	30	\$93,750	Yes	Prairie
DaRe	Otter Tail	13743205	30	\$75,000	Yes	Prairie
DiLi	Otter Tail	13139201	100	\$187,500	Yes	Habitat
ErFaP2	Otter Tail	13736212	365	\$625,000	Yes	Prairie
FFFGCOrSo	Otter Tail	13244205	55	\$187,500	Yes	Prairie
HLJo	Otter Tail	13141202	160	\$375,000	Yes	Prairie
JaRu	Otter Tail	13444205	25	\$87,500	Yes	Prairie
LaLe	Otter Tail	13442220	45	\$218,750	Yes	Prairie
MiLa	Otter Tail	13142207	75	\$187,500	Yes	Prairie
PaSt	Otter Tail	13342230	30	\$125,000	Yes	Habitat
RoCl	Otter Tail	13241214	100	\$250,000	Yes	Prairie
RoNoPh2	Otter Tail	13342213	30	\$250,000	Yes	Habitat
TLBen	Otter Tail	13440219	20	\$62,500	Yes	Prairie
Feig	Pope	12439216	60	\$127,500	Yes	Prairie
Pric	Stevens	12642229	20	\$42,500	Yes	Prairie
FlaE	Swift	12042217	116	\$246,500	Yes	Prairie
ErFaP3	Wadena	13735207	229	\$437,500	Yes	Prairie

### Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ⊕ Other

# RESTORING MINNESOTA'S PRAIRIE POTHOLE ECOSYSTEM



For more information, contact **Emilia Kenow**  
 Restoration Program Manager  
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This Program's objective is to restore an additional 10,000 acres of high priority wetlands and associated uplands to benefit important waterfowl, migratory birds in decline and pollinators in Minnesota's prairie pothole region by 2034. We prioritize building complexes of quality habitat primarily in Prairie Core Areas with the highest waterfowl production indices. We propose this project in 4 phases. Fully funded, we can to complete this program in four phases.

This is a new proposal that combines and focuses the successful restoration partnership between the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) and USFWS Partners for Wildlife (FWS-PFW) previously included in various OHF and CPL programs.

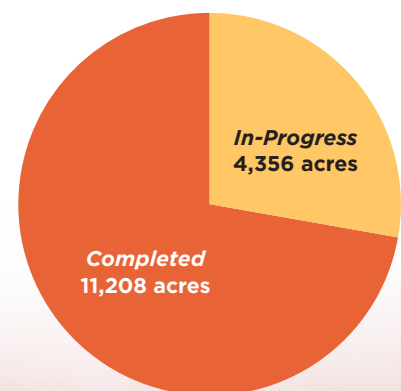
Our overall intention is to restore 25,000 acres of prairie pothole ecosystem by the conclusion of the 2008 Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment. We have completed 15,000 acres of R/E to date accounting for 60% of the 25,000 acres included above.

## OUTCOMES

Our objective is to rebuild shallow wetlands and associated grassland complexes in areas of maximum benefit. 25,000 acres of prairie pothole habitat provides habitat for 2400 breeding waterfowl

<b>Request</b>	<b>\$6,960,000</b>
<b>Leverage</b>	<b>\$2,052,500</b>
<i>USFWS Migratory Bird Conservation Fund</i>	<i>\$2,000,000</i>
<i>R/E Federal match</i>	<i>\$52,500</i>
<b>Acres enhanced</b>	<b>2,057</b>
<b>Acres restored</b>	<b>443</b>
<b>State Goals Supported:</b>	
<i>Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan</i>	
<i>Long Range Duck Recovery Plan</i>	

## PRAIRIE POTHOLE RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT 2016-2026



**Total: 15,564 acres**



Wood Duck  
 Photo by Grayson Smith

pairs, which we estimate could produce an additional 10,000 ducks every year

The 2,500 acres of restored and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat in this proposal can provide habitat for 230 waterfowl pairs and could increase annual waterfowl productivity by 1,000 waterfowl/year.

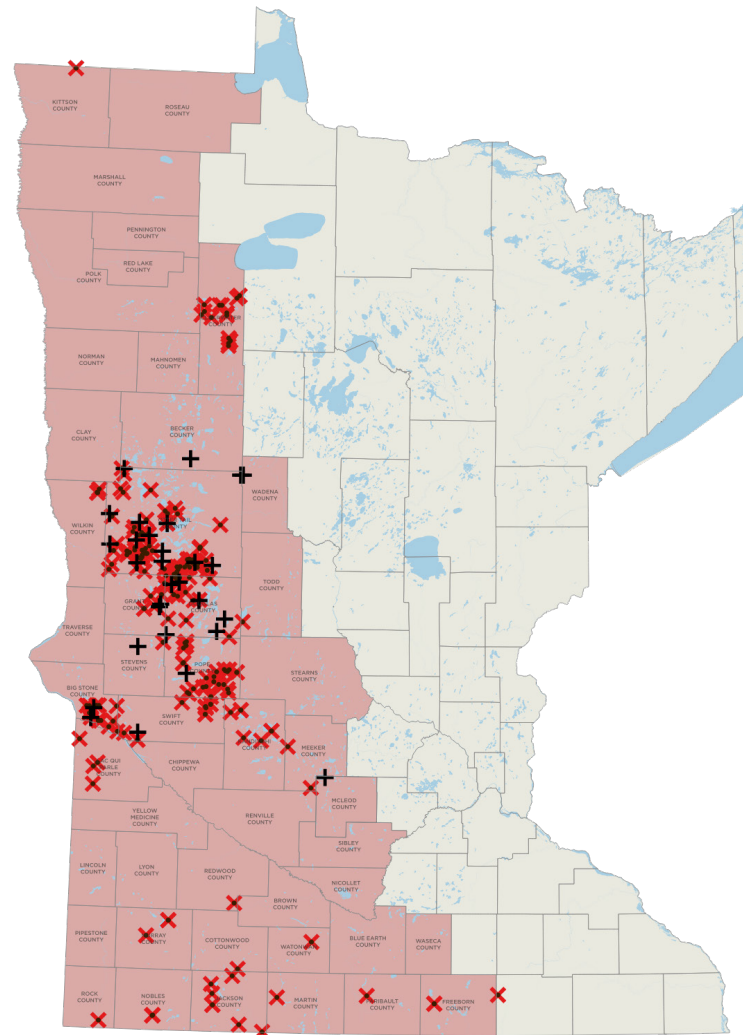


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### WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE?

This partnership has restored or enhanced more than 15,000 acres of wetland and prairie habitats since 2016. This work has been supported by the Outdoor Heritage Fund through our Wetlands and Grasslands (phases 3-11), Southwest Minnesota (phases 1-3) programs, Audubon's IBA (Phases 1 & 2) and the Conservation Partners Legacy program. At present, all appropriated funds are currently spent or committed to in-progress projects.

- Habitat for an estimated 1,500 waterfowl pairs and other associated Species in Greatest Conservation Need.
- 13,725 acres of grassland habitat with enhanced native plant diversity for healthier pollinator populations, as well as migratory songbirds in decline such as bobolink, grassland sparrow and meadowlarks.
- 550 acres of native prairie revitalized through prescribed burning, tree removal or managed grazing.



- + Proposed Project
- X Completed / In-Progress Project
- Program Area



Prairie Smoke  
Photo by Emilia Kenow