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OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND

MARK JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOE PAVELKO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment

- Ratified by voters in November 2008
- 25-year life (expires 2034)
- Provided for a new .375% (3/8 of 1%) in sales tax with proceeds to fund CWLL purposes.
- Established 4 dedicated funds:
 - ▣ clean water (33%),
 - ▣ outdoor heritage (33%),
 - ▣ parks and trails (14.25%),
 - ▣ arts and cultural heritage (19.75%)
- Approximately \$150 million annually to OHF
- Requires the Outdoor Heritage Funds be used to “protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.”

Outdoor Heritage Fund - LSOHC

- ❑ OHF Statutory Guidance - MN Statute 97A.056
 - ❑ Formation of Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
 - ❑ Part of Legislative Branch
 - ❑ Makes funding recommendations to Legislature regarding the uses of Outdoor Heritage Funds
 - ❑ “directly relate to restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie.”
- ❑ Statute also requires a small grants program
 - ❑ CPL - Conservation Partners Legacy program
 - ❑ Small grants of \$5,000 to \$500,000.
 - ❑ Approximately \$9-15m annually

LSOHC Members -- Current

- **4 appointed by the Governor**

Jamie Swenson – (Cleveland) – Council Treasurer
David Hartwell - (Minneapolis) – Council Chair
Suzanne Baird – (Prior Lake)
Sen. (retired) Tom Saxhaug – (Grand Rapids)

- **4 appointed by the Senate**

Sen. FOUNG Hawj (D) - (St. Paul)
Sen. Andrew Lang (R) - (Olivia)
Mark Holsten – (Stillwater)
Ron Schara – (Ramsey) – Council Vice Chair

- **4 appointed by the House of Representatives:**

Rep. Leon Lillie (D) – (North St. Paul)
Rep. John Burkel (R) – (Badger)
Dudley Edmondson - (Duluth)
Kristin Eggerling - (Hallock) – Council Secretary

Council's Annual Proposals Process

(15 month process)

April 1, 2025	Call for Funding Issued
May 23, 2025	Deadline: Call for funding proposals due
July 15, 2025	Deadline: LSOHC members submit program scorings based on pre-approved select criteria.
July 30, 2025	Council Meeting: Review proposals and select which proposals will move forward to Aug/Sept hearings
August 25-27, 2025	Council Meeting and Proposal Hearings
September 9, 2025	Deadline: LSOHC members submit individual allocation selections
September 24, 2025	Council Meeting: Initial allocation selection
October 17, 2025	Deadline: Draft accomplishment plans submitted that reflect allocation recommendations
November 12, 2025	Council Meeting: LSOHC members review draft accomplishment plans
December 9, 2025	Council Meeting: Final bill adopted for recommendation to legislature
June, 2026	Council Meeting: Final accomplishment plans approved
July 1, 2026	First day of project period

Council Review of Proposals

#1 Accountability

- Transparency, leveraging efforts & funds to ensure “protect, restore or enhance” outcomes

#2 Conservation focused

- Addresses conservation opportunities, provides multiple benefits that are timely & are of value to fish & wildlife

#3 Science-based

- Strategic, addresses Greatest Conservation Need, threatened & endangered species, coordinates with approved conservation plans
(e.g. MN Statewide Conservation & Preservation Plan)

#4 Competitive Process

- Requests weighed for immediacy of need, capacity of org., rationality of proposal, costs vs leverage, community involvement, etc.

OHF Appropriations (ML2009-2024)

- In first 16 years (ML2009-2024)
 - MN Legislature allocated over **\$1.88 Billion** from Outdoor Heritage Fund to restore, enhance, and protect habitat throughout MN.
 - Additional **\$647 Million** already leveraged from federal, local, private funding.
 - **Over \$100 million** allocated to CPL small grants. CPL grants have generated over \$16 million match funding/in-kind contributions, engaging thousands of local volunteers.

OHF Appropriations (ML2009-2024)

cont.

- In first 16 years
 - **over 1.3 Million Acres** of MN wildlife habitats already restored, enhanced, and/or protected.
 - CPL small grants program has funded **over 1,000 grants** restoring, enhancing and/or protecting **over 585,000 acres**.
 - Over 230 grants awarded in 7-county metro area & within city limits of Duluth, Rochester, and St. Cloud.

Who gets OHF grants?

□ Govt agencies

- DNR
- BWSR

□ Local Govt Units

- Tribal Units
- Counties
- Cities
- SWCDs
- Watershed Districts
- Etc.

□ Non-Profit Orgs


- TNC
- Pheasants Forever
- MN Land Trust
- Ducks Unlimited
- Trust for Public Land
- Trout Unlimited
- Friends of Miss. River
- Great River Greening
- N. Waters Land Trust
- Etc.

From Appropriation to Habitat...

- Accomplishment Plan
 - ▣ Guiding Document
 - ▣ Reviewed and Approved Early in Process
- Contract with MNDNR
 - ▣ Attachment E
- LSOHC Online Program Management System
 - ▣ Status Updates (2x/yr)
 - ▣ Amendment Requests
 - ▣ Data Management
 - ▣ Reporting Requirements

- Reimbursement Based
 - ▣ Reviewed and Approved by MNDNR Grants Unit
 - ▣ Advances for Acquisition if Requirements Met

Project #: PA01


Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Phase XIV
Laws of Minnesota 2024 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 06/26/2024

Project Title: Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Phase XIV

Funds Recommended: \$4,412,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2024, Ch. 106, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(a)

Appropriation Language: \$4,412,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with The Nature Conservancy, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to acquire land in fee or permanent conservation easements and restore and enhance lands within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area in western Minnesota for addition to the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be given to acquiring lands that are eligible for the native prairie bank under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected native prairie.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Chris McGrath
Title: Habitat Protection Manager
Organization: The Nature Conservancy
Address: 1101 West River Parkway Suite 200
City: Minneapolis, MN 55415
Email: c.mcgrath@tnc.org
Office Number: 6123310752
Mobile Number: 7155582451
Fax Number:
Website: www.nature.org

Location Information

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

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition

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97A.056 Requirements

- Restoration and Enhancement
 - ▣ Permanently Protected Land Only
 - ▣ Restoration / Management Plans Required
 - ▣ Best Science / Techniques
 - ▣ Evaluations (1 / 10 of 1%)
- Acquisition (Fee/Easement)
 - ▣ Permanent Only
 - ▣ NOFR Recorded
 - ▣ Can't be Sold/Use Changed without LSOHC Approval
 - ▣ Report Annually Property Being Used as Intended

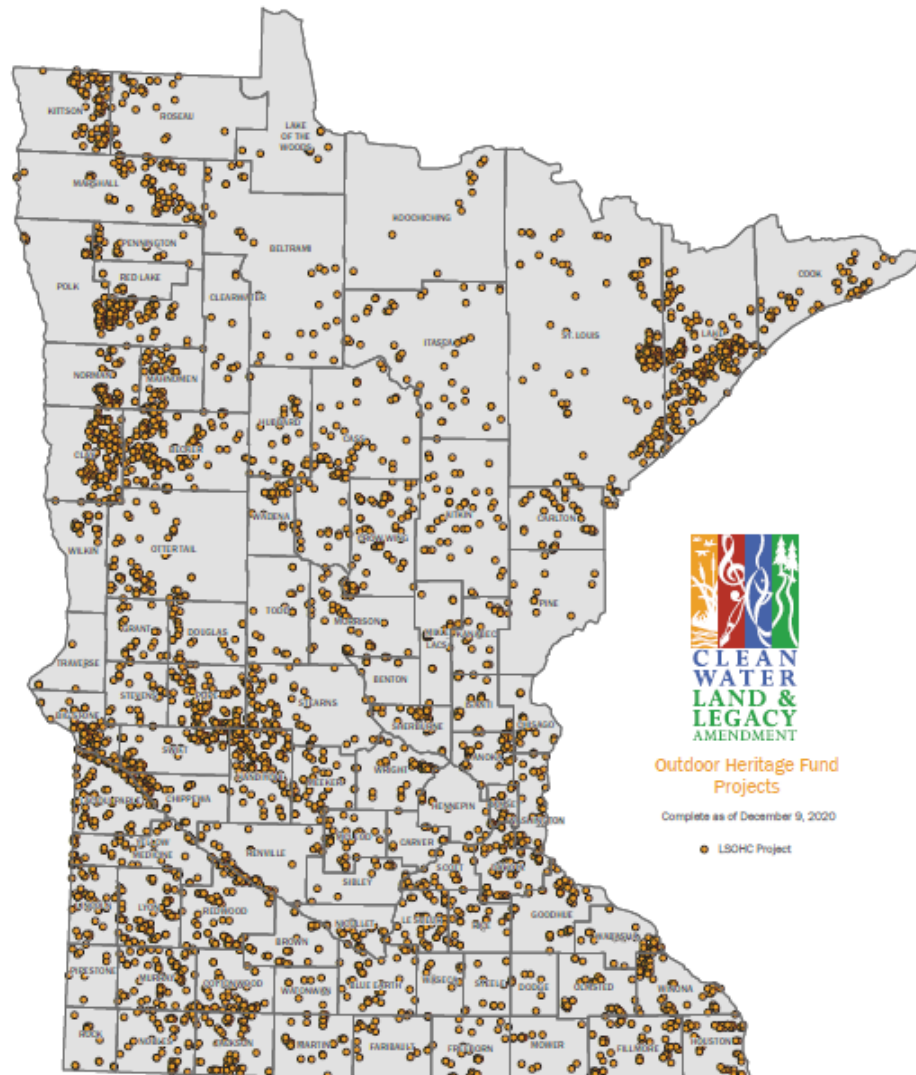
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Outdoor Heritage Fund Completed Projects

<http://www.lsohc.mn.gov>



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Wetland Restoration



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Wetland Restoration



Marsh Lake Restoration

MARSH LAKE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

Lac Qui Parle, Swift, and Big Stone Counties, MN

\$13,230,000 Total Costs
(\$8,600,000 Federal, \$4,630,000
non-federal)

- water control structure
- Pomme de Terre re-route
- fish passage



Marsh Lake Restoration



Fishway Structure



Water Control Structure



Drawdown
Response



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ML2013 Swan Lake, Nicollet County

Water Level Management & Fish Barrier – 10,000 wetland acres enhanced

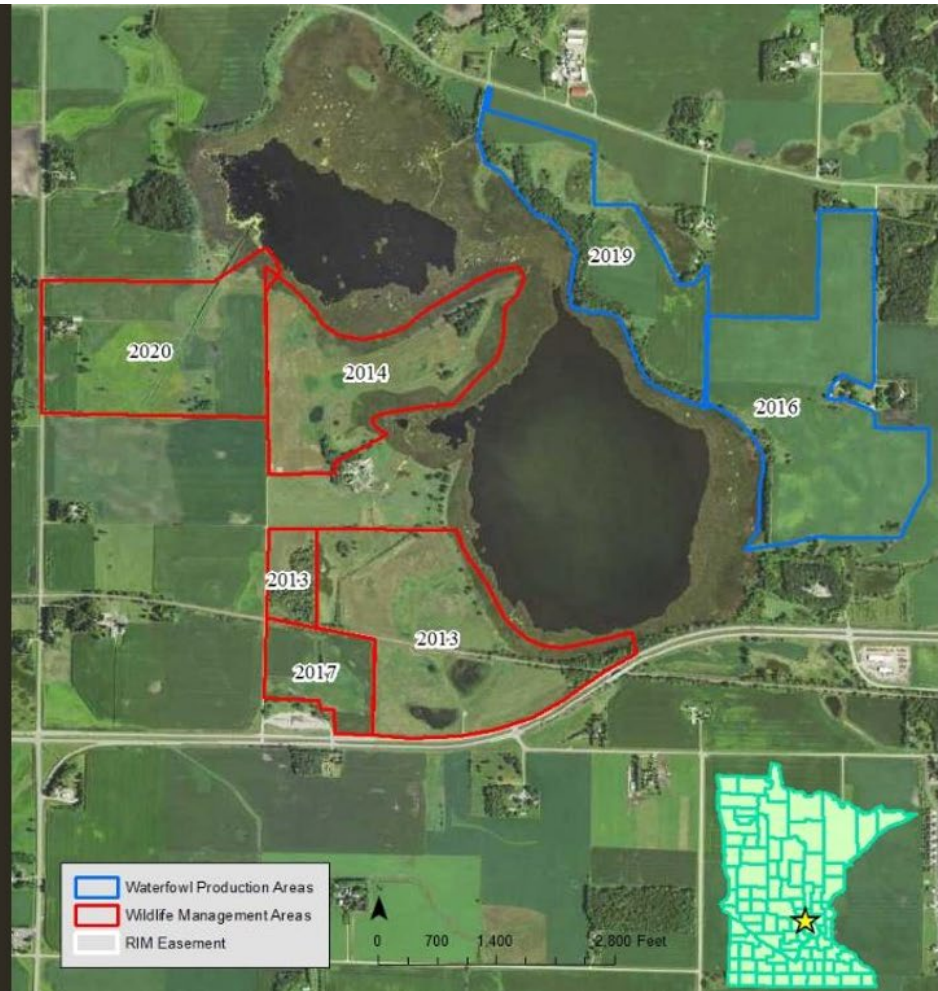


Tiger Lake WMA – Complex building

TIGER LAKE: BUILDING A HABITAT COMPLEX

Norwood Young America, MN

- 7 fee-title projects
- 560 acres protected
- 458 acres restored
- 57 private contractors utilized
- 35 total partners



Tiger Lake WMA – Complex building



After Habitat Restoration

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Invasive Hybrid Cattail – Removal & Treatment



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Prairie / Grassland Restoration



OHF – Grassland Restoration



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OHF – Grassland Restoration



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DNR Roving Crews – Restore and Enhance



2016 Knowlton Creek Restoration

St. Louis County

Pre-construction



Post-construction



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OHF – Trout Stream (before)



OHF – Trout Stream (after)



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Forest Enhancement



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Questions ?

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