

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December , 2009

Project or Program Title: DNR Accelerated Prairie Grassland Restoration and Enhancement Program

**Manager’s Name: Bill Penning
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Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$5,833,333	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000

Appropriation Language

Abstract

This program will acquire and develop approximately 730, acres of new Wildlife Management Area (WMA) lands. New WMA acquisition acre targets by LSOHC Sections will be consistent with the recommendations of The Citizens Advisory Committee report of 2002 “Minnesota’s Wildlife Management Area Acquisition – The Next 50 Years”. Additionally, this program will protect 275 acres of native prairie as state Scientific & Natural Areas (SNAs) and perpetual Native Prairie Bank (NPB) easements. This will provide habitat for rare species, Species in Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and provide habitat for other game and wildlife species. All public SNA’s acquired through this project will be open to all forms of hunting and fishing.

This program will also accelerate the restoration and enhancement of approximately 20,400 acres of native prairie vegetation on Wildlife Management Areas, Aquatic Management Areas, Scientific and Natural Areas, and State Forests. This will provide much needed wildlife habitat for a host of grassland and farmland species. Prairie restoration efforts will center on site preparation, seeding of local ecotype seed, post-seed management to assure success, and seed harvest of local ecotype

seed for prairie restoration at other public land sites. Prairie enhancement efforts will center on prescribed burning, managing woody cover encroachment, and interseeding. Goat prairie enhancements are a distinct target in the Southeast Forests.

There is a very significant unmet need for prescribed burning on public lands. We will hire a roving burn crew for 3 years. The crew will be fully equipped and self sufficient and will therefore be capable of burning an additional 7,000 acres per year. Fifty-percent of their time will be spent on burning (this is the entire spring and fall burn season). During the non-burn season the crew will complete 1,000 acres woody encroachment management annually (25%) on WMAs. The remaining 25% will be spent on other WMA habitat management activities. This work is all supplemental to the existing DNR burning and woody cover management programs

Narrative

The availability of public hunting lands does not meet the expectations of a growing Minnesota population. Due to the current recession, land prices have stabilized or declined and a short-term opportunity exists to purchase more value for our expenditures. The Citizens Advisory Committee on WMA acquisitions recommended that due to long-term rising land costs and continued habitat loss, acquisition efforts should be accelerated to 21,000 acres per year for 10 years completing 30% of the 50 year goal of 702,200 acres. This objective has not been met due to inadequate funding. Supplementing our existing program with accelerated WMA acquisition will require additional temporary staff to acquire and develop new lands.

(<://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/strategic-documents/wma-acquisition50year.>)

Temperate grasslands are considered to be one of the most altered ecosystems on the earth. Native prairie and associated species have been targeted as critical habitats by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS). Since 1987, MCBS has evaluated and mapped about 200,000 acres of remaining prairie in the state as compared to the nearly 18 million acres identified about 100 years ago based on the public land surveys. Only half of this remaining prairie habitat is currently under some form of permanent protection.

Although Minnesota DNR has the training and know-how to restore high quality prairie vegetation, current funding is insufficient to meet all needs. Many sites on state lands are currently not being actively managed to realize full potential as plant communities or wildlife habitat. Re-establishing prairie on public lands requires periodic burning, inter-seeding grasslands with native species, and up to five years of post-seeding management and assessment. Some state-owned grasslands are “problem” sites consisting of monotypic fields of brome of low habitat value. Furthermore exotic and/or invasive plants are encroaching and woody plant encroachment are especially troublesome problems that must be addressed. Portions of newly acquired areas and state-owned marginal croplands also need to be seeded and treated. Use of high quality seed from established prairie sites to plant at other locations has proven to be highly cost-effective.

Conservation Delivery

Acquisitions

The DNR will identify potential lands for sale from willing sellers statewide and determine appropriateness for acquisition as a WMA. Approved potential acquisitions will be identified within each L-SOHC Section to meet acreage targets established by The Citizens Report. Parcels will be prioritized according to criteria tailored for each L-SOHC Section. The DNR will follow established land acquisition procedures and if successful in acquiring will then develop an “Initial Development Plan” (IDP) to be funded with this program to make the new parcel fully functional as a WMA within

the first two years of acquisition. The IDP will include boundary surveys and signage, user access and parking facilities, well and septic closure, building and dump disposal, restoration of shallow temporary and seasonal wetlands and cover bare ground with native vegetation. The SNA program will acquire 100 acres of native prairie in fee and another 175 acres with perpetual easements. DNR acquisition staff will target projects that fall into the one of the “Focal Landscapes” identified by the Division of Ecological Resources. A small amount of additional non-prairie acreage (e.g. crop fields) may also be acquired and reconstructed to provide additional habitat and to buffer the native prairie.

The DNR has an ongoing process to identify potential willing sellers for WMA acquisitions. Upon approval of funding through the Legislature, the DNR will begin appraisals to acquire approximately 50% of the project acquisition goal in year one and 50% in year two. Initial Development Plans will be implemented within the first two years following acquisition. The SNA acquisition projects and associated transactions will be completed by DNR staff. In FY11, funds will be used to acquire sites where landowner interest has already been identified and to initiate new landowner negotiations. The new landowner negotiations initiated in FY11 will lead to additional acquisitions to be completed in FY12 and FY13. Initial Development Plans will be developed by DNR staff. Implementation of IDPAs will be primarily through contracts with the Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) and private sector vendors, with contract management by DNR staff.

WMA/AMA Habitat Work

Grassland restoration work will be primarily through seeding either bare ground (e.g newly acquired agricultural fields) or old-field habitat (e.g. smooth brome). Techniques for this work include site preparation such as mowing, herbicide application, or burning when necessary, followed by direct seeding. Seed will be obtained via harvesting of local native or restored prairie when possible and purchase of seed from vendors as necessary.

Enhancement methods to reinvigorate or increase diversity of existing prairie or grasslands include brush and tree removal, chemical treatment, mowing, inter-seeding and burning. Assessment of the outcomes of restoration and enhancement activities will be conducted to determine if future activities need to be adjusted to maximize habitat and ecological benefits.

MCC and contract vendors will be used to the greatest extent possible although DNR staff may perform some work when suitable contractors are not available. One FTE will be hired for three years to manage implementation of projects on both existing WMAs and newly acquired tracts. Responsibilities include working with contracts and contractors, completing on-site inspections, quality assurance (especially seed source) and other tasks to ensure that contracted work is successfully completed and meets DNR standards and L-SOHC expectations. Due to a severe shortage of qualified burn personnel, 6 new DNR FTEs will be hired to address prescribed burning and woody cover encroachment management needs on WMAs.

Ecological Resources Habitat Work

Restoration of prairie will occur on 25 acres of severely altered lands by reconstructing the native prairie plant community. These restorations will be located on in-holdings within a native prairie, or onlands surrounding native prairies. Restoration activities include seedbed preparation, seed harvest, and seed installation. Prairie enhancement activities will be implemented on 860 acres of existing and newly acquired prairies throughout the prairie regions of the State and on goat prairies in the Southeast Forest. Enhancement activities include invasive species treatments (herbaceous and woody species) and prescribed burning. Assessments of the restoration and enhancement activity

outcomes will be conducted so future activities can be adjusted to maximize the ecological benefits (i.e. adaptive management).

Restoration and enhancement practices will be designed and administered by DNR staff, while implementation and assessment will use a combination of DNR staff and contracted services. There is a backlog of management needs on DNR administered lands and implementation of restoration and enhancement can begin immediately upon receipt of funds. Restoration, enhancement and preliminary assessment projects would be completed by the end of FY12.

WMA Roving Crew

A DNR WMA roving crew will be assembled with 6 FTEs consisting ultimately of new limited-term employees. This crew will be capable of burning 7,000 acres per year (at full capacity – less the first year) assuming normal weather conditions and manage an additional 1,000 acres of woody encroachment for a total of 16,000 acres treated over the two year life of this proposal. Twenty-five percent of the crews time will be spent on other WMA habitat management activities. It should be noted that there is a severe shortage of private sector personnel who meet the State of MN burning certification requirements. Furthermore, insurance and other hurdles prevent some contractors from being able to bid on state contracts. Over time we are interested in building private sector capacity as burning is a useful and long-term management strategy.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

The Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan identifies habitat loss and degradation as the number one driver of change for wildlife in Minnesota. The plan further states that the prairie regions have experienced the greatest amount of habitat loss of any region. This project addresses the following priorities in the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan*:

- “Critical Land Protection” recommendations H1 “Protect priority land habitats” (which specifically targets native prairie and savanna as well as landscape-scale complexes centered on concentrations of existing remnant habitat – pp. 63 & 66 of Habitat Recommendations)
- “Land and Water Restoration and Protection” recommendations H5 “Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds” (with emphasis on prairie – p. 80)

Tomorrow’s Habitat for the Wild and Rare - Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for species in greatest conservation need (SGCNs) has identified (p. 38) significant loss and degradation of habitat as the number one management challenge and one of the principle strategies is to provide protection through selective acquisition of key habitats in each Ecological Section. This proposal directly addresses many of the State Wildlife Action Plan’s Strategies and Priority Conservation Actions to “stabilize and increase SGCN [species of greatest conservation need] populations” for the subsections with prairie ecosystems (pp. 86, 92, 98, 104, 110, 206, 212, 218, 224, 234) and the prairie, savanna, and surrogate grassland habitats (pp. 255, 263, and 265).

Minnesota’s Long Range Duck Recovery Plan lists the objective of restoring a breeding population of 1 million ducks by 2056. The primary strategy is the protection and restoration of 2 million additional acres of habitat.

Minnesota’s Long Range Plan for the Ring-necked Pheasant lists the objective of increasing pheasant population to 1.8 million birds. To accomplish this objective the plan calls for an additional 21,000 acres of grassland to be protected through acquisition of WMAs.

Citizens report Minnesota’s Wildlife Management Area Acquisition – The Next 50 Years recommends acquisition goals of an additional 702,200 acres of WMAs s over the next 50 years.

The national Grassland Conservation Plan for Prairie Grouse identifies habitat needs for prairie chickens and sharp-tailed grouse in Minnesota.

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Additionally, this project also helps meet goals outlined in the following plans:

- *Scientific & Natural Areas Long Range Plan*
- *Minnesota’s Timber Rattle Snake Recovery Plan*
- *Minnesota DNR’s Nongame Strategic Plan*

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e. ,acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore		1169		
Protect		1005		
Enhance	3283	16,860		

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		Blue Earth Clay Faribault Fillmore Goodhue Hennepin Kittson Lac Qui Parle McLeod Meeker Morrison Polk Red Lake Redwood Sibley Swift Todd Winona		
Protect		Houston, Fillmore, Winona Kittson Lac Qui Parle Lincoln Murray Nicollet Otter Tail Polk Renville, Redwood, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, Rice Roseau		
Enhance		Anoka Becker Big Stone Brown Brown Chippewa		

		Clay Cottonwood Dodge Douglas Goodhue Houston Jackson Kanabec Kandiyohi Kittson Lac qui Parle LeSueur Lincoln Lincoln Lyon Mahnomen Marshall McLeod Meeker Mower Murray Nobles Norman Otter Tail Pipestone Polk Red Lake Redwood Renville Stearns Swift Todd Wabasha Wadena Waseca Washington Wilkin Yellow Medicine		
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Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore		80		1089	
Protect		365		640	
Enhance	10	9027	100	10489	94

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore		19,300		605,488	
Protect		801,648		2,393,296	
Enhance	11,300	422,220	120,000	1,399,781	60,300

Indicate what is being funded

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		\$186,950		
Protect		\$3,194,944		
Enhance		\$2,451,439		

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability		830 ac		
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement		175 ac		

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	413,500	413,500	40,000
Contracts	642,518	457,915	
Equipment/Tools	136,580	118,430	
Materials/Supplies			

Fee Acquisition	1,539,000	840,000	415,944
Easement Acquisition	100,000	150,000	150,000
Easement Stewardship			
Travel	36,183	37838	3712
Professional Services	68,960	44,100	30,446
Operational Support	76,174	76,174	34,234
Training	3,125	5,000	
TOTAL	3,016,040	2,142,957	674,336

Relationship to Current Budget

This project comprises 1.5% of the DNRs overall budget. Acquisition dollars are in addition to existing acquisition money. Habitat restoration and enhancement projects are in addition to existing work, much of which will be accomplished through contracts or via the WMA roving crew incorporated into this proposal. Some existing SNA staff will be used to accomplish this work. However, these positions are all on “soft” money and would otherwise be laid-off.

Personnel

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount
NR Spec (2)		114,000
NR Spec Sr.(0.50)		32,500
NR Tech (1)		50,000
Acquisition Specialist (0.25)		17,500
Laborer (5)		175000
<i>Total</i>		<i>389,000</i>

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state						
State Wildlife Grants		25,000		25,000		
Nat.Wild Turkey Fed.		60,000				
In-kind/Volunteer						
TOTAL		145,000		25,000		

Indicate how the leverage will be used

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect								
Enhance						\$170,000		

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Acquired in fee	456 ac	250 ac	124 ac	\$3,194,944
Easements	44 ac	67 ac	64 ac	\$400,000
Restoration	200 ac	800 ac	169 ac	\$186,950
Enhancements	8,000 ac	8,000 ac	4,143 ac	\$2,004,620

Maintenance and Sustainability

These restorations and enhancements will occur on public lands (primarily Wildlife Management Areas) which are owned in fee title by the state. Long-term maintenance will be incorporated into DNR's regular planning and maintenance schedule. It should be noted, however, that current levels of normal DNR funding for these activities are insufficient to manage the entire WMA system. Therefore, additional management funds will likely be requested from LOHC in the future.

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: Revised January 20, 2010

Project or Program Title: Green Corridor Legacy Program – Phase II

Manager’s Name: Bradley H. Cobb

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Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$1,651,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000

Appropriation Language

Abstract

The Green Corridor Legacy Program – Phase II FY2011 appropriation will be a continuation of the Phase I FY2010 appropriations by LSOHC. The Green Corridor Legacy Program fiscal agent is the Redwood Area Communities Foundation (RACF) dba Green Corridor Inc with oversight/management responsibilities by the Green Corridor Inc. Board of Directors.

Publicly owned natural resource infrastructure (e.g. WMA, AMA, etc) invigorates local and regional economies by providing outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities. New business concepts are likely to arise as a direct result of the recreational/ tourism opportunities that will be advanced and promoted by the Green Corridor Legacy Program.

The Green Corridor Legacy Program - Phase II will protect and restore/enhance high quality fish, game, and wildlife habitats by developing complexes or corridors of new and/or expansions of MN DNR Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and/or Aquatic Management Areas (AMA) in the Program area. The proposed fee title acquisitions will be considered from a priority list of properties based on several key factors of which show the most urgent need. All properties will be acquired from willing and supportive landowners. All projects have the support of the local DNR offices.

Other program activities will include continuing community/citizen/regional support of the program, partnership involvement in program development, and continue to promote local/state government cooperation. Fiduciary responsibility for the program activities including all processes associated to the land transactions, financial oversight, transparency and accountability to all program activities and outcomes, and development of a strategy to monitor the outcomes with partners and agencies.

Narrative

This program incorporates the basic concepts of sustainability and ecosystem management. Minnesota has lost 99% of the original prairie and has seen dramatic declines in grassland dependent wildlife of greatest need. Traditional game & aquatic species are also affected by the decline in habitat.

The Glacial River Warren created the Minnesota River Valley as it drained Lake Agassiz 10,000+ years ago. The bluff to bluff wall of water carved out one of Minnesota's most scenic landscapes, creating unique geological features, and unique plant communities only found along the valley and its primary tributaries. Efforts to restore, protect, and enhance our wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife are timely as escalating development pressures threaten remaining natural lands and water resources on both public and private lands in the program area.

The program will succeed because numerous partnerships have been developed from a wide variety of disciplines (e.g. U of M, DNR, local SWCD, USFWS, PF, MDHA, NWTF, community/civic groups, regional business leaders, and supportive landowners) that will assist in monitoring outcomes, provide long range management of the acquired lands, provide technical support, and ensure that program activities will advance the goals, objectives, and strategies of the various state-wide conservation plans and provide public transparency and input. Green Corridor Inc. is in the process of securing additional financial support of program activities with a number of local/regional wildlife, conservation, and sportsmen's groups.

Through the Green Corridor Board of Directors, we have gain the support for this program from community/civic organizations like the MN River Scenic By-way Alliance, local government agencies like the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the program area, documented letter of support from the MN DNR Region 4 director, and documented letters of support from the local county(s) government. Once purchase agreements are secured, formal notifications to the Board of County Commissioners (in the counties were properties will be acquired) will be completed, as is the normal protocol.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

The Green Corridor Legacy Program approach will be based on sound science concepts of plan development, setting conservation priorities, developing short and long term strategies to achieve conservation priorities, implement the strategies, and then continue monitoring the outcomes. All of these concepts and practices will follow existing state wildlife and conservation plans and natural resource management practices in conjunction with agency partners.

The Green Corridor Legacy Program in consultation with area DNR managers will ensure program activities conform to the various state conservation and resources plan objectives and outcomes:

Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan identifies habitat loss and degradation as the number one driver of change for wildlife in Minnesota and further states that the prairie regions have experienced the greatest amount of habitat loss of any region.

Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for species in greatest conservation need has identified significant loss and degradation of habitat as the number one management challenge and one of the primary strategies is to provide protection through selective acquisition of key habitats in the prairie regions.

Minnesota’s Long Range Duck Recovery Plan lists the objective of restoring a breeding population of one (1) million ducks by 2056. The primary strategy to reach this objective is the protection and restoration of two (2) million acres of habitat of which 70% will be grassland habitat in the prairie eco-region.

Minnesota’s Long Range Plan for the Ring-neck Pheasant lists the objective of increasing pheasant populations to 1.8 million birds. To accomplish this objective the plan calls for an additional 21,000 acres of grasslands to be protected through acquisitions of WMA’s.

Citizens report Minnesota’s Wildlife Management Area Acquisition – The Next 50 Years recommends acquisition goals of an additional 494,000 in the prairie and transitional region over the next 50 years.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e. ,acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore		53 acres or more		
Protect	33 acres or more	275 acres or more	8 acres or more	Fish/Aquatic Habitat:27 acres or more-Our highest priority tract (Granite Prairie WMA) has 1.1 mile of MN River shoreline and over 10 acres of high quality remnant prairie to name just several of the key features of this particular project.
Enhance				

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		Brown, Renville, Cottonwood, Redwood		
Protect		Brown, Renville, Cottonwood, Redwood		
Enhance				

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore				54 acres or more	
Protect				343 acres or more	
Enhance					

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore				\$27,000	
Protect				\$1,624,000	
Enhance					

Indicate what is being funded

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		\$27,000		
Protect		\$1,542,700		
Enhance				

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability		343 acres or more		
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	\$43,000	\$2,000	
Contracts – Private Habitat Restoration Co. to	0	\$27,000	

include materials and labor			
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$1,542,700	0	
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel	\$1,000	\$250	
Additional Budget Items			
Fiscal Agent/RACF Oversight	\$9,000	\$1,000	
DNR Professional Services – Title Transfer to state	\$4,500	0	
DNR Initial WMA/AMA development (signage, fencing, parking, misc)	0	\$9,000	
Professional Services – Appraisals by Green Corridor Inc.	\$9,000	0	
Professional Services – Legal Fees for acquisitions by Green Corridor Inc	\$2,550	0	
TOTAL	\$1,611,750	\$39,250	

Budget Details/Explanations:

The Personal section is for Program Manager to carry out activities directly related to the accomplishments of this Program appropriation.

Contract section is for vendor services (material and labor) towards the restoration of the newly acquired acres that require restoration.

Travel section is for Program Manager travel expenses directly related to the accomplishments of this Program appropriation.

Additional Budget Items Section:

Fiscal Agent/RACF Oversight is for fiscal agent (RACF) expenses – staff (Executive Director), insurance, auditing services, and legal support – to facilitate this entire appropriation.

DNR Professional Services directly related to the fee title acquisitions for title review, transfer, and preparation of closing documents needed by the state/DNR.

DNR Initial WMA/AMA development is for the initial WMA/AMA development costs (e.g. signage, parking lot, and fencing) by the DNR.

Professional Services - Appraisals are for the required appraisal to determine “fair market value” with will be certified by the state/DNR as Third Party Agreements hired by Green Corridor Inc.

Professional Services – Legal Fees are for review of legal documents (purchase agreements and title review) hired by Green Corridor Inc. directly related to the fee title acquisition of properties.

Relationship to Current Budget

Green Corridor Inc. Current Fiscal Year Budget: \$2,617,000

Source of Funding	Amount	Percentage to Budget
LCCMR FY2008-2010	\$1,000,000	38%
LSOHC FY2010	\$1,617,000	62%

Un-spent/un-programmed State Dollars

LCCMR FY2008-2010 \$40,000 (approx.)
 LSOHC FY2010 \$1,617,000 (final accomplishment due June 2011. Of the 4 proposed projects, we currently have 3 purchase agreements pending with anticipated closing dates in March 2010. Final project is still pending an issuance of a purchase agreement)

Personnel

Position	Name	Amount
Fiscal Manager/Exec. Director	Pat Dingels	\$10,000
Program Manager	Bradley H. Cobb	\$45,000

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state						
Renville Cty PF		\$10,000				
In-kind/Volunteer						
TOTAL		\$10,000				

Leverage Comments: The Green Corridor Legacy Program will continue to seek regional financial support of this program. Several other local wildlife conservation groups have pending commitments for these Program activity/accomplishments. We will provide a revised Leverage Commitment statement once additional funds are secured to include possible landowner donations of property.

Indicate how the leverage will be used

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect						\$10,000		
Enhance								

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestone	Date	Measure
Acquisition/Restoration		
Complete final landowner/DNR documentations	July 2010	6 projects – 840 acres
Contract appraisals ordered	August 2010	2-6 projects – 840 acres
Purchase Agreements	Nov. 2010	2-3 projects – 343 acres or more
Closing/Title Transfer to State/DNR	June 2011	2-3 projects – 343 acres or more
Complete initial restoration –private contractors	June 2012	2-3 projects – 54 acres or more
Initial DNR WMA/AMA site development	June 2012	2-3 projects - 343 acres or more

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Order 2-6 appraisals	July 2010			\$9,000
Secure 2-3 Purchase Agreements & title/abstract review	Feb. 2010			\$7,050
Closed on 2-3 properties totaling 343 acres or more	June 2011 or sooner			\$1,542,700
Restoration of 54 acres or more by private contractor/vendor		June 2012 or sooner		\$27,000
DNR Initial WMA/AMA Development on 2-3 properties		June 2012 or sooner		\$9,000

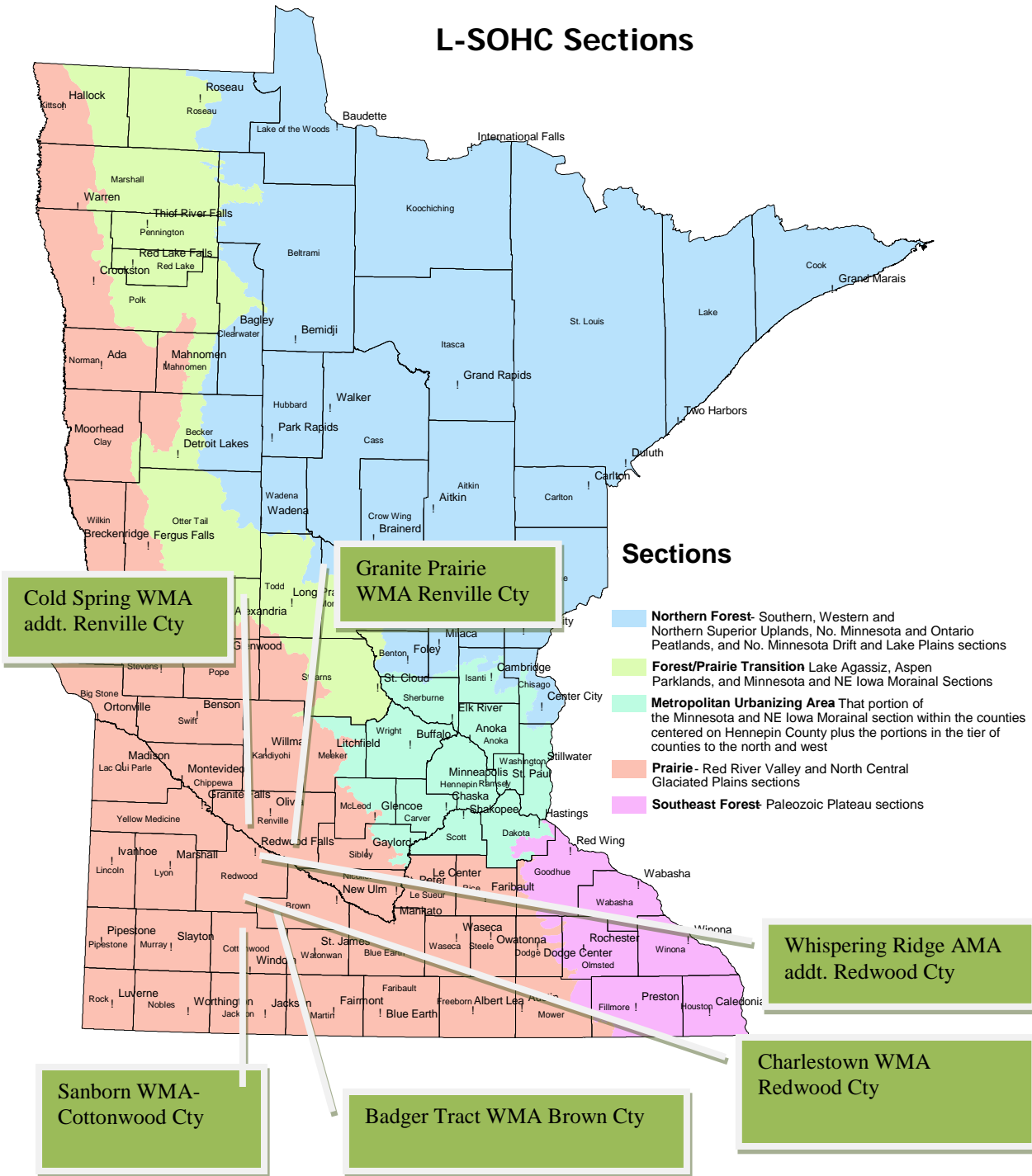
Accomplishments/Milestone Details: Due to the nature of landowner negotiations, appraisal reviews, title/abstract reviews, and weather effecting restoration efforts accomplishment/milestone dates are subject to change. Some proposed projects may change and others may need to be added. We will continue to inform LSOHC staff as accomplishments and milestones change or are reached with prescribed Accomplishment Plan updates (status reports) as required.

+++ Please note that this revised Accomplishment Plan does NOT include funding for the Native Prairie Seed Propagation Project as determined by the LSOHC ++++

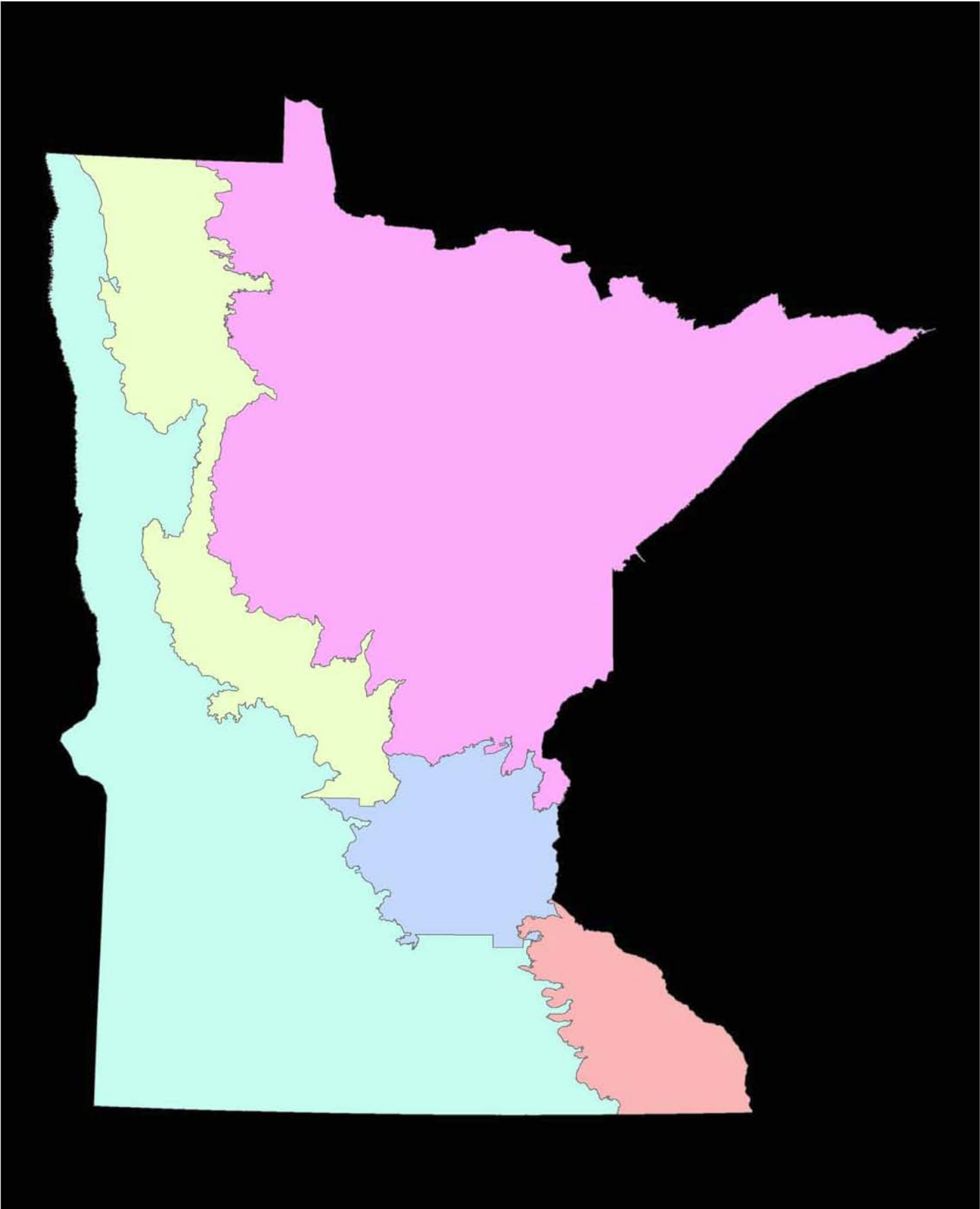
Maintenance and Sustainability

First, initial site restoration and development (signage, parking lots, fencing) will be accomplished by this appropriation. The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife will then permanently manage these properties. Routine maintenance will be managed by area DNR staff funded by their traditional sources like the Game & Fish Fund. Due to the proximity to other DNR properties will help keep maintenance costs less than average due to shared resources. Periodic enhancements or improvements will be funded by special funding requests. The DNR requires management plans for each project which identify periodic inspections and continuing management of the property site. These management practices include such things as; prescribed fire, weed control, and invasive tree removal. Regional partners may also support these management activities/practices by applying for state funding/grants for maintenance as needed.

L-SOHC Sections



These proposed projects listed above will be consider from the original Green Corridor Legacy Program submission list. Other proposed projects may need to be added considering the final appropriations based on the highest or most urgent conservation need and timeliness.



**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: January 19, 2010

Project or Program Title: Prairie Heritage Fund

Manager's Name: Matt Holland

Title: Sr. Field Coordinator

Agency/organization: Pheasants Forever

Mailing Address: 697 West River Drive, New London, MN 56273

Telephone: 320-354-4377

Fax: 320-354-4377

E-Mail: mholland@pheasantsforever.org

Web Site: www.Pheasantsforever.org, www.minnesotapf.org

	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Funds Recommended (\$000s)	FY 2011			
Outdoor Heritage Fund	3,015,000	0	0	0

Appropriation Language

Abstract

Pheasants Forever and partners including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will protect 900 acres of priority prairie grassland, wetland habitat, and native remnant prairie (if available) as state wildlife management areas (WMA). In addition, acquired lands will be restored and/or enhanced to prairie and/or wetland habitat. Once complete, these WMAs will provide quality grassland/wetland habitat complexes that will benefit a myriad of game and non-game species and will provide public recreational opportunities for the citizens of Minnesota.

Narrative

The threats to wildlife habitat in the farmland regions of Minnesota are constant and increasing. Development pressures from urbanization, industry (e.g. wind, gravel), and agriculture put our existing habitats in constant jeopardy. Minnesota is also losing significant acreage of grassland habitat (approximately 70,000 acres last year) in the farmland region of Minnesota due to expiring CRP contracts. Now it is even more urgent to provide the vital permanent, high quality habitat complexes on a landscape level to protect and maintain wildlife populations. In addition, providing a place for Minnesotans to hunt, trap, fish and otherwise recreate in the outdoors are urgent needs, and needs we can deliver right now.

To help slow and reverse the loss of habitat and declining wildlife populations, Pheasants Forever and our partners will protect (fee acquisition from willing sellers) 900 acres of high priority grassland, wetland habitat, and native remnant prairie (if available) as state wildlife management areas (WMA). Striving to build landscape level habitat complexes that will protect and sustain wildlife populations, 17 of the 20 potential projects are additions to existing WMA's and all projects have been developed in consultation with the local DNR managers. DNR Commissioner approval will be received for any project funded under this proposal.

All acquired lands will be restored and/or enhanced. Acquired croplands will be restored to diverse grasslands and wetlands to the fullest extent. Enhancement to existing prairie grasslands and wetlands will also occur as determined by the DNR Manager and PF Biologists. Enhancements could include undesirable woody vegetation removal, water control structure installation, inter-seeding within grasslands to increase diversity and structure, managed grazing, invasive species control, or any other activity that improves the diversity and health of the prairie-wetland habitat complex. We will use as diverse of a seed mixture as reasonable for the site to achieve diversity and quality functional habitat using plants native to Minnesota.

Pheasants Forever's network of 76 Minnesota chapters and 24,000 members have been actively involved in protecting and restoring lands in partnership with the Minnesota DNR for 27 years. Wildlife Management Areas have proven to be an invaluable tool in protecting and sustaining habitat and the myriad of species that call them home. WMA's provide many recreational opportunities and are enjoyed by thousands of Minnesotans every year.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

This effort directly protects, restores or enhances prairie grasslands, wetlands and habitat for game and wildlife. In cooperation with DNR Managers, we use existing data (e.g. County Biological Survey, HAPET Thunderstorm maps, Restorable wetlands inventory, and protected lands GIS layers), to identify, prioritize, and permanently protect prairie grassland and wetland habitats that improve habitat function for wildlife.

The work of this proposal is consistent with many of the strategies and objectives of existing plans including the *Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan*, the *Long-range plan for the ring-necked pheasant in Minnesota*, *Long-range Duck Recovery Plan*, *North American Waterfowl Management Plan*, *Partners in Flight Physiographic Area Plan for the Tallgrass Prairie*.

Project Design and Evaluation

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore				
Protect		900 acres		
Enhance				

Prairie systems include wetlands and vice versa. Wetlands and wetland systems are a key consideration for prioritizing projects and will be acquired and restored to their fullest extent.

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore*				
Protect		Benton, Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Dakota, Goodhue, LaQui Parle, McLeod, Meeker, Morrison, Mower, Pipestone, Rock, Swift, Todd		
Enhance*				

*Parcels acquired will be those that are restored and enhanced. At this time, we do not know which projects will come to completion.

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect	150 acres	150 acres		600 acres	
Enhance					

Potential projects are identified in the Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area, Southeast Forest, Prairie, Forest-Prairie Transition and Northern Forest Region. While a majority of the projects will occur within the prairie region, it is largely dependent on which projects actually are completed as to where the acres and dollars are expended.

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect	502,500	502,500		2,010,000	
Enhance					

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		2,595,000		
Enhance				

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability	<i>150 acres</i>	<i>750 acres</i>		
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	<i>35,000</i>	<i>10,000</i>	
Contracts	<i>375,000</i>		
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	<i>2,000,000</i>	<i>595,000</i>	
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	<i>2,410,000</i>	<i>605,000</i>	

Relationship to Current Budget

In recent years, PF has acquired approximately 2,000 acres of land that has been donated to a public agency. This grant significantly accelerates our ability to acquire priority parcels. We have assigned portions of positions to this project and directly deliver the outcomes outlined in this proposal. In addition, PF has added capacity to assist in the delivery of these types of projects. A new Director of Conservation Programs position was hired in December of 2009 to bring more capacity to deliver the Pheasants Forever habitat mission here in Minnesota. Only documented, direct to project costs will be reimbursed under this grant. Any dollars allocated under personnel that are unused will be moved to acquisition or restoration projects to accomplish more.

Personnel

Position	Name	Amount
Director of Conservation Programs/Sr. Field Coordinator	Joe Pavelko/Matt Holland	20,000

Regional Biologist	Eran Sandquist/Scott Roemhildt	15,000
Grant Department Staff	National Office Grant Department	10,000

Leverage

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state		500,000		25,000		
In-kind/Volunteer						
TOTAL		500,000		25,000		

Leverage will come from PF Chapters, local partners, documented land value donations, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and other non-state sources.

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect						525,000		
Enhance								

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Identify priority acquisitions.	7/1/2010			
Contract appraisals ordered.	7/11/2010			30,000
Purchase agreements.	12/01/2010			
Restoration actions initiated	10/01/2010			
Close on optioned tracts	Starting 11/1/2010			2,610,000
Donate Lands to DNR	6/30/2010			
Habitat restorations Completed		6/30/2011		375,000

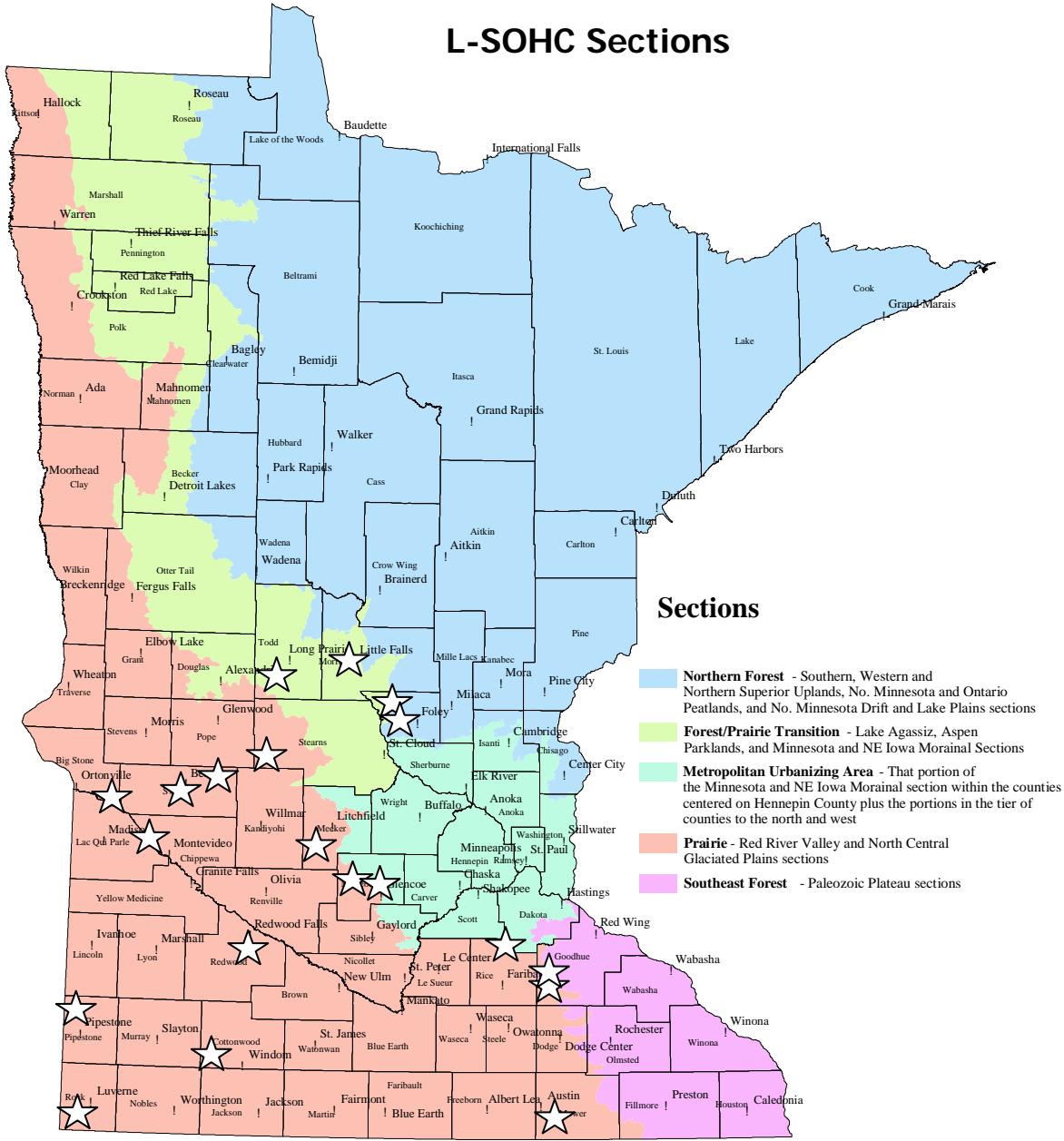
Maintenance and Sustainability

All lands will be enrolled into the state Wildlife Management Area system and will be managed in perpetuity by the Minnesota DNR. In addition, our local Pheasants Forever chapter members and volunteers maintain a high interest in seeing the habitat and productivity of acquired parcels at high-quality levels.

Potential Project List – FY2011 Prairie Heritage Fund

Potential Project Name	County	Acres	Zone
Lac Qui Parle WMA Addition	Big Stone	17	P
Benderberg WMA Addition	Chippewa	72	P
	Lac Qui		
Florida Creek WMA Addition	Parle	149	P
Darling WMA	Morrison	155	T
Camp Kerk WMA Addition	Swift	50	P
TBA WMA (Platt Lake)	Todd	162	T
Wieker WMA Addition	Meeker	17	P
Graham WMA Addition	Benton	40	F
Winter WMA Addition	Pipestone	160	P
Talcot Lake WMA Addition	Cottonwood	115	P
Clair Rollings West WMA Addition	Swift	197	P
Mill Pond WMA Addition	Mower	120	P
NEW WMA (Voosen)	Redwood	640	P
NEW WMA (Kujawa)	Benton	200	
Ras-Lyn WMA Addition	McLeod	88	P
Warsaw WMA Tract 2	Goodhue	188	SE
Warsaw WMA Tract 3	Goodhue	146	SE
Phasianus WMA Addition	McLeod	80	P
Chub Lake WMA Addition	Dakota	155	M
Rock River WMA Addition	Rock	<u>91</u>	P
		2842	

L-SOHC Sections



Sections

- **Northern Forest** - Southern, Western and Northern Superior Uplands, No. Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands, and No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains sections
- **Forest/Prairie Transition** - Lake Agassiz, Aspen Parklands, and Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal Sections
- **Metropolitan Urbanizing Area** - That portion of the Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal section within the counties centered on Hennepin County plus the portions in the tier of counties to the north and west
- **Prairie** - Red River Valley and North Central Glaciated Plains sections
- **Southeast Forest** - Paleozoic Plateau sections

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 22, 2009

Project or Program Title: Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition

Manager's Name: Michael Pressman
Title: Director of Protection
Agency/organization: The Nature Conservancy
Mailing Address: 1101 West River Parkway, Suite 200
 Minneapolis, MN 55415-1291
Telephone: 612-331-0706
Fax: 612-331-0770
E-Mail: mpressman@tnc.org
Web Site: www.nature.org

US Fish and Wildlife Service representative: Refuge Manager, Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR
Mailing Address: 44843 County Road 19, Odessa, MN 56276
Telephone: 320-273-2191
Fax: 320-273-2231
E-Mail: Alice_Hanley@fws.gov
Web Site: fws.gov/midwest/NorthernTallgrassPrairie/

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	2,041,000	0	0	0

Appropriation Language

\$2,041,000 in fiscal year 2011 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with The Nature Conservancy to acquire land or permanent easements within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area in western Minnesota for addition to the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. A list of proposed fee title and permanent easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. Land removed from this program shall transfer to the state.

Abstract

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to permanently protect remnant native prairie and associated wetland complexes in western Minnesota by purchasing fee title properties and/or habitat easements. Lands purchased through this program will become units of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge to be owned and managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The majority of the lands protected will consist of native prairie, however, restoration of wetlands and grasslands will also be completed where needed.

Narrative

The Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge was established to preserve, restore, and manage a portion of the remaining critical northern tallgrass prairie habitat and associated habitats at widespread locations throughout the western Minnesota and northwestern Iowa historic range. Only 5 percent of the original tallgrass prairie remains for preservation consideration throughout the entire historic tallgrass prairie range. Native prairie declines of 99.9% and 99.6% have occurred in Iowa and Minnesota, respectively. Grassland dependent bird species have shown steeper, more consistent, and geographically more widespread declines than any other group of North American birds.

The number of acres purchased annually has been limited due to funding shortfalls since the establishment of this refuge. The current land acquisition budget cannot keep up with the landowner interest in this program. This funding will allow us to better meet refuge goals and objectives to protect this vanishing habitat.

The Nature Conservancy will work closely with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to review potential properties within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area. These properties will be ranked by Service field staff who will work with TNC personnel to permanently protect these tracts.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

The Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan recommends protecting priority land habitats. This proposal will protect and restore priority native grasslands and their associated wetlands important to grassland dependent wildlife, especially grassland and wetland birds. This proposal will also implement the following habitat recommendations within the plan:

1. Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation - All fee title lands acquired and restored will be open to the public for hunting and other activities allowed under the National Wildlife Refuge System.
2. Keep water on the landscape – by protecting and restoring grasslands, this proposal will help keep water on the landscape (permanent vegetation restoration).

The need for this project is outlined in the ***Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area Final Environmental Impact Statement***, US Fish and Wildlife Service 1998. The primary purpose of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie HPA is to preserve and enhance the remaining remnant tracts of northern tallgrass prairie and aspen parklands habitats within Iowa and Minnesota.

A secondary purpose is to link existing prairie tracts together (Federal, state, tribal, private organization, and private landowner ownerships) into larger blocks plus buffer remnant prairie. This will establish larger, more viable units of managed prairie and allow travel corridors for wildlife. Prairie restoration used to link existing prairies together would utilize the same techniques used in managing existing prairies.

Project Design and Evaluation

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore				
Protect		Protect approx. 635 acres by fee title purchase, or 1,900 acres with habitat easement purchase, or a combination of the acquisition authorities.		
Enhance				

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		Wilkin, Polk, Red Lake, Mahnommen, Lincoln, Lyon and in any of the other 42 MN counties within the Habitat Preservation Area		
Enhance				

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect				Approx. 635 acres by fee title purchase, or 1,900 acres with habitat easement purchase, or a combination of the acquisition authorities.	
Enhance					

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect				\$1,927,740	
Enhance					

Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		\$1,927,740		
Enhance				

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability		Approx. 635 acres for \$1,927,740 (if all funding is used for fee title purchases)		
Permanent Easement		Approx. 1,900 acres for \$1,927,740 (if all funding is used to purchase habitat easements)		

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	\$56,000		
Contracts	\$56,000		
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$1,927,740 *		
Easement Acquisition	\$1,927,740 *		
Easement Stewardship			
Travel	\$1,260		
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$2,041,000		

(*)Funding will be used to purchase lands in fee title (top priority), purchase habitat easements, or a combination of the two acquisition authorities.

Please note – the budget above is based upon an assumption of 7 transactions. If fewer but larger transactions are completed, more funding will be available for fee or easement acquisition as less will be needed for personnel, contracts, and travel. Similarly, if more but smaller transactions are completed, additional funding may be needed for those components, making somewhat less available for fee or easement acquisition. The Nature Conservancy and US Fish and Wildlife Service can work with LSOHC staff through regular communication to make sure that the project is meeting the goals set forth in this Accomplishments Plan.

Relationship to Current Budget

Since 2000, the Service has received annual appropriations of approximately \$500,000 in Land and Water Conservation Funds to acquire lands for the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. This annual funding has allowed the Service to purchase smaller sized tracts of prairie during the last 8 years. The addition of Outdoor Heritage Funds will greatly increase our ability to protect larger tracts of native prairie throughout the 48 Minnesota Counties in the HPA.

Personnel

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount
Director of Habitat Protection	Michael Pressman	\$10,070
Land Protection Specialist	Holly Buchanan and/or Linda Bormann	\$29,710
Conservation Information Manager	Sandi Edmunds, Rich Johnson	\$4,073
Land Steward	Multiple	\$2,832
Field Steward	Multiple	\$4,815
Conservation Assistant	Nancy Young	\$4,500
	TOTAL BUDGET AMOUNT	\$56,000*

*Staff names are based on existing staff. The Nature Conservancy may substitute other qualified staff in similar positions for work on this project.

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state						
Land and Water Conservation Funds		\$500,000				
US Fish and Wildlife Service funds for restoration costs		\$44,000				
In-kind/Volunteer						
US Fish and Wildlife Service personnel costs	\$28,000					
The Nature Conservancy unreimbursed costs *	\$29,750					
TOTAL	\$57,750	\$544,000				

*The Conservancy's current federally approved negotiated indirect cost recovery rate is 23.05% and is updated annually. The rate applied to this project is 23% and has been applied to all costs except land acquisition.

Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition

Indicate how the leverage will be used

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore						\$44,000		
Protect						\$557,750		
Enhance								

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
<i>Identify priority acquisitions</i>	July 31, 2010			
<i>Appraisals ordered</i>	September 31, 2010			
<i>Easement options finalized</i>	March 1, 2011			Estimated cost of \$1,000 per acre throughout entire Habitat Preservation Area
<i>Easement purchases complete</i>	June 30, 2011			
<i>Purchase agreements finalized for fee title properties</i>	March 1, 2011			Estimated cost of \$3,000 per acre throughout entire Habitat Preservation Area
<i>Fee title purchases complete</i>	June 30, 2011			
<i>Grassland restoration completed</i>			December 2013	\$44,000

Maintenance and Sustainability

Outdoor Heritage Funds will be used to purchase the land in fee title or purchase perpetual habitat easements. The land purchased will become units of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR. Long term costs for restoration, management, and wildlife and habitat monitoring will be funded through annual refuge operations funding. Service habitat easements are perpetual and managers will work with landowners to maintain and, where needed, restore the native prairie on each tract of land.

Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition

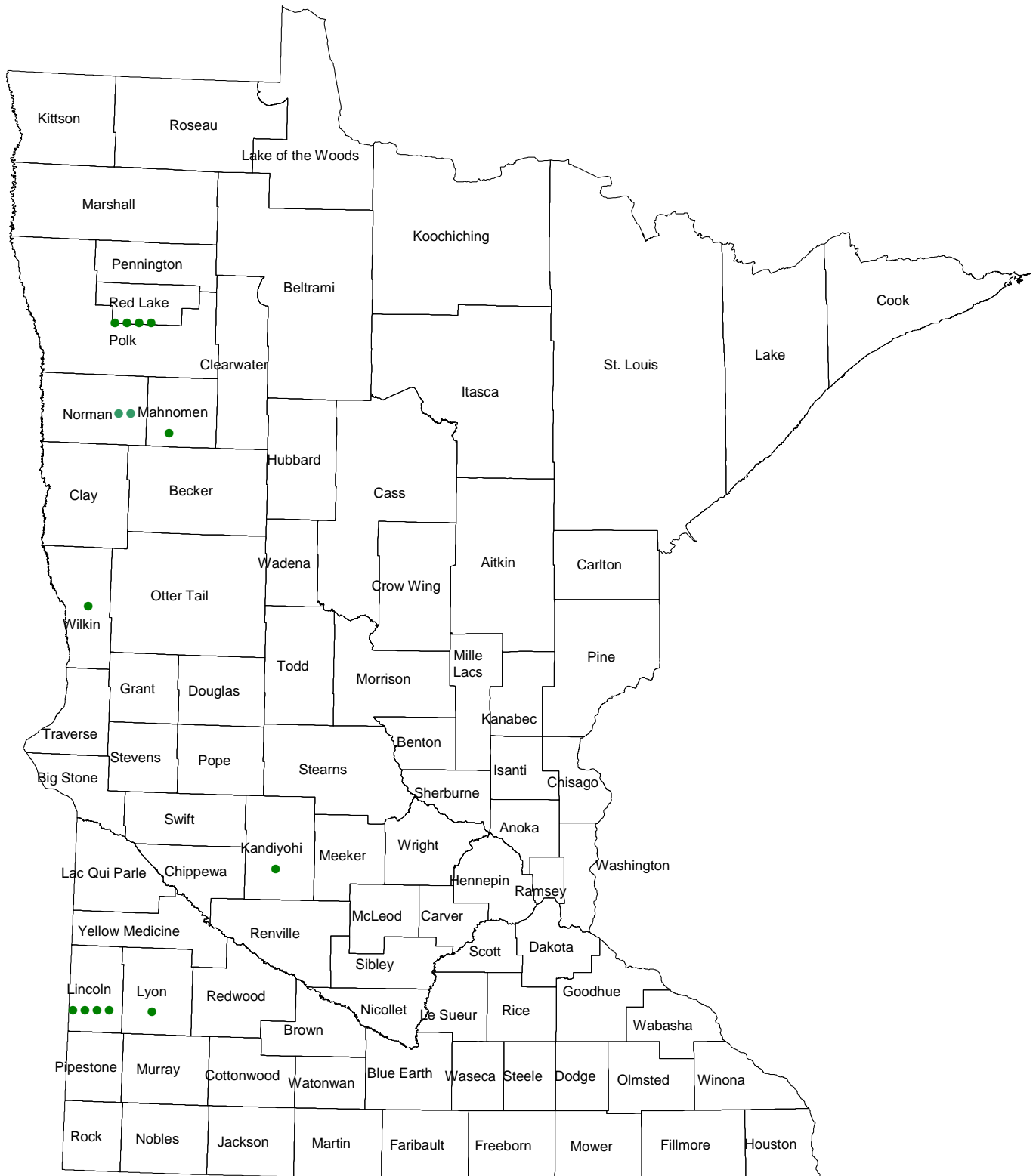
Once the land is in federal ownership, revenue sharing payments will be made for all fee title lands in accordance with federal law. Habitat easement purchases do not impact property taxes as they remain the responsibility of the landowner.

Pending Land Acquisition Properties for the Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition Project:

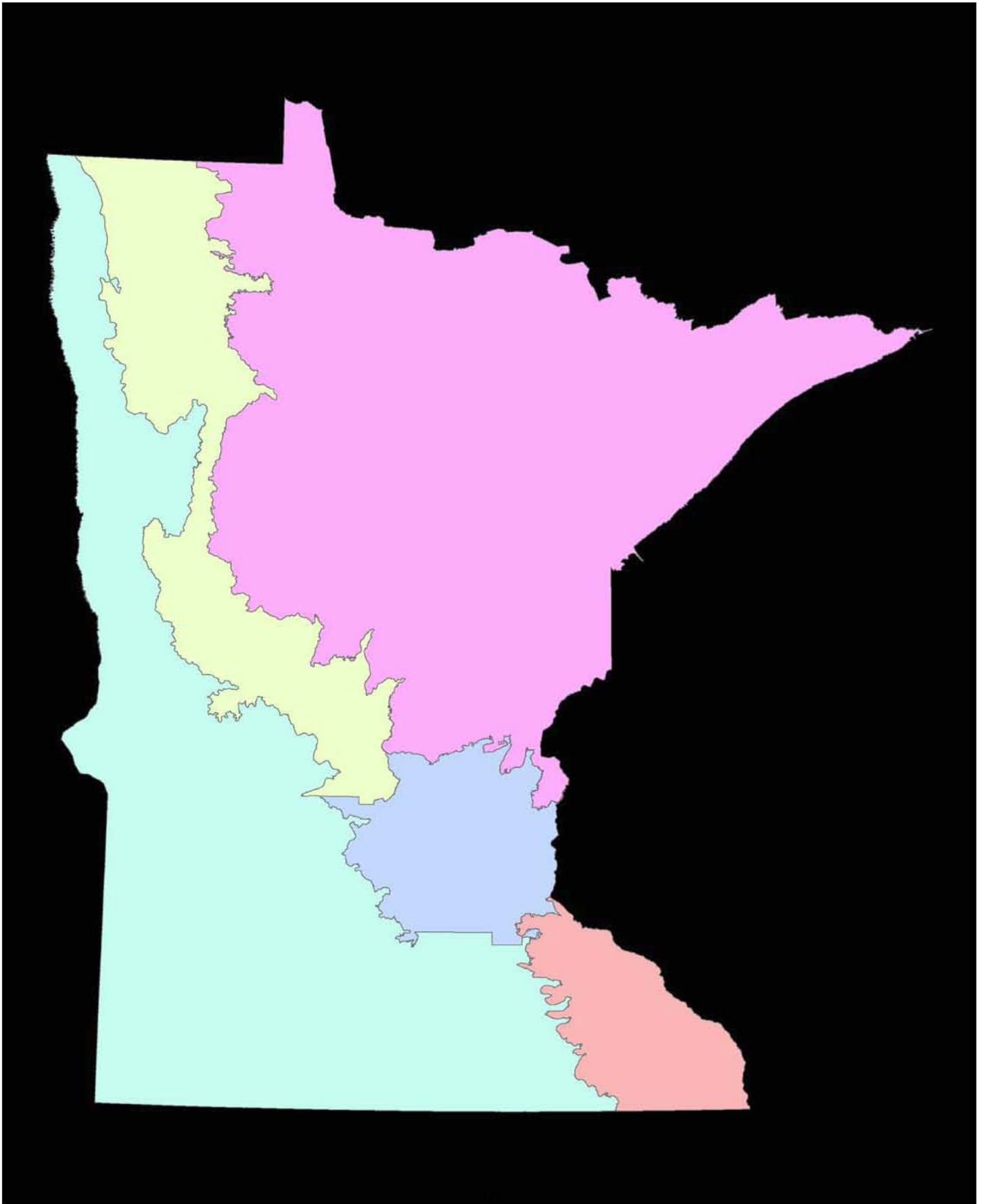
- 1. 790 acre fee title tract in Wilkin County**
- 2. 360 acre fee title tract in Red Lake County**
- 3. 320 acre fee title tract in Red Lake County**
- 4. 110 acre fee title tract in Polk County**
- 5. 400 acre fee title tract in Polk County**
- 6. 145 acre easement tract in Norman County**
- 7. 160 acre easement tract in Norman County**
- 8. 160 acre easement tract in Mahnomen County**
- 9. 240 acre easement tract in Kandiyohi County**
- 10. 118 acre easement tract in Lincoln County**
- 11. 97 acre easement tract in Lyon County**
- 12. 70 acre easement tract in Lincoln County**
- 13. 70 acres easement tract in Lincoln County**
- 14. 40 acre easement tract in Lincoln County**

***Please note that these are a list of potential projects -- completion of these acquisitions is dependent on successful negotiation with the landowners and availability of funding. More projects are listed than budget allocated in order to plan for the possibility that some projects may not come to fruition. Therefore, the total acreage included in the above list exceeds the total acres to be protected pursuant to this grant. In addition, additional projects that meet the strategic objectives of the project may be added upon concurrence of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, and LSOHC staff.**

Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition



Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR Land Acquisition



Accomplishment Plan
LSOHC

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: 01/21/10

Project or Program Title: Rum River/Cedar Creek Conservation Area

Manager's Name: John VonDeLinde
Title: Director
Agency/organization: Anoka County Parks and Recreation
Mailing Address: 550 Bunker Lake Blvd., NW, Andover, MN 55304
Telephone: 763-767-2860
Fax: 763-755-0230
E-Mail: [.vondelinde@co.anoka.mn.](mailto:vondelinde@co.anoka.mn)
Web Site: www.anokacountyparks.com

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	1,900	0	0	0

Abstract

This project will acquire 275 acres of prairie, wetland, forest and shoreline habitat for fish, game and wildlife along the Rum River and Cedar Creek in the cities of Oak Grove and Andover and will provide additional opportunities for public fishing, hunting and wildlife conservation.

Narrative

Problem Addressed:

The problem this acquisition project addresses is the urgent need to protect and enhance 275 acres of land that will provide an excellent conservation area along the Rum River and Cedar Creek. The proposed acquisition parcels are currently owned by a development group planning to sell the land for residential construction. The acquisition and protection of these parcels is of utmost concern, because without immediate action, this opportunity could be permanently lost. By acquiring this land, the LOHC has an excellent opportunity to increase and enhance the biological diversity in the area, as well as create additional hunting and fishing opportunities in the region.

Action Plan:

Once funding is appropriated, Anoka County would start the acquisition process immediately. Appraisals have been conducted and negotiations are underway with the seller for the purchase of 275 acres in 2010 and the remaining 275 acres in 2011 as proposed in the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council recommendations.

Relation to LOHC Goals:

This acquisition project relates directly to the "restore, protect and enhance habitat" provisions outlined in the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Program. First, upon acquisition, the land will be protected by being under County ownership. Second, after acquisition, the County proposes to restore approximately 250 acres of the 550 acres to a prairie/grassland habitat. Restoring and enhancing the land back to a prairie/grassland habitat will help provide the necessary biological diversity needed to support game populations, such as ring-neck pheasants, ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, white tail deer, wood ducks

and mallards and furbearers. Acquired land will remain open to hunting and fishing, consistent with the capacity of the land, during the open season, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources.

Habitat Changes:

Existing non-agricultural land on the site is recognized by the MNDNR as a high quality ecologically diverse corridor along two major greenways, the Rum River and Cedar Creek. With the acquisition, this corridor would be protected and enhanced to increase the number of species and increase the ease with which they move through this corridor.

After acquisition, County proposes to restore approximately 250 acres of the 550 acres to a prairie/grassland habitat. The ecological restoration plan will include restoring the forests, wetland and prairies. Restoration work will include introducing over 30 species of native grasses, sedges, and forbs to restore the mosaic of dry, mesic and wet prairie habitats. In addition, the existing high quality fens, wet meadows, shrub swamps and oak savannas will be managed to sustain their high quality value. Restoring and enhancing the land back to its native habitat will help provide the necessary biological diversity needed to support a diverse variety of wildlife.

The acquisition of these parcels will protect 550 acres of habitat at the confluence of the Rum River and Cedar Creek. There is approximately 1-1/2 miles of shoreline along the Rum River and about 3/4 of a mile of the Cedar Creek that runs through the property. The Rum River provides angling access opportunities for some of the most sought after game fish, such as walleye, northern pike, and small mouth bass; the river provides exceptional fisheries habitat for these game fish. As future funding is available, restoration of the flood plain and riparian edges along the Rum River and Cedar Creek will enhance habitat and cover for all migratory waterfowl species, white tail deer and wild turkeys.

Schedule:

Restoration work would start as soon after acquisition as funding allows. The majority of the restoration work is anticipated to be completed within three years of acquisition. Restoration monitoring and maintenance will be provided on an on-going basis.

Strategy:

The strategy for this project will work because the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department is a governmental agency that currently manages a large natural resource based parks and open space system throughout the County. The County has the budget, equipment and staff with the expertise to manage this project and the on-going maintenance required. In addition, it has the support of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and the local communities.

Support:

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners unanimously supports this project. The Andover City Council has written a letter of support for the acquisition. The Oak Grove City Council concurs with the County's plans to proceed with funding requests for the acquisition. Strong support in favor of the project has been expressed by area residents. There are no known barriers to the success of this project.

Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans

The project area is identified in the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan as a site of high biodiversity value based on the Minnesota County Biological Survey. In addition, the project area scored high in the areas of integrated terrestrial value and integrated aquatic habitat quality.

This project is supported by the Andover Comprehensive Plan; Oak Grove Parks and Open Space Plan; Cedar Creek Conservation Corridor Strategic Plan; Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Plan; Anoka County Comprehensive Open Space Plan; Anoka Conservation District Open Space Plan.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e., .acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore				
Protect	<i>Protect 75 acres of wetland.</i>	<i>Protect 125 acres of restored prairie</i>	<i>Protect 75 acres of riparian and upland forests</i>	<i>Protect 1.125 miles of shoreline along Cedar Creek and Rum River</i>
Enhance				

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	<i>Anoka</i>	<i>Anoka</i>	<i>Anoka</i>	<i>Anoka</i>
Enhance				

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect	<i>275</i>				
Enhance					

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect	<i>1,900,000</i>				
Enhance					

Indicate what is being funded

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	<i>\$425,000 to protect 75 acres of wetland.</i>	<i>\$800,000 to protect 125 acres of restored prairie</i>	<i>\$425,000 to protect 75 acres of riparian and upland forests</i>	<i>\$250,000 to protect 1.125 miles of shoreline along Cedar Creek and Rum River</i>
Enhance				

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability	<i>75 acres for \$425,000</i>	<i>125 acres for \$800,000</i>	<i>75 acres for \$425,000</i>	<i>1.125 miles for \$250,000</i>
Permanent Easement				

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel			
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	1,900,000		
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	1,900,000		

Relationship to Your Current Budget

Acquisition of these parcels will be provided through LOHC funding. This is new funding and does not supplant existing funding. This project is not in any current funding program or C.I.P. Continued operations and maintenance of the parcels will be supported through the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Annual Operating Budget.

Personnel - N/A

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state						
In-kind/Volunteer						
County - Acquisition	\$7,500					
TOTAL	\$7,500					

Indicate how the leverage will be used

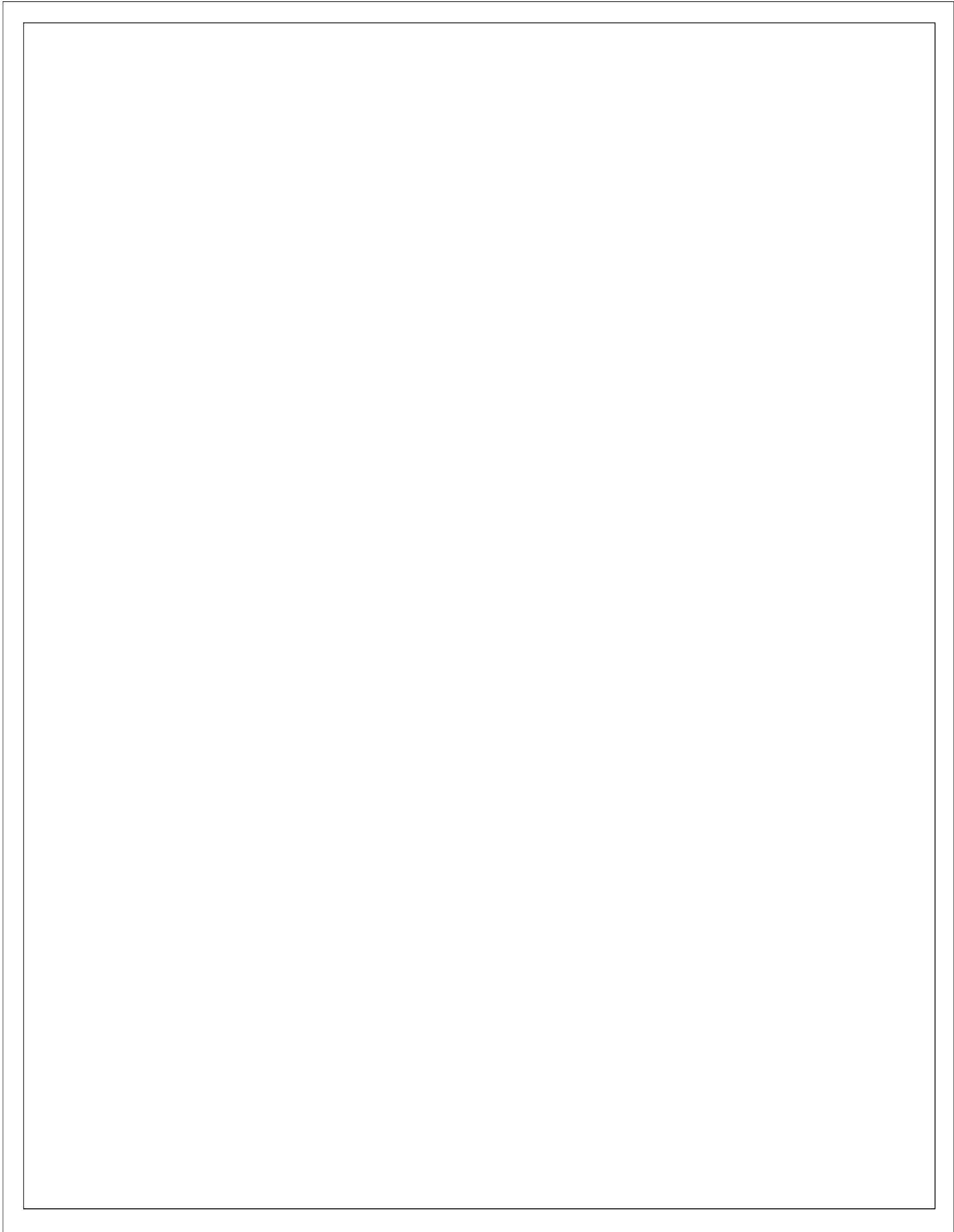
Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect	\$1,625	\$3,250	\$1,625	\$1,000				
Enhance								

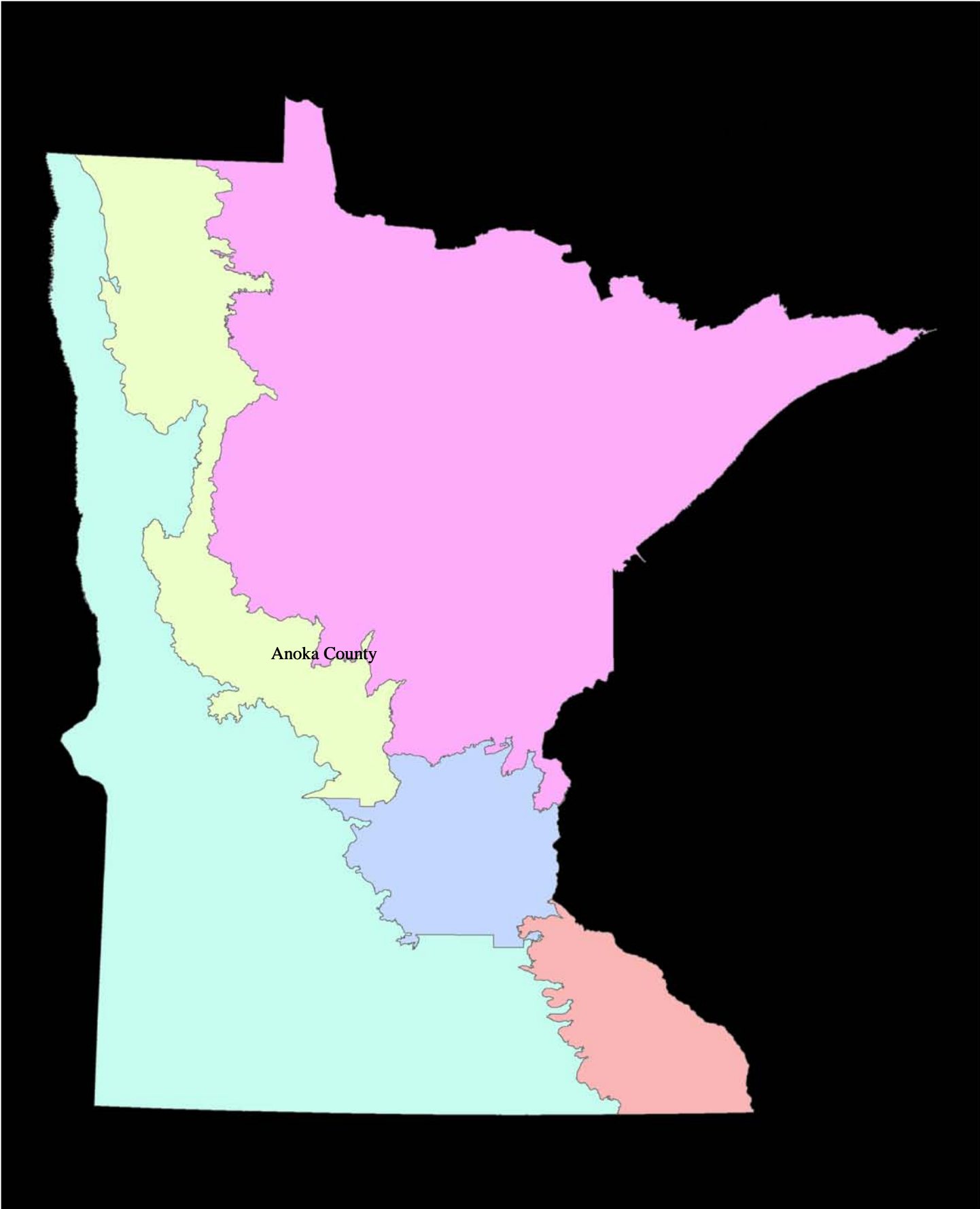
Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
<i>Acquire 275 acres for protection</i>	<i>Jan. 31, 2011</i>			<i>\$1,900,000</i>

Maintenance and Sustainability

On-going operations and maintenance of the land and restoration will be sustained following the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Plan and will be supported through the annual Operations and Maintenance Budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. As a government agency, Anoka County is tax-exempt, therefore long term costs, such as property taxes will not be an issue.





**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 20, 2009; Revised January 12, 2010

Project or Program Title: Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project

Manager's Name: Tom Landwehr

Title: Assistant State Director

Agency/organization: The Nature Conservancy

Mailing Address: 1101 W. River Parkway, Suite 200

Telephone: 612-331-0700

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E-Mail: tlandwehr@tnc.org

Web Site: www.nature.org/minnesota

	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Funds Recommended (\$000s)				
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$3,653,000	\$12,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000

Appropriation Language

Abstract

Minnesota is still losing prairies today, with less than 1% remaining. Further, existing prairies are not being managed as intensively as needed to maintain their values. Traditional tools for conserving and managing prairies and savannas will continue to be important, but conservationists are increasingly aware of their limitations. Loss of local tax revenues and economies, inadequate capacity to both protect and manage lands by public entities, the need to strategically focus conservation efforts and maximize collaboration, and a desire to create local conservation businesses require new models of prairie conservation.

We propose a 15-year goal to provide protection to the remaining 90,000 acres of native prairie/savanna, a 20-year goal to restore and protect an additional 500,000 acres of diverse grasslands/savannas, and a 10-year goal to increase management capacity to annually manage 300,000 acres of grassland and savannas per year. This proposal takes the first steps to achieve these goals by initiating a comprehensive, coordinated and collaborative prairie conservation initiative. Annual investments by the LSOHC will be required to realize these ambitious outcomes.

When completed, the outcomes of this proposal will include: protection of 1000 acres of native prairie and/or savanna; restoration of 250 acres of diverse, local ecotype grassland; enhancement of 8000 acres of grassland/savanna by prescribed fire, invasive species removal, and/or conservation

grazing; and development of a new conservation model in 2 parts of the state that will serve as a platform for accelerated conservation across Minnesota.

Narrative

What is the problem to be addressed? The conservation problems facing Minnesota's prairies, prairie potholes, grasslands and savannas are many, and include:

- a. Continued losses of native and restored grasslands due to economic pressures.
- b. Degradation of existing public grasslands and wetlands due to encroachment by woody vegetation and other invasive species that reduces their values to wildlife and people.
- c. Inadequate public access for hunting and fishing in agricultural parts of the state.
- d. Potential loss of local taxes and local incomes when land is acquired by public entities.
- e. Programmatic and staff limitations that reduce efficiencies in implementing diverse conservation programs across multiple partners.

The creation of the Outdoor Heritage Fund finally offers the resources needed to provide adequate conservation in Minnesota's prairie, prairie pothole and savanna landscapes. With the Council's support and the efforts of multiple partners, large and productive grassland landscapes can become a reality in Minnesota.

How will this directly relate to restoring, protecting or enhancing habitat? When completed, the outcomes of this proposal will include: protection of 1000 acres of native prairie and/or savanna; restoration of 250 acres of diverse, local ecotype grassland; and enhancement of 8000 acres of grassland/savanna by prescribed fire, invasive species removal, and/or conservation grazing. The Conservancy will own the fee lands, coordinate with partners and supervise enhancement on public and Conservancy lands, and implement restoration on degraded lands acquired with OHF funds.

Why will this strategy work? There are no new tactics in this proposal; all of these practices are being used by one or more organizations already at work in Minnesota. What is new here is the effort to closely coordinate activities, to bring practices that work in the private sector into the public sector, and to greatly accelerate the use of conservation practices. The conservation community has demonstrated that these protection, restoration and enhancement activities work, but to truly reach the level of conservation that is needed for a comprehensive prairie recovery project, partners must work with a plan, with an open mind for innovation, and with appropriate new tools. We believe this project sets the table for launching the required effort. Finally, by supporting local opportunities to develop grass-based businesses (grazing, biofuels, etc.), we believe there will be reduced incentives for conversion of grasslands on unprotected private lands (i.e., grasslands will be perceived as having economic value).

Describe the nature and extent of any partnerships in this project, stakeholder and public participation processes associated with the project and any anticipated support or opposition to the project? A "Prairie Recovery Project Partnership" will be formed to include representatives of prairie conservation organizations, including: MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR), MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Pheasants Forever (PF), MN Prairie Chicken Society (MPCS) and The Nature Conservancy. This group will identify 2 pilot focus areas and establish other guidelines for project implementation. Local workgroups will then be established to provide on-the-ground planning and coordination of conservation activities. Additional groups that will be contacted for input or representation will include: Ducks Unlimited, MN Waterfowl Association, MN Deer Hunters

Association, Land Stewardship Project, MN Cattleman's Association, local livestock groups, MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and MN Farmer's Union.

In addition to the above the Conservancy proposes the following:

- a. At least semi-annually, at meetings of the Prairie Recovery Project Partnership, the status of funding and leverage will be discussed in detail among all project partners.
- b. At the beginning of the project, a marketing plan will be developed that will identify key audiences (e.g., landowners, local units of government, elected officials) and needed information. This will include elements like project fact sheets, media outreach and annual reports. The Conservancy will provide the technical and financial resources needed for this effort.
- c. Members of the Partnership will be requested to provide informational materials on their websites and in their organizational publications.

For land acquisitions, indicate local government support and approval. No specific tracts have yet been identified, so there has been no contact to date with local governments.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

This project implements strategies identified in at least 5 credible plans, as identified below.

1. *MN Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan*. The strategic framework of this plan has 5 elements in its "Habitat" section: integrated planning, critical land protection, land and water restoration and protection, (identification of) sustainable practices, and (provision of) economic incentives for sustainable practices. Further, while the plan does not go into great detail with respect to prairie conservation, it clearly states that "protection of priority land habitats" is a vital practice, and prairies clearly fall here.
2. *Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare*. The primary objective identified in the MN DNR's plan is to "stabilize and increase populations of "species in greatest conservation need (SGCN)". In the prairies of Minnesota, strategies to achieve this goal include:
 - a. Support incentives that avoid conversion of grasslands into row crops where SGCN occur.
 - b. Use mowing, cutting woody vegetation, prescribed fire, or careful use of herbicides to prevent the invasion of grasslands by trees and shrubs.
 - c. Lengthen the cutting rotations for hay; avoid early-season mowing.
 - d. Use light to moderate, rotational grazing programs to benefit SGCN
 - e. Prevent fragmentation of grassland habitat.
 - f. Avoid soil compaction in areas occupied by mammal SGCN.
 - g. Increase native plant species components
 - h. Control spread of invasive species to adjacent native-dominated sites.

This project proposes to address all but item "f" above.

3. *The Nature Conservancy's Northern Tallgrass Prairie Ecoregional Plan (1998)*. This plan identifies key conservation targets, geographic emphasis areas, threats to native plant and animal communities, and key strategies to mitigate these threats. The proposal is a solid step in the implementation of this plan.
4. *DNR's Pheasant Plan*. This proposal is in full support of the Pheasant Plan goal to add 1.5 million acres of undisturbed grassland to the state by 2025.

5. *DNR's Waterfowl Plan.* This proposal is in full support of the state Long-range Duck Recovery Plan to add 2 million acres of habitat to the state by 2025. It also utilizes establishment of complexes, as per the plan, to achieve multiple conservation synergies and benefits.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e., acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline).

PROPOSER'S NOTE: many numbers in the tables below are estimates (est) as actual tracts for work have yet to be identified pending approval of the grant.

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore	37 (estimate)	213 (est)		
Protect	150 (est)	850 (est)		
Enhance	1200 (est)	6800 (est)		

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	tbd	tbd		
Protect	tbd	tbd		
Enhance	tbd	tbd		

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore		125 (estimate)		125 (est)	
Protect		500 (est)		500 (est)	
Enhance		4000 (est)		4000 (est)	

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore		\$125,000 (est)		\$125,000 (est)	
Protect		\$1,120,456 (est)		\$1,120,456 (est)	
Enhance		\$581,044 (est)		\$581,044 (est)	

Indicate what is being funded

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	\$37,500 (est)	\$212,500 (est)		
Protect*	\$300,000 (est)	\$1,700,000 (est)		
Enhance	\$210,450 (est)	\$1,192,550 (est)		

*Includes only land and easement costs; all transaction and startup costs are included under "Enhance".

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability	150 acres (est)	850 acres (est)		
Permanent Easement				

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	\$201,744	\$230,614	\$0
Contracts	\$160,500	\$268,500	\$250,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$200,807	\$49,617	\$0
Fee Acquisition	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$87,800	\$106,700	\$0
Travel	\$41,581	\$42,444	\$0
Additional Budget Items	\$6,000	\$6,693	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,198,432	\$2,204,568	\$250,000

Relationship to Current Budget

The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota has an annual operating budget of about \$6 million, and has averaged about \$3 million per year in capital investments (land protection expense) in the recent past. The Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project reflects an approximate 10% increase in annual operating expense and an approximate 33% increase in capital expense. All funds received from this grant will be additive to the operating and capital budgets of the Conservancy, so all activities will be net gain in accomplishments. All staffing proposed with this funding will represent new staff capacity (new staff or increase in hours of existing part-time staff).

Personnel

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount
Term biologist (2 FTE)	n/a	\$194,200
Protection specialist (.25 FTE)	n/a	\$41,412

Burn crew (boss, 5 crew, 10 weeks x 2 years)	n/a	\$111,067
Program coordinator (.5 FTE)	n/a	\$85,680

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
RIM-CHP		250,000		250,000		300,000
LCCMR		125,000		125,000		
Non state						
TNC		383,938		391,617		399,469
NRCS - EQIP		50,000		100,000		100,000
NAWCA				100,000		100,000
Walton Family Fdn.	40,000		40,000			
In-kind/Volunteer						
TOTAL	40,000	808,938	40,000	966,617		899,449

Indicate how the leverage will be used

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect		800,000				1,375,004		
Enhance		250,000				330,000		

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
See below				

Protection	Milestone	Date	Measure
	First 150 acres acquired	Mar., '11	Ac/protected
	Additional 150 acres acquired	Jun., '11	Ac/protected
	Additional 150 acres acquired	Sep., '11	Ac/protected
	Additional 150 acres acquired	Dec., '11	Ac/protected
	Additional 150 acres acquired	Mar., '12	Ac/protected
	Final 250 acres acquired	Jun., '12	Ac/protected
Restoration			
	Restoration initiated on 100 acres	Sep., '12	Ac/restored
	Restoration initiated on next 150 acres	Mar., '13	Ac/restored
	Restorations completed	Jun., '13	Ac/restored
Enhancement			
	100 acres woody veg. control	Dec., '10	Ac/enhanced
	2500 acres prescribed fire	Jun., '11	Ac/enhanced
	400 acres invasives control	Sep., '11	Ac/enhanced
	200 acres woody veg. control	Dec., '11	Ac/enhanced
	4500 acres prescribed fire	Jun., '12	Ac/enhanced
	300 acres invasives control	Jun., '12	Ac/enhanced

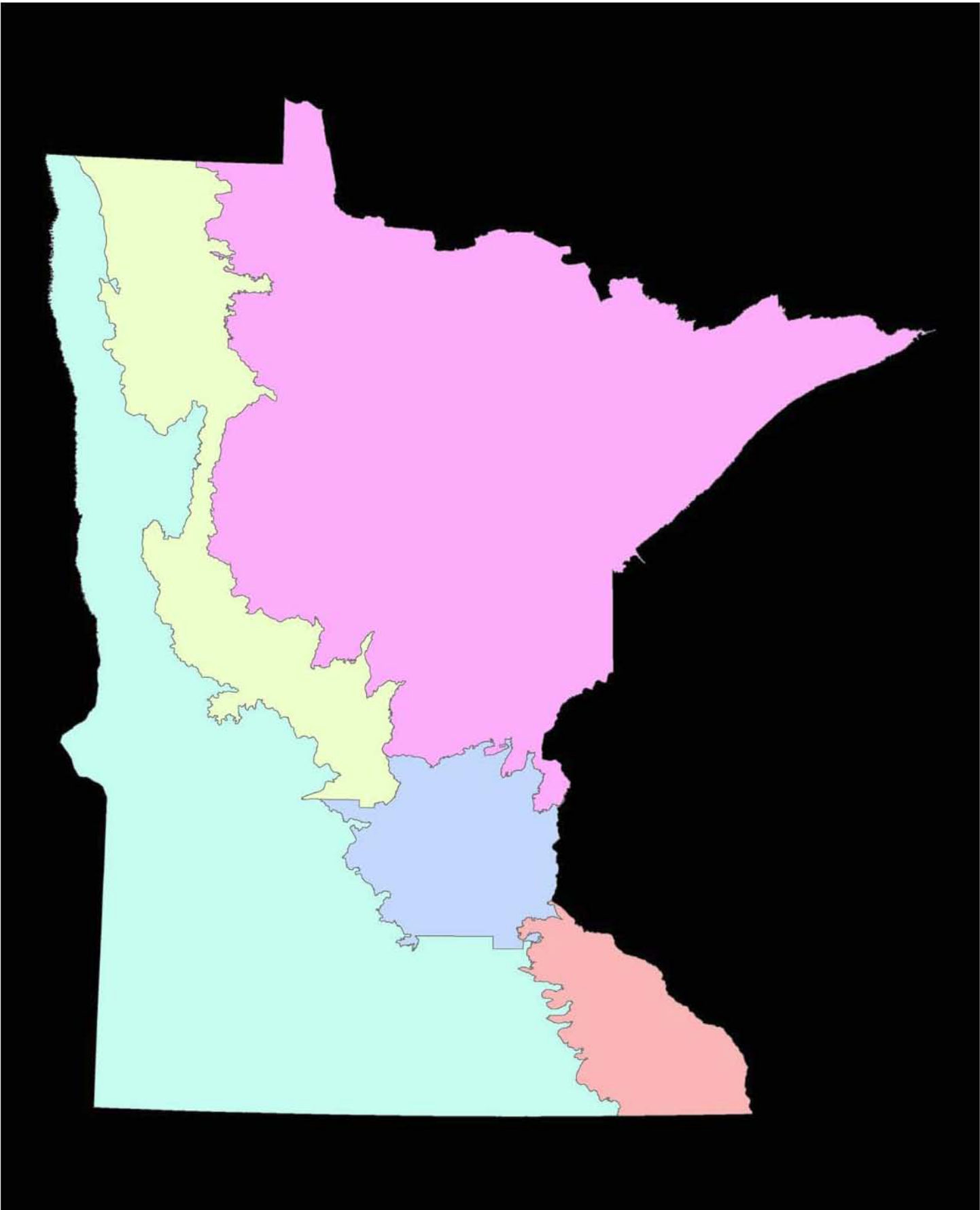
Maintenance and Sustainability

Please describe how lasting improvement will be maintained/ sustained. For easement acquisitions and fee acquisitions, explain how maintenance and sustaining costs will be paid.

Restoration activities will include grassland and wetland restorations. The prairie pothole landscape is sustained through the regular application of appropriate disturbance, including fire, grazing and haying. A chronic problem for land managers is securing adequate funding to do these conservation practices as frequently as needed (e.g., every 1-4 years). A primary purpose of this proposal is to establish a collaborative and coordinated partnership that can accelerate the application of these management techniques across multiple landscapes. On existing protected conservation lands, an annual infusion of funding will be required unless or until this income/funding model can be more widely applied. For new lands acquired under this proposal, we will establish a new funding model by attempting to secure management funds by generating compatible income from acquired lands. In addition to the conservation value of planned haying and grazing, the income generated by these agricultural leases can help pay for management activities and property taxes. This model has been used on other Conservancy lands, and this project will evaluate whether it is feasible on other types of public/private protected conservation lands.

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Accomplishment Plan
LSOHC



**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 18, 2009

Project or Program Title: Critical Shoreline Habitat Protection Program

Manager's Name: Kris Larson

Title: Executive Director

Agency/organization: Minnesota Land Trust

Mailing Address: 2356 University Ave. W, Ste 240, St. Paul, MN 55114

Telephone: 651-647-9590

Fax: 651-647-9769

E-Mail: kl Larson@mnland.org

Web Site: www.mnland.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$816	\$407	\$409	0

Appropriation Language

Abstract

The natural shoreline around Minnesota's celebrated lakes and rivers comprises one of the most biologically important systems in the state for fish, game and wildlife. It is also one of its most threatened. In order to preserve this important component of Minnesota's natural heritage, the Minnesota Land Trust proposes to implement a Critical Shoreline Habitat Protection Program to protect essential lakeshore and stream-side habitat. This project will help fulfill the goals of the DNR's Aquatic Management Area program, the State Conservation and Preservation Plan and many others.

In this phase of the program, the Minnesota Land Trust will strategically concentrate its activity on important aquatic resources within northeast Minnesota's Arrowhead region, including DNR-designated high priority trout streams and lakes. The Land Trust will protect more than 50,000 feet of threatened shoreline habitat by acquiring 9-12 conservation easements which will permanently protect a rich mosaic of naturally vegetated shoreline, forest habitat and wetlands on more than 1,000 acres. The program will target projects which will help fill the gaps in existing public ownership, contain the highest-quality habitat, and provide the greatest leverage to the state. The Arrowhead region is prioritized in this phase of the program because it has immensely important shoreline habitat and aquatic resources for fish, game and wildlife (including the highest concentration of trout streams in the state) and because it has a high concentration of landowners interested in placing conservation easements on their properties.

Narrative

The *problem* being addressed by this program is one identified in most state and local conservation plans, including the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan: the development and disturbance of the state's remaining sensitive shoreline habitat. Science conducted by the DNR and others indicate that the shoreline zone—from high ground through the water's edge and into the shallow submerged areas—is one of the most biologically diverse and important habitat types for a variety of wildlife species, including fish and waterfowl. Because so much shoreline habitat is on private land, it is also one of Minnesota's most threatened landscapes due to the intensity of lakeshore development.

This *opportunity* being addressed is one of having multiple landowners in the Arrowhead region who are ready and willing to grant conservation easements on exceptional shoreline habitat, thus providing high-leverage, immediately-tangible protection on these diminishing habitat types. The lull in the real-estate market has given many landowners an opportunity to reflect on the future of their lands, thus providing a narrow window of time to invest in these shoreline protection projects at a fraction of the cost of full fair market acquisition.

In addition, another benefit of this project is that while it is focused on the habitat benefits of the shoreline, more than 1,000 acres of family forest and substantial acres of wetlands will be protected, thus providing additional conservation benefits for the state's modest investment.

These conservation easements secured under this program will be perpetual and drafted to further prevent the fragmentation and destruction of existing habitat. These easements will ensure that the sensitive shoreline habitat under easement will remain ecologically viable and productive for fish, game and wildlife. The conservation easements acquired will prohibit land uses or development that negatively impacts the important habitat values and will require habitat management plans to ensure that long-term management will maximize the benefits of the shoreline and associated forested uplands. Furthermore, the Land Trust will seek opportunities to work with the landowners and other organizations to conduct restoration activities and secure angler access if appropriate.

The budget outlined below covers expenses necessary to complete the goals of the program, including funding for personnel to negotiate and manage the conservation easement transactions; funding for a limited number of easement acquisitions; project-related expenses such as title work, mapping and appraisals; conservation easement stewardship funding for monitoring and defending the easements, and a very small amount of funding for travel. It is anticipated that this funding will be very highly leveraged through the landowner donations of conservation easements and the Minnesota Land Trusts' own fundraising efforts.

To date more than 40 families have confirmed their desire to work with the Land Trust on protecting their properties and related shoreline habitat within the target areas. These 40+ potential properties represent more than 130,000 linear feet (25 miles) of shoreline habitat and more than 4,600 acres of forest land. These projects include the following targeted lakes and rivers: 1) 2 properties on DNR high-priority trout lakes, including Kemo and Moosehorn lakes; 2) 25 properties on signature Border Lakes, including Lake Vermilion, Burntside Lake and Rainy Lake; 3) 8 on North Shore trout streams such as the Knife, French, Flute Reed and Stewart Rivers; 4) 3 on Lake Superior; and 5) the remainder on other important water bodies in the region.

Under this program, the Land Trust will prioritize these existing potential projects and seek additional opportunities for the protection of high-quality shoreline habitat. It is anticipated that the projects will be completed in FY 2011 and FY 2012, with the highest priority projects moving forward as soon as possible upon funding. Finally, with the assistance of stewardship funding, the Land Trust will monitor its easements annually and enforce them as necessary into the future.

As part of its long-term stewardship obligations, the Land Trust will work to educate the landowners to use best management practices for their shoreline and connect the landowners with other partners such as the DNR, Trout Unlimited or others who may be able to improve the habitat quality. The Minnesota Land Trust will also work with these partners in identifying other potential projects which would have multiple public benefits.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

The Critical Shoreline Habitat Protection Program directly addresses several recommendations outlined in the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published conservation and/or management plans as described above. Most directly, Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan’s Recommendation H2 (pp 64-67) is titled “Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes”. It goes on to recommend “Increase private land protection” using a variety of tools including conservation easements and “target shallow wildlife lakes, natural environment lakes, shallow bays of deep lakes, cold-water/designated trout streams, shoreline associated with critical habitat of warm-water streams”. In addition, Recommendation H6 includes “work with private landowners on protection and restoration”, “restore natural features of lakeshore habitats – woody habitat, emergent and floating vegetation, and “address negative effects of docks and surface water use on sensitive shoreline habitats.”

In summary, there is a direct relationship between this proposal and the State of Minnesota’s goals and recommendations for conservation and preservation. This program also addresses goals for shoreline protection outlined in the State’s Aquatic Management Area Acquisition Plan, the Long Range Duck Recovery Plan and the Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. As stated above, several of the projects are adjacent to or in close proximity to the State Aquatic Management Areas, Scientific and Natural Areas, State Parks or other protected properties. Thus this program will help protect these existing investments in Minnesota’s conservation network.

Project Design and Evaluation

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	<i>See footnote</i>		<i>See footnote</i>	<i>50,000 feet of shoreline and 1,000 acres forests, wetlands and riparian habitat.</i>
Enhance				

Please note: While the Minnesota Land Trust anticipates protecting approximately 1,000 acres of forests, wetlands and riparian habitat, this acreage is included in the overall goal for protecting habitat for fish, game and wildlife.

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	<i>St. Louis, Lake, Cook and Koochiching</i>		<i>St. Louis, Lake, Cook and Koochiching</i>	<i>St. Louis, Lake, Cook and Koochiching</i>
Enhance				

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect					50,000 feet of shoreline on 1,000 acres
Enhance					

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect					\$816,000
Enhance					

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect				\$816,000
Enhance				

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				50,000 feet of shoreline on 1,000 acres with \$816,000

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	60,000	60,000	
Easement Acquisition (Including all costs and professional fees associated with securing the conservation easements)	235,000	270,000	
Easement Stewardship	85,000	102,000	
Travel	2,000	2,000	
TOTAL	382,000	434,000	

Relationship to Current Budget

This funding represents approximately 10% of the Minnesota Land Trust's current annual operating budget, exclusive of stewardship and acquisition expenditures. Thanks to this program, the Land Trust anticipates it will increase its annual budget in fiscal years 2011 and 2012; as such, this funding will help supplement the Land Trust's existing programs. While we have not yet developed a complete organizational plan for FY2011, it is anticipated that due to geographic efficiency, our current Northern Region Director based in Ely will be re-assigned to handle the majority of transactions outlined above with the aid of other staff. As such, the Northern Region Director's current responsibilities outside of the Arrowhead region will be shifted to other new or existing staff.

Personnel

Position	Name	Amount
<i>Northern Region Director</i>		\$80,000 (\$40,000/yr)
<i>Staff Attorney</i>		\$24,000 (\$12,000/yr)
<i>Conservation/Support Staff</i>		\$16,000 (\$8,000/yr)

Leverage

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state						
Landowner easement donation		2,500,000		3,000,000		
Land Trust funding	40,000			70,000		
In-kind/Volunteer						
TOTAL	40,000	2,500,000		3,070,000		

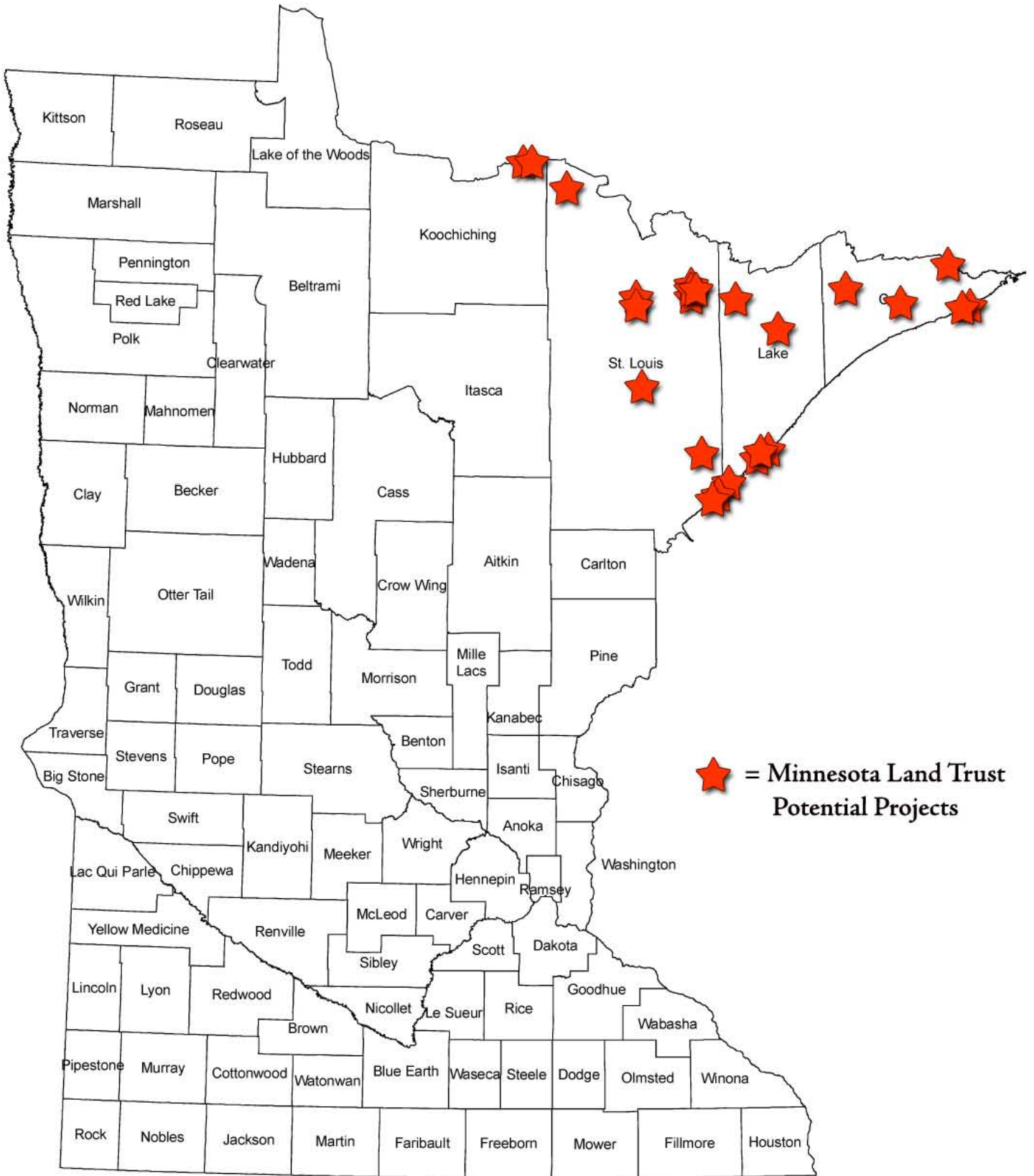
Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect								5,610,000
Enhance								

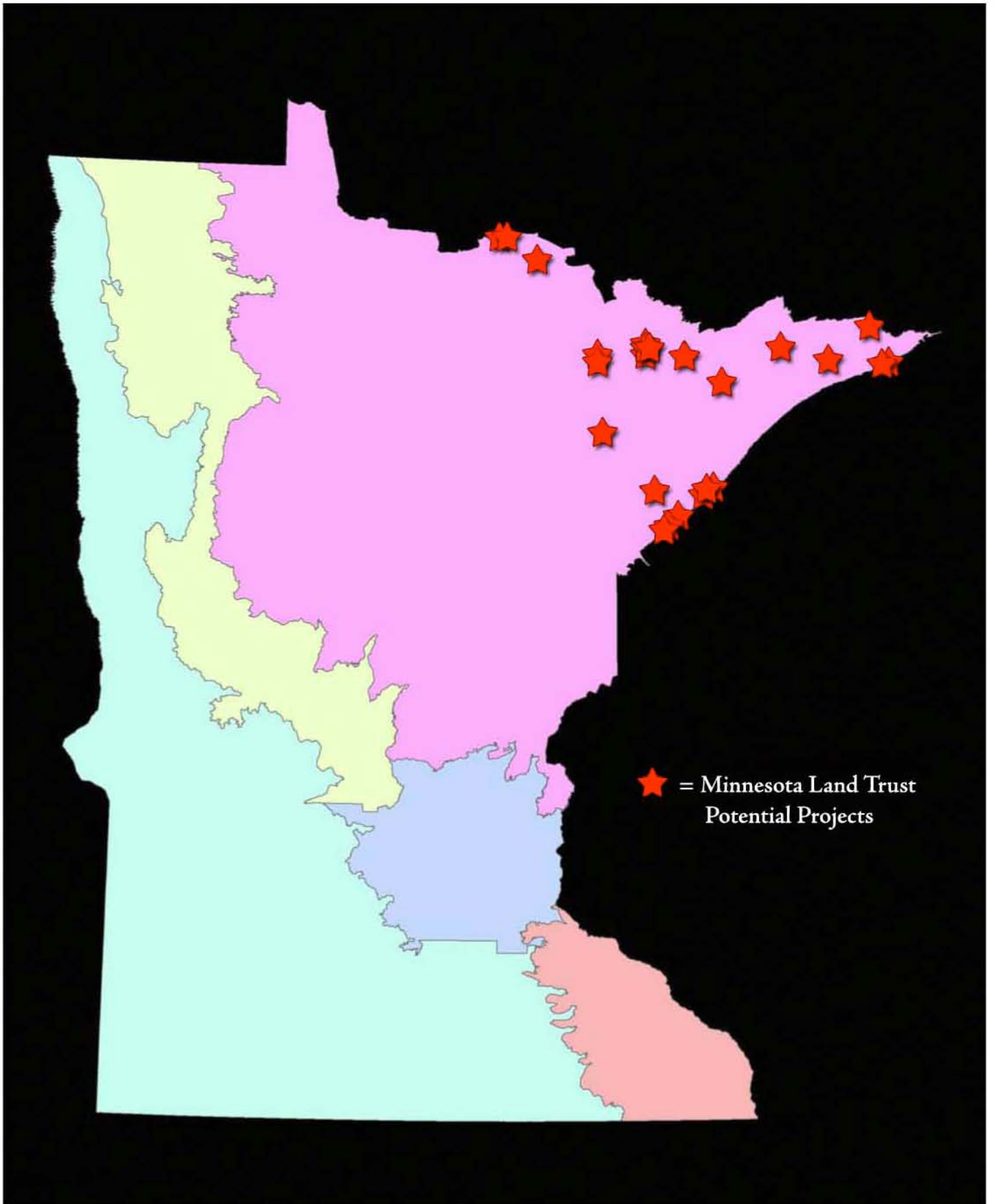
Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Acquire conservation easements	Secure up 500 acres and 25,000 feet of shoreline with up to 6 conservation easements			297,000
Acquire conservation easements		Secure up 500 acres and 25,000 feet of shoreline with up to 6 conservation easements		332,000
Monitor and defend conservation easements	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	187,000

Maintenance and Sustainability

The land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. Funding for easement stewardship is included in the budget outlined above. When accepting a conservation easement, the Minnesota Land Trust is committed to annually monitoring and defending the conservation values of the protected property. The Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited land trust with a very successful track record of monitoring and defending its conservation easements. It has a goal of monitoring 100% of its conservation easements annually and has established a Stewardship Fund specifically to manage the long-term needs of its conservation easement stewardship program.





**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 22, 2009

Project or Program Title: Protect (Acquire) Key Industrial Forest Land – Cass County

Manager’s Name: Joshua Stevenson
Title: Cass County Land Commissioner
Agency/organization: Cass County
Mailing Address: 218 East Washburn Avenue, Backus MN 56435
Telephone: 218-947-7501
Fax: 218-947-3230
E-Mail: josh.stevenson@co.cass.mn.us
Web Site: [.co.cass.mn](http://co.cass.mn).

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$594,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00

Appropriation Language

Abstract

Project will protect and restore 400+- acres of forest and wetland wildlife habitats in central Minnesota (Cass County) through fee title acquisition of key industrial forest tracts. Title of lands acquired will be held by Cass County in Fee.

Narrative

Problem: Central Minnesota, especially the area in Cass County from Brainerd/Baxter to Walker, has and will continue to see some of the fastest human population growth in Minnesota. This growth will lead to increased recreational demands/use of this area, its natural resources and related public land base that needs to support this growth.

Opportunity: Key industrial forest tracts (i.e. in-holdings in large public land tracts, public access issues, etc.) are being considered or currently being offered for sale by a large industrial forest owner (Potlatch Corporation) in this area. Market conditions and a willingness by this industrial forest owner to sell at this time is an opportunity that should be addressed now since it is narrow and may close (properties sold) at any time. The strategy is to acquire land that currently provides access to County and State property. The land acquired has existing forest access roads that have been open to the public for years providing access to public lands. Although some of the public land has legal access, it would be inaccessible to the public and for management purposes without frozen ground conditions. This will result in 1,235 acres of lost public hunting and recreational opportunities. It will also increase the County and State resource management cost on the adjacent public land

significantly with bridge construction and frozen ground only management. The Cass County Forest Resource Management Plan directs the County to acquire lands of this nature whenever possible. The Cass County Comprehensive plan requires no net loss of acres of public land and local unit of government input on all purchases and land sales. This project meets the requirements of both plans and will require stakeholder input as part of the project. The local units of government with the private industrial lands to be purchased will be contacted for input before any acquisitions are made. Recent purchases of this nature have been supported by both the County and local units of government. The Cass County Board of Commissioners has a strong history of supporting land sales and acquisitions that have local unit of government support.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

The Cass County Forest Resource Management Plan directs the County to acquire lands of this nature whenever possible. The Cass County Comprehensive plan requires no net loss of acres of public land and local unit of government input on all purchases and sales of land. Priorities supported in these plans that are accomplished in this project include: access to inaccessible public land, consolidation of ownership, management for wildlife habitat, and landscape level management between multiple land management agencies.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e. ,acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore				
Protect			400+/- Acres Primarily Forested with some lake and stream frontage	
Enhance				

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect			Cass County	
Enhance				

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect					400+/-
Enhance					

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect					100%
Enhance					

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect			100%	
Enhance				

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability			400+/- Acres	
Permanent Easement				

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel			
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$594,000	No other money from the 2011 Recommendation	No other money from the 2011 Recommendation
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$594,000		

Relationship to Current Budget

The total value of this project is 30% of our annual budget. The entire amount received will be used for acquisition. The amount of money available to the Cass County Land Department for acquisition in the past is directly related to land sale revenue. Land Sales revenue has been down recently and funds to LCCMR are still outstanding pending the sale of land currently available over the counter. Our current staff will use this money to acquire lands in fee following existing procedures. Because our activity in land purchases and sales is currently low due to the slow economy, there will be little or no effect on current duties.

Personnel

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount

No positions will be funded with this money. The funds will be used for acquisition only.

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state						
In-kind/Volunteer	\$37,000	NA	\$37,000	NA	\$37,000	NA
TOTAL	\$37,000		\$37,000		\$37,000	

Leverage funds are in-kind used to support existing staff.

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect								
Enhance								

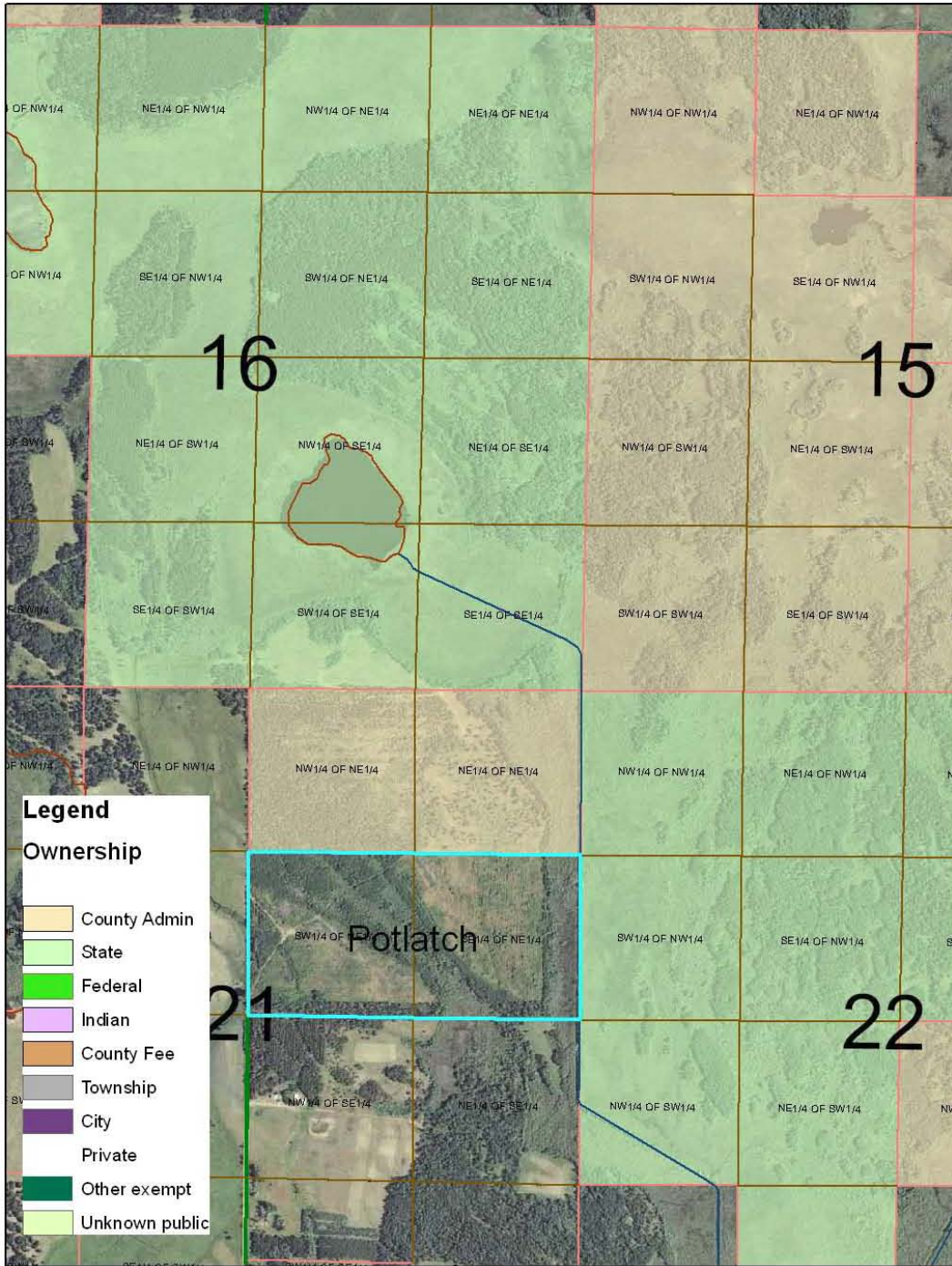
Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
<i>Meet with LUG's and prepare purchase agreements</i>	<i>Jan -Feb</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>\$37,000</i>
<i>Acquire Lands in Fee</i>	<i>March - June</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>\$594,000</i>
<i>Record Deeds</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

Maintenance and Sustainability

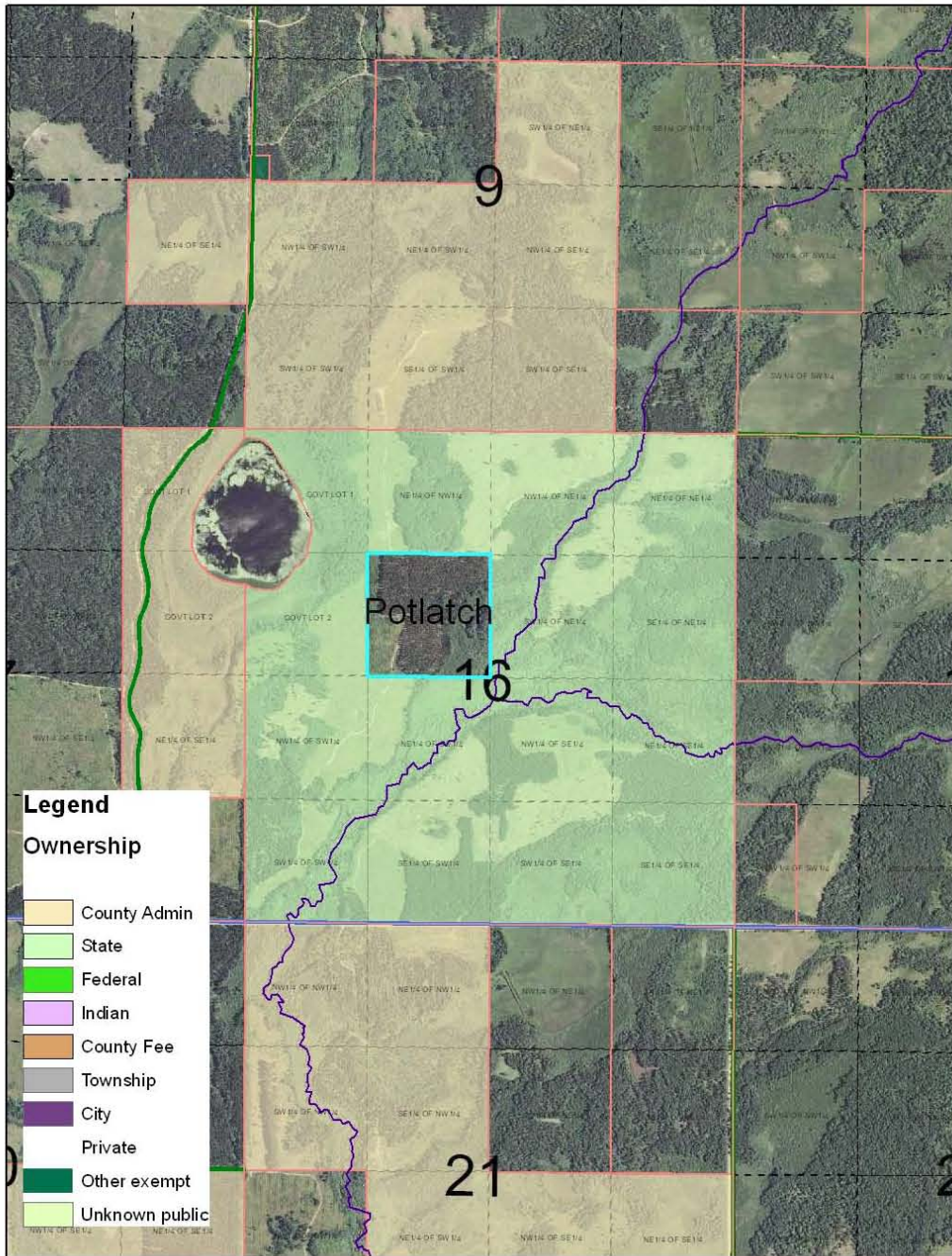
The Cass County Land Department manages all County Administered lands under our Forest Resource Management Plan. This management plan requires that operations are maintained from revenue generated from timber sales. Cass County has a long history of covering our operation costs with timber revenue. The lands acquired will be managed under this same plan. These lands are not eligible for PILT payments.

Lands Acquired



T. 134 N., R. 32 W., S. 21 (S1/2 of the NE quarter) 80 Acres Purchased

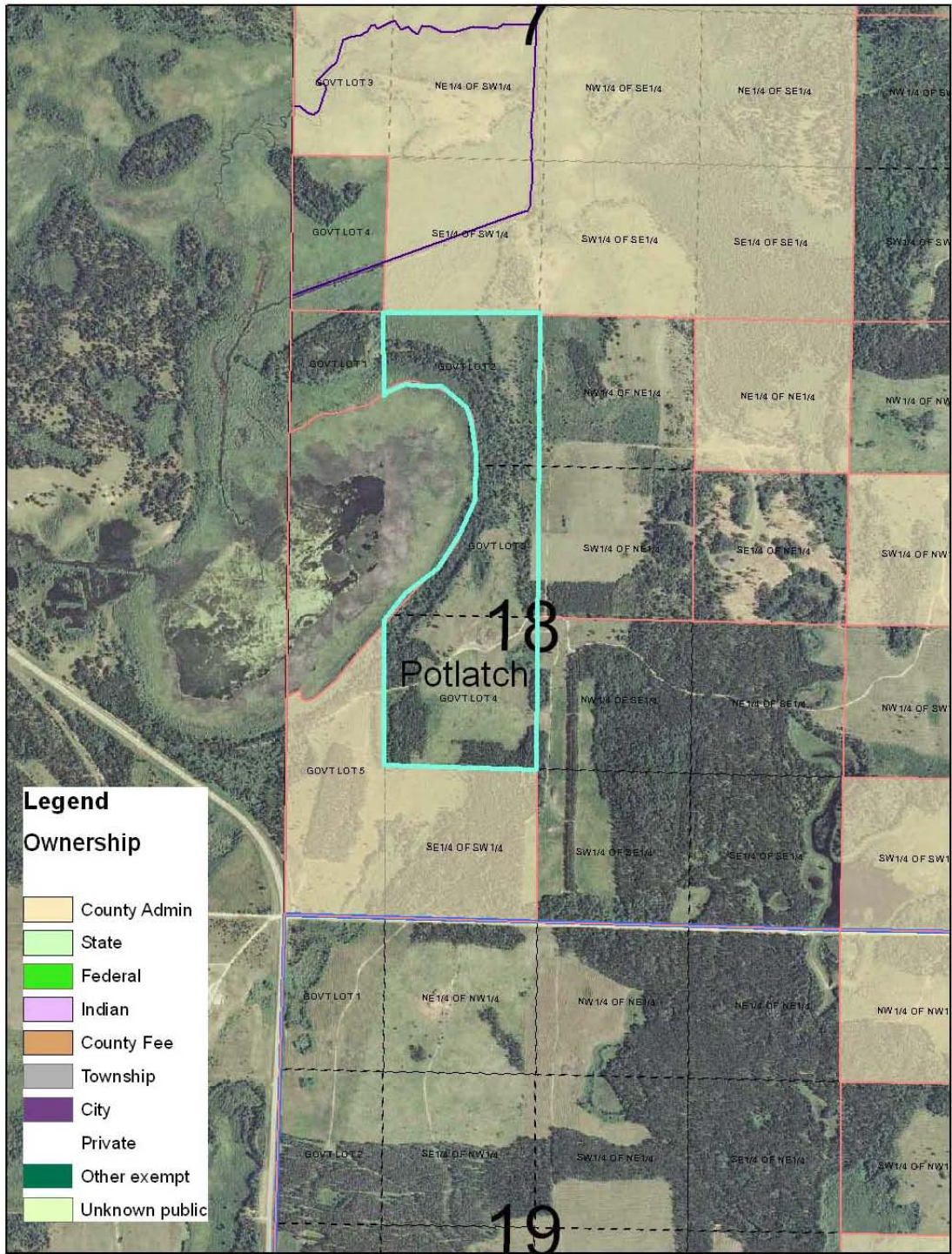
.5 mile of common boundary with Cass County land, .25 common boundary with State Forestry land.
 This purchase will protect public and management access to 380 acres of other Cass County and State lands.



T. 135 N., R. 32 W., S. 16 (SE of the NW quarter)

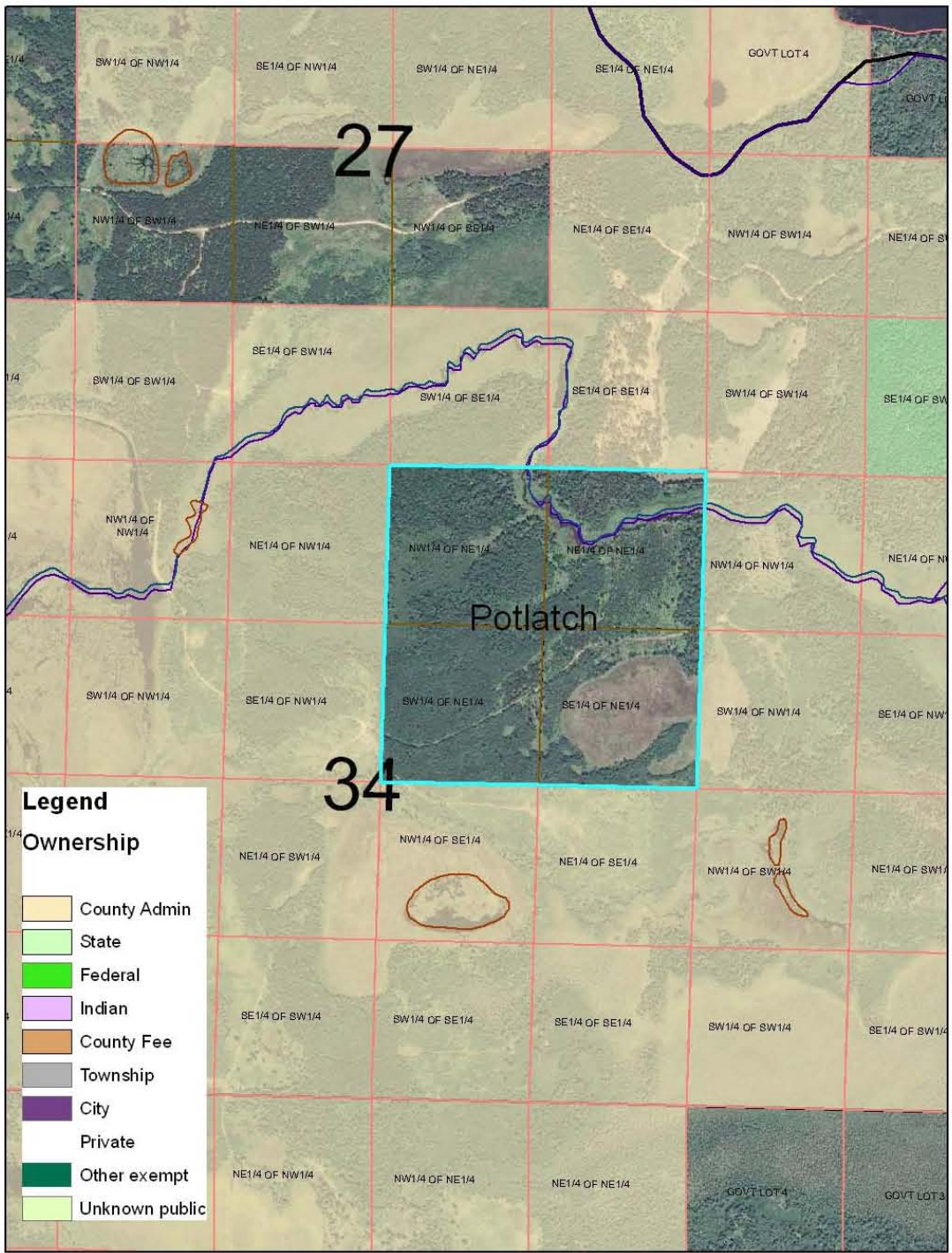
40 Acres Purchased

Totally surrounded by State Forestry lands (i.e. tract is situated in the middle of 600 acres of State Trust Fund land. Over .5 miles of road access easement will have to be granted if this tract goes private. Land exchange will be pursued with DNR Forestry to consolidate this State ownership and assist County land asset management needs somewhere else. Purchase will protect public and management access to 295 acres of State and County Land.



T. 135 N., R. 32 W., S. 18 (E1/2 of the NW, NE of the SW) 120 Acres Purchased

.75 miles of common boundary with Cass County land. Tract protects 3,000 feet of shoreline on Farnham Lake within the newly created Farnham Lake State Wildlife Management Area. Cooperative lease will be pursued with the Minnesota DNR for management of this tract as part of the Farnham Lake WMA. Purchase protects public and management access to 260 acres of exiting County Land.

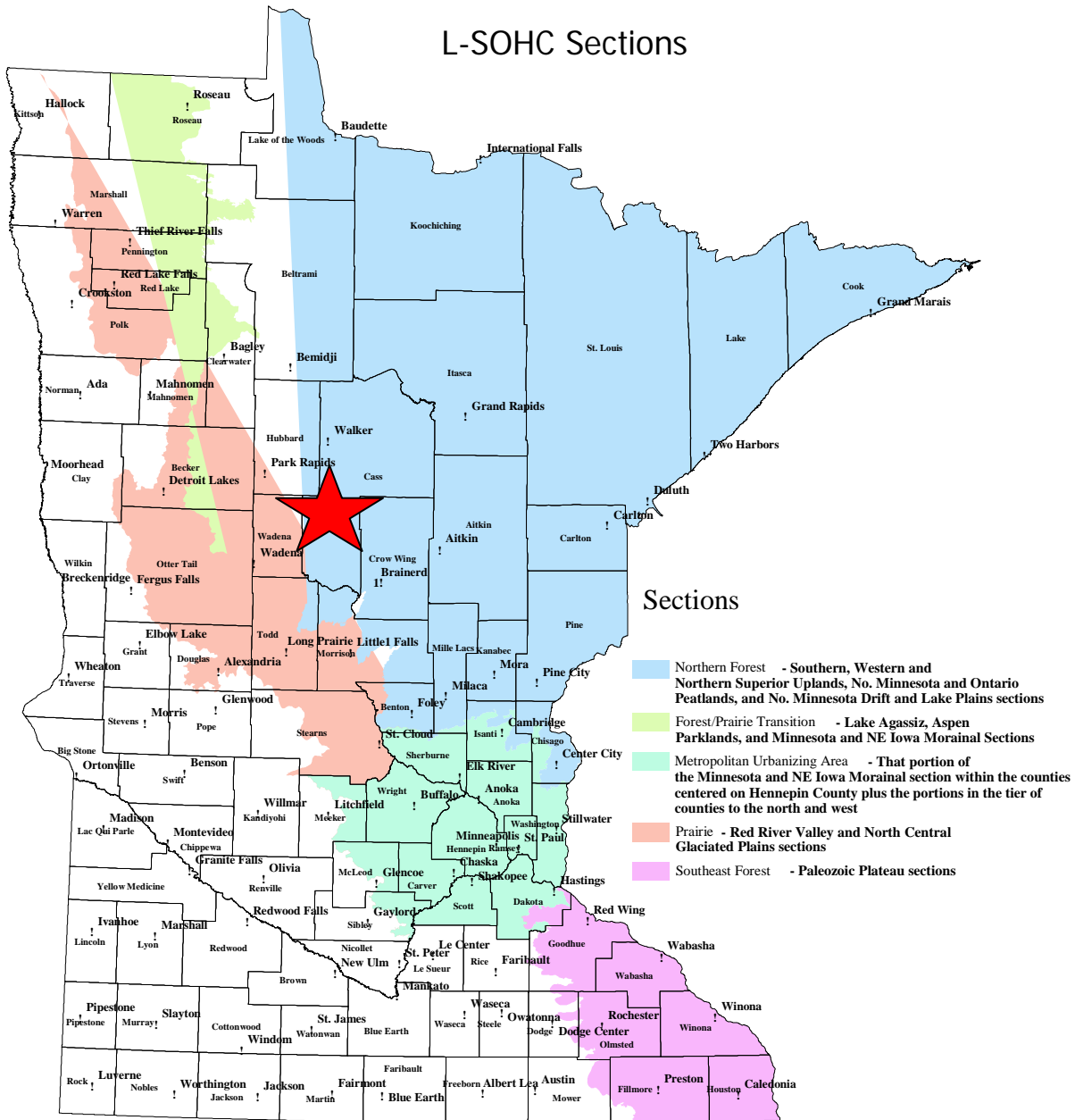


T. 140 N., R. 27 W., S. 34 (NE quarter)

160 Acres Purchased

Totally surrounded by Cass County land, 2.0 miles of common boundary, 1,500 feet of stream frontage on Daggett Brook, ¼ mile downstream of the Daggett Brook State WMA. Purchase protects public and management access to 300 acres of existing County Land.

L-SOHC Sections



Sections

- Northern Forest - Southern, Western and Northern Superior Uplands, No. Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands, and No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains sections
- Forest/Prairie Transition - Lake Agassiz, Aspen Parklands, and Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal Sections
- Metropolitan Urbanizing Area - That portion of the Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal section within the counties centered on Hennepin County plus the portions in the tier of counties to the north and west
- Prairie - Red River Valley and North Central Glaciated Plains sections
- Southeast Forest - Paleozoic Plateau sections

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: 18 December 2009

Project or Program Title: Little Nokasippi River Wildlife Management Area

Manager's Name: Mr. Dan Steward

Title: Board Conservationist

Agency/organization: MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

Mailing Address: 1601 MN Drive, Brainerd, MN 56401

Telephone: (218) 828-2598

Fax: (218) 828-6036

E-Mail: Dan.Steward@state.mn.us

Web Site: www.bwsr.state.mn.us

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$843,000	0	0	0

Appropriation Language

Abstract

This proposal will not only expand an existing WMA by 252 acres for public outdoor recreation (e.g. hunting, fishing, etc.) but it will also protect the viability of the WMA into perpetuity through 634 acres of permanent conservation easements. This proposal focuses on the Little Nokasippi River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) which was established in 2006 complements to the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program and the support from Crow Wing County and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The WMA is situated within a very critical area of the Camp Ripley ACUB. Similar to military installations, WMAs across the state are impacted negatively by the pressures of development on their boundaries resulting in alterations to their intended land use. WMAs such as the newly established Little Nokasippi River WMA were established for the benefit of public recreation and when restrictions are imposed due to conflicting land use the public use is degraded. This project will ensure compatible land use into perpetuity. Two noteworthy public resources that impacted by the pressures of development include the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge and the Carlos Avery WMA.

Narrative

What is the problem to be addressed? How will this directly relate to restoring, protecting, or enhancing habitat? Why will this strategy work? Describe the nature and extent of any partnerships in this project, stakeholder and public participation processes associated with the project and any anticipated support or opposition to the project. For land acquisitions, indicate local government support and approval

The affects of population encroachment have been felt by military installations across the country. The most common solution has been restrictions placed on units training, which degrades training realism. Since encroachment has not yet become a serious issue on the periphery of Camp Ripley, Soldiers have not been limited in the field in terms of meeting their training objectives. In other words...Soldiers are able to train as they will be expected to fight on the battlefield. However, this could change quickly particularly in the vicinity of the Little Nokasippi river WMA which is located within a noteworthy growth corridor. According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center the population within the corridor is projected to grow 27% growth rate within the next 30 years. Acquiring the interest in lands around Camp Ripley including the Little Nokasippi River WMA will curb growth within this corridor and thereby ensure unrestricted training for Soldiers far into the future. It's the unrestricted, quality training, and facilities at Camp Ripley that ensures Soldier readiness.

The project will be implemented in accordance with formal Cooperative Agreement s between the DNR, BWSR and National Guard Bureau (NGB). The agreements formalize the methodology and strategy for implementing the ACUB program for which the Little Nokasippi River WMA and this L-SOHC proposal is a part of. All land parcels acquired under the agreement must be located within the three-mile buffer area surround Camp Ripley. Furthermore, the parcels will be pursued in accordance with the prioritization process presented in the Camp Ripley ACUB proposal including, but not limited to, proximity to Camp Ripley, size of parcel(s), potential for development, land owner willingness, availability, and cost.

To ensure objectivity in parcel selection, a comprehensive database has been created to evaluate all land parcels lying within the 110,000 acre ACUB area which includes the Little Nokasippi River WMA. The data base is linked to criteria that are used to rank or score all candidate land parcels.

The initial decision to create the Little Nokasippi River WMA required the support of the Crow Wing County Board by resolution. This was accomplished unanimously and based on recent conversations with county board members; the expansion will be approved without hesitation. In fact, the board is prepared to include 170 acres of county tax forfeited land into the boundaries of the expanded WMA in conjunction with the success of this L-SOHC proposal.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

Reference resource management plans and their priorities that support this project.

The landscape within which the project is located is designated as one of the highest biodiversity landscapes in the state. This designation resulted from an eco-regional planning process through The Nature Conservancy which defined the landscape as the most functional/intact landscape within the Prairie Forest Eco-region. Also unique to the project area is its position within a larger habitat complex that encompasses the Mississippi River Corridor including the Mississippi Flyway and the rugged Eastern Bluff shoreline. What's more the WMA includes the confluence of the Little Nokasippi River and the Nokasippi River which occupies 4,498 feet and 13,161 feet of river shoreline, respectively. The confluence of the Nokasippi River with the Mississippi River is located about 1,000

feet west of the WMA. The habitat value of the project is reflected in the science-based planning process that included the entire area as an Important Birding Area (IBA) in according to the Audubon Society. The Little Nokasippi River WMA expansion ranks among all WMA projects for the MNDNR.

This proposal is also supported by the following planning initiatives:

- **FY 2008-2009 DNR ACUB Acquisition Plan** - The fee acquisition of property within the three-mile ACUB boundary also called out in the FY 2008-2009 DNR ACUB Acquisition Plan throughout the document.
- **MN DNR, “Tomorrow’s Habitat for the Wild and Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife”, 2006** – Camp Ripley has been identified as an area important for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (page 172). In addition, this proposal is supported by the identification of habitat loss and habitat degradation in Minnesota as the problem most identified in the ecological subsections where the ACUB exists, which are the Hardwood Hills, Mille Lacs Uplands, Anoka Sand Plains, Pine Moraines & Outwash Plains. Statewide, the Species in Greatest Conservation Need are impacted greatly by the loss of habitat (76%) and degradation of habitat in Minnesota (83%) (page 38). Of all 25 Ecological Classification System ‘Subsections’ in the state, the four that touch Camp Ripley and the buffer have significant numbers of species in greatest conservation need. They rank #3, #6, #9, and #11 (page 31). The protection and restoration of habitat in the ACUB will protect and manage existing habitat and help restore other important habitats.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e. ,acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore				
Protect	170 acres (20%)	235 acres (30%)	481 acres (50%)	Total 634 acres of conservation easements buffering WMA and 252 acre addition to WMA.
Enhance				

Note: The project will protect the aquatic system of the WMA which includes the 4,498 feet of the Little Nokasippi River and 13,161 feet of the Nokasippi River.

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	Crow Wing 170 acres	Crow Wing 235 acres	Crow Wing 441 acres Morrison 40 acres	634 acres of buffer through conservation easements and 252 acre addition to WMA
Enhance				

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect		886 acres			
Enhance					

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect		\$843,000			
Enhance					

Indicate what is being funded

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	\$162,000	\$225,000	\$456,000	The conservation easement element and acquisition expansion of the WMA will be a shared in terms of funding sources from L-SOHC, federal ACUB, and state in kind.
Enhance				

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability	43 acres	45 acres	164 acres	Total 252 acre addition to the WMA
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement	127 acres	190 acres	317 acres	Total 634 acres of conservation easements buffering WMA

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
-------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

Personnel			
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$225,000		
Easement Acquisition	\$618,000		
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$843,000		

Relationship to Current Budget

Federal funding is currently available and has been available to support the Camp Ripley ACUB program since 2004. The funding is provided by the Department of Defense through National Guard Bureau (NGB) and is allocated to the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for executing the ACUB program. Approximately \$13 million has been provided to date not including the FY 2010 allocation which is intended to match this L-SOHC proposal.

Personnel

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Note: The proposal will not require the use of Outdoor Heritage funds for personnel since National Guard Bureau does include a portion of its funding for administration of the ACUB program. These funds are made available to DNR and BWSR for implementing ACUB related duties and responsibilities including the Little Nokasippi River WMA proposal. Field staff from Morrison and Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation Districts is responsible for implementing the conservation easement element of the proposal on behalf of BWSR. DNR field staff is responsible for the fee title acquisition element of the WMA expansion. Office personnel from DNR, BWSR, and MNARNG are responsible for program administration.

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13

	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state (Federal)						
Fee Acquisition	\$539,000	\$136,000				
Easements		\$825,000		\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
In-kind/Volunteer						
MN National Guard		\$100,000		\$100,000		\$100,000
MNDNR		\$75,000		\$75,000		\$75,000
MNBWSR		\$75,000		\$75,000		\$75,000
Landowners		\$160,000		\$600,000 (500 acres)		\$600,000 (500 acres)
TOTAL	\$539,000	\$1,371,000		\$1,850,000		\$1,850,000

Indicate how the leverage will be used

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect	Easement and acquisition	Easement and acquisition	Easement and acquisition	Easement and acquisition	Easement and acquisition	Easement and acquisition	Easement and acquisition	Easement and acquisition
Enhance								

Accomplishment Timeline

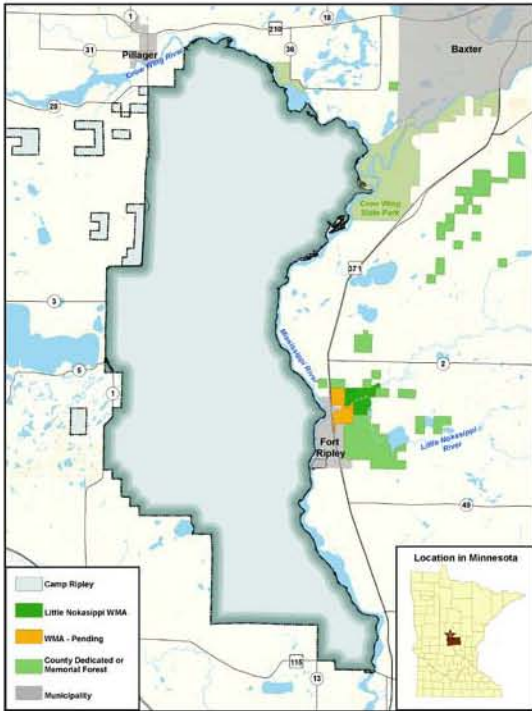
Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Secure resolution of approval for WMA expansion from Crow Wing County	February 2010			N/A In-kind State
Conduct appraisals of fee acquisition lands	July 2010			N/A Federal-ACUB
Negotiate fee acquisition	September 2010			N/A In-kind State
Acquire land 252 acres for WMA	October 2010			\$225,000 L-SOHC
Acquire Conservation easements for 634 acres	July 2010- June 2011			\$618,000 L-SOHC

Maintenance and Sustainability

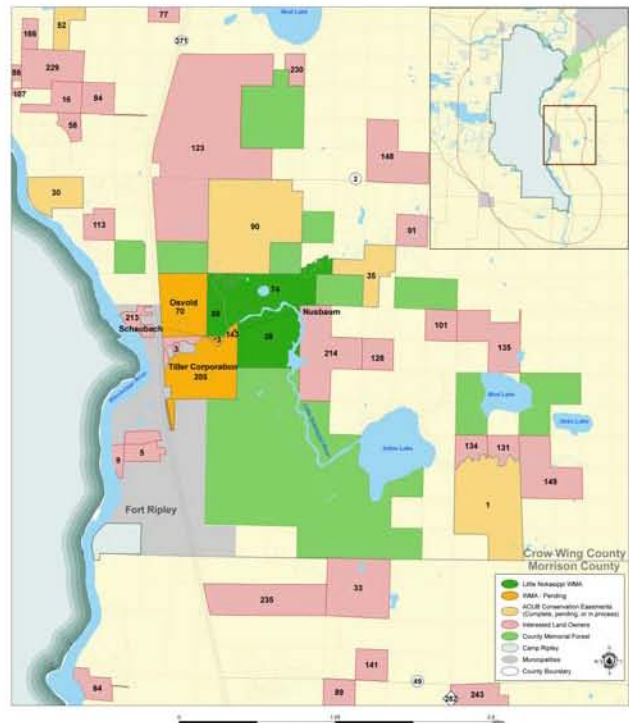
Please describe how lasting improvement will be maintained/ sustained. For easement acquisitions and fee acquisitions, explain how maintenance and sustaining costs will be paid.

The Little Nokasippi River WMA is established and operated in accordance with MN Statute 97A.133 and therefore will be open to public recreational use such as hunting, fishing, and hiking. The project will also protect the long-term viability of the WMA by enrolling 634 acres of land into permanent conservation easements on surrounding lands. The MNDNR will be responsible for maintaining the WMA whereas MNBWSR will be responsible to monitoring the permanent conservation easements.

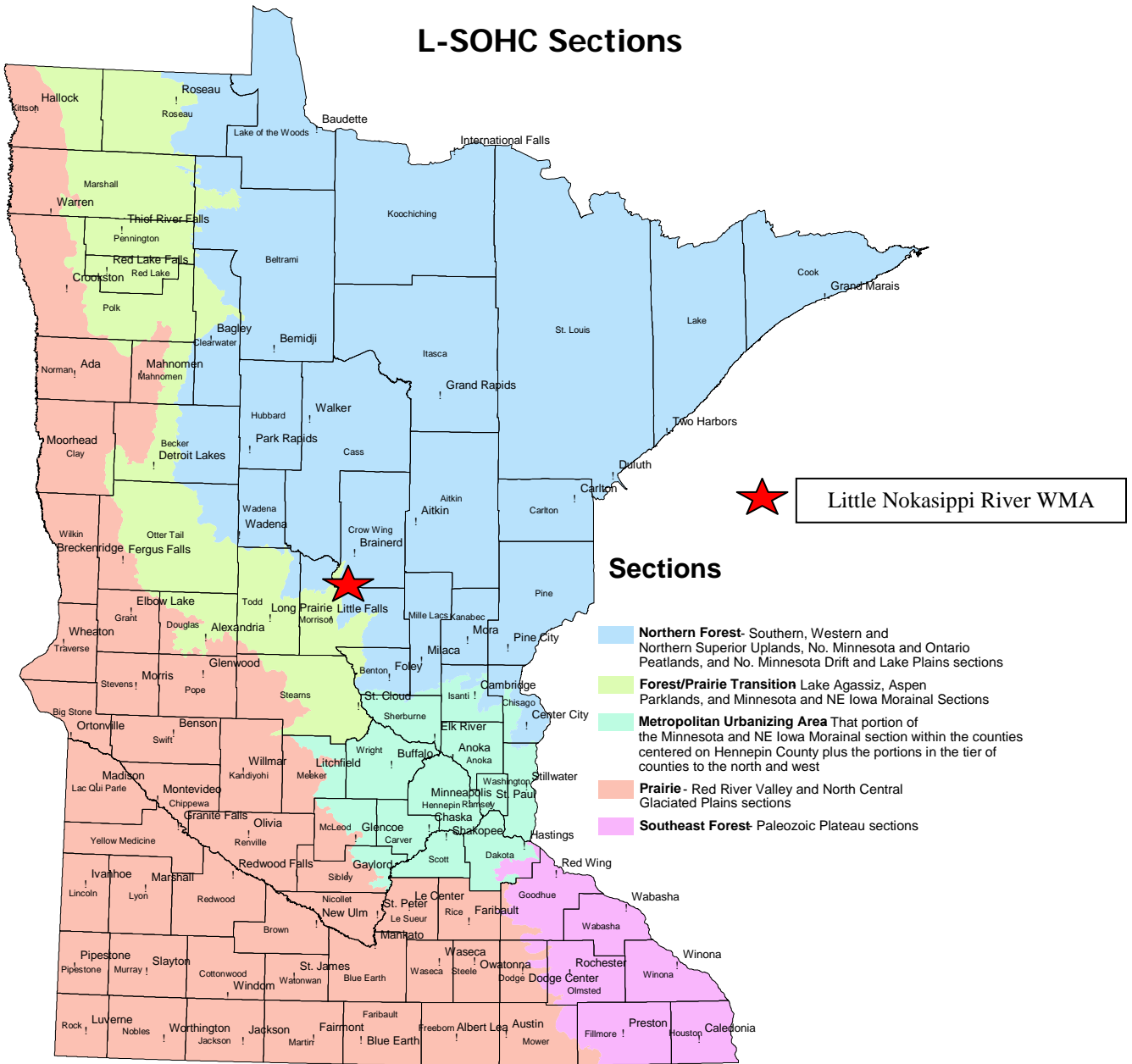
Camp Ripley Perspective

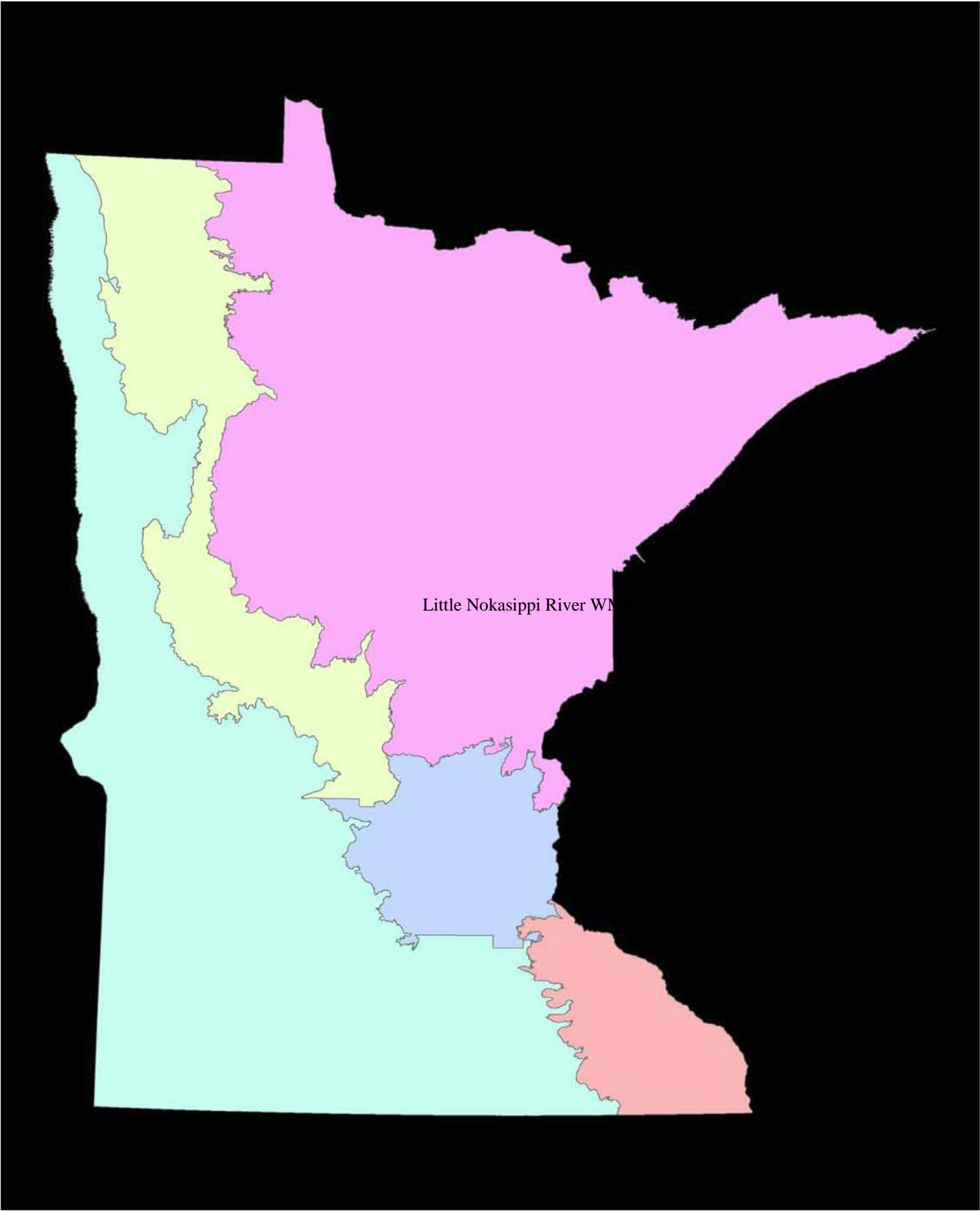


Little Nokasippi River WMA



L-SOHC Sections





**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: Dec. 22, 2009

Project or Program Title: Accelerated Forest Wildlife Habitat Program

Manager's Name: Cynthia Osmundson
Title: Forest Wildlife Program Consultant
 Division of Fish and Wildlife, DNR
Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN. 55155
Telephone: (651) 259-5190
Fax: (651) 297-4961
E-Mail: Cynthia.osmundson@state.mn.us
Web Site: dnr.state.mn.us

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding FY 2011	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	1,791,000	0	0	0

The Mission of the Outdoor Heritage Fund

The mission of the OHF, as specified in the state Constitution, is to: “protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.” In pursuit of that mission, the L-SOHC will use the following definitions in the call for requests for the recommendations to the 2010 Legislature.

Restore: action to bring a habitat back to a former state of sustaining fish, game or wildlife, with an ultimate goal of restoring habitat to a desired conservation condition.

Protect: action to maintain the ability of habitat and related natural systems to sustain fish, game or wildlife through acquisition of fee title or conservation easements.

Enhance: action to increase the ability of habitat and related natural systems to sustain and improve fish, game or wildlife in an ecologically sound manner.

Abstract

Our program will increase populations of a variety of game and non-game wildlife species by protecting and enhancing forest habitats on which wildlife depends. This program of on-the-ground forest conservation projects will amplify the wildlife value of forest communities on DNR administered forestlands.

Our forest enhancement will treat 4,012 ac. These activities are not conducted as part of the DNR’s commercial timber operations. Additionally, our program will acquire 404 ac of forestland that contributes to habitat complexes and other high priorities. Acquisitions focus on forestland for public hunting, and compatible outdoor uses.

At a reduced level of funding, we are focusing on management activities that will maximize wildlife habitat outcomes, especially prescribed burning, hand release, and shearing/mowing. Our program will enhance oak and create a mix of young hardwood forest with more open meadow/brush lands to benefit grouse, elk, and deer. Forest opening creation/enhancement will increase nut and berry production, provide roosting/display areas, and create feeding areas for moose, deer, ruffed grouse, woodcock, and bear. Shearing of trees and brush in large open landscape priority areas will benefit sharp-tailed grouse. Shearing and mowing of hardwoods and brush in smaller patches will benefit woodcock and deer.

Our program will benefit a number of nongame species, including yellow rails, sandhill cranes, northern harriers, bobolinks, and upland sandpipers. Activities that create/enhance forest openings will provide habitat for nongame species, including least chipmunks, northern flickers, cooper's hawks, and song sparrows. The less intensive timber management in our program will help protect rare native plant communities and a number of nongame species through retention and enhancement of plant species diversity and structure.

Narrative

Forests face a formidable array of challenges: fragmentation, invasive species, climate change, disease, and changes in forest-based economics and recreation. While Minnesota's 16.2 million ac of forest are diverse, the acreage and composition of forests have changed significantly. The forest acreage is about half of what it was (31.5 million ac) in the mid 1800s.

Just over half of the forestland in Minnesota is publicly owned; the State of Minnesota administers about 24%. Minnesota's forests help maintain the state's environmental and economic health. They are habitat for fish and wildlife, and a source of biodiversity, clean water, watershed protection, carbon sequestration, recreational opportunities, and many other benefits.

Habitat loss and degradation are identified as the primary challenge facing wildlife. Almost one-third of the state's 292 Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) inhabit forests. The management objectives in this program parallel the forest management options outlined in *Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan, Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare (Tomorrow's Habitat Plan)*. Implementation of these objectives in key habitats identified in the *Plan* will maintain and enhance native forest communities supporting game and non-game wildlife populations. *Tomorrow's Habitat Plan* also calls for the purchase and protection of key habitats as another tool to address the conservation needs of these species.

Protecting forests threatened by fragmentation or development provide important opportunities for collaborative conservation of larger scale areas of habitat. Restoration of newly acquired state forestlands is essential to assure that sites in state ownership are improved to increase or retain their value as wildlife habitat.

The availability of public hunting lands does not meet the expectations of a growing Minnesota population. Due to the current recession, land prices have stabilized or declined and a short-term opportunity exists to purchase more value for our expenditures.

Broad goals for this program are provided through the Subsection Forest Resources Management Planning process which does include a public participation process. No opposition is anticipated. County board approval is required for all acquisitions.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

The *Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan* identifies habitat loss and degradation as the number one driver of change for wildlife in Minnesota. The *Plan* addresses key issues of land and habitat fragmentation, degradation, loss and conversion, and land use practices. Recommended key strategies to positively impact habitat include: integrated planning, land and water restoration and protection, and sustainable practices. Our program addresses these key issues and incorporates many of the key strategies.

The *State Wildlife Actions Plan, Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare*, calls for focused efforts to address the conservation needs of rare game and nongame wildlife species. Habitat loss and degradation are identified as the primary challenge facing wildlife. Almost one-third of the state's 292 Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) inhabit

forests. The management objectives in our program parallel the forest management options outlined in *Tomorrow's Habitat Plan*. Implementation of these objective in key habitats identified in the *Plan* will maintain and enhance native forest communities supporting game and non-game wildlife populations. *Tomorrow's Habitat Plan* also calls for the purchase and protection of key habitats as another tool to address the conservation needs of these species.

Citizens report Minnesota’s *Wildlife Management Area Acquisition – The Next 50 Years* recommends acquisition goals of an additional 702,200 ac of WMAs s over the next 50 years. Our program helps meet these goals.

Our program helps meet the *DNR Scientific and Natural Area Long Range Plan*.

Our program makes significant progress towards accomplishing goals of the multiple DNR landscape level forest management plans (*Subsection Forest Resources Management Plans*)
 (://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/subsection/index.)

Our program directly achieves the DNR’s *Strategic Conservation Agenda 2009-2013* indicators and targets under Integrated Public & Private Land Management.

Appendix J (Sensitive Native Plant Communities) of The *MN Forest Resources Council’s Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines for Landowners, Loggers, and Resource Managers* lists Sensitive Native Plant Communities. Our program works in at least 12 of the 40 listed communities.

Our program implements the goals of the *DNR A Vision for Wildlife and Its Use - Goals and Outcomes, 2006-2012* (FAW core functions, MN Statute 84.941): wildlife resource goals, population and habitat strategies, brushlands and prescribed burning, Ecological Subsection regional challenges.

Our program meets the goals of several MN Forest Resources Council landscape plans
 (://www.frc.state.mn.us/Landscp/Landscape.).

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e, .acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore				
Protect			404	
Enhance			4,012	

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect			Hubbard Aitkin Crow Wing Winona	
Enhance			Aitkin Becker Beltrami Cass Crow Wing Dakota Fillmore Goodhue Itasca Koochiching Lake Mahnomen Marshall Mille Lacs Pine Rice St Louis Wabasha Wadena Winona	

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect		404			
Enhance	35	3,557	420		

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect		\$988,000			
Enhance	\$7,200	\$705,393	\$90,407		

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect			\$988,000	
Enhance			\$803,000	

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability			404	
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	93,400	68,400	
Contracts	313,946	268,600	
Equipment/Tools	1,700	10,500	
Materials/Supplies	3,000	2,500	
Fee Acquisition	926,500		
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel	11,800	8,300	
Additional Budget Items			
Professional Services*	45,027	27,327	
TOTAL	\$1,405,373	\$385,627	

*Professional services includes contracted costs for shared services activities including DNR Office of Management and Budget Services, Human Resources, Management Resources and Information & Education base level services.

Works (and spending) for FY11 & 12 may continue into a third year (FY13) in order to complete projects. Project completion is dependent on weather and availability of plant material.

Relationship to Current Budget

FY2009 expenditures:

DNR	\$350 mil
Division of Fish & Wildlife	\$92.6 mil
Division of Forestry	\$65.7 mil
Division of Ecological Resources	\$25.8 mil

Our program \$1.79 mil (0.5% total DNR budget)

The program includes work we are currently unable to accomplish. We do not plan on reassigning staff.

Personnel

Position	Amount
SNA Acquisition Specialists, 0.05 FTE	\$6,000
SNA Contract and project management, 0.05 FTE	8,000
SNA Specialists & technician, .45 FTE	54,000
SNA Laborers & Seasonal Crews, 1.4 FTE	15,000
FOR Burn Crew, 1.5 FTE (6 people part time)	56,800
FAW Contract and project management, 0.20 FTE	22,000

Leverage

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
In-kind (DNR)	150,000		150,000			
Non state						
Wildlife Management Institute		30,000		30,000		
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	63,109		63,109			
Federal Grant for State Wildlife		25,000		25,000		
TOTAL	213,109	55,000	213,109	55,000		

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect			50,000					
Enhance			250,000				236,218	

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Acquired in fee	404 ac			\$988,000
Enhancement assessment and project completion	2,500 ac	1,516 ac		\$803,000

Works (and spending) for FY11 & 12 enhancement and restoration activities may continue into a third year (FY13) in order to complete projects. Project completion is dependent on weather and availability of plant material. Some acquisitions will take three years to complete. Restoration and enhancement of lands acquired later in the funding cycle will be completed in the third year.

Maintenance and Sustainability

All sites funded through this proposal are or will be state lands, and are part of the state outdoor recreation system. Ongoing maintenance will be accomplished through routine management activities accomplished by our network of DNR offices. Periodic enhancements will be accomplished by existing staff, MCC crews, temporary project staffing or through vendor contract using traditional habitat project funding, bonding, and future requests for funding from dedicated funding sources.

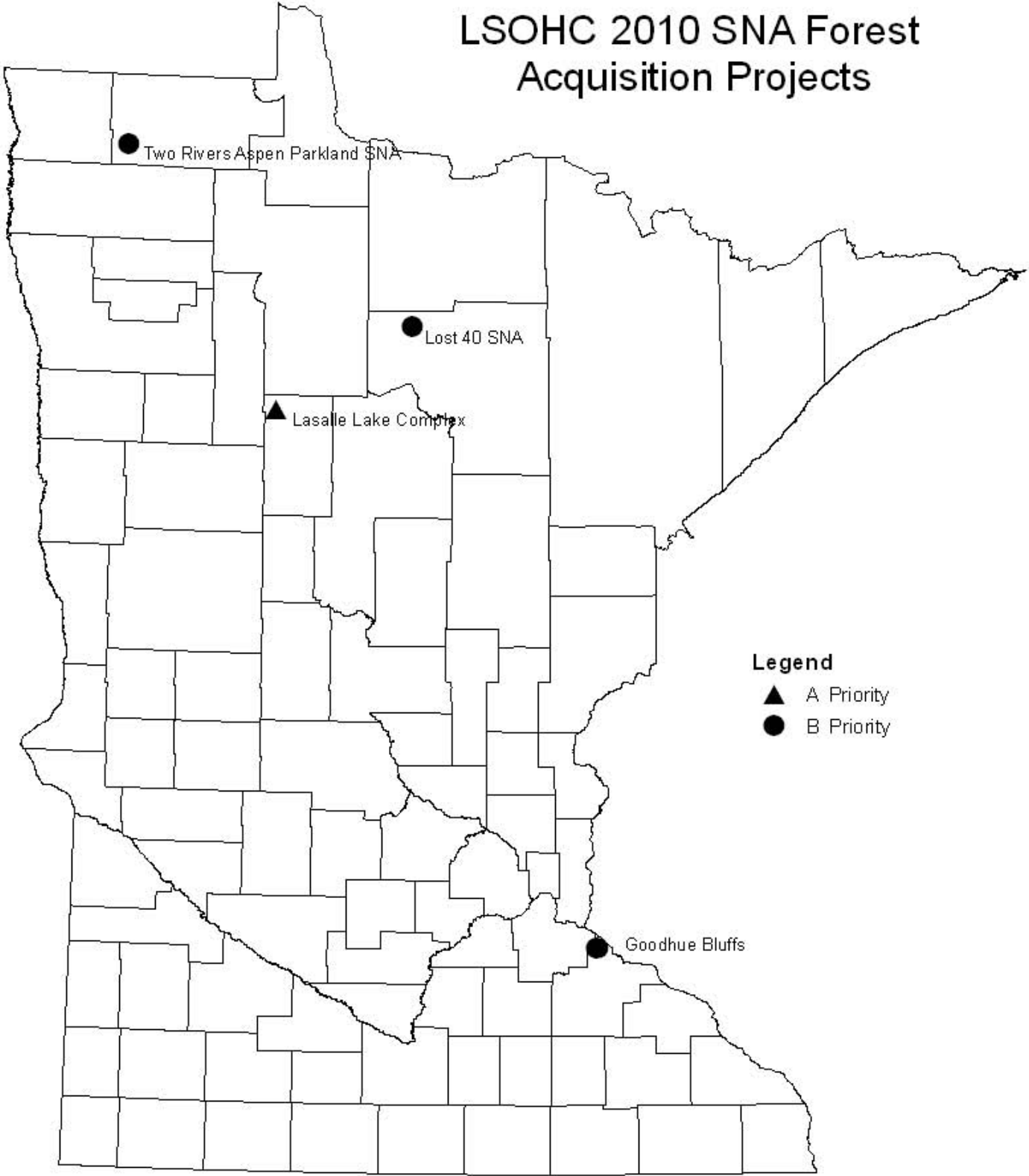
“A” List of Forest Enhancement and Protection Projects (Includes counties and acres)

DIVISION	Administrative Unit	County	LSOHC Section	E or P	COMMENT/PRIOTITY	Treated Acres
F	Bemidji, Park Rapids, and Brainerd forestry areas	Crow Wing	Northern Forest	E	burn	100.00
W	Yaeger Lake WMA (FIM Stand 79): DNR Wildlife Park Rapids	Wadena	Northern Forest	E	burn	25.00
W & F	Aitkin Forestry Area	Aitkin	Northern Forest	E	burn	60.00
W & F	Blackduck Forestry Area	St. Louis	Northern Forest	E	burn	30.00
W & F	Cloquet Area Forestry	St. Louis	Northern Forest	E	burn	90.00
W & F	Orr Forestry Area	Aitkin	Northern Forest	E	burn	60.00
W & F	Two Harbors Forestry Area	Lake	Northern Forest	E	burn	60.00
W & F	Deer River Area Forestry (Adaptive Forest Management Area)	Itasca	Northern Forest	E	burn	60.00
W	Moose Willow WMA	Aitkin	Northern Forest	E	burn	50.00
E	Lost 40 SNA	Itasca	Northern Forest	E	Burning	10.00
F	Deer River Area Forestry	Itasca	Northern Forest	E	Hand Release	14.00
F	Deer River Area Forestry	Itasca	Northern Forest	E	Hand Release	23.00
F	Littlefork Forestry Area	Koochiching	Northern Forest	E	Hand Release	50.00
F	Sandstone Forestry - Nemadji State Forest	Pine	Northern Forest	E	Hand Release	100.00
F	Orr Forestry Area	St. Louis	Northern Forest	E	Hand Release	100.00
F	Tower Forestry Area	St. Louis	Northern Forest	E	Hand Release	100.00
E	Pine Bend Bluffs SNA	Dakota	Metropolitan	E	Hydroaxing	35.00
E	Cannon R Turtle Preserve SNA	Goodhue	Southeast Forest	E	Hydroaxing	45.00
E	Cherry Grove Blind Valley SNA	Fillmore	Southeast Forest	E	Hydroaxing	30.00
E	Prairie Creek Woods SNA	Rice	Southeast Forest	E	Hydroaxing	20.00
F	Deer River Area Forestry	Itasca	Northern Forest	E	Hand release	30
F	Deer River Area Forestry	Itasca	Northern Forest	E	Hand release	15
F	Littlefork Forestry Area	Koochiching	Northern Forest	E	Hand release	142
F	Tower Forestry Area	St. Louis	Northern Forest	E	Hand release	30
F	TH Area - StTrFnd	St. Louis	Northern Forest	E	Hand release	75
F	Badoura State Forest Hubbard County tax forfeiture land: DNR Wildlife Park Rapids	Hubbard	Northern Forest	E	Hydroaxing	160
F	Littlefork Forestry Area	Koochiching	Northern Forest	E	Hydroaxing	46
F	TH Area - StTrFnd & CoTxFor	Lake	Northern Forest	E	Hydroaxing	20
F	Beltrami Island State Forest	Beltrami	Northern Forest	E	Shearing	300
F	TH Area - Moose/State Forest	Cook	Northern Forest	E	Shearing	70
F	Deer River Area Forestry	Itasca	Northern Forest	E	Shearing	5
E	Moose Mountain	St Louis	Northern Forest	E	Mowing	160.00
W	Mille Lacs WMA	Mille Lacs	Northern Forest	E	oak	100.00
W	Whitewater WMA	Winona	Southeast Forest	E	oak	175.00
W	Sax-Zim WMA	Aitkin	Northern Forest	E	shear +	300.00
W	Thief Lake Wildlife Work Area	Marshall	Transition	E	shear +	1200.00
F	Manitou Collaborative - Patch Project (manage towards old growth stage, large conifer patch in high biodiversity site, AFMP)	Lake	Northern Forest	E	special site	90.00
W	Four Brooks WMA	Mille Lacs	Northern Forest	E	special site	25.00
W	Four Brooks WMA	Mille Lacs	Northern Forest	E	special site	250.00
W	Ray Cook WMA	Crow Wing	Northern Forest	P	Complete Acquisition of Existing Unit. Protect remainder of shallow lake and adjacent upland	120.00
W	Willowssippi WMA	Aitkin	Northern Forest	P	Complete purchase of inholdings within WMA. Partnership with Hill Cith Chapter of	80.00
W	Whitewater WMA	Winona	Northern Forest	P	Riparian corridor/in holding within WMA	4.00
E	LaSalle Lake	Hubbard	Northern Forest	P		200.00

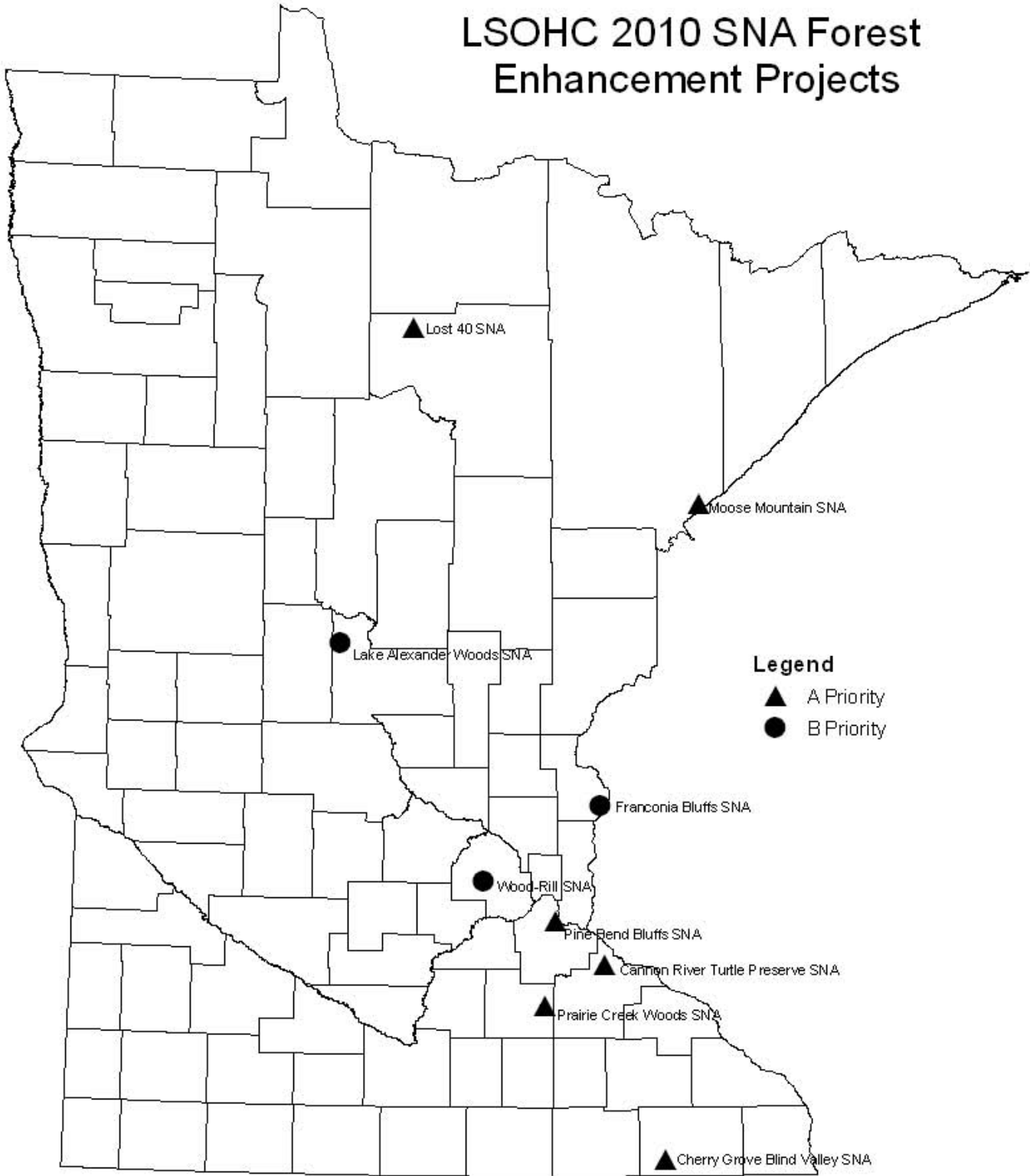
“B” List of Forest Enhancement and Protection Projects (Includes counties and acres)

DIVISION	Administrative Unit	County	LSOHC Section	E or P	COMMENT/PRIOTITY	Treated Acres
E	Lake Alexander Woods SNA	Morrison	Transition	E		20.00
E	Franconia Bluffs SNA	Chisago	Northern Forest	E		15.00
E	Wood-Rill SNA	Hennepin	Metropolitan	E		80.00
W	Menahga WMA (FIM Stand 100): DNR Wildlife Park Rapids	Wadena	Northern Forest	E	burn	10.00
W	Leech Lake Open Lands: DNR Wildlife Park Rapids	Cass	Northern Forest	E	shear +	200.00
W	Roseau River and Roseau Lake WMA's	Roseau	Transition	E	shear +	1200.00
W	Baudette Wildlife Work Area	Lake of the Woods	Northern Forest	E	shear +	533.00
F	TH Area - Moose/State Forest	Cook	Northern Forest	E	shear +	70.00
F	TH Area - StTrFnd & CoTxFor	Lake	Northern Forest	E	shear +	20.00
W	Mallard Lake WMA	Aitkin	Northern Forest	E	shear +	130.00
W	Newstrom Lake WMA	Aitkin	Northern Forest	E	shear +	65.00
W	Mille Lacs WMA	Mille Lacs	Northern Forest	E	burn	100.00
W	Root River WMA	Houston	Southeast Forest	E	oak	47.00
F	Sandstone Forestry - Chengwatana State Forest	Pine	Northern Forest	E	Herbicide application	60
F	Beltrami Island State Forest	Beltrami	Northern Forest	E	Shearing	400
F	Tower Forestry Area	Lake	Northern Forest	E	Hand release	15
F	Tower Forestry Area	St. Louis	Northern Forest	E	Hand release	10
F	Deer River Area Forestry	Cass	Northern Forest	E	Shearing	8
E	Goodhue Bluffs	Goodhue	Southeast Forest	P		80.00
E	Lost 40 SNA	Itasca	Northern Forest	P		14.00
E	Two Rivers Aspen Parkland SNA	Roseau	Transition	P		40.00
W	Crow Wing WMA	Crow Wing	Northern Forest	P	This parcel adjoins the Crow Wing WMA, contains 2672 feet of lakeshore on a shallow	68.76
W	Graham WMA	Benton	Northern Forest	P	Inholding within Graham WMA	40.00
W	Graceton	Lake of the Woods	Norther Forest	P	This largely wetland area is a key tract that would join two large halves of the Graceton	634.00

LSOHC 2010 SNA Forest Acquisition Projects



LSOHC 2010 SNA Forest Enhancement Projects



Legend

- ▲ A Priority
- B Priority

▲ Lost 40 SNA

▲ Moose Mountain SNA

● Lake Alexander Woods SNA

● Franconia Bluffs SNA

● Wood-Rill SNA

▲ Pine Bend Bluffs SNA

▲ Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA

▲ Prairie Creek Woods SNA

▲ Cherry Grove Blind Valley SNA

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 21, 2009

Project Title: Northeastern Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Partnership

Manager's Name: Ward Julien

Title: Board Member & Treasurer

Agency/organization: Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society

Mailing Address: 644 – 107 Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Telephone: 763-754-8361

E-Mail: wjulien@peoplepc.com

Web Site: www.sharptails.org

Fiscal Agent: Ron Leathers

Title: Director of Public Finance/Assistant

Agency/organization: Pheasants Forever

Mailing Address: 1783 Buerkle Circle, St. Paul, MN 55110

Telephone: 651-209-4919

Fax: 651-773-5500

E-Mail: rleathers@pheasantsforever.org

Web Site: www.pheasantsforever.org; www.minnesotapf.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$1,559,000	0	0	0

Appropriation Language

Abstract

With the Council's recommended allocation, the sharp-tailed grouse habitat partnership will protect, enhance and restore up to 1,419.7 acres of open and brushland habitat and 145 acres of forest habitat in northeastern Minnesota, provide access to additional public lands for recreation, provide multiple environmental benefits, and benefit sharp-tailed grouse and other open and brushland species in greatest conservation need (several of which are state listed as endangered, threatened or special concern) by pursuing acquisition of all or part of a parcel in Kanabec County (priority #1, Tumler Tract), and all of a parcel in Aitkin County (priority #2, Thompson Tract), subject to negotiations, for addition to the WMA system. If needed, one or more of the parcels that were prioritized as #3 and #5-7 in the proposal will be pursued instead (see list and map on pages 7-8).

As noted in the LSOHC's Northern Forest Section Vision, the condition of brushlands within forest lands is of special concern. The partnership, including Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society (MSGs), Pheasants Forever (PF), Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA), Ruffed Grouse Society

(RGS), Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA), Central Lakes College Natural Resource Club (CLC) and Minnesota DNR, is collaborating to ensure that landscapes important to the sustainability of sharp-tailed grouse and other native, open and brushland wildlife, and the multiple benefits they provide, persist in the future.

Narrative

The problem to be addressed is loss, degradation and fragmentation of open and brushland habitat within northeastern Minnesota due to natural succession and conversion to other land uses. It has led to a long term decline in the sharp-tailed grouse population and populations of several other wildlife species that use or depend upon these habitats, causing their listing as species in greatest conservation need. This problem is directly related to protecting, restoring and enhancing habitat because these measures are precisely what is needed to solve it. The strategy of protection, restoration and enhancement will work because sufficient, secure, quality habitat is key to sustaining wildlife populations. Where brushland wildlife species have the amount and quality of habitat they require, their populations are sustainable, having greater resilience and ability to persist in the future.

The nature and extent of the partnership includes project coordination and management by MSGS, grant management and appraisal assistance by PF (i.e. fiscal agent), and cooperation with willing sellers and oversight of habitat work and hiring of contractors by local DNR wildlife managers, as well as financial support from MSGS, PF, MWA, RGS, MDHA, CLC, and DNR. There are no stakeholder or public participation processes associated with the project other than interested parties are very welcome to join and support the partnership and its habitat efforts. Additional financial support is anticipated from PF and MDHA chapters. No opposition to the project is anticipated. The two parcels in Kanabec and Aitkin Counties have not had formal County Board approval, but local County Commissioners have been contacted and their initial support successfully sought.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

Resource management plans and their priorities that support this project include the:

- *Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan* (protect priority lands; improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation; restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watershed; keep water on the landscape),
- *MDNR's Tomorrow's Habitat of the Wild and Rare* (conserve SGCN and key habitats, stabilize and increase populations of SGCN),
- *MDNR's Strategic Conservation Agenda* (address energy and climate, and landscape change trends through potential biomass harvest as a brushland habitat management tool and addition of WMAs, respectively) and
- *Minnesota's WMA Acquisition – The Next 50 Years – Habitat is the Key* (meet goal of additional WMA acres).

Project Design and Evaluation

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				259.7 ac
Protect				1564.7 ac
Enhance				1305 ac

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				Aitkin
Protect				Kanabec, Aitkin
Enhance				Kanabec, Aitkin

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					259.7 ac
Protect					1564.7 ac
Enhance					1305 ac

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					\$10,600
Protect					\$1,525,150
Enhance					\$23,250

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				\$10,600
Protect				\$1,525,150
Enhance				\$23,250

* Habitat acres include both wetland (435 acres) and forest (1,129.7 acres) systems. Wetland system acres are predominantly open and brushland habitats. Forest system acres are upland also predominantly open and brushland habitats (984.7 acres). Because brushlands in the Northern Forest are not part of prairie ecosystems they are placed under the Forest system category along with the open land habitats intermixed with them. Approximately 145 ac of the forest system acres are actual forest habitat.

Relationship to Current Budget

Grant funds will augment partners' limited habitat protection, restoration and enhancement funds. Without LSOHC funds, these projects would be much less feasible to accomplish. These projects will become part of existing MSGS, PF and DNR staff's duties. Other projects and work will not be affected by these projects.

Personnel

Position	Name	Amount
PF MN Director of Conservation Programs	Joe Pavelko	\$5,000
PF Regional Wildlife Biologist	Eran Sandquist	\$5,000
PF Director of Public Finance/Assistant	Ron Leathers	\$10,000

* Only documented expenditures direct to this project would be eligible for reimbursement. If personnel funds remain, all unused funding will be applied towards restoration and enhancement.

Leverage

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Minnesota DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife (In-kind staff time/salaries)				\$17,000		
Non state						
MSGS		\$1,000				
PF – State		\$5,000				
- Kanabec Co.		\$5,000				
- Other Chapters		\$5,000				
MWA – Hill River		\$6,300				
RGS - State		\$1,000				
MDHA		TBD				
CLC – Natural Resource Club		\$300				
In-kind/Volunteer						
TOTAL		\$23,600		\$17,000		

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				\$2,800				
Protect								\$23,600
Enhance				\$14,200				

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
<i>Contract appraisals ordered</i>	<i>Aug. 1, 2010</i>			\$9,000
<i>Purchase Agreements</i>	<i>Jan. 1, 2011</i>			\$1,458,650
<i>Close on Tracts</i>	<i>April 1, 2011</i>			\$3,500
<i>Tracts Donated to DNR (Protection Completed)</i>	<i>May 1, 2011</i>			
<i>Boundary Surveys Conducted</i>	<i>May-June, 2011</i>			\$35,000
<i>Restoration & Enhancement Initiated</i>		<i>July 1, 2011</i>		\$32,850
<i>Restoration & Enhancement Completed</i>		<i>June 30, 2012</i>		

Maintenance and Sustainability

All grant funds received for this partnership will result in fee title transfer of the two tracts into the Minnesota DNR Wildlife Management Area system and restoration and enhancement of open and brushland habitats on them. Long term protection and management of the tracts will be the responsibility of the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife which employs professional managers, biologists, field staff, and enforcement officers. Habitat improvements will be sustained through the DNR budget and funds provided through the partnership. Partner funds will come from their general membership and grants, such as LSOHC and Heritage Enhancement grants. Treatments to maintain high quality open and brushland habitats will likely include prescribed burning, mowing, shearing, timber harvest, and possibly grazing, biomass harvest and occasional haying.

List of Proposed Open and Brushland Tracts to Protect (from Highest to Lowest Priority) (see map on next page):

Kanabec County

- 1. Tumlner tract (T42N R22W, parts of Sec. 20, 28, 29, 31 & 32)**
- 1,285 acres; \$2,700,000 estimate

Aitkin County

- 2. Thompson tract (T48N R25W, E1/2 Sec. 5)**
- 279.7 acres; \$280,000 estimate
3. Rono tract (T50N R25W, W½ Sec. 18, W½ Sec. 19)
- 596.4 acres; \$358,000 estimate
4. Watters tract (T50N R25W, E1/2SW Sec. 11)
- 80 acres; \$56,000 estimate

(This parcel may be protected through the DNR Accelerated Forest Wildlife Habitat Program proposal.)

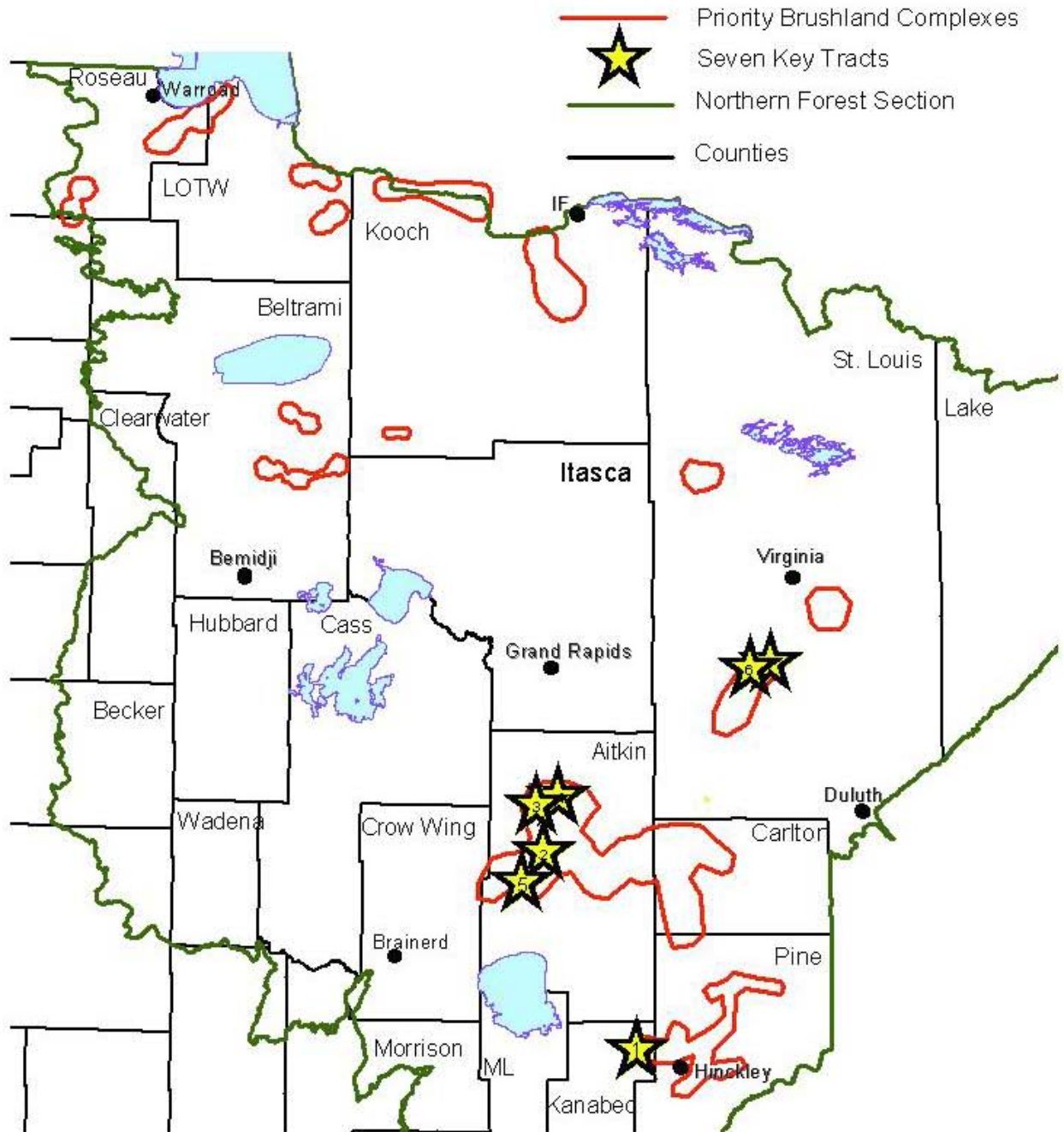
5. Rezac tract (T47N R26W, Sec. 9)
- 158.5 acres; \$109,000 estimate

St. Louis County

6. Thomas tract (T55N R18W, SW Sec. 27)
- 20 acres; \$14,000 estimate
7. Palusky tract (T55N R18W, NE Sec. 27)
- 12.8 acres; \$9,000 estimate

LSOHC Proposal Northeastern Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Partnership

Priority Brushland Complexes and Seven Key Tracts Available for Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement within the Northern Forest Section



12-2-09

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 22, 2009

Project or Program Title: Accelerated Shallow Lakes & Wetlands Enhancement, Restoration, & Protection Partnership

Manager's Name: Ray Norrgard
Title: Wetland Wildlife Program Leader, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Agency: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
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	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs			
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Funds Recommended (\$000s)	FY 2011				
Minnesota DNR subtotal:	\$1,463,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Ducks Unlimited subtotal:	\$5,042,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Outdoor Heritage Fund total:	\$6,505,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000

Appropriation Language:

Abstract

This programmatic partnership between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Ducks Unlimited (DU) will accelerate enhancement, restoration, and protection of shallow lakes and wetlands important to waterfowl. This partnership will assess, design, and implement shallow lake and wetland enhancement, restoration, and protection projects to address the most important wetland issues facing waterfowl and other wetland wildlife in Minnesota. Every statewide conservation plan recognizes the need for improving and protecting Minnesota's shallow lakes and wetlands for wildlife habitat. The MN DNR *Duck Recovery Plan* calls for the enhancement and active management of 1,800 shallow lakes while adding 64,000 wetlands to Minnesota's landscape. DU's *Living Lakes* conservation initiative supports this plan with a goal of improving 300 shallow lakes in Minnesota.

DNR and DU will accelerate efforts to enhance, restore, and protect shallow lakes and wetlands through increased assessment and engineering plus funding for water structure construction and land control. Enhancing and properly managing shallow lakes and wetlands will involve three components: assessment and feasibility analysis (Pre-design), engineering survey, design, review, easements and permits (Design), and ultimately water structure installation (Construction). DU will also work with private landowners to permanently protect lands adjacent to shallow lakes through permanent conservation easements and to purchase other lands in and adjacent to drained basins in fee-title to allow for restoration (Protection). In total, DNR and DU will conduct 200 assessments, work on 50 designs, restore 63 acres, structurally enhance 7,172 acres, and protect 30 acres through permanent conservation easement and 720 in fee-title.

Narrative

An estimated 90% of Minnesota's prairie wetlands have been lost, and those that remain are often larger basins that were more difficult to drain. Throughout the state, these shallow lakes and large wetlands provide critical habitat for wetland wildlife production and migration, especially for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent birds. High quality shallow lakes and wetlands have clear water and abundant rooted aquatic vegetation. Emergent aquatic plants such as rushes and wild rice provide protective cover from weather and predators and over-water nesting habitat, while submerged plants provide food in the form of seeds and tubers and critical habitat for aquatic invertebrates. An abundance of aquatic invertebrates such as insects, amphipods, and snails are critical for breeding ducks and for duckling growth and survival. Protein and carbohydrates from seeds and tubers are critical foods during both spring and fall migration. Seasonally flooded wetlands often fill these needs for shorebirds and dabbling ducks, particularly during spring. However, it is typically the larger, more permanent wetlands and shallow lakes that are important to diving ducks in spring and provide the most important fall habitat for all waterfowl.

However, the quality of shallow lakes and wetlands providing wildlife habitat has declined markedly due to landscape drainage and intensive agricultural land use, shoreline development, increased runoff carrying sediment and nutrients, and invasive plant and fish species. Invasive fish, such as bullheads, carp, and fathead minnows reduce the invertebrates and aquatic plants necessary for quality habitat. Highly altered landscape hydrology now allows these invasive fish to access and sustain populations in most of our remaining wetlands.

The worst damage has occurred within the prairie and transition portions of the state where conversion of habitat to other uses has degraded the watersheds of shallow lakes and associated wetlands. Restoration of wetland and grassland complexes restores habitat and reduces excessive runoff that can improve water quality. However, in-basin management is also needed to switch turbid shallow lakes back to their preferred clear water state. While watershed improvements benefit shallow lakes and wetlands, and both regulatory and voluntary programs to minimize and mitigate watershed degradation are ongoing by many conservation agencies, watershed work alone will not often switch turbid lakes to clear lakes and improve waterfowl habitat in them.

It is only through active water level management that simulates periodic droughts and stimulates aquatic plant growth combined with the removal of invasive fish that the quality of this important aquatic habitat can be rejuvenated and sustained into the future. Similar to the effects of periodic fires in upland prairie systems, temporary droughts in wetlands are essential to maintaining wetland productivity and to rejuvenating turbid shallow lakes. Water level variation drives wetland ecology, and has long been a well-established, science-based wetland management technique employed throughout the world.

This programmatic partnership between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Ducks Unlimited (DU) will accelerate enhancement, restoration, and protection of shallow lakes and wetlands important to waterfowl. This partnership will assess, design, and implement shallow lake and wetland enhancement, restoration, and protection projects to address the most important wetland issues facing waterfowl and other wetland wildlife in Minnesota. Central to our work will be the feasibility analysis, design, and installation of water control structures, pumps, and fish barriers that will provide state and federal conservation agency land managers with the ability to conduct temporary water level draw-downs that simulate the natural hydrologic regimes that drive wetland ecology. All projects will be constructed on public land or land under permanent easement by state or federal agencies, and all projects will be managed by Minnesota DNR field staff or by field staff of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Other agencies and tribal interests will be consulted and queried for input as projects are assessed, designed, and implemented. This proposal is based on the best available shallow lake and wetland management science coupled with over four decades of experience by Minnesota DNR and over two decades of wetland engineering expertise by DU.

Specifically, at least 200 shallow lakes and wetlands will be assessed for their current condition and feasibility for needed improvement as determined by DNR and DU field staff. Meanwhile DNR and DU biologists and engineers will work on 50 shallow lake and wetland design projects to review and finalize engineering plans, obtain legal land rights and public support, and secure all necessary permits and approvals for project implementation. Landowner outreach will be conducted and public meetings held when needed to review, revise, and fully develop wetland structure projects for implementation. Finally, several wetland restoration projects will be implemented to restore 63 wetland acres, and 16 structural shallow lake and wetland enhancement projects will be constructed to allow managers to enhance over 7,000 wetland acres.

To protect the state's investment in water structures and management, DU will also work with private landowners to explore opportunities for conservation easements and to protect 30 acres or more of shallow lake shoreland through permanent conservation easements held and monitored in perpetuity by DU. Also, to make future restoration of drained wetlands legally feasible, DU will also purchase 720 acres of land in fee-title in and adjacent to drained shallow lake basins. The land will eventually be transferred to the Minnesota DNR or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Initial contacts with landowners and local governmental representatives have been favorable to our land acquisition plans, and county board approval will be sought before any land acquired is transferred to Minnesota DNR or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Finally, DU will use \$50,000 in grant funds over two years to coordinate this work and administer this grant.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

Several recent statewide Minnesota planning efforts have called attention to the dramatic loss in both quantity and quality of wetland and shallow lake habitat over the last century and a half. *Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, A Fifty-Year Vision – Minnesota Campaign for Conservation, Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare*, and *MN DNR Duck Recovery Plan* all emphasize the importance of shallow lakes and associated wetlands in creating viable wetland habitat complexes that are necessary for improvements in wetland wildlife populations.

The *Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan* identifies habitat loss and degradation as the number one driver of change for wildlife in Minnesota. This Plan specifically recommends fee acquisition for WMAs, protection of shallow lake shoreline, and restoring shallow lakes, wetlands, and wetland associated watersheds as important strategies. *Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare - Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy* for species in greatest conservation need has identified significant loss and degradation of habitat as the number one management challenge and one of the principle strategies is to provide protection through selective acquisition of key habitats in each Ecological Section. Over 30 species that rely on shallow lakes and wetlands are listed as species of special concern. Minnesota's *Long Range Duck Recovery Plan* lists the objective of restoring a breeding population of 1 million ducks by 2056. The primary strategy is the protection and restoration of 2 million additional acres of habitat including the restoration of 64,000 wetlands and actively managing 1,800 shallow lakes.

Project Design and Evaluation

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore	63 acres			
Protect	490 acres	260 acres		
Enhance	7,109 acres			

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	Nobles, Stearns, Sherburne, Benton, Mille Lacs, Isanti, Kanabec			
Protect	Big Stone, Douglas, Pope, Grant, Stearns, Stevens, Murray	Big Stone, Douglas, Pope, Grant, Stearns, Stevens, Murray		
Enhance	Blue Earth, Crow Wing, Cottonwood, Nobles, Big Stone, Stevens, Becker, Polk, Pope, Marshall, Kittson, Roseau, Benton, Isanti, Stearns, Sherburne			

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	10 acres	8 acres		45 acres	
Protect		30 acres		720 acres	
Enhance	65 acres	6,171 acres		563 acres	310 acres

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,000		\$ 200,000	
Protect*		\$ 155,000		\$2,681,000	
Enhance**	\$ 50,000	\$1,000,000	\$ 1,000	\$2,000,000	\$400,000

* Protect includes \$2,580,000 for permanent conservation easement and fee-title acquisition payments to landowners.

**Enhance includes \$85,000 for DNR water control structure or flowage easement payments to landowners.

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	\$ 218,000			
Protect*	\$1,805,000	\$ 1,031,000		
Enhance**	\$3,451,000			

* Protect includes \$2,580,000 for permanent conservation easement and fee-title acquisition payments to landowners.

**Enhance includes \$85,000 for DNR water control structure or flowage easement payments to landowners.

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability	490 acres	230 acres		
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement		30 acres		

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	\$1,000,000	\$ 511,000	
Contracts	\$1,000,000	\$ 723,000	
Equipment/Tools	\$ 80,000		
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$2,000,000	\$ 500,000	
Easement Acquisition	\$ 65,000	\$ 100,000	
Easement Stewardship		\$ 15,000	
Travel	\$ 100,000	\$ 55,500	
DNR Professional Services	\$ 200,000	\$ 155,500	
Other (DNR structure easements)			
TOTAL	\$4,445,000	\$2,060,000	

Relationship to Current Budget

This grant funding represents a significant increase in the Minnesota conservation budget of Ducks Unlimited, and will account for over 80% of DU's Minnesota conservation budget after the first year of spending. This grant funding is all new additive funding for DU and will allow DU to focus and accelerate shallow lake habitat enhancements and protection efforts in Minnesota. Current DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife expenditures for wetland and shallow lake work for wildlife habitat total approximately \$2,360,000 out of a total Division budget of \$92,600,000. The total DNR annual budget approximates \$350,000,000.

Personnel

Position	Name	Amount
DU Biologist	Unknown (new hire)	\$220,000
DU Biologist	Josh Kavanagh	\$140,000
DU Biologist	Robert Usgaard	\$140,000
DU Program Manager	Jon Schneider	\$ 50,000
DU Engineering Staff	Multiple - TBD	\$531,000
DNR Temp Specialists (3)	Multiple new hires	\$300,000
DNR Seasonal Interns (12)	Multiple interns	\$130,000

Leverage

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state						
Local Sportsmen Club		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		
NAWCA Small Grant		\$ 70,000				
DU Indirect Expense		\$100,000		\$ 70,000		
Federal Aid Reimburse		\$500,000		\$500,000		
In-kind/Volunteer						
DNR in-kind staff time	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000			
TOTAL	\$ 25,000	\$675,000	\$ 25,000	\$575,000		

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore					\$ 15,000			
Protect					\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000		
Enhance					\$1,275,000			

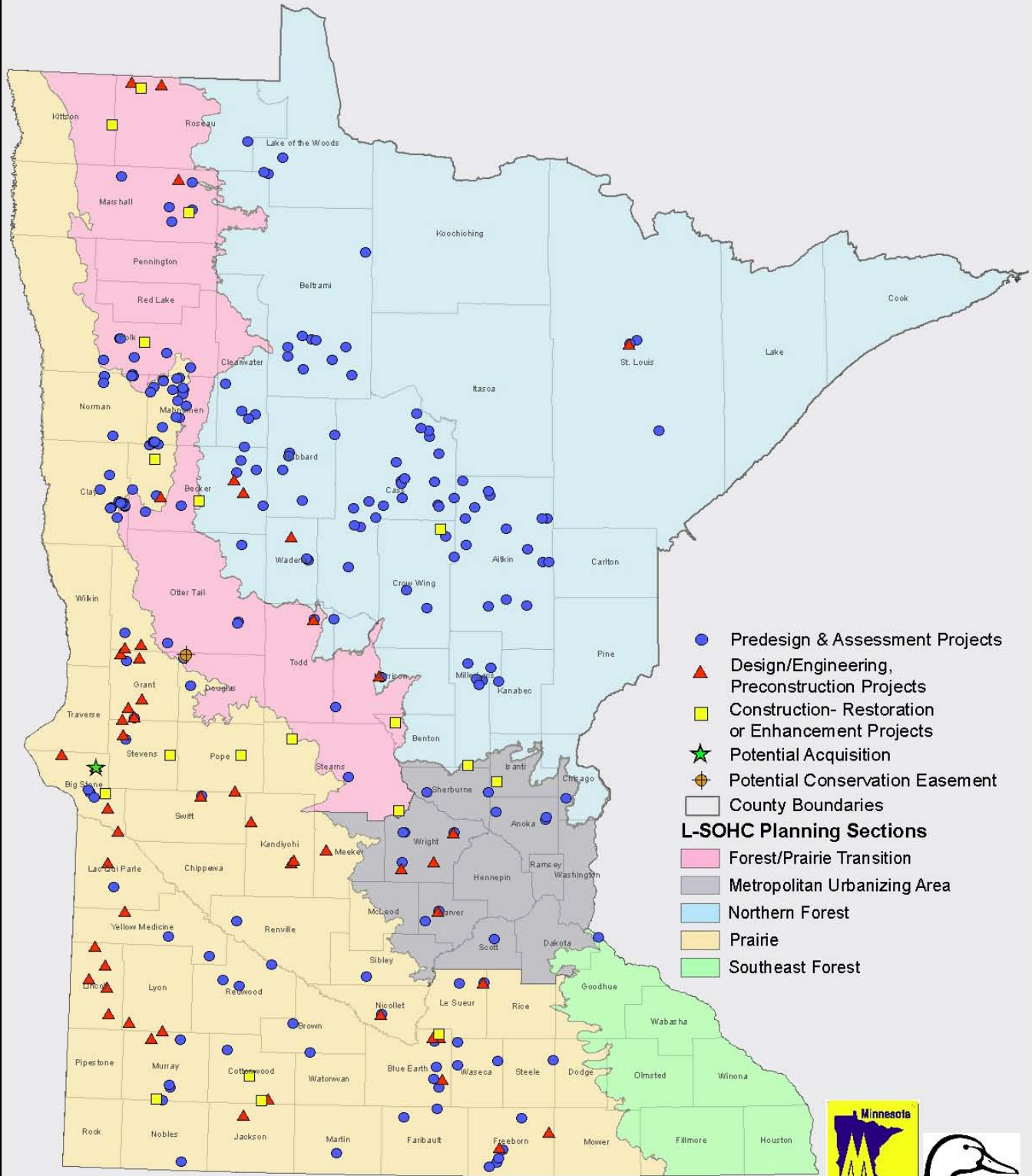
Accomplishment Timeline

<i>Milestones</i>	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Pre-design Assessments and New Shallow Lake Project Identification	50 Surveys	150 Surveys		\$1,072,000
Project Design and Development	20 Projects	30 Projects		\$ 763,000
Restoration Project Construction	1 Projects for 45 wetland acres	2+ Projects for 18 acres		\$ 218,000
Enhancement Project Construction	10 Projects for 2,109 acres	6 Projects for 5,000 acres		\$1,616,000
Fee-Title Land Acquisition	600 acres acquired in fee	120 acres acquired in fee		\$2,681,000
Permanent Easement Acquisition		30 acres protected		\$ 155,000

Maintenance and Sustainability

The pre-design and design components of this proposal will prepare sites for future construction or treatment proposals. The management and maintenance of basins with completed construction or protected by fee acquisition will be conducted by existing staff of the Department of Natural Resources or United States Fish and Wildlife Service depending on location of the specific project. These staff are funded through license fees and legislative or congressional appropriations. Periodic enhancements such as invasive species removal, supplemental vegetation planting or water control structure installation and replacements will be accomplished through annual funding requests to a variety of funding sources including, but not limited to, the Game and Fish Fund, bonding, gifts, the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Outdoor Heritage Fund, and federal sources such as North American Wetland Conservation Act grants. Lands acquired in fee title by DU will be promptly transferred to the Minnesota DNR.

Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Restoration, Protection and Enhancement Partnership



**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: January 19, 2010

Project or Program Title: Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program in Minnesota

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	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Funds Recommended (\$000s)	FY 2011			
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$ 3,505,000	0	0	0

Appropriation Language

\$3,505,000 in fiscal year 2011 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire land for the Waterfowl Production Area program in western and southern Minnesota.

Abstract

Pheasants Forever (PF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will cooperate to permanently restore and protect approximately 700 acres as Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) in western and southern Minnesota. All lands acquired through this grant proposal will be owned and managed by the Service as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program in Minnesota

Narrative

Tremendous economic, agricultural, recreational, and developmental pressures including gravel mining, widely fluctuating commodity prices, withdrawal of CRP contracts, wind energy, ethanol and bio-mass production are squeezing Minnesota's habitat resources and the plants and animals that depend on them. WPAs are acquired with funds derived from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps and managed for wildlife and conservation benefits as part of the National Wildlife System. Land acquisition and restoration have not kept pace with habitat needs however.

Funds will be utilized to permanently restore and protect approximately 500 acres of grassland and 200 acres of wetland as Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) in western and southern Minnesota. The loss of grassland and wetland habitats in Minnesota is well documented. One of the primary ways to reverse this downward trend is to permanently acquire, then restore wetland and grassland habitats on those properties. The Service and our partners have been utilizing this strategy for over 50-years with the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program (SWAP). Utilizing the landscape level planning tools produced by our HAPET office in Fergus Falls, MN, the Service and our partners have strategically identified properties for acquisition. These strategies are well tested and are supported by the greater conservation community" here in Minnesota.

This Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) project will add to the Service's acquisition of Minnesota's valuable wetland and grassland habitats. Upon notification of project approval, Pheasants Forever & the Service will prioritize lands to be acquired. PF will complete landowner contacts, appraisals and purchase agreements. At closing PF will take ownership to allow for the required reversionary clause. Then the lands will be donated to the Service as WPAs and all management actions including the prompt restoration of upland habitats and wetlands will be funded by the Service and protected in perpetuity. The Service will also be responsible for payment of PILT to the Counties.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

The Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan, the U.S. Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Implementation Plan, MN State Waterfowl and Pheasant Plans, the Partners In Flight-Grassland Bird Plans, the US Shorebird Conservation Plan for the Northern Plains/Prairie Potholes Region, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan and many other plans, papers, and studies have directly and indirectly noted that the current pace of conservation actions is not likely to reverse previous wetland and grassland losses in Minnesota or the Prairie Pothole Region of North America. Many authors and organizations have recommended that accelerating protection and restoring lost and degraded habitats are essential strategies in reversing the distressing decline in watershed protection, conservation habitats and wildlife populations.

Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program in Minnesota

Project Design and Evaluation

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore				
Protect	200 acres	500 acres		
Enhance				

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, Grant, Big Stone, Swift, Kandiyohi, Lyon, Lincoln, Jackson, Fairbault, Freeborn, Mahnomen	Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, Grant, Big Stone, Swift, Kandiyohi, Lyon, Lincoln, Jackson, Fairbault, Freeborn, Mahnomen		
Protect	Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, Grant, Big Stone, Swift, Kandiyohi, Lyon, Lincoln, Jackson, Fairbault, Freeborn, Mahnomen	Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, Grant, Big Stone, Swift, Kandiyohi, Lyon, Lincoln, Jackson, Fairbault, Freeborn, Mahnomen		
Enhance				

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect	30 acres	120 acres		550 acres	
Enhance					

These are estimates based upon current project list and depend upon willing sellers.

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	\$36,473	\$145,885		\$668,643	
Protect	\$ 113,742	\$454,971		\$ 2,085,286	
Enhance					

Contract and personnel costs are prorated based on acres per ecological section and are assigned to the restore category.

Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program in Minnesota

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	\$243,143	\$ 607,857		
Protect	\$758,286	\$1,895,714		
Enhance				

Contract and personnel costs are prorated based on acres per ecological section and are assigned to the restore category.

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability	200 acres	500 acres		
Permanent Easement				

All acquisitions take a willing seller, thus the projects identified and listed as part of this work plan are in constant flux. Some projects will inevitably fall off the list as potential sellers choose not to accept an offer, or simply choose not to sell at this time. While every effort will be made to acquire the priority properties on the list included herein, it is likely that projects will be added to the list as priority opportunities constantly are arising while others are unattainable. Thus, geography and acreage figures above are estimates based upon the current priority list.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	\$ 34,000		
Contracts	\$ 205,000		
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$ 2,654,000		
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
Restoration		\$ 612,000	
TOTAL	\$ 2,893,000	\$ 612,000	

Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program in Minnesota

Relationship to Current Budget

LSOHC recommended dollars will augment the limited land acquisition funds received by the Service and accelerate the number of acres enrolled as Waterfowl Production Areas.

Personnel

Position	Name	Amount
PF Sr. Field Coordinator/Director of Conservation		\$ 10,000
PF Regional Staff (2)		\$ 16,000
PF Director of Finance		\$ 8,000

Only documented, direct to project costs will be part of this grant. Should all personnel dollars not be used, PF and the Service will utilize the remainder to get additional projects acquired or restored.

Leverage

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state						
Pheasants Forever	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000		\$ 25,000		
Federal Duck Stamp Funds	\$2,500,000					
In-kind/Volunteer						
Service		\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000		\$ 200,000
TOTAL	\$2,525,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 75,000		\$ 200,000

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore					\$ 50,000	\$ 350,000		
Protect					\$ 750,000	\$1,750,000		
Enhance								

Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program in Minnesota

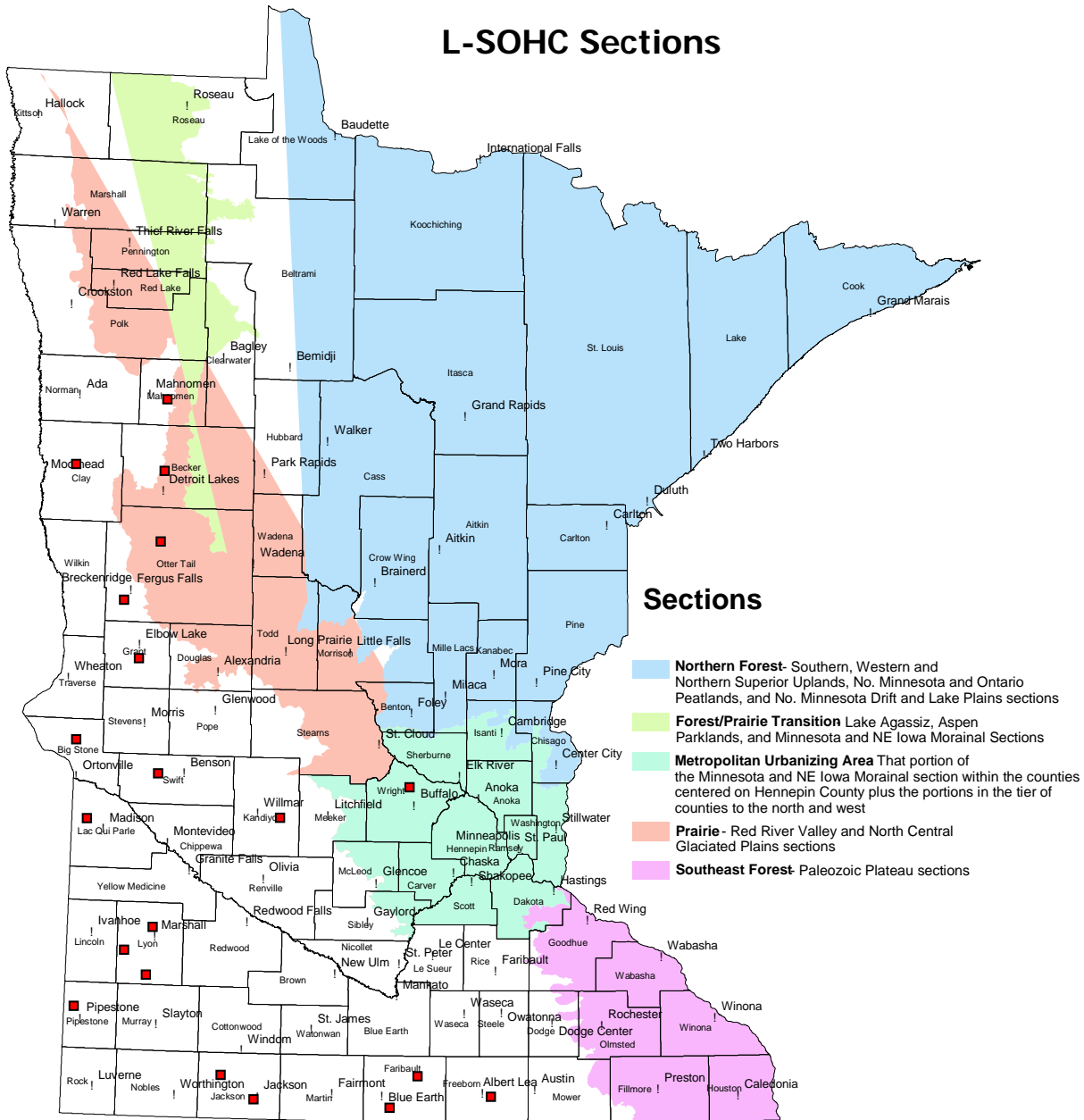
Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
<i>Identify priority acquisitions.</i>	10/01/2009			
<i>Contract appraisals ordered.</i>	10/01/2010			\$ 50,000
<i>Purchase agreements.</i>	02/01/2011			
<i>Re-evaluate Tract Priority</i>	02/15/2011			
<i>Contract appraisals ordered</i>	03/11/2011			
<i>Purchase agreements</i>	6/01/2011			Estimated cost of approximately \$3,800 per acre
<i>Restoration actions initiated</i>	6/01/2011			
<i>Close on optioned tracts</i>		09/01/2011		
<i>Donate Lands to Service</i>		09/01/2011		
<i>Wetland restorations Completed</i>			09/01/2012	\$ 200,000
<i>Upland Restorations Completed</i>			09/01/2013	\$ 412,000

Maintenance and Sustainability

All grant monies received for this project will result in fee title transfers into the National Wildlife Refuge System. The long-term protection and management of these habitats will be the responsibility of the Service, an agency that employs professional managers, biologists, field staffs, and enforcement officers and has an annual operating budget designated specifically for the management of Refuge resources. Wetlands and their contributing watersheds will be protected and prairie habitats monitored and managed. The Service has an active, professional prescribed burning program and utilizes fire to reduce woody invasion of prairies, enhance diversity, and rejuvenate uplands. Biological, mechanical, and sometimes chemical treatments are used as needed in an integrated management approach to provide high quality migration and breeding habitats. Acquisitions in the project will be targeted to complete the restoration of large wetland complexes surrounded by native or planted tall grass prairie uplands. Revenue sharing payments (in lieu of taxes) will be made by the Service for all fee title lands in accordance with federal law.

L-SOHC Sections



**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: January 20, 2010

Project or Program Title: The RIM-WRP Partnership

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Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$6,895,000	\$18M	\$18M	\$18M

Appropriation Language

Abstract

The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve–Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Partnership will accelerate the restoration and protection of approximately 4,620 acres of previously drained wetlands and associated upland native grassland wildlife habitat complexes via perpetual conservation easements. The goal of the RIM-WRP Partnership is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, while optimizing wildlife habitat on every acre enrolled in the partnership. The RIM-WRP partnership enables Minnesota to leverage \$1.4 of federal WRP funding for every state dollar available through RIM Reserve. This appropriation request of \$6.895 million from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) will leverage \$9.653 million in WRP funds to Minnesota. We expect to enroll approximately 46 permanent conservation easements totaling 4,620 acres of wetland grassland

wildlife habitat complexes. This will enable the RIM-WRP partnership to restore approximately 230 previously drained wetland basins totaling 1,525 wetland acres, and the restoration of native grassland prairies on approximately 3,095 acres. Since WRP is an annual funded program through the 2008 Federal Farm Bill, this leveraging opportunity is available to Minnesota for at least the next four years.

Narrative

Minnesota's original wetland and prairie landscapes have been lost at an alarming rate over the last century and a half of European settlement. Minnesota's prairies once comprised nearly 20 million acres, extending from the borders of Iowa and Wisconsin in the southeast to North Dakota and Manitoba in the northwest. Less than 1% of this native prairie remains. Minnesota has lost an estimated 42 percent of its original 16 million acres of wetlands to drainage or fill activities. The loss of wetlands is most severe in the prairie regions of the state. Approximately 90% of prairie wetlands have disappeared and in the southwestern area of the state losses are as high as 99%.

Prairie wetlands are particularly important for migratory waterfowl. Although the North American pothole region contains only about 10% of the waterfowl nesting habitat on the continent (including a significant portion of Minnesota), it produces 70% of all North American waterfowl. This extensive loss of Minnesota's prairie and wetland habitat has led to the decline of many wildlife and plant species originally abundant in the state. Of the nearly 1,200 known wildlife species in Minnesota, 292 species, or approximately one-fourth, are at risk because they are rare; their populations are declining or they face serious risks of decline due to loss of habitat.

The RIM-WRP Partnership, the premier private lands wetland restoration program in the nation, is a local-state-federal partnership delivered locally by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to ensure the RIM-WRP Partnership is a longstanding and successful program in Minnesota. In addition, this partnership is possible through collaboration among many local, state and federal partners including NRCS, BWSR, local SWCDs, Ducks Unlimited (DU), the Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA) and the United States Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS).

The RIM-WRP Partnership will protect and restore an estimated 230 wetland basins totaling 1,525 wetland acres and associated restored native grassland prairie on 3,095 acres in 46 permanent conservation easements totaling 4,620 acres. These restored wetlands and native grassland complexes will provide critical habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife species in Minnesota. Wetlands provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. They improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals, reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, protect biological diversity, sequester carbon and increase recreational opportunities.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

Several recent statewide Minnesota planning efforts have called attention to the dramatic loss of wetlands and native prairie grasslands over the last century and a half. Minnesota has lost over 99% of its original native prairie and over 90% of its prairie wetlands. The following is a list of strategic plans considered in development of RIM-WRP leveraging proposal that will permanently restore and protect wetland and native grassland complexes in strategically targeted areas of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan calls for protecting priority land (habitat recommendation #1) and this proposal is working to protect and restore priority grassland and wetland habitats important to waterfowl, grassland and wetland birds as well as the myriad species that call grasslands and wetlands home. This proposal will also implement the following habitat recommendations within the plan:

- Protect priority land habitats – the RIM-WRP partnership contains priority grassland and wetland habitats important to waterfowl, grassland and wetland birds as well as the myriad species that call grasslands and wetlands home.
- Protect critical shore lands of rivers and lakes – there are RIM-WRP easements being acquired that will protect shoreline of shallow lakes contained within this proposal.
- Restore and protect shallow lakes – there are RIM-WRP easements being acquired that will include protection of shallow lakes contained within this proposal.
- Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds – the RIM-WRP partnership protects and restores wetlands and grasslands. A majority of the lands acquired will be prior-converted.
- Keep water on the landscape – by protecting and restoring wetlands and grasslands, the RIM-WRP partnership will return water to the landscape (permanent wetland restoration) and help keep water on the landscape (permanent native vegetation restoration).

Minnesota DNR Long-range Duck Recovery Plan has priority goals for long-term protection and restoration for wetland and grassland habitat for duck production. The RIM-WRP partnership will contribute 4,620 acres to the 2,000,000 acre goal set under the plan. Specifically, it will permanently protect and/or restore 1,525 acres of wetlands towards the 600,000 acre wetland goal and permanently protect and/or restore 3,095 acres of native grasslands towards the 1,400,000 acre grassland goal.

Minnesota DNR Long-range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in Minnesota has priority goals to protect and restore nesting and winter habitat for pheasants. The RIM-WRP partnership contributes approximately 2,000 acres to the plan goal of restoring 1,560,000 acres of habitat within the pheasant range of Minnesota.

The RIM-WRP partnership contributes to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan by contributing 4,620 acres of breeding habitat (wetlands and grasslands) to the 11.8 million acre goal to restore continental waterfowl populations. Most of the work will occur within the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, which is recognized as a national priority for wetland and grassland habitat and breeding waterfowl and grassland bird species.

Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare – An Action Plan for Minnesota's Wildlife, is Minnesota's comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy. It identifies the species-habitat relationships that show wetlands and grasslands are two of the habitats used by the most species in greatest conservation need. These are the habitats that have experienced some of the greatest loss and degradation in Minnesota.

Project Design and Evaluation

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore	230 basins; 1,525 acres	46 easements; 3,095 acres		46 easements totaling 4,620 acres of protected and restored wetland and native grassland wildlife habitat complexes.
Protect	230 basins; 1,525 acres	46 easements; 3,095 acres		46 easements totaling 4,620 acres of protected and restored wetland and native grassland wildlife habitat complexes.
Enhance				

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	<i>See below</i>			
Protect				
Enhance				

In the winter of 2010, the RIM-WRP Partnership will conduct a statewide landowner application sign-up. All private landowner applications will be scored and ranked using the Minnesota Wetlands Restoration Evaluation Worksheet. The worksheet determines which projects will provide the greatest wetland functions and values and optimizes wildlife habitat on the selected and enrolled acres.

Although the RIM-WRP Partnership is a statewide program, it gives priority to that portion of Minnesota that has had the greatest loss of wetlands and prairies and subsequently significant declines in many species of wildlife that are wetland complex dependent. Specifically, the RIM-WRP Partnership will protect and restore wetland and native grassland complexes by converting agricultural lands to wetland upland complexes in the Forest/Prairie Transition, Prairie and Metro Urbanizing L-SOHC Sections.

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area (5%)	Forest-Prairie Transition (15%)	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region (80%)	Northern Forest
Restore	231	693		3,696	
Protect	231	693		3,696	
Enhance					

Estimate based on 2009 RIM-WRP applications.

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	\$69,117	\$207,352		\$1,105,509	
Protect	\$275,651	\$826,953		\$4,410,418	
Enhance					

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	\$ 718,821	\$ 663,156		\$ 1,381,977
Protect	\$ 1,929,558	\$ 3,583,465		\$ 5,513,023
Enhance				

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement	<i>46 easements for 1,525 acres; 230 basins restored</i>	<i>46 easements for 3,095 acres of native grassland</i>		<i>46 easement totaling 4,620 acres of protected and restored wetland and native grassland wildlife habitat complexes.</i>

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	\$ 107,400	\$ 110,600	\$ 114,600
Contracts	76,000	76,000	76,000
Travel	28,000	29,000	30,000
Equipment/Tools	14,000	14,000	14,000
Easement Acquisition	1,653,907	3,307,814	551,302
Conservation Practices	103,928	242,498	346,323
TOTAL	\$1,983,235	\$3,779,912	\$1,132,327

Personnel

Position	Name	Amount
<i>Civil Engineer Tech (1.0)</i>		\$71,350
<i>Realty Specialist (0.5)</i>		\$36,050

Leverage

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state	\$8,688,223	\$25-50M		\$25-50M		\$25-50M
USDA WRP						
Easements and conservation practices						
USDA-Technical Assistance	965,358					
In-kind/Volunteer						
TOTAL *	\$9,653,381	\$25-50M		\$25-50M		\$25-50M

*for every \$1 state we leverage \$1.4 federal WRP funds

Leverage	State				Non-State (USDA WRP Funds)			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore					\$ 686,070	\$1,392,930		\$2,079,000
Protect					2,499,612	5,074,969		7,574,581
Enhance								

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Conduct sign-up, ranking and selection of easements	Winter 2010			200 easement applications
Easement Acquisition Stage	2010-2013			46 easements acquired; \$5,513,023
Wetland restoration and conservation plan implementation	2011-2013			4,620 acres restored; \$692,850

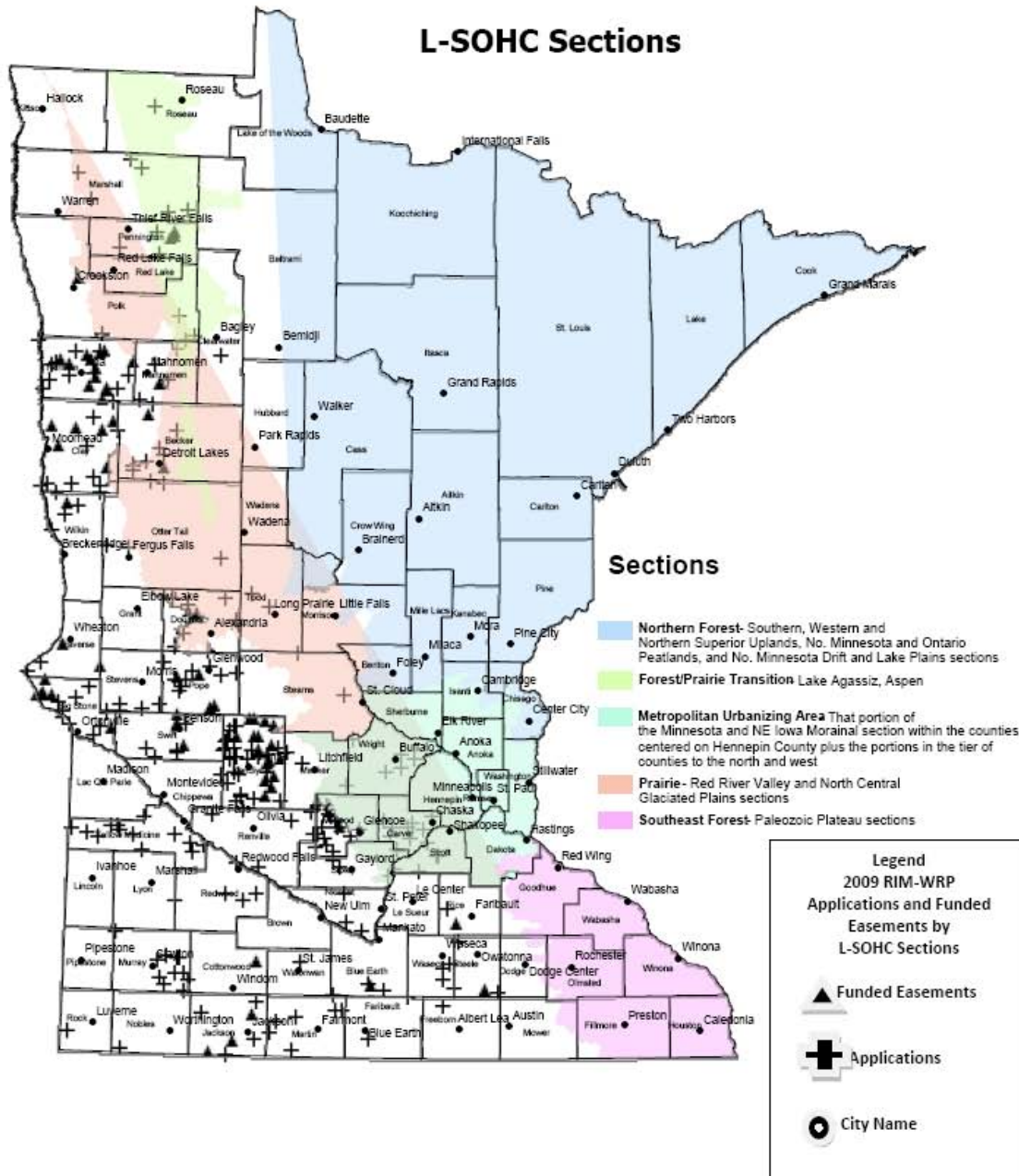
Maintenance and Sustainability

Once a RIM-WRP easement is acquired, NRCS is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring during the life of their 30-year WRP easement, including all associated costs for this activity. The State of Minnesota assumes sole responsibility via its perpetual RIM Reserve easement once the 30-year WRP easement has expired. The BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry-out oversight monitoring and inspection of its conservation easements. Easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, inspections are performed every three years. SWCDs report to BWSR on each site inspection

conducted. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Program Title: Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
Leveraging Project

2009 RIM-WRP Outdoor Heritage Applications and Funded Easements



**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 21, 2009

Project or Program Title: Metro Big Rivers Habitat

Manager's Name: Deborah Loon

Title: Executive Director

Agency/organization: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Mailing Address: 2312 Seabury Avenue, Minneapolis MN 55406

Telephone: 612-801-1935

Fax: 612-728-0700

E-Mail: DebLoon@comcast.net

Web Site: www.mnvalleytrust.org

	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Funds Recommended (\$000s)				
Outdoor Heritage Fund	2,397,000	0	0	0

Appropriation Language

Abstract

The Metro Big Rivers Habitat partnership will work within the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers and key tributaries of the Metro Urbanizing Area to expand and improve critical habitat for game and non-game wildlife and increase public access to outdoor recreation opportunities. The partnership will use the OHF grant to protect 249 acres (175 acres by fee title acquisition and 74 acres by conservation easement) and restore / enhance another 116 acres. The partners will leverage the OHF grant with \$2,279,000 in other funds to protect another 251 acres and restore / enhance another 42 acres with other funds. In total, the partners will add 500 acres of critical habitat for public protection and access and restore / enhance 158 acres with OHF and leveraged funds.

Narrative

The three Big Rivers in the Metro Urbanizing Area provide critical habitat that must be protected and improved for resident wildlife and migrating wildlife, both game and non-game species. The Metro Big Rivers Habitat partnership will protect 249 acres and restore / enhance 144 acres with the OHF grant to significantly expand and improve wildlife habitat. It will protect an addition 251 acres and restore / enhance an additional 42 acres with leveraged funding.

The nearly 4 million Minnesotans that live in the Metro Urbanizing Area need and want increased access to hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependent outdoor recreational opportunities close to home. The public will

have access to all of the land protected through this program for outdoor recreation. The land protected through fee title acquisition will be open for public hunting and fishing on a limited or unlimited basis. The land protected through conservation easement will be open to the public for other forms of outdoor recreation.

These resources are under extreme development pressure because of population growth and the high amenity values associated with most, if not all, of these lands. We have the opportunity now to protect these lands because the economic recession has driven down some land values and slowed development pressure. Some landowners are more interested in selling for conservation than might be the case under different economic circumstances.

This program will work because the partners have extensive experience both individually and collectively. In addition to the four partners named on the project, a number of other public and private organizations will be involved, including the MN Department of Natural Resources, numerous metro area counties and cities, and the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

All lands to be protected have been identified as high priorities through public planning processes by the public entities that will eventually own the properties or hold the easement, as follows: 1) MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) for the Refuge lands to be acquired; 2) Local units of government (and, in one instance, possibly the DNR) for the lands to be acquired and transferred to long-term stewards by TPL; and 3) Dakota County and MN DNR for the conservation easement to be acquired to expand the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA.

All lands to be restored and/or enhanced are already under public ownership. The restoration and enhancement work to be completed on these lands is a high priority of the public entities that own the land, as follows – MN DNR for the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA enhancement work, City of St. Paul (Parks and Recreation) for the restoration on the Mississippi blufflands at Indian Mounds and Cherokee Bluff, MN DNR for restoration at the Savage and Seminary Fens, and MN DNR for enhancement of the SNAs within the Franconia-Scandia St. Croix corridors.

For each of the projects listed, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners have secured informal support and / or will secure the formal support of the local government when and if required when land protection projects move into the contractual stage. Restoration in all instances is supported by the local community and, in some cases, involves the involvement of local volunteers from community and sporting groups

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

The Metro Big Rivers proposal meets the following priorities cited in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan: protecting priority habitat; protecting critical shorelands, improving connectivity and access to outdoor recreation; restoring land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds; protecting and restoring critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams, and keeping water on the landscape.

The State Wildlife Action Plan the following specific ecological subsections in this proposal: Big Woods, Anoka Sand Plain, Mille Lacs Uplands, St. Paul – Baldwin Plains and Moraines, and Oak Savanna.

Finally, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat proposal meets two of the LSOHC's priorities in the Metro Urbanizing Section: protecting habitat corridors with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers and protecting, enhancing and restoring remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological value.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e., acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore	39			
Protect	55	41	145	8
Enhance		53	24	

Note: Above figures are OHF grant acres only. Leveraged / donated acres are not included in these numbers.

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	Carver, Scott			
Protect	Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Scott, Sibley, and/or Washington	Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Scott, Sibley, and/or Washington	Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Scott, Sibley, and/or Washington	Anoka, Chisago, Scott or Washington
Enhance		Ramsey, Washington, Chisago	Dakota	

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	39				
Protect	249				
Enhance	77				

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	\$71,274				
Protect	\$2,202,000				
Enhance	\$123,726				

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	\$71,274			
Protect	\$578,080	\$416,160	\$967,760	\$240,000
Enhance		\$98,426	\$25,300	

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability			6	4
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability	52	35	74	4
Permanent Easement	3	6	65	

Note regarding data submitted in the tables above: TPL will be working in 5 project areas totaling 1500 acres under this Metro Big Rivers habitat program: Savage Fen area, Pike Lake area, Rum River confluence, Big Marine area and Scandia / Franconia area. The total acreage in those 5 areas is 1,500 acres. TPL expects that only two of the five project areas (50 grant acres and 50 leveraged acres) will progress to the point of successful protection given progress with landowners, long-term stewards and the reduced level of funding. TPL cannot at this time predict which of the five project areas will move forward to completion with this funding. As a result, TPL has completed this Accomplishment Plan using the ratio of attributes across the entire 1500 acres (habitat types, leveraged funds, etc.) and applied the same ratio to the 50 grant acres and 50 leveraged acres that will be protected with this funding. All future TPL reports to LSOHC will describe progress made in all five project areas and, therefore, the specific TPL accomplishments by habitat type, leveraged funding, etc.

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	\$23,300	\$20,300	
Contracts / Seasonal Crew	\$72,700	\$62,700	
Equipment/Tools	\$ 2,900	\$ 2,900	
Materials/Supplies	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,000	
Fee Acquisition	\$1,750,000	\$250,000	
Easement Acquisition	\$200,000		
Easement Stewardship			
Travel	\$3,100	\$2,800	
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$2,055,300	\$341,700	

Relationship to Current Budget

Friends of Mississippi River -- FMR's budget for fiscal year 2010 is \$1,268,000. Excluding the \$200,000 of the OHF grant for acquisition of the conservation easement, the remaining \$20,300 is less than 2% of the total organizational budget.

Great River Greening – GRG's total budget for 2009 is \$980,000, of which approximately 85% is direct project money for on-the-ground work. The OHF grant of \$169,700 will fund for direct project support that is not part of the organization's base budget. Over the two years of the grant, 10% of the budget is for existing full-time staff; no projects will be affected.

Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. – The OHF grant of \$500,000 is 0% of the organization's FY10 operating budget of \$314,470. Annual capital expenditures vary based on project readiness and grant funds available. This OHF grant will supplement the Trust's budget and enable it to move aggressively to expand the MN Valley Refuge. As there are no personnel in the budget and this will provide funding to fulfill the organization's mission, no current projects or duties will be affected.

Trust for Public Land – The OHF grant of \$1,500,000 is 0% of TPL's operating budget of \$1,800,000 for FY11. TPL's operating budget includes all program and administrative costs, including legal and due diligence. But it does not include the actual fee title acquisition of lands. The OHF grant and planned-for leverage are *not included* in TPL's operating budget. These 50 grant acres and additional 50 leveraged acres would not be protected *but for* these LSOHC funds.

Personnel

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount
Conservation Director (FMR)	Tom Lewanski	\$2,000
Ecologist (FMR)	Karen Schik	\$5,000
Ecologist 1 (GRG)	Todd Rexine	\$4,140
Ecologist 2 (GRG)	Changes with project	\$22,115
Project Assistant (GRG)	Changes with project	\$1,935
Volunteer Manager (GRG)	Mark Turbak	\$8,400

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
BWSR		\$5,000		\$5,000		
ENRTF or Bonding		\$645,000				
Non state						
Dakota County	\$160,000					
Landowner		\$50,000				
FMR (partner)	\$10,000		\$5,000			
NFWF (foundation)	\$15,000		\$15,000			
MVT (partner)	\$250,000		\$250,000			
LWCF (federal) or Local Bonding		\$855,000				

In-kind/Volunteer						
DNR in-kind		\$4,000		\$4,000		
Volunteers		\$3,000		\$3,000		
TOTAL	\$435,000	\$1,562,000	\$270,000	\$12,000		

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	\$8,000							
Protect	\$186,000	\$138,000	\$237,000	\$99,000	\$392,400	293,800	\$737,800	\$126,000
Enhance		\$10,000				\$36,000	\$15,000	

Accomplishment Timeline

<i>Milestones</i>	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. – fee title acquired	250 acres	250 acres		\$500,000 OHF + \$500,000 other funds leveraged
Trust for Public Land – fee title acquired	100 acres			\$1,500,000 OHF + \$1,500,000 other funds leveraged
Friends of Mississippi River – conservation easement acquired	150 acres			\$202,000 OHF + \$210,000 other funds leveraged
Friends of Mississippi River – enhancement completed	23 acres	15 acres		\$25,300 OHF + \$15,000 other funds leveraged
Great River Greening – restoration and enhancement activities completed	60 acres	60 acres		\$169,700 OHF + \$54,000 other funds leveraged

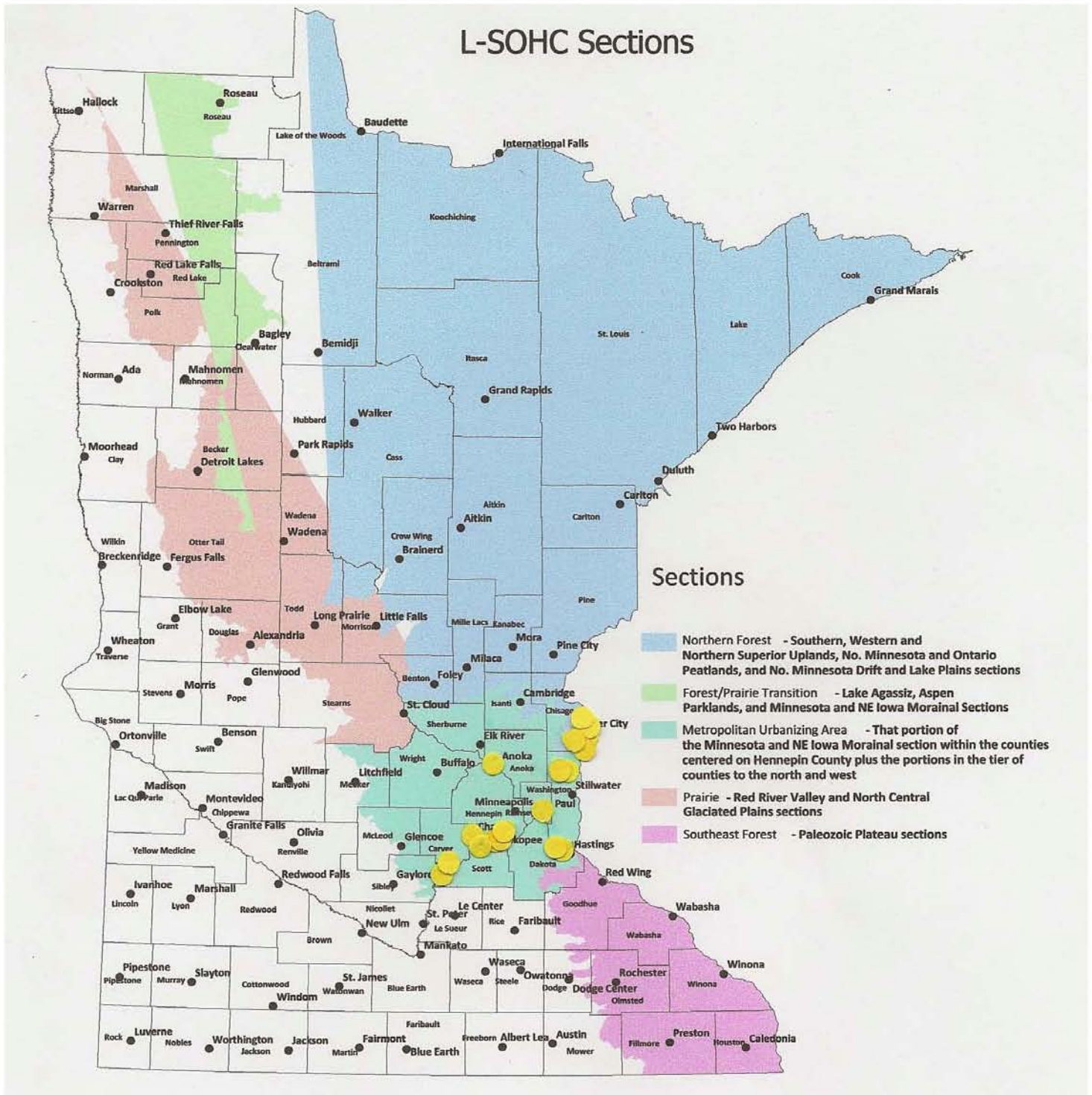
Maintenance and Sustainability

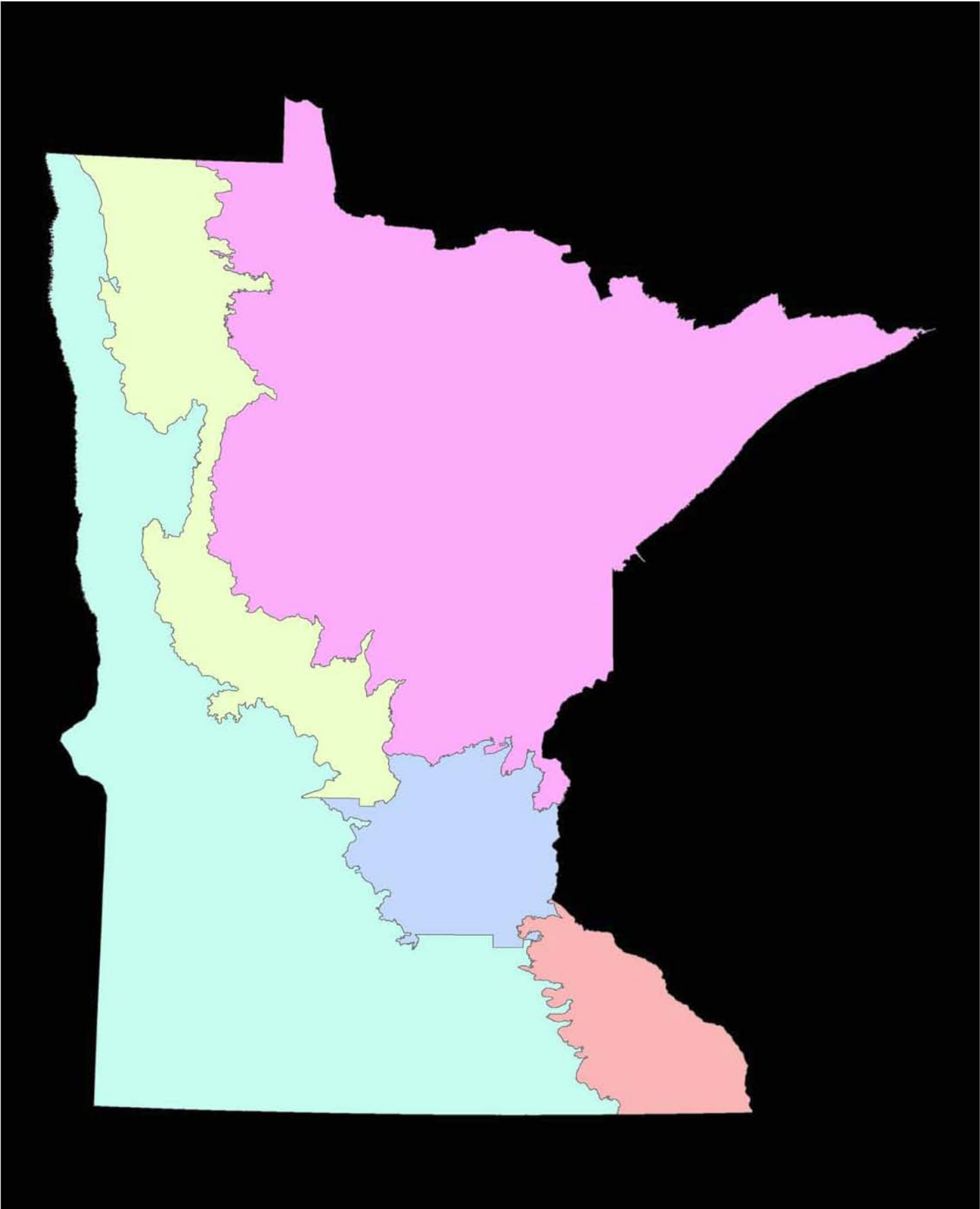
Minnesota Valley Refuge lands will be maintained by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

TPL will work with the long-term land steward in each of these five project areas to ensure that the land is restored, managed and stewarded in the long term. TPL will also work with local citizens in each area to ensure the long-term steward has the on-going support and resources needed to carry out these responsibilities.

The expense of restoration/enhancement on the front end is a major hurdle that first must be overcome. The cost of ongoing management after this point is relatively low and will be accommodated in the existing program funds of the land steward.

Metro Big Rivers Project Areas





**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 22, 2009

Project or Program Title: DNR Aquatic Habitat Program

Manager's Name: Michael Duval
Title: Lakes Management Coordinator
Agency/organization: Minnesota DNR
Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Road, Box 20
Telephone: 218.833.8612
Fax: 218.855.5072
E-Mail: michael.duval@state.mn.us
Web Site: www.mndnr.gov

	Council Recommendation on Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Funds Recommended (\$000s)				
Outdoor Heritage Fund	3,416	0	0	0

Appropriation Language

Abstract

This proposal uses a multi-programmatic approach to achieve prioritized aquatic habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement for lakes, trout streams, and rivers across Minnesota. We propose to: i) protect 7.8 miles of shoreline on lakes, rivers and trout streams; ii) effect structural repairs to 2 lake outlet control structures that will integrate fish passage; iii) restore and enhance river and stream functions that will benefit over 50.5 river miles; and iv) enhance 1.6 miles of shoreline habitat on publicly-owned lakeshore. The strategic approach and priority resources targeted in this proposal are supported by a number of internal and external conservation planning documents. The DNR will implement the objectives of this proposal through established and highly successful programs each having strong stakeholder support including: Aquatic Management Area Program, Shoreland Habitat Restoration Program, Stream Habitat Program, and Coldwater Streams Program.

Narrative

What is the problem to be addressed?

Minnesota's aquatic habitats have been degraded or threatened by a century or more of land, hydrology, and human settlement related alterations. The consequences to aquatic species have been reduced habitats for essential life history stages, lack of access to traditional spawning areas, and fragmentation of formerly continuous habitat that served as corridors to facilitate seasonal movements.

Geographically, aquatic habitats are in various states of quality and experiencing differing levels of environmental stress with a general pattern of healthy habitats under low stress in the northeast and less healthy habitats under high stress in the southern and western portions of the state (see Figure H-15 in the State Conservation and Preservation Plan). But even within this generalized pattern there are many notable exceptions – aquatic habitats exhibiting declining quality under high environmental stress in the northeast, and moderate to high quality habitats within high environmental stress landscapes to the west and south. This provides a meaningful framework for providing habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement through DNR’s diverse habitat programs infrastructure.

How will this directly relate to restoring, protecting, or enhancing habitat? Why will this strategy work?

Acquisition of priority habitats provides permanent protection backed by state and federal laws. The AMA designation unit within the Outdoor Recreation System was established by the Legislature in 1992 and has strong support from conservation groups and anglers. The AMA Program currently has an inventory of 830 miles of shoreline in over 330 AMAs, which provide permanent protection of critical riparian habitats, perpetuate fish and wildlife populations, safeguard water quality, and offer public recreational opportunities as an important additional benefit.

Providing fish passage over in-stream barriers such as low-head dams and culverts by backfilling with rock reconnects fish and other aquatic species to upstream habitats essential for spawning, juvenile life stages, and overall abundance and genetic diversity of aquatic species. Stream restoration projects reconstruct the stream’s natural pattern, profile, and dimension. Natural stream design favors hydrologic conditions that do not degrade the stream bank and bed and provides a diversity of microhabitats that are more favorable to fish and other aquatic species. Channel restoration, dam modification, and shoreline enhancement work is based on proven methods and DNR experience with multiple projects. The DNR has worked on large-scale river and stream restoration projects since 1998 and has completed or assisted in design elements of over 100 stream projects addressing restoration, fish passage, dam removal and dam modification to rapids. These are significant and durable accomplishments benefiting aquatic habitat. As examples of these successful strategies, DNR has conducted large-scale projects to restore the Whitewater River to its original channel; reconnected nearly the entire Minnesota portions of the Red River by direct dam removal or modification leaving only a few dams presently remaining that impede fish movements (primarily lake sturgeon); and enhanced 21 miles of shoreline on lakes across the state including many challenging high erosion sites. Also projects address other key components of a stream: wildlife and fish habitat, water quality, connectivity to the floodplain and upstream reaches, and hydrology. By drawing on the accumulated scientific knowledge on all components of the stream DNR strives to deliver the best possible restoration projects using the best science available.

The DNR has conducted shoreline enhancement projects for over 10 years and during that time the program has grown in scope and popularity. The annual number of shoreland restoration projects completed has increased from 23 in 2002 to 60 in 2009. At the end of the L-SOHC grant period, 1.6 miles of public shoreline including AMAs and other state, county, township, and municipal lands will be enhanced to provide erosion protection, habitat diversity for multiple species of fish and wildlife (including game species and SGCNs), and enhanced aesthetics. Native plants and natural materials will be utilized to increase habitat complexity, provide protective cover, stabilize shorelines, and firmly anchor soils. Project habitat benefits will continue to accrue beyond the term of this grant as project sites mature and the shoreline assumes a more natural character.

Describe the nature and extent of any partnerships in this project, stakeholder and public participation processes associated with the project and any anticipated support or opposition to the project.

The AMA Acquisition Planning Committee developed an acquisition plan in 2007 that recommended purchasing an additional 2,595 miles of riparian lands over 25 years to meet the habitat protection needs of a rapidly changing Minnesota. This stakeholder-developed plan guides DNR’s AMA program implementation.

Restoration and enhancement elements of this project are linked to various landscape or system-specific management plans (e.g., Lake Superior Management Plan) that have been developed through extensive internal and external coordination. These elements represent shared priorities with multiple partners and stakeholders.

For land acquisitions, indicate local government support and approval

Township and County support are usually obtained as part of the acquisition process. County Boards are typically notified after AMA parcels have been optioned and consistent with DNR policy.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

Reference resource management plans and their priorities that support this project.

MNDNR Strategic Conservation Agenda Update:

Meets the criteria of conservation in the Mission Statement, ‘work with citizens to conserve and manage the state’s natural resources;’ and Strategic Conservation Agenda goals to conserve, restore, and enhance Minnesota’s natural lands and habitats, water resources, and watersheds.

Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan

This proposal addresses a number of recommendations contained in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan including:

- Habitat Recommendation 2, Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes (p. 67). Fee acquisition and conservation easements among tools needed for protection of critical shorelines of streams and lakes. Acquiring the highest-priority shorelines “is one essential component of a multi-strategy approach to preserving the clean water legacy that Minnesota’s citizens and visitors are used to experiencing. (p.69)” Benefits include protection of critical shoreline habitats from degradation, public angler access, and providing areas for education and research.
- Habitat Recommendation 6A, Restore habitat structure within lakes (p. 76). This recommendation seeks “... to restore the natural features of lakeshore habitats (area comprising the shoreland, shoreline, and near-shore).”
- Habitat Recommendation 6B, Protect and restore in-stream habitats (p. 82). Several approaches can be implemented to protect and restore in-stream habitats. Removal or modification of dams and installing culverts with increased capacity would improve connectivity of aquatic systems. Riparian vegetation can be restored to stabilize stream banks. Channelized streams can be reconstructed to provide a flood plain to dissipate stream energy and allow the channel to remeander, which will provide more diverse habitat for aquatic organisms.

Tomorrow’s Habitat for the Wild and Rare

The State’s Wildlife Action Plan is a rare species condition assessment and habitat conservation guidance document for Minnesota’s species of greatest conservation need. Several aquatic species of biota are included in this plan including plants, insects, mussels, fish, and water-dependent and seasonal migrant bird species.

Minnesota’s AMA Acquisition Plan 2008-2033

The DNR’s AMA Acquisition Plan calls for shoreline acquisition to ensure shoreline habitat protection, water quality maintenance, and angler access for present and future generations. This plan envisions acquisition of 3,428 miles of lake and stream habitat during the next 25 years.

Strategic Plan for Coldwater Resources Management in Southeast Minnesota 2004-2015

This plan establishes targets to protect, improve, and restore coldwater aquatic habitat and fish communities. The plan identifies important issues and strategies that will enable DNR to maintain and improve the short and long-term values of the unique trout stream resource of the Southeast and provide angling clientele with diverse angling opportunities.

Red River of the North Fisheries Management Plan

The overall approach to habitat management in the Red River is to maintain, restore, enhance, and protect riverine and upland habitats and their functions. The plan includes the following recommended actions:

- Establish and maintain stable stream channels.
- Improve and protect high quality fish spawning and rearing habitats within Red River and tributaries.
- Provide uninterrupted fish passage/river connectivity.
- Provide appropriate heterogeneous and complex physical habitat components.
- Provide water of sufficient water quality to sustain healthy aquatic systems.
- Re-establish a more natural flow regime.

Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership: Strategic Plan for Fish Habitat Conservation in Midwest Glacial Lakes

The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) is a formal Fish Habitat Partnership under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan ([.fishhabitat.org](http://fishhabitat.org)). The mission of the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership is to work together to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance sustainable fish habitats in glacial lakes of the Midwest for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations. MGLP has developed a strategic plan ([.MidwestGlacialLakes.org/resources/](http://MidwestGlacialLakes.org/resources/)) to protect and restore aquatic habitats in naturally-formed glacial lakes across the upper Midwest states. The MGLP strategic plan identifies a number of objectives (p. 26-29) designed to conserve (protect, restore, and enhance) the habitats of Midwestern glacial lake fish populations, to support a broad natural diversity of aquatic species, to promote self-sustaining fish populations, and to provide successful fishing opportunities.

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan is a national partnership-based framework for achieving protection and restoration of priority aquatic habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species. The plan uses a science-based approach to target priority areas and implement needed projects that address causative factors and use best management practices. The Action Plan is implemented through regional Fish Habitat Partnerships (functionally analogous to Waterfowl Joint Ventures under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan which is supported by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act). Fish Habitat Partnerships leverage national and state resources to achieve local priorities for habitat protection and restoration. ([.fishhabitat.org/documents/plan/National_Fish_Habitat_Action_Plan.pdf](http://fishhabitat.org/documents/plan/National_Fish_Habitat_Action_Plan.pdf))

Individual Lake and Stream Management Plans

The Section of Fisheries produces individual fisheries management plans for every actively managed lake and stream resource in the state. In addition to fish population goals and objectives, these plans identify habitat actions unique to each waterbody that are needed or beneficial to sustain quality fisheries.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e. ,acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore				<i>2 miles of Vermillion River channel will be restored; by-pass channel on Mississippi River at Little Falls will reconnect 9 miles downstream of the site to 39.5 miles upstream of the site</i>
Protect				<i>3.1 miles of lakeshore and 4.7 miles of coldwater stream will be permanently protected by fee title or easement</i>
Enhance				<i>2 lake outlet control structures will be repaired and modified to allow fish passage; 1.6 miles (4.7 acres) of public lakeshore will be enhanced</i>

Footnote: This project will address aquatic habitats with particular emphasis benefiting fish.

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				<i>Dakota, Morrison</i>
Protect				<i>Current projects are located in all 5 of the Ecological Planning Sections</i>
Enhance				<i>Becker, Beltrami, Crow Wing, Hennepin, Murray, Ramsey, Stearns, Todd</i>

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	<i>2 miles of Vermillion River channel restored</i>	<i>48.5 miles of Mississippi River reconnected</i>			
Protect	<i>0.4 miles of shoreline permanently protected</i>	<i>1.0 miles of shoreline permanently protected</i>	<i>1.4 miles of shoreline permanently protected</i>	<i>0.6 miles of shoreline permanently protected</i>	<i>4.4 miles of shoreline permanently protected</i>
Enhance	<i>1.20 acres (1750 In ft) of lakeshore enhanced; 1 trout stream barrier modified</i>	<i>1.05 acres (1500 In ft) of lakeshore enhanced; 1 outlet control structure repaired and modified</i>	<i>1 mile of trout in-stream habitat enhanced; 50 miles of stream corridor enhanced (livestock fencing, vegetation planting; invasive species control)</i>	<i>0.35 acres (600 In ft) of lakeshore enhanced</i>	<i>2.15 acres (3250 In ft) of lakeshore enhanced; 1 outlet control structure repaired and modified; 3 tributary barrier designs completed</i>

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	<i>\$467,000</i>	<i>\$389,000</i>			
Protect	<i>\$77,000</i>	<i>\$372,000</i>	<i>\$217,000</i>	<i>\$185,000</i>	<i>\$924,000</i>
Enhance	<i>\$83,300</i>	<i>\$88,800</i>	<i>\$260,000</i>	<i>\$41,900</i>	<i>\$311,000</i>

Indicate what is being funded

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				<i>\$856,000</i>
Protect				<i>\$1,775,000</i>
Enhance				<i>\$785,000</i>

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				<i>3.1 miles of lakeshore at \$1,242,000</i>
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				<i>4.7 miles of coldwater stream at \$533,000</i>

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	100,000	137,500	132,500
Contracts			
Design/Construction	243,000	215,000	227,000
MCC Crews		125,000	
Grants	225,000		
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies	90,000	35,000	
Fee Acquisition	670,000	335,000	112,000
Easement Acquisition	287,000	143,000	48,000
Easement Stewardship			
Travel	15,000	15,000	15,000
Additional Budget Items			
Professional Services	125,650	73,700	46,900
TOTAL	1,755,650	1,079,200	581,400

Relationship to Current Budget

Indicate the percentage of this project in relation to your organization/agency's total budget.

This project represents slightly less than 1% of the DNR's FY09 expenditures from all sources.

Demonstrate how this funding and activity will supplement your current budget.

The project work included in this accomplishment plan is above and beyond program activity funded through DNR base budget appropriations. In addition to legislative appropriations from Game and Fish Fund, Heritage (lottery), and capital bonding, the Department actively pursues other funding from a variety of sources including LCCMR, federal grants and private foundation grants to achieve program outcomes. These alternative sources of funding are less certain/predictable and are not part of the Department's base budget.

If existing staff will be reassigned to this project, indicate what current projects or duties will be affected.

One existing staff to be partially funded by this appropriation will be reassigned to manage the public shoreland enhancement element. This position will further provide native vegetation planting design consultation and technical assistance to other elements of this program. LCCMR funding for projects currently managed by this person will conclude at the end of FY10. As a result, no current projects or duties will be affected.

Personnel

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount
Restoration Coordinator		\$285,000
Shoreland Restoration Spec	Lindy Ekola	\$75,000
Student intern(s)		\$10,000

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
RIM-CHMP		\$100,000		\$250,000		
Game & Fish	\$75,000					
Non state						
Donation (cash and land value)		\$300,000		\$250,000		
Initiative Foundation				\$50,000		\$50,000
Minnesota Waters				\$10,000		
USFWS Fish Passage Grant		\$10,000		\$75,000		
Local Cash Match		\$60,000				
In-kind/Volunteer						
DNR staff time		\$50,000		\$60,000		\$60,000
Local In-kind match				\$45,000		\$45,000
TOTAL	\$75,000	\$520,000		\$740,000		\$155,000

Indicate how the leverage will be used

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								\$75,000
Protect				\$350,000				\$550,000
Enhance				\$75,000				\$440,000

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Miles of shoreline acquired (AMA)	4.6 miles of shoreline acquired	2.4 miles of shoreline acquired	0.8 mile of shoreline acquired	\$1,775,000
Dams repaired/modified	2 dams			\$77,000
Public lakeshore enhanced	Project grants awarded	Projects installed	Projects assessed and sign-off	\$314,000
Streams restored/dams modified	Project design work	Project design and bids	Initiate construction activities	\$856,000
Fish passage enhanced	Initiate design work for North Shore barriers under Hwy 61	1 trout stream barrier passable		\$134,000
Trout streams enhanced	Supplies purchased for stream corridor and in-stream enhancement work	50 miles of existing trout stream corridor enhanced; 1 mile of trout in-stream habitat enhanced; No. Shore barrier design work completed		\$260,000

Maintenance and Sustainability

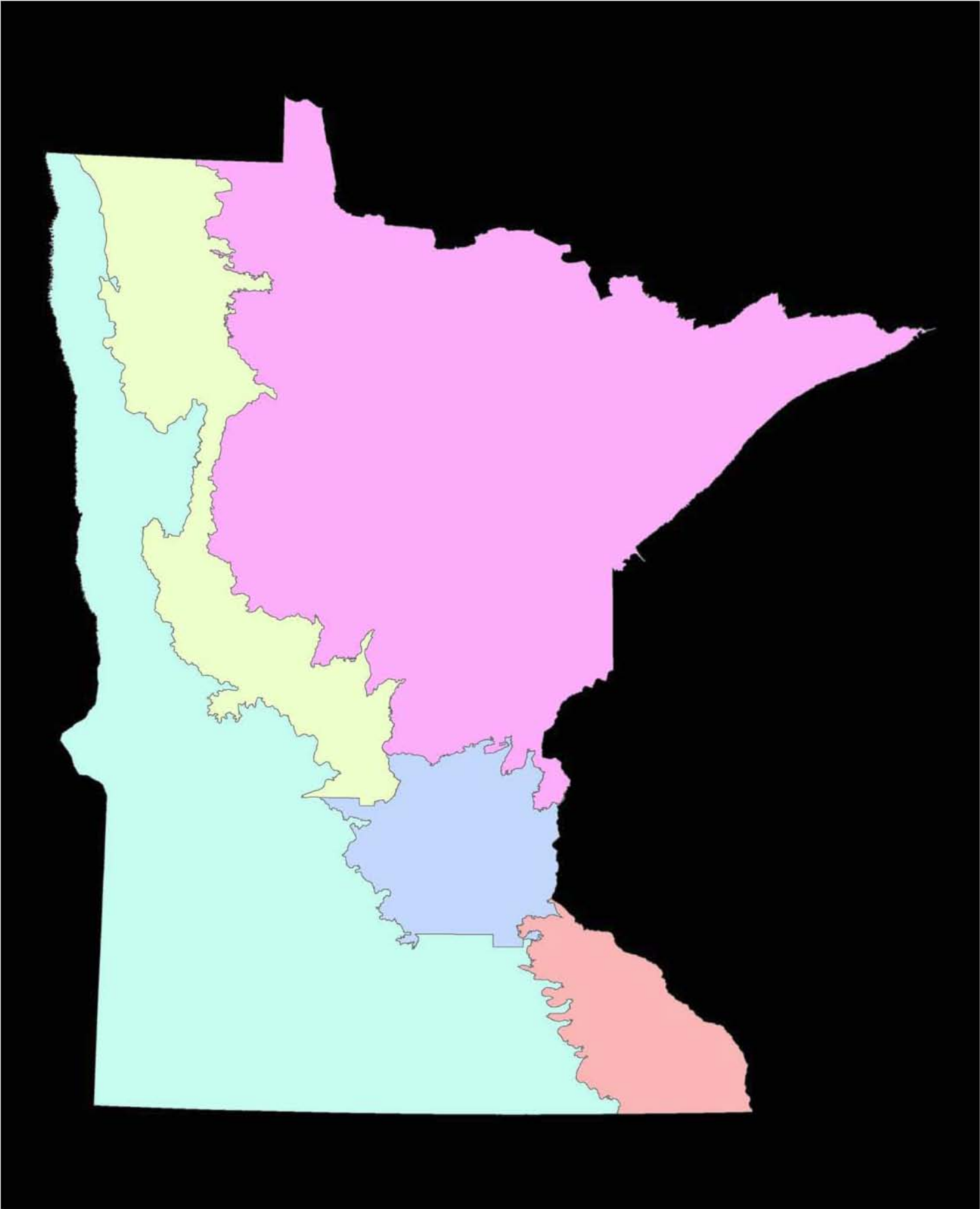
Please describe how lasting improvement will be maintained/ sustained. For easement acquisitions and fee acquisitions, explain how maintenance and sustaining costs will be paid.

AMA acquisitions will be sustained through fee title ownership and perpetual easements held by the DNR. This is a long-term protection strategy. Routine maintenance of AMA parcels will be accomplished by Area Fisheries Managers as part of their public land management responsibilities. Periodic enhancements such as invasive species removal, prescribed burning, supplemental vegetation planting, shoreline stabilization and restoration, or water control structure installation and replacement will be accomplished through annual funding requests from a variety of funding sources including, but not limited to, Game and Fish Fund, Bonding, Gifts, Federal Sources, Environmental Trust Fund, and Outdoor Heritage Fund.

River and stream restoration activities are designed to work with natural hydrology of systems so as to be durable and self-maintaining over time. Restoring natural channel function or mimicking natural riffles/rapids results in the desired habitat benefit but also provides self-maintenance.

Lakeshore enhancement activities will be sustained by the local units of government receiving grant funds. Routine maintenance will be accomplished by the local unit of government as part of an overall block grant agreement. Supplemental vegetation planting, watering of the restoration site, and removal of invasive plant species are typical maintenance requirements during the early stages of restoration projects. A maintenance plan is required prior to project implementation as well as a 10-year maintenance agreement on all funded projects. Typically if a project is implemented and maintained for a 10-year period, the critical maintenance has been completed and long term project success is likely.

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**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 22, 2009

Project or Program Title: Minnesota Trout Unlimited Fish Habitat
Restoration And Enhancement

Manager's Name: John Lenczewski
Title: Chairman
Agency/organization: Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited
Mailing Address: 18776 Twilight Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55346
Telephone: 612- 670-1629
Fax: NA
E-Mail: jlenczewski@comcast.net
Web Site: www.mntu.org

	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Funds Recommended (\$000s)	FY 2011			
Outdoor Heritage Fund	1,269	0	0	0

Appropriation Language

Abstract

Our program will restore and enhance in-stream and riparian fish and wildlife habitat in six coldwater streams located in existing Aquatic Management Areas and one Minnesota State Park. The proposed projects will improve habitat for both game and non-game fish and wildlife species uniquely associated with coldwater trout streams and provide expanded recreational opportunities for Minnesota anglers.

Narrative

Seriously degraded coldwater habitat is an important statewide conservation issue requiring immediate investment through habitat restoration and enhancement projects. The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council has declared the restoration and enhancement of coldwater fish habitat a priority action in the L-SOHC Sections in which these projects are located. As part of our ongoing program of trout and salmon habitat restoration and enhancement, the Minnesota Council of Trout Unlimited ("MNTU") has identified several priority projects for Fiscal Year 2011 funding. MNTU proposes to directly restore or enhance in-stream and riparian fish and wildlife habitat in and along the following Minnesota waters (counties) between July 2010 and June 2012:

1. Hay Creek (Goodhue);
2. Lost Creek (Fillmore);
3. North Branch of Whitewater River (Wabasha);

4. Pine Creek (Winona);
5. Vermillion River (Dakota);
6. West Indian Creek (Wabasha).

Five of the projects will restore or enhance habitat on existing state-owned Aquatic Management Areas. The sixth project will restore or enhance habitat on state-owned land within Carly State Park.

These projects will employ the same successful strategy used in the projects done by MNTU chapters and the MNDNR in the past several years. Each project involves the installation of in-stream fish habitat structures, in addition to measures which reduce stream bank erosion and associated sedimentation, and reconnect streams to their flood plains to reduce negative impacts from severe flooding. The specific fish habitat restoration or enhancement methods used on each stream will vary depending upon the distinct natural resource characteristics of each ecological region, as well as variations in the type and magnitude of poor land uses practices within each watersheds. Each project will be tailored to the site after close consultation with resource professionals within the Minnesota DNR. The projects to be undertaken by MNTU will be designed to accomplish a number of the following purposes: a) reduce stream bank erosion and associated sedimentation, b) reconnect streams to their flood plains to reduce negative impacts from severe flooding, c) increase natural reproduction of trout and other aquatic organisms, d) maintain or increase adult trout abundance, e) increase biodiversity for both in-stream and non-game species, f) be long lasting with minimal maintenance required, and g) improve angler access. Additional project descriptions can be found in MNTU's Request for Funding dated November 2, 2009.

Project partners include the MNDNR, Carly State park, Plainview Lions Club, Pheasants Forever, and Minnesota citizens. The MNDNR is a key partner on every project MNTU does, from identifying priority projects for MNTU to consider, to offering professional input on project design, providing permitting review and project support. Depending upon the project they may contribute materials, labor and/or some supervision.

The project proposed for the North Branch of the Whitewater River involves partnerships with both Carley State Park and the Plainview Lions Club. The Park will provide technical support and the Lions Club will provide volunteers and a cash contribution. On the Vermillion River, Pheasants Forever will partner on the upland portion of the parcel.

We anticipate strong support from local communities, local businesses, community clubs, sporting groups, anglers, the MNDNR and the general public. We do not anticipate any opposition to the projects or impediments to successfully achieving the intended habitat outcomes.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan – Land & Aquatic Preservation Plan.

Habitat 2: Protect critical shorelands of streams & lakes...pp. 67-74

- Target shallow wildlife lakes, natural environment lakes, shallow bays of deep lakes, cold-water/designated trout streams...

Habitat 3: Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation. pp. 74-77

- Also provide benefits to wildlife, SGCN, etc.

Habitat 6: Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams. pp 81-84

- Expand efforts to restore critical habitats for aquatic communities in near-shore areas of lakes, in-stream areas of rivers and streams, and deep-water lakes with exceptional water quality
- Reverse negative effects of stream channelization on in-stream habitats

Habitat 7: Keep water on the landscape – pp.84-87

- Habitat benefits include improved water quality, maintaining habitat for wildlife and game species, and enhancing biological diversity
- Increase riparian buffers along shorelines of rivers, lakes, and sinkholes
- Maintain and restore headwater wetlands, riparian areas, and floodplains
- Enhance and expand the use of perennial vegetation.

Minnesota's Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan 2008

Goal 1: Promote a Healthy Hydrological Regime for Minnesota's Streams and Rivers. – pp. 4.3 – 176

- Promote stream restoration projects that restore connectivity between rivers and their flood plains.
- Develop an interagency program to assess/control streambank erosion...

Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare – an action plan for Minnesota Wildlife.

Goal I: Stabilize and increase Species in Greatest Conservation Need; 8. Stream habitats, actions include: – pp. 80

- Maintain good water quality, hydrology, geomorphology, and connectivity in priority stream reaches.
- Maintain and enhance riparian areas along priority stream reaches.

Strategic Plan for Coldwater Resources Management in Southeast Minnesota 2004-2015

- Theme 1: Provide for the protection, improvement, and restoration of coldwater aquatic habitat and fish communities so that this unique resource is available for future generations. pp 9.
- Theme 2: Provide diverse angling opportunities so that a broad range of experiences are available to anglers. pp 12.

Minnesota's 2008-2012 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan

- Strategy 1: Acquire, protect and restore Minnesota's natural resource base on which outdoor recreation depends. pp12.
- Strategy 2: Develop and maintain a sustainable and resilient outdoor recreation infrastructure. pp 17.

DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management Covering Fiscal Years 2004-2010

- Core Function 2. Conserve, Improve, and Rehabilitate Fish Populations and Aquatic Habitat. pp8.
 - Shoreline habitat restoration program – rehabilitate riparian and aquatic vegetation to improve fish habitat, wildlife habitat and water quality;
 - Metro trout stream initiative – conserve and rehabilitate threatened trout stream resources in the Twin Cities metropolitan area;
- Core Function 4. Provide Opportunities for Partnerships, Public Information, and Aquatic Education. pp8.
 - Increased public involvement with fisheries projects.

Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort – Strategic plan

Goals: Through DARE, TU is partnering with local, state and federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations and private landowners to strategically link upland conservation and stream corridor restoration to achieve the following goals: - pp 15.

- Protect and restore habitat for fish and other species of interest to increase angling and other recreational opportunities. – pp 15.

Lessard-Sams Council Funding Outcomes and Priorities, Substate Regions Targets and Priority Actions

Priority Actions for the Southeast Forest Section Recommendations to the 2010 Legislative Session:

- 2. Protect, enhance and restore habitat for fish, game and non-game wildlife in rivers, cold water streams and associated upland habitat.

Priority Actions for the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area Section Recommendations to the 2010 Legislative Session:

- 3. Enhance and restore coldwater fisheries systems.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e., acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore		15 acres		Restore/enhance fish habitat in 4.4 miles of trout stream* **
Protect				
Enhance				

* Leveraging additional funding may enable us to restore/enhance additional trout habitat (more miles).

** Restoration and enhancement are used interchangeably throughout this document as the precise dividing line between them is not always clear.

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		Dakota		Dakota Fillmore Goodhue Wabasha Winona
Protect				
Enhance				

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	15 acres; and 0.4 miles of fish habitat		4.0 miles of fish habitat		
Protect					
Enhance					

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	\$84,240		\$1,184,760		
Protect					
Enhance					

Indicate what is being funded

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		\$24,000		\$1,245,000
Protect				
Enhance				

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	\$ 25,500	\$ 25,500	
Contracts	\$162,600	\$108,400	
Equipment/Tools	\$267,345	\$178,230	
Materials/Supplies	\$300,855	\$200,570	
Fee Acquisition	0	0	
Easement Acquisition	0	0	
Easement Stewardship	0	0	
Travel	0	0	
Additional Budget Items	0	0	
TOTAL	\$756,300	\$512,700	

Relationship to Current Budget

Funds appropriated for this program will supplement the cash and in-kind resources typically raised by Minnesota TU and its chapters to support similar projects. This program represents a significant increase in the amount of local effort to be invested in similar habitat projects, but it is within the range of habitat restoration and enhancement projects managed by Trout Unlimited as an organization.

Personnel

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount
Program Manager (.425 FTE)		
Program Coordinator (.125 FTE)		
Comptroller (.125 FTE)		
		\$51,000 combined

* These figures capture only a portion of the time staff will expend on these projects.

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
In-kind/Volunteer	\$58,300					
Non state						
National Fish Habitat Action Plan		\$120,000*				
Embrace-A-Stream TU National Funding		\$ 15,000*				
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation		\$ 10,000*				
Farm Bill Program		\$100,000*				
Lions Club		\$ 5,000*				
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service		\$ 20,000*				
TOTAL	\$58,300	\$270,000*				

*All leverage amounts are estimates only and identify likely sources of funding. They may be realized in either FY 11 or FY12. Volunteer labor will be contributed in both fiscal years, approximately apportioned 60/40.

Indicate how the leverage will be used

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore						unknown		\$58,300
Protect								
Enhance								

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Hay Creek (see below)				\$176,100 by completion in FY2012
Lost Creek ; N. Branch; Pine Creek; W. Indian (see below)				\$1,008,660 by completion in FY 2012
Vermillion River (see below)				\$84,240 by completion in FY 2012

Milestone

Date

Measure

1. Hay Creek (Goodhue):

Milestone

Begin project design, permitting and preparation

Begin in -stream habitat restoration

Complete in-stream restoration

Date

July 2010

June 2011

June 2012

Measure

5,500 feet

2. Lost Creek(Fillmore);

3. North Branch of Whitewater (Wabasha);

4. Pine Creek (Winona);

5. West Indian Creek (Wabasha):

Milestone

Begin project design, permitting and preparation

Begin in -stream habitat restoration

Complete in-stream restoration

Date

July 2010

July 2011

June 2012

Measure

3.0 miles

6. Vermillion River (Dakota):

Milestone

Begin project design, permitting and preparation

Begin in -stream habitat restoration

Complete in-stream restoration

Date

July 2010

July 2011

June 2012

Measure

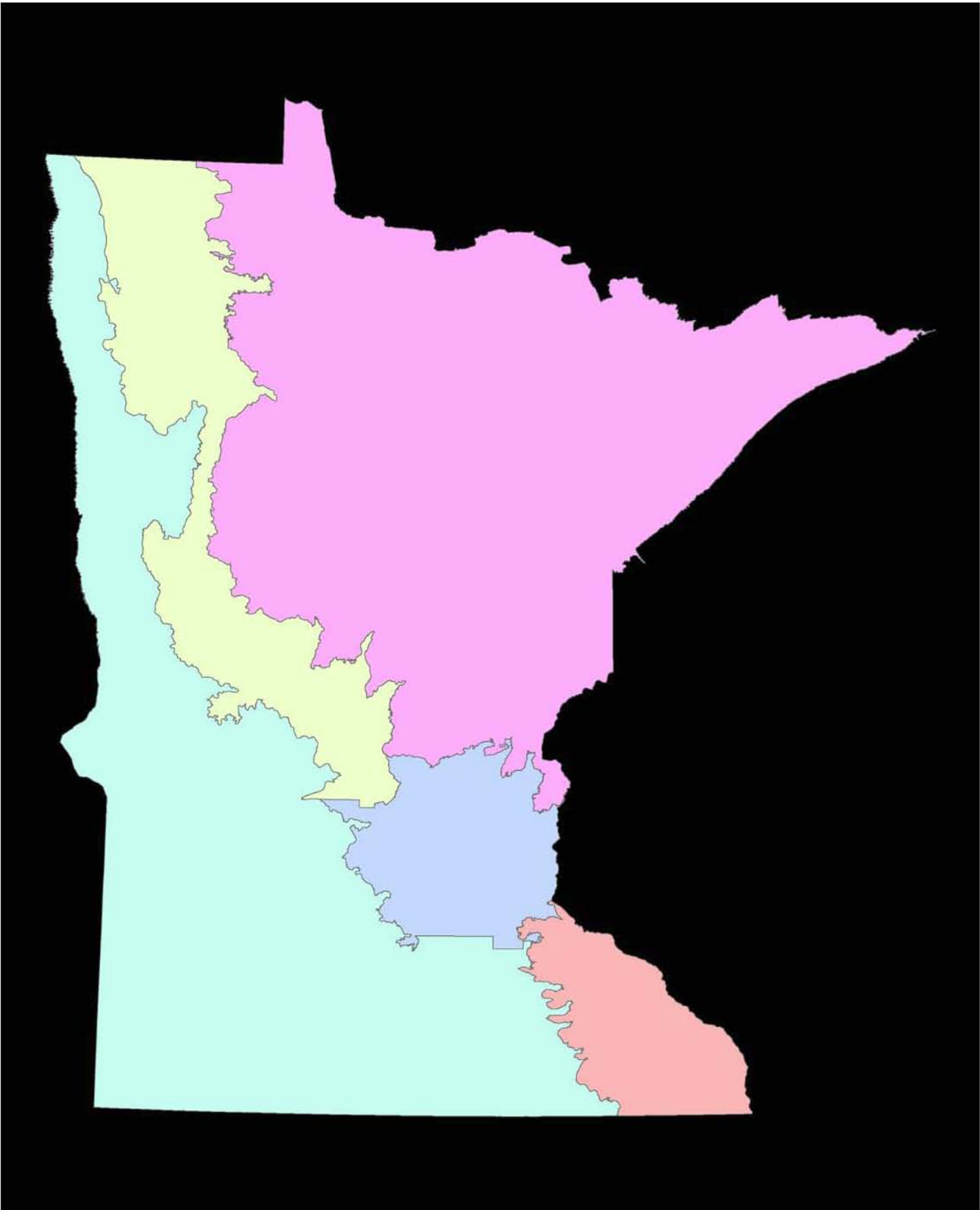
2,000 feet

Maintenance and Sustainability

MNTU habitat restoration and enhancement projects are designed for long-term ecological and hydraulic stability. Once the projects are completed we do not anticipate that there will be any significant maintenance required in order to sustain the habitat improvements for at least several decades. We do anticipate that long-term monitoring of the integrity of the improvements will be done in conjunction with routine inspections and biological monitoring conducted by local DNR staff, MNTU members, or landowners as appropriate. This monitoring will not require separate OHF or other constitutional funding. In the unlikely event that there are other maintenance costs, potential sources of funding and volunteer labor include Minnesota Trout Unlimited, MNDNR AMA maintenance funding, and other grant funds and organizations. While the Vermillion River project uses some additional methods on this unique prairie trout stream, because they are intended to mimic natural habitat forming processes human intervention should be minimal.

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Accomplishment Plan
LSOHC



**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 21, 2009

Project or Program Title: Riparian and Lakeshore Protection in Dakota County

Manager's Name: Alan Singer
Title: Dakota County Land Conservation Manager
Mailing Address: 14955 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124
Telephone: 952-891-7001
Fax: 952-891-7031
E-Mail: al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us
Web Site: www.co.dakota.mn.us

	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Funds Recommended (\$000s)				
Outdoor Heritage Fund	2,097,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000

Appropriation Language

Abstract

This project initiates a comprehensive approach to protecting, restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat and water quality by working with willing landowners to establish permanent conservation easements totaling 620 acres along the Vermillion River and including North, Middle and South Creeks, the South Branch and their tributaries; the Cannon River and its primary tributaries within Dakota County (Dutch, Mud, Chub, Darden and Pine Creeks, and Trout Brook); and to acquire permanent easements on 84 acres along Marcott Lake in Inver Grove Heights, Lake Marion in Lakeville, and Chub Lake in Eureka Township.

Narrative

The long history of settlement and long-accepted agricultural land use practices have resulted in the loss, degradation and fragmentation of our natural resource systems. In Dakota County, only three percent of the pre-settlement plant communities remain. Despite increased public awareness of water quality issues and improvement methods, as well as multi-agency efforts to assist landowners in protecting the environment, nearly every river, stream and lake in the County that has been monitored is officially impaired in some fashion. According to Metropolitan Council data, between 1970 and 2005, Dakota County lost more than 7,500 acres of non-urbanized land (undeveloped, agricultural, steeply sloped or wetland); added 3,592 acres for major four-lane highways and nearly tripled its residential acreage from 20,150 to 58,455. Not coincidentally, this new development is attracted to the remaining natural features - especially lakes and rivers. Yet, most of this land is privately owned and does not provide close-to-home public access for most residents to hunt, fish or enjoy other

outdoor recreational activities. The county has a wealth of high quality soils and a vibrant agricultural economy, and with recently high commodity prices, the pressure to plant corn and soybeans from fence row to fence row has never been greater. Under even conservative scenarios, the potential changes that could be wrought by climate change need to be considered. This combination of large-scale impacts and trends must be approached comprehensively, long-term and collaboratively if we are to maintain and improve our natural resource heritage and its many associated benefits. At the same time, there are tremendous opportunities to proactively and successfully address these challenges. The downturn in the economy has halted residential development for now and significantly lowered land prices. Sound plans have been developed and adopted which collectively focus on protecting and improving our natural infrastructure.

All proposed easements include a Natural Resource Management Plan. For some riparian easements, it will mean restoring currently cultivated areas using a variety of native species depending upon site conditions, habitat potential, strategic corridor interconnectivity, and opportunities to increase ecological resiliency. For other easements, it will be a combination of protecting and managing the current vegetation and restoring cultivated portions of the site with native species. In still other sites, the project will permanently protect and enhance the shoreline, riparian zone and associated uplands and wetlands. This project has direct benefits to fish, game and wildlife beyond the increased and interconnected terrestrial habitat. Working with landowners to increase and improve buffers and better manage drain tile will reduce runoff containing excess nutrients, chemicals and warm water. The resulting water quality improvements will enhance the entire aquatic ecosystem.

The scale and scope of this project is both doable and significant. It encompasses some of the best natural resource features found in the metropolitan region across a combination of urban, suburban and rural landscapes. It takes a sound fiscal and ecological systems approach to conservation, while attempting to balance the interests, rights and responsibilities of private landowners with the public's concerns about water and habitat quality, outdoor recreation and climate change.

The County has an excellent track record of working effectively with a wide variety of agencies, jurisdictions and organizations including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, MN Department of Natural Resources, Soil and Water Conservation District, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization, Cannon River Watershed Partners, Friends of the Mississippi River, Trout Unlimited and others. Through the successful Farmland and Natural Areas Program, the County has developed program policy and practices to acquire, monitor and administer 37 current conservation easements with many new easement projects underway. In association with these easements, the County implements short- and long-term natural resource management and restoration.

The County has been implementing the Farmland and Natural Areas Program for six years with two years of planning, public outreach and participation prior to its inception. The recent approval of township, city and county comprehensive and local water plans was the culmination of significant involvement by stakeholders and the general public. The LCCMR-funded Vermillion River Corridor Project has involved over 220 people in a series of public workshops over the past six months.

The results of all of these efforts have led to wide-spread alignment and support for riparian easements that can accomplish multiple benefits while compensating and protecting private landowners. The Dakota County Board of Commissioners approved the submission of this proposal by Resolution No. 09-549 on October 20, 2010. The proposed acquisitions will take place in as many as eight cities and twelve townships. While these local jurisdictions have been very supportive of

previous County easement acquisitions from willing landowners and for projects that match approved local plans, they have not formally approved any specific acquisition at this point. Our intention is to discuss this project at the Dakota Township Officers meeting in March 2010 to elicit comments and concerns. This proposal will also be discussed during an early 2010 meeting with all city managers within the county. Any project involving current or future city land will be approved by the respective city staff or council prior to any expenditure within those jurisdictions.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

This proposal is based on a number of scientifically-based assessments. On a higher level, there is wide agreement that taking a watershed, point/non-point pollution approach to management is the only way to truly protect and improve stream health, and that well designed vegetated buffers can effectively provide a variety of benefits. There is also a wealth of documentation on the importance of contiguous ecological corridors to ensure the ecological viability of plant and animal communities.

Statewide

A. *Conservation and Preservation Plan*

Under Habitat Action, this project directly addresses the following actions:

- H 1 Protect priority land habitats identified in a variety of plans*
- H 2 Protect critical shoreline of streams and lakes*
- H 5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland associated watersheds*
- H 7 Keep water on the landscape by increasing, restoring and enhancing shoreline vegetation and promoting best practices on other lands*

Under Land Use Action, this project directly addresses the following actions:

- LU 2 Support local and regional conservation-based community planning by providing funding in recognition of leadership and excellence*
- LU 3 Ensure protection of water resources in urban areas Dakota County
Contains significant amount of the metro regions groundwater drinking water supply*
- LU 4 As much as possible, transition renewable fuel feedstock to perennial crops. A component of the conversion of conventional agricultural land is to grow perennial biofuels that also provides wildlife habitat*
- LU 6 Reduce streambank erosion through peak flows reduction. This project is but one of a series of strategies to reduce runoff.*

B. *A Fifty-Year Vision: Conservation for Minnesota's Future*

Under Land and Habitat, this project directly addresses the following actions:

- *Project is based on a very finely focused natural resource inventories and scientifically-identified ecological stressors*

Under Lakes, Rivers Wetlands and Streams, this project directly addresses the following:

- *Monitoring has already been completed and waters have been listed as impaired by the MPCA. We are awaiting the TMDL for Lake Pepin before being able to proceed with individual TMDLs.*
- *Have already undertaken a systematic inventory of private septic systems offering incentives and mandates for repairs.*

- *The easement is part of an overall strategy to provide incentives for stabilizing and restoring identified streambank issues and encourage a variety of best management practices on agricultural, rural and commercial lands*

Regional

The primary framework for land conservation in the metropolitan urbanizing section is the individual focus areas developed through the collaborative Metro Conservation Corridors Initiative. All of the proposed projects would be located within the Vermillion River Focus Area, the Lower Mississippi River Focus Area or the Chub Lake/Cannon River Focus Area. Specifically, this project is designed to protect, connect and enhance extensive habitat corridors and enhance and restore cold water fishery systems. This includes protection and enhance of a “trophy” trout stream within the region and providing a sport fishing opportunity for the population center of the state.

Local

More specifically, Dakota County was the first entity to complete the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System which became the basis for the development of the County’s Farmland and Natural Areas Protection Plan. The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization has conducted in-depth, cutting edge scientific studies along the river to help focus the type and location of projects. Each of the individual township and city comprehensive plans includes desired protection for these riparian and shoreline areas.

Project Design and Evaluation

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore				385 acres
Protect				704 acres
Enhance				153 acres

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				Dakota
Protect				Dakota
Enhance				Dakota

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	365		20		
Protect	644		60		
Enhance	143		10		

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	\$86,900		\$8,100		
Protect	\$1,856,200		\$115,800		
Enhance	\$26,900		\$3,100		

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				\$95,000
Protect				\$1,972,000
Enhance				\$30,000

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				704 acres

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	\$80,000	\$0	
Contracts	\$60,000	\$0	
Equipment/Tools	\$5,000	\$1,000	
Materials/Supplies	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Fee Acquisition	\$0	\$0	
Easement Acquisition	\$1,100,000	\$767,000	
Easement Stewardship	\$10,000	\$50,000	\$20,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	
Additional Budget Items	\$0	\$0	
TOTAL	\$1,257,000	\$820,000	\$20,000

Relationship to Current Budget

The County’s approved 2010 Operating and Capital Improvement budget is \$366,500,000. The Park and Open Space (POS) Department budget is \$22 million. This project represents an additional nine percent of the POS budget. Currently, the department has \$9.5 million allocated for 22 land conservation projects totaling 2,600 acres. Approximately five FTE county staff are directly involved in completing these projects. We are anticipated that many of these projects will be completed in 2010 and that most of this funding will be expended by early 2011. This funding allows the orderly transition from these current projects to new projects.

Some of this existing funding, as well as the use of in-kind or contracted staff, is being used to match this project. Their involvement in this project will prevent them from being assigned to other duties. However, the numerous small parcels involved in the riparian easements will require the addition of two additional (1.6 FTE) staff.

Personnel

Position	Name	Amount
Real Estate Specialist	New hire	\$80,000
Natural Resource Specialist	New hire	\$60,000

Leverage

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
Dakota County						
Cash	\$550,000			\$150,000		
In-kind	\$225,000			\$100,000		
City of Lakeville	\$800,000					
Vermillion River JPO	\$153,000			\$200,000		
Landowner Donation		\$100,000		\$200,000		
TOTAL	\$1,728,000	\$100,000		\$650,000		

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetland and Wetland Systems	Prairie and Prairie Systems	Forest and Forest Systems	Habitat for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetland and Wetland Systems	Prairie and Prairie Systems	Forest and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								\$375,000
Protect								\$1,950,000
Enhance								\$153,000

Accomplishment Timeline

<i>Milestones</i>	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Adopted Evaluation Criteria and Program Guidelines; Hire staff; Complete Landowner Outreach	7/1/2010			\$0
Landowner Meetings and Easement Applications	8/15/2010			\$8,000
Preliminary Project Approval	9/30/2010			\$5,000
Easement Valuation and Negotiations	11/30/2010			\$20,000
Final project reviewed and recommended by Advisory Committee and approval by County Board	1/15/2011			\$10,000
Complete Title Work, Environmental Assessment, Survey, Property Report, and Natural Resource Management Plan for each Project	4/15/2011			\$57,000
Begin Acquiring Easements	5/30/2011	7/1/2011		\$1,917,000
Restoration and Enhancement		7/1/2011	7/1/2012	\$80,000

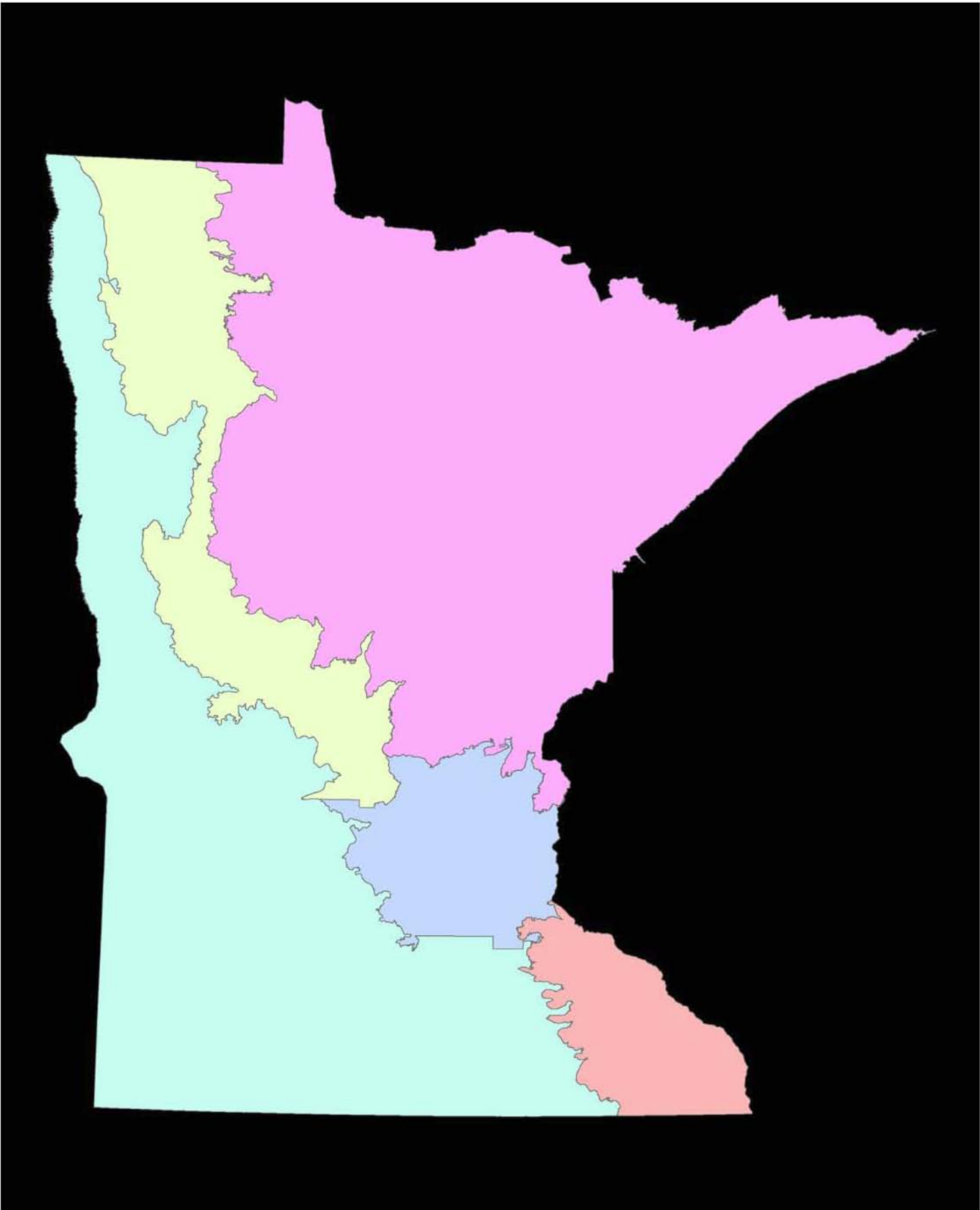
Maintenance and Sustainability

Please describe how lasting improvement will be maintained/ sustained. For easement acquisitions and fee acquisitions, explain how maintenance and sustaining costs will be paid.

All acquisition will be in the form of permanent conservation easements on private land. Each of the easements will require the development of individual Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMP) that will assess current conditions and recommend prioritized restoration activities. Associated Work Plans between the landowners and the County will also be developed as part of the negotiations and cited in the easement deed. The County will provide initial restoration assistance with long-term management of the respective easements being the responsibility of the landowners. As part of this initiative, a stewardship fund will be created for each easement using a portion of the donated easement value. The County will operate this fund and also commit to monitoring the easements on an annual basis.

As with all private lands, it will be up to the current and future landowners to uphold their responsibilities. However, we believe this initial relationship-building, the NRMP, strategic assistance, and subsequent monitoring will provide opportunities to share updated natural resource information and best management practices with landowners and achieve a higher likelihood of stewardship. This comprehensive watershed and corridor approach will provide the best opportunity to effectively protect this community asset and public investment.





**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 22, 2009

Project or Program Title: Valley Creek Protection Partnership

Manager's Name: Sarah Strommen

Title: Central Region Conservation Director

Agency/organization: Minnesota Land Trust

Mailing Address: 2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240, St. Paul, MN 55114

Telephone: 651-647-9590

Fax: 651-647-9769

E-Mail: sstrommen@mnland.org

Web Site: www.mnland.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs*		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$1,218	0	0	0

* The Valley Creek Protection Partnership is an ongoing program with ongoing funding needs, but at this point in time we do not know if we will request additional funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Appropriation Language

To be inserted

Abstract

The Valley Creek Protection Partnership seeks to permanently protect, restore and enhance priority lands within the watershed of Valley Creek, a coldwater fishery that flows directly into the St. Croix River. We propose to accomplish this protection by acquiring land and conservation easements and restoring the riparian woodlands, prairies, oak savannas, and in-stream areas that provide significant habitat for fish and other wildlife. The Partnership seeks to build upon the collective experience of each of the organizations, working collaboratively and strategically, to permanently protect the most important parcels on this trout stream and restore the oak savannas that were once present.

Specifically, we will:

- Acquire two perpetual conservation easements to protect approximately 80 acres.
- Acquire the underlying fee on one parcel to secure public angling access to Valley Creek.
- Restore and enhance in-stream habitat, surrounding upland habitat, and key upstream habitat on 30 acres and ¾ mile of trout stream.

Narrative

This project is a continuation of previous success by the Valley Creek Protection Partnership. The organizations participating in this partnership include the Minnesota Land Trust, Belwin Conservancy, Valley Branch Watershed District, the Washington County Land & Water Legacy Program, and Trout Unlimited.

The Valley Creek watershed is located on the eastern edge of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and covers approximately 14 square miles. The watershed originally was characterized by savanna, tallgrass prairie and maple-basswood forest, but is now rapidly becoming more urban. The watershed includes portions of several growing communities such as Woodbury, West Lakeland Township, and Afton. Valley Creek itself flows approximately 10 miles through Washington County from its source near Woodbury to Afton, where it empties into the St. Croix River.

The exceptional habitat value of Valley Creek has been identified in Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan, which identifies Valley Creek as a "Key River Reach." Valley Creek is one of 13 trout streams within the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and is one of only a few that has a naturally reproducing population of brook trout, the only trout species native to Minnesota. In addition to brook trout, Valley Creek sustains large populations of brown and rainbow trout. While many of the trout streams in Minnesota depend on stocking to maintain their trout populations, Valley Creek's habitat remains of high enough quality that the trout populations maintain themselves through natural reproduction. Valley Creek is one of the best trout-producing streams in the state of Minnesota, and is believed to be in the top 10% of trout streams in the world in terms of trout production (based on personal communication with Tom Waters and Ray Newman).

The Valley Creek watershed is home to more than 20 endangered, threatened, and special concern species, including the American brook lamprey, the hooded warbler, and Blanding's turtle. The creek also appears to be home to a species of crane fly (genus *Phantolabis*) previously undescribed by science. Scientists from the University of Minnesota are in the process of publishing their findings.

Valley Creek flows into the Wild and Scenic St. Croix River, which provides one of the premier mussel habitats in the world; approximately 38 mussel species live in the St. Croix watershed. The uncommon richness of mussel species in the St. Croix parallels the uncommon richness of the flora and fauna of the watershed as a whole. The watershed is home to many Midwestern species such as the wolf, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and Karner blue butterfly, all of which are on the Federal list of threatened and endangered species.

Development and siltation are major concerns to the health and quality of the Valley Creek and its watershed. Development can destroy the upland habitat, while siltation destroys trout spawning habitat. A partnership of several organizations has formed to take the needed actions to maintain and improve in-stream habitat that is threatened by degradation. This partnership maximizes the relative strengths of each organization with each serving a vital role in ensuring that the lands can be acquired, protected, restored and maintained for future generations. This cooperative project will protect the Valley Creek watershed to ensure its high water quality and habitat by protecting 80 acres of land, restoring 30 acres of upland habitat, and enhancing the trout habitat in approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile of the stream.

In addition to protecting and improving Valley Creek and its watershed, this project will help improve the water quality of lower St. Croix River, which was recently listed as impaired. Finally, this project aims to provide angling access to a top trout stream that is close to the State's major population center.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

The conservation of Valley Creek, with its rich assemblage of rare species and its unparalleled quality of aquatic habitat, is important to achieving the goals of the Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan and the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan as well as the goals of other conservation plans.

The Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan, 'Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife,' classifies the Valley Creek project area as part of the St. Paul Baldwin Plains and Moraines subsection. The Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers traverse this subsection, which originally was characterized by savanna, tallgrass prairie and maple-basswood forest, but is now rapidly becoming more urban. This subsection contains 149 Species of Greatest Conservation Need, the second highest total number in all 25 subsections in Minnesota. Of the 149 Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Baldwin Plains and Moraines, 74 are species that are federal or state endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Examples of Species of Greatest Conservation Need in this subsection include the northern cricket frog, eastern wood pewee, paddlefish, St. Croix snaketail, and American badger.

Specifically, this proposal furthers the following recommendations of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan:

- Protect priority land habitats
- Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes
- Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds
- Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation

In addition, these plans recognize the use of conservation easements as one of the most established and effective means of permanently protecting the targeted habitats, as many of these areas are located on private lands.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e., .acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore		23 acres of oak savanna		7 acres
Protect		23 acres of oak savanna		57 acres* and 1 mile of trout stream
Enhance				0.75 miles of trout stream

* The 57 acres will include a mix of wetlands, forest, and habitat for fish, game and wildlife, but we have chosen to allocate it to this latter category due to the emphasis on protection of the trout stream.

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		Washington		Washington
Protect		Washington		Washington
Enhance				Washington

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	30 acres				
Protect	80 acres				
Enhance	0.75 miles of trout stream				

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	\$ 100,000				
Protect	\$1,056,000				
Enhance	\$62,000				

Indicate what is being funded

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore		\$80,000		\$20,000
Protect				\$1,056,000*
Enhance				\$62,000

* This will include a mix of wetlands, forest, and habitat for fish, game and wildlife, but we have chosen to allocate it to this latter category due to the emphasis on protection of the trout stream.

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				80 acres

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11*	Fiscal Year 12*	Fiscal Year 13*
Personnel	\$5,000 (BC)	\$5,000 (TU)	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies Restoration: seed, trees, chemical, erosion control		\$95,000 (BC) \$44,000 (TU)	

materials, etc.			
Easement Acquisition Including easement purchase price of easements, appraisals, title work, title insurance, maps, GIS, etc.	\$826,000 (MLT) \$218,000 (WC)		
Easement Stewardship	\$12,000 (MLT)		
Professional Services Restoration: install seed, prepare soil for seeding, remove exotic species, mapping, create designs, etc.	\$4,000 (VBWD)	\$4,000 (VBWD) \$1,000 (TU)	\$4,000 (VBWD)
TOTAL	\$1,065,000	\$149,000	\$4,000

*Budget amounts for each partner organization are provided to facilitate separate appropriations.

Relationship to Current Budget

Although the Valley Creek Protection Partnership has established its success, none of the participating organizations have dedicated or sufficient operating budget or capital to continue to meet the conservation needs at Valley Creek. The majority of financial support to the Minnesota Land Trust, Belwin Conservancy, and Trout Unlimited must be raised on an annual basis. Capital funds are expended only when a priority opportunity becomes available and project-specific funds are obtained to complete the acquisition and/or restoration.

Washington County's approved budget includes \$10 million for Phase I of their Land and Water Legacy Program to complete projects throughout Washington County. The County Board has expressed a desire to supplement the County's available funding with other state or public dollars to maximize the conservation work that can be completed.

Valley Branch Watershed District has \$165,000 budgeted in 2010 for watershed restoration and stabilization projects. The money requested through this proposal would supplement these funds in order to ensure that work occurs on the most strategic Valley Creek parcels.

Personnel

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount
Belwin Conservancy Restoration Staff		\$5,000
Twin Cities Trout Unlimited Staff		\$5,000

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
CPL Grants	\$217,533					
Non state						

Valley Branch WD		\$50,000		\$50,000		
Belwin Conservancy	\$300,000					
Washington County	\$500,000					
In-kind/Volunteer						
TOTAL	\$1,017,533	\$50,000		\$50,000		

Indicate how the leverage will be used

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect								\$1,017,533
Enhance								\$100,000

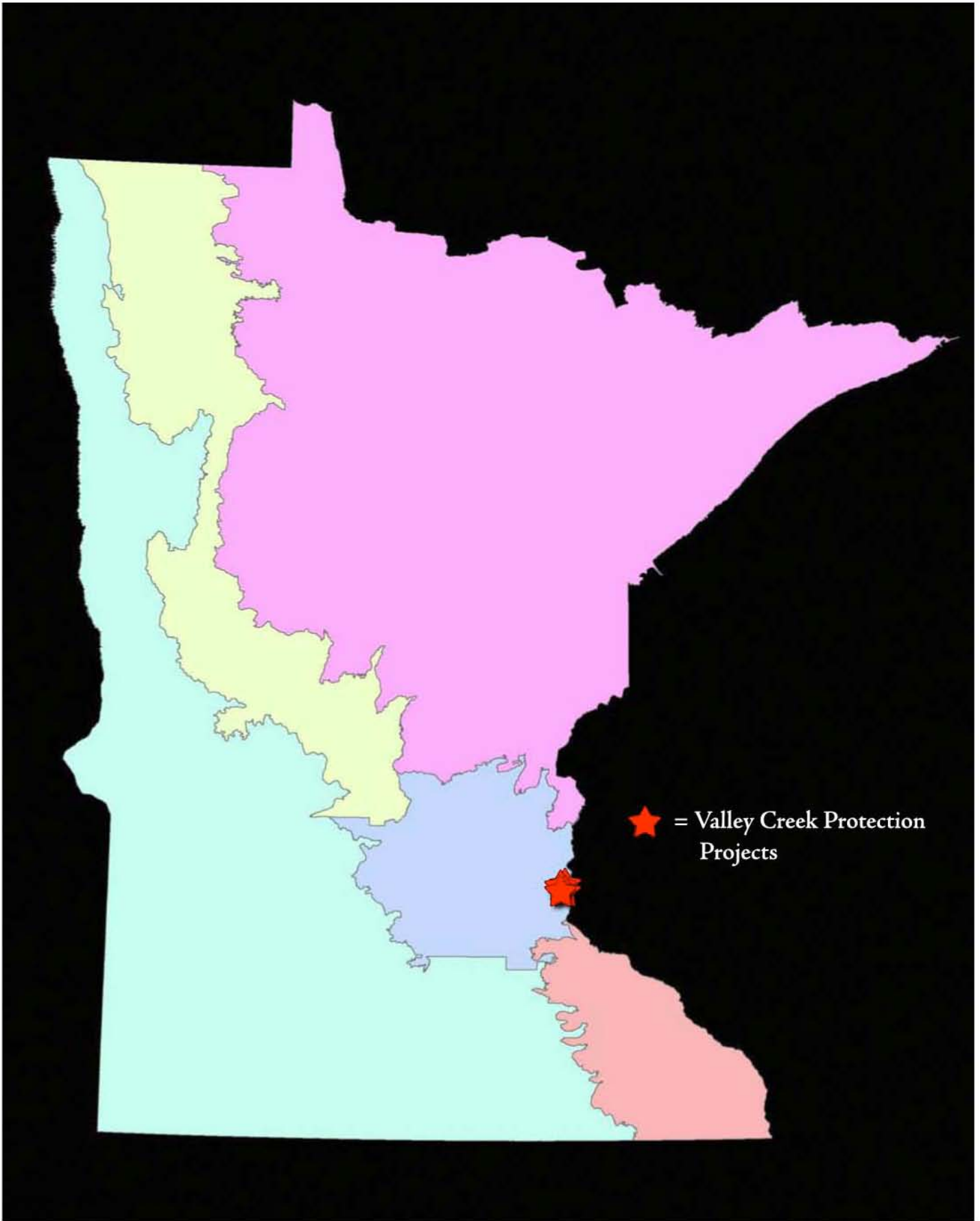
Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Acquire conservation easement	50 acres protected			\$218,000
Acquire conservation easement	30 acres protected			\$838,000
Monitor and defend conservation easements	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	\$12,000
Purchase underlying fee for public access	30 acres purchased and public access created			
Complete restoration/ Enhancement of in-stream habitat and key upland parcels		¾ mile of stream enhanced		\$62,000
Complete restoration of adjacent uplands		30 acres of restoration complete		\$100,000

Maintenance and Sustainability

The land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. Again, funding for easement stewardship for the Minnesota Land Trust is included in the budget outlined above. Both the Minnesota Land Trust and Washington County have stewardship programs that include annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation.

The Belwin Conservancy has the resources and 40 years of land management and restoration experience to ensure that the integrity of the habitat is maintained through its ongoing monitoring of indicator species. Additionally, Valley Branch Watershed District will continue to annually monitor the benthic invertebrates living in the creek, continuously monitor the water quality of the creek, and routinely monitor the fisheries in Valley Creek.



**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 21, 2009

Project or Program Title: Restoration/Enhancement in the Anoka Sand Plain

Manager's Name: Wayne Ostlie

Title: Director of Conservation Programs

Agency/organization: Great River Greening

Mailing Address: 35 W Water Street, Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55107

Telephone: (651) 665-9500 x19

Fax: (651) 651-9409

E-Mail: wostlie@greatrivergreening.org

Web Site: www.greatrivergreening.org

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	747,000	0	0	0

Appropriation Language

Abstract

The Anoka Sand Plain is home to the best examples of some of the rarest

The Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Partnership will harness the expertise, resources, and connections of a broad community of committed conservation stakeholders to significantly elevate restoration and enhancement of oak savannas (Minnesota's most critically imperiled habitat), woodlands and forests on public lands across the region. Through funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation and an array of other sources (real and in-kind) we will restore and enhance over 1700 acres of oak savanna, prairie, and oak woodland habitat across 11 priority sites, including:

- State WMAs (5 sites; 485 acres): Carlos Avery, Lamprey Pass, Rice Area Sportsman Club, Sand Prairie, and Becklin Homestead WMA
- State SNAs (3 sites; 135 acres): Clear Lake, Uncas Dunes, and Harry W. Cater
- Cedar Creek Ecological Science Reserve, University of Minnesota (600 acres)
- Sherburne NWR (500 acres)
- Isanti County Parks (1 site; 20 acres): Springvale County Park

Narrative

What is the problem or opportunity being addressed?

The Anoka Sand Plain (ASP) has been home to an array of storied conservation successes over the past century; however, the future of wildlife in the region is far from assured. Major challenges to long-term conservation success exist and there is a pronounced urgency to act now: While there has been a tremendous loss of native habitat in the ASP, there are also major opportunities to benefit wildlife through expedited restoration and enhancement of existing public lands. Public land managers over the past decades have made good investments of time and resources, but all are facing serious funding shortages. None of our partners have reached their restoration and enhancement goals despite the range of efforts over many years. As the Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Partnership (ASP Habitat Partnership or Partnership), we acknowledge this habitat work has to be an ongoing effort, one that is far more integrated and collaborative than what has been done in the past.

Principle problems being addressed through this proposal are:

Critical Imperilment of Habitat and Associated Species - Wildlife habitats of the Anoka Sand Plain (ASP) are critically imperiled, with oak savanna being the single most imperiled ecological system in Minnesota. These habitats are identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (CWCP) and Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan as conservation priorities. Habitat loss and degradation has had profound impacts on the wildlife of the ASP; some 97 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in the state are known or predicted to occur within the ASP. This decline in habitat has had major impacts on game species.

Major Threats & Pressures Requiring Urgent Action - Invasive species, coupled with lack of prescribed fire and other basic management/restoration practices have resulted in declines in value of public lands as wildlife habitat over time. Minnesota's CWCP identifies maintenance, enhancement and protection of oak savannas as its first priority for this ecological subsection.

The ASP is among the fastest growing areas in the state. Urban sprawl is placing immense pressure on remaining natural resources and threatening existing protected areas. As the Metro grows, wildlife habitat in the ASP will face elevated pressures, accentuating the importance of enhanced habitat management on existing public lands.

Increased Cost of Management Actions as Habitats Decline - Inadequate funding for restoration/management activities on public lands has resulted in general declines in the condition of Minnesota's most imperiled habitats, and their value as wildlife habitat. Costs to restore these habitats rise every year that management is delayed.

How will this directly relate to restoring, protecting, or enhancing habitat?

Beginning in FY2011 and over 3-year duration, the Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Partnership will restore and enhance over 1700 acres of oak savanna, oak woodland and prairie habitat occurring on public lands in the project area. Activities will take place principally on State WMAs and SNAs, but also on other public lands as detailed below.

Our actions will result in:

- elimination of invasive plants (trees, shrubs and forbs) over 549 acres of oak savanna and oak woodland habitats;
- seeding/planting of 635 acres of oak savanna habitat;
- seeding of 16 acres of oak woodland habitat; and
- prescribed fire over 1,135 acres of oak savanna habitat.

These actions will benefit a broad suite of native species that require high-quality oak savanna, prairie, and oak woodland habitats:

- SGCN (direct impact on 35 species): bobolink, gopher snake, American badger, etc.
- Native song birds, mammals, herps and others
- Game species: white-tailed deer, pheasant, turkey, ruffed grouse, and small-game animals (squirrel, rabbits, fur-bearers, etc.) and waterfowl (upland nesting habitat).

Due to funding limitations, several sites initially proposed for funding were dropped from consideration. Decisions as to which proposed sites would be funded were based on the following criteria:

1. Land Ownership – We gave high preference to state-owned lands over federal and county lands in the following order:
 - State (highest)
 - University or Other Semi-State
 - County
 - Federal (lowest)
2. Other Mitigating Factors – Several additional important factors were considered when refining the action list, including:
 - Presence of MCBS quality ecological system(s); SGCN/T&E species
 - Size of habitat block/managed area
 - Presence within habitat corridors
 - Adjacency (i.e., location relative to other public lands or large habitat blocks)
 - Immediacy of need/action as determined by MCBS. Weight = High;

These mitigating factors had the result of elevating a site like Sherburne NWR (although federal) above state-owned, isolated and lower quality sites. The impact of this large federal land-holding on maintaining large, viable populations of wildlife on adjacent state-owned lands like Uncas Dunes SNA, Rice Lake SNA and Sand Dunes State Forest strongly influenced our decision to retain funding for this project.

3. Funding the Whole Package of Proposed Activities at a Site – The final list of sites reflects our keen desire to fully complete all proposed activities at a given site rather than working at a broader suite of sites but completing partial restorations or enhancements. Biologically this made most sense. In addition, we felt this would be far less confusing to the LSOHC when we return for a subsequent proposal. Because of this, several high-quality sites that otherwise ranked highly in factors 1 and 2 above were moved off of the active project list.

Tier 1 Action Sites

Listed below are each of the sites proposed for action in this accomplishment plan, along with a short summary of their ecological importance, proposed activities, and timeline. We also include a list of Tier 2 sites (those initially proposed for action but pulled due to insufficient funding). As additional funds become available, we propose to expand the list of Tier 1 sites through the inclusion of current Tier 2 sites along with a reallocation of LSOHC funds as appropriate.

Uncas Dunes SNA (Sherburne County) – Uncas Dunes SNA contains a relict dunefield and includes oak savanna, oak forest, and wetland habitats. The rare Uncas skipper gives this site its name; this is one of only two sites in the state where this species has been found. *Actions:* Restoration of 70 acres of oak savanna habitat through removal of invasive trees/shrubs and regenerating pine, planting of old fields and disturbed areas with native seed collected onsite (followed by post-seeding management over two years), and prescribed fire. The restoration project will be led by Great River Greening in collaboration with the DNR SNA Program and DNR Forestry. Portions of the work (harvesting of pine plantation, etc.) will be

subcontracted to a private consultant specializing in that area of work. Portions of the project will be performed by volunteers as a way to connect the local community to this important land. Restoration will begin in FY 2011 and continue through 2013.

Clear Lake SNA (Sherburne County) – Clear Lake SNA has the distinction of being the first land parcel acquired under the State Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. It contains a mosaic of oak forest, floodplain forest, and old field sumac thicket, along with a small population of the very rare Hill's thistle. Actions: A first phase of oak savanna restoration on 50 acres through woody invasive species control and prescribed fire (to be followed upon by seeding and restoration management in a future proposal). The restoration project will be led by Great River Greening in collaboration with the DNR SNA Program. Portions of the work may be subcontracted to MCC or a private contractor. Portions of the project will be performed by volunteers as a way to connect the local community to this important land. Restoration will begin in FY2011 and continue through FY2013.

Harry W. Cater Homestead SNA (Sherburne County) – Located on a sandy terrace of the Elk River, this SNA is dominated by dry, upland oak savanna, mesic and wet-mesic prairie openings in aspen groves, floodplain forest along the Elk River, wet meadow and marsh on peat. Actions: Restoration of 15 acres of oak savanna habitat through removal of invasive trees/shrubs and use of prescribed fire. The restoration project will be led by Great River Greening in collaboration with the DNR SNA Program. Portions of the work may be subcontracted to MCC or a private contractor. Portions of the project will be performed by volunteers as a way to connect the local community to this important land. Restoration will begin in 2010 and continue into 2013.

Lamprey Pass WMA (Anoka and Washington counties) – Lamprey Pass is the largest WMA outside of Carlos Avery in the North Metro area. Originally owned by Uri Lamprey, it was managed as a hunt club from 1881 until the 1970s. The acquisition of Lamprey pass marked the first time money was used from the Nongame Wildlife Tax Check-off revenue. The unit is identified as a DNR Regionally Significant Ecological Area. Actions: Restoration of 16 acres of old field to oak woodland through direct seeding and follow-up management. DNR Wildlife will lead and implement all phases of this enhancement project. The project will commence in FY2011 and continue into FY2012.

Carlos Avery WMA (Anoka and Chisago counties) – This 25,000-acre WMA is the largest in the Twin Cities Metro Area and is one of the iconic WMAs in the state of Minnesota. The site is composed principally of wetlands and oak woodland and savanna. Actions: Enhancement of 22 acres of native and semi-native grassland through removal of invasive trees and shrubs, followed by prescribed fire. The restoration project will be led by Great River Greening in collaboration with the DNR Wildlife. Great River Greening will oversee removal of red cedar and other woody invasive trees by a contractor; DNR Wildlife will follow with a prescribed burn. Enhancement will begin in FY2011 and continue through FY2013.

Sand Prairie WMA (Sherburne County) – This 700-acre WMA is situated in the glacial flood plain of the Mississippi River, with mesic to wet remnant prairie, dry prairie, and aspen occurring at the site. In addition to its status as a WMA, Sand Prairie is the first WMA also designated as an Environmental Education Area, providing a strong connection to local school and college students. Actions: Restoration of 159 acres of partially restored oak savanna through the planting of oak trees. The site has one of the most diverse prairie species assemblages in a Minnesota restored prairie. This restoration project will be led by DNR Wildlife in collaboration with Great River Greening. Volunteers will be used in the planting of trees as a way to connect the local community to this important site. The project will begin in FY2011 and conclude in FY2012.

Becklin Homestead WMA & County Park (Isanti County) – This WMA is located along the Rum River and consists of partially restored oak savanna and other habitats. The WMA is also jointly managed as an Isanti County Park and is dedicated to hunting use by Physically Challenged hunters only. Actions: Restoration of 25 acres of oak savanna through direct seeding and planting of trees. Isanti County Parks and DNR Wildlife will collaborate on this restoration project. The project will begin in FY2012 and conclude in FY2013.

Rice Area Sportsman Club WMA (Morrison County) – This WMA (580 acres) consists of extensive oak savanna/woodland along its east border, merging with restored native grass fields and wetlands. Actions: Restoration of 163 acres of deciduous woodland, dry oak woodland and dry oak savanna; enhancement of 29 acres of grassland. Oversight of this project will be provided by Great River Greening in collaboration with the DNR Wildlife. Aside from project oversight, much of the proposed work will be subcontracted through MCC and/or private vendor. The project will begin in FY2011 and will conclude in FY2013.

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (Sherburne County) – This 30,700-acre refuge was in 1965 to protect and restore the habitats associated with the St. Francis River Valley for migratory birds and other wildlife, the focus of the Refuge is on the restoration of oak savanna, wetland and Big Woods habitat. Actions: Restoration of 350 acres through prescribed fire and oak seeding of prairie habitats. Great River Greening will hire a contract forester to complement existing USFWS staff engaged in the large-scale oak savanna restoration efforts underway at Sherburne NWR. The forester will flag trees for thinning in line with savanna restoration plans.

Springvale County Park (Isanti County) – This 211-acre park is situated on Johnny's Lake and lies on eskers and wetlands left by the last glaciers. The park includes rolling prairies, oak savanna, northern hardwood forest and wetlands. Actions: Restoration of 20 acres of oak savanna through direct seeding of acorns and planting of oak trees into restored ground layer of restored tallgrass prairie. Isanti County Parks will implement all phases of this restoration project with assistance from volunteers. Restoration will commence in FY2012 and continue into FY2013.

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve (Anoka & Isanti counties) – Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve is a large ecological research site in central Minnesota with natural habitats that represent the entire state. The Minnesota County Biological Survey ranks Cedar Creek a site of Outstanding Biodiversity Significance, its highest rating, and the Nature Conservancy has named Cedar Creek an Ecologically Significant Area. Actions: Restoration of 1000 acres of oak savanna and 800 acres of oak woodland habitat through prescribed fire and invasive exotic species control. CCESR will hire temporary staff, managed by seasoned employees, to perform most activities related to this restoration. Components (prescribed fire, invasive species control, etc.) may include staff from Great River Greening, MCC and/or the DNR. Restoration will commence in FY2011 and continue through FY2013.

Tier 2 Projects: These projects (which were part of the initial proposal) may be pursued if additional funds are procured through other sources to expand the amount available for restoration and enhancement. At present, these projects, despite their merits are not included in the project action plan.

Rice Lake SNA (Sherburne County) – Glacial meltwaters deposited their outwash sands across this large plain, providing the basis for an open, grassy landscape dotted with bur and pin oak--a classic savanna. Rice Lake Savanna SNA contains examples of oak savanna and oak woodland communities. Actions: Restoration of 80 acres of oak savanna habitat through removal of invasive trees/shrubs, planting of old fields and disturbed areas with native seed collected onsite, and prescribed fire.

Mississippi River Islands SNA (Sherburne County) – This SNA includes five islands formed of outwash and alluvium deposited by the Mississippi River, rising as high as 30 feet above river level. Flooding, erosion, and sedimentation have resulted in various stages of succession, creating a mosaic of wet floodplain forest, drier floodplain forest, and sandbar plant communities. Actions: Restoration of 5 acres of hardwood forest through invasive species removal.

Sartell WMA (Benton County) – This 368-acre WMA is featured by Little Rock Creek (which flows through the site), along with significant oak savanna, oak woodland and prairie in various stages of restoration.

Actions: Restoration of 91 acres of oak savanna/woodland habitat, and enhancement of 21 acres of grassland and woodland through exotic and native woody species control.

Michaelson Farm WMA (Benton County) – This 276-acre WMA occurs on the Mississippi River floodplain forest, lowland grass and brush, and oak woodland on higher grounds. Management of the unit focuses on maintaining and improving habitat for a diversity of native plants and wildlife. Actions: Enhancement of 120 acres of oak woodland, woodland and grassland through control of exotic and native woody invasive plants.

McDougall WMA (Morrison County) – This 228-acre WMA occurs along the Mississippi River and is characterized by floodplain forest, oak woodland and deciduous woodland, with some crop field. The WMA borders a preserve of The Nature Conservancy along its south edge. Actions: Enhancement of 54 acres of oak woodland, deciduous woodland and grassland through control of exotic and native woody invasive species.

Anderson County Park (Isanti County) – The 174-acre park lies within the Typo Chain of Lakes watershed, and consists of open fields (in the process of prairie and oak savanna restoration), woods, and wetlands adjacent to both Horseshoe and Horse Leg Lakes. Actions: Restoration of 20 acres of oak savanna through direct seeding of acorns and planting of oak trees into restored understory of tallgrass prairie.

Why will this strategy work?

The strength of the proposal lies with the ASP Habitat Partnership and the diverse skill sets, expertise and resources of its committed partners. Each partner has a long-term demonstrable track record of achievement in conserving the natural resources of the ASP. Collectively, this expertise is deep, and the resources and skill sets each brings to the table can be used more efficiently, effectively, and with greater impact than each acting alone.

Across the Partnership there exists a broad cross-section of expertise, skill sets, and missions that reach to all corners of the conservation arena:

- Deep expertise in areas of protection, restoration and enhancement
- Strong science – both pure and applied
- Public and private partners
- Outreach to private landowners
- Sophisticated educational programs woven throughout partner curricula
- Strong volunteer programs
- Solid grant-writing and fundraising capabilities

As a Partnership, we acknowledge this habitat work has to be an ongoing effort, one that is far more integrated and collaborative than what has been done in the past. We will collaborate on projects, share resources and expertise, broaden the existing funding base for this work, and outreach to public/private partners and the local community in efficient and effective ways – all supported foundationally by a world class ecological research center. The ASP Habitat Partnership has already produced over 2000 hours of in-kind time to form as a coalition and develop these projects. This same kind of energy will be the foundation to our new broad collaborative approach to managing public sites throughout the ASP. By supporting this proposal, the LSOHC will gain far more than the basic investment of wildlife habitat improvements on public lands; it will produce major lasting commitments on the part of local conservation managers to ensure the on-going collaborative nature of this Partnership.

Funding through the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) will be used to leverage further funding and in-kind support on all sites where we work. The Partnership will increase involvement by the public through the combining and integrating of the volunteer programs led by Great River Greening, SWCDs, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, USFWS, MFRC, Isanti County Parks and others. These groups have wide recognition for volunteer development, yet to date there has not been a connecting and

sharing of these programs to the degree needed. This project will embark on that next generation of collaboration.

All restoration and enhancement actions will be rooted in sound science and adaptive management. Already a hallmark of its partners, the Partnership is committed to using the most effective practices and restoration/management techniques and monitoring/evaluate results for the benefit of the broader conservation community. In collaboration with the University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, we can ensure that our proposed actions are rooted in the best science.

Finally, through the ASP Habitat Partnership, this funding will spearhead the future investment for wildlife habitat on private lands through a systematic and ongoing public awareness process created and implemented by the Partnership.

Describe the nature and extent of any partnerships in this project, stakeholder and public participation processes associated with the project and any anticipated support or opposition to the project.

The Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Partnership aims, through a coordinated approach, to: 1) elevate and capitalize on resources available for protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural resources in the ASP, 2) share and disseminate management and restoration expertise to public and private landowners, 3) tackle emerging research issues and use findings to guide management actions across public and private lands and waters, and 4) build strong connections to local communities through education, outreach and opportunities for volunteerism.

This Partnership, at present, includes the following stakeholders:

Anoka County Parks	Morrison SWCD
Audubon Minnesota	Mid-Minnesota Mississippi River RC&D
Benton SWCD	National Wild Turkey Federation
BWSR	Onanegozie RC&D
Chisago SWCD	Stearns SWCD
Friends of the Rum River	The Nature Conservancy
Great River Greening	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Isanti County Parks	University of Minnesota
Minnesota DNR	Wright SWCD
Minnesota Forest Resources Council	

The concept behind the ASP Habitat Partnership - integrated public and private land management – is a strategic direction of the Minnesota DNR (as stated in A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2009-2013). The ability of the DNR to administer state forests, parks, wildlife management areas, aquatic management areas, and scientific and natural areas is strongly influenced by the management of surrounding lands and waters. Through engagement in partnerships like the ASP Habitat Partnership, the DNR is pursuing integrated management for extensive interspersed public and private lands in order to build its capacity to work across ownership boundaries.

Backed by a slate of seasoned resource professionals (wildlife managers, ecologists, restoration experts, scientists) within an array of established conservation agencies and organizations, the Partnership is poised to begin making immediate impacts across 3904 acres of habitat.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

The actions highlighted by this proposal are prominently featured in the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan and an array of other published resource management plan, as detailed below:

Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan

Oak savanna habitat is specifically detailed as a protection priority (as is prairie) in the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan (Habitat Recommendation 1). Habitat Recommendation 5 identifies restoration of land, water and wetland-associated watersheds as priorities for restoration. Since oak savanna was identified as a statewide protection priority, it naturally follows that it is a restoration priority as well, as is prairie. Habitat recommendation 9 identifies overall research on land and aquatic habitat as a priority need, emphasizing our relationship to Cedar Creek ESR as a critical element to that end.

Minnesota Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Oak savanna systems within the ASP were identified as a statewide conservation priority in *Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare: Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife)*. Some 30 SGCN species are associated with oak savanna habitat in the ASP. The Action Plan identifies maintenance, enhancement and protection of oak savannas as the state's highest priority for the ASP ecological subsection.

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC), a state agency responsible for implementing the Minnesota Sustainable Forest Resources Act (SFRA) of 1995, serves as the chief advisors to the Governor and Legislature on sustainable forestry matters. In 2005, the MFRC approved the East Central Forest Resource Management Plan as developed by its East Central regional landscape committee. The plan envisions healthy and sustained forests across the region in an ecologically appropriate manner, and provides a framework of goal and strategies for four ECS subsections including the ASP. The Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Partnership project is supported by the East Central Committee as one of its pilot projects to promote sustainable forestry in the region.

Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda

Restoration and enhancement of imperiled resources through conservation partnerships is captured as explicit goals of the Minnesota DNR in its Strategic Conservation Agenda (2009-2013):

Goals:

- A. Minnesota's natural lands and habitats will be conserved and enhanced
 - a. *Remaining natural ecosystems are conserved* - Healthy habitats are connected by natural corridors. Native prairies are protected, and grasslands and riparian forest are restored. We are responsible stewards of DNR-administered lands and good neighbors to adjacent landowners. Uncommon and rare habitats are protected.
 - b. *Degraded habitats are restored* - Grasslands and forests have been restored.
 - c. *Natural resources thrive in the context of human influences. Urban and developing areas support a diversity of plant and animal communities and offer diverse recreational opportunities* - Local decisions are supported by public-private partnerships, with DNR providing technical assistance and coordination.
- B. Minnesota's fish and wildlife populations will be healthy and provide great recreation opportunities
 - a. *Fish and wildlife populations and the habitats that support them are healthy* - Habitat types in jeopardy, such as prairies, wetlands, and shallow lakes, are restored. Endangered and threatened species are protected.
 - b. *Conservation partnerships and stewardship ethics are strong* - Public- and private-sector partners work together to support Minnesota's resources and promote conservation.

LS-OHC Priorities

STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

Priority 1. Ongoing Programs. The ASP Habitat Partnership is a collaboration of 19 seasoned conservation organizations with the long-term goal of elevating and capitalizing on resources available for conservation of natural resources in the ASP.

Priority 2. Multiple Conservation Benefits. Restoration/enhancement actions will result in:
improved habitat for a broad suite of game/non-game species
improved recreational assets and richer experiences for hunters and others;
enhancement of an existing and irreplaceable investment in land/habitat protection;
opportunities to enhance public awareness, appreciation and a constituency for these important lands;
improvement of habitat within the State's premier ecosystem research facility whose science serves to both underpin oak savanna restoration efforts.
jobs, through work completed by local vendors, businesses and MCC crews.

Priority 3. Leverage. The ASP Habitat Partnership is leveraging at least \$310,000 of non-state funds to match the allocated \$747,000 OHF appropriation.

Priority 4. Public access. This proposal does not have an acquisition component; however, all targeted sites are publicly owned and open to the public for a variety of uses.

Priority 5. Immediacy/Urgency. See Page 2 above for an in-depth discussion of this priority.

Priority 6. WMAs, AMAs, SNAs. 73% of sites (8 of 11) are either WMAs (5) or SNAs (3).

Priority 7. Science-based Strategic Planning. We are well versed in and utilize science-based strategic planning, at the heart of which is scientific rigor and adaptive management.

Priority 8. Consider state T&E, SGCN species and habitats. Each of these is integral to our priority-setting process. Together, this information serves as one of the foundational building blocks for our identified conservation priorities.

Priority 9. Greater public access. All public lands included in this proposal are open to the public.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Metropolitan Urbanizing Area Section

Priority 1. Protect, enhance and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity.

Priority 2. Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain).

Our priorities include oak savanna, prairie and other systems as mapped by Minnesota County Biological Survey, and habitat corridors that link these lands together (as mapped by the DNR). Actions proposed focus on restoration and enhancement of these habitats/corridors through prescribed fire, invasive species control, and seeding/planting of natural communities to the benefit of associated species.

Forest/Prairie Transition Section

Priority 2. Protect, enhance and restore rare native remnant prairie. Restoration actions (prescribed fire, seeding, invasive species control) focusing on oak savanna and prairie will increase the quality of habitat for a broad suite of species.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e. ,acreage, numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore	0	1652 acres	216 acres	0
Protect	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	51 acres	0	0

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	None	Anoka, Isanti, Morrison, Sherburne, Chisago, Washington	Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Washington, Morrison, Sherburne	None
Protect	None	None	None	None
Enhance	None	Morrison, Anoka, Chisago	None	None

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	1705 acres	163 acres	0	0	0
Protect	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	22 acres	29 acres	0	0	0

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore	\$483,400	\$201,200	0	0	0
Protect	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	\$ 46,000	\$ 16,400	0	0	0

Indicate what is being funded

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	0	\$675,500	\$ 9,000	0
Protect	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	\$ 62,500	0	0

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0
Permanent Easement	0	0	0	0

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 55,470
Contracts	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$132,300
Equipment/Tools	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,875
Materials/Supplies	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Fee Acquisition	0	0	0
Easement Acquisition	0	0	0
Easement Stewardship	0	0	0
Travel	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,157
Project Administration/Reporting	\$ 6,066	\$ 6,066	\$ 6,066
TOTAL	\$264,566	\$264,566	\$217,868

Relationship to Current Budget

Great River Greening has an annual operating budget of \$195,000 for general, administration, office, fees, and an annual program budget of approximately \$785,000. The total current annual budget is just shy of \$1,000,000.

The allotted funding of \$747,000 (adjusted over the 3 year project duration) accounts for approximately 25% of Great River Greening's annual budget. Of the allotment, approximately \$105,000 is scheduled to salaries of Great River Greening staff as detailed under *Personnel* below. When adjusted over 3 years, this amounts to 3.5% of the organization's current annual budget.

The great majority of project funding will be disbursed to partners and to vendors and/or MCC crews via contracts for project-related work as detailed in this accomplishment plan.

The body of work detailed in this proposal is additive to our standard annual work load and will simply enable Great River Greening and its partners to achieve more. This body of work will be integrated into the standard work load for staff, and if necessary, additional hires above current capacity (most probably for crew technicians) will be made. However, that decision will be determined by the full magnitude of project work across the organization. Staff reassignments will not be necessary.

Budget Breakdowns by Partner Relative to Funding Received:

Isanti County Parks - \$15,000 (Sum Proposed for Allocation)

Total Annual Budget: \$207,000
 Operating Budget = \$95,000
 Program Budget = \$112,000

University of Minnesota, Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve - \$120,000

Total Annual Budget: \$1,000,000
 Operations Budget = \$400,000
 Research/Education Budget = \$600,000

Personnel (including Project Admin/Reporting)

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount
Great River Greening		
Project Manager	Ecologist (Various)	\$36,000
Crew Manager	Michael Varian	\$23,000
Crew Technician (2 positions)	Various	\$31,000
Dir. Conservation Programs	Wayne Ostlie	\$10,000
Volunteer Coordinator	Mark Turbak	\$ 3,168
Director of Finance	Greg Wenz	\$ 7,500
Budget Management	Deborah Gagner	\$ 3,000
Cedar Creek ESR		
Technicians (16 positions)	Various	\$60,000
Field Restoration Specialist (0.25 FTE)	TBD	\$30,000

Leverage

Total leverage for the project is anticipated at \$344,000. This includes \$32,000 of other state match.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Cedar Creek ESR	\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000	
MN DNR (SNA)	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	
MN DNR (Wildlife)	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000	
MN DNR (Central Region)	\$ 2,000		\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000	
Non state						
NFWF (via Greening)	\$ 20,000					

National Wild Turkey Federation	\$ 10,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000	
USFWS	\$ 42,000		\$ 42,000		\$ 41,000	
NSF (via Cedar Creek ESR)	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	
Great River Greening		\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000
In-kind/Volunteer						
Volunteers (Greening)		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000
Volunteers (Isanti County Parks)		\$ 4,000		\$ 4,000		\$ 4,000
TOTAL	\$ 99,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 74,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 73,000	\$ 39,000

The vast majority of leverage (both state and non-state) will go towards restoration of prairies and prairie systems, principally oak savanna. Smaller amounts will go toward associated oak woodland systems, which have been lumped into forests in the table below.

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	0	\$ 23,500	\$ 2,500	0	0	\$291,500	\$ 8,000	0
Protect	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	\$ 2,500	0	0	0	\$ 8,500	0	0

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Restoration & enhancement actions initiated	8 sites	3 sites		
Restoration & enhancement actions fully completed		3 sites	8 sites	\$747,000 (LSOHC Portion)

Maintenance and Sustainability

All land managers participating in this proposal have committed to the long-term maintenance of these habitat improvements once they are made as part of their standard operating costs. Often, the expense of restoration/enhancement on the front end is a major hurdle that first must be overcome. The cost of ongoing management to maintain these improvements is relatively low and can be accommodated in the existing program funds of participating agencies/organizations.

Also, a principle goal of the ASP Habitat Partnership is to elevate and broaden the resource base for use in protecting, restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat throughout the program area. We are committed to raising

funds/resources through an array of channels that will ensure any deficits in funding for the long-term maintenance of these improvements are covered.



Accomplishment Plan
LSOHC

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: 12/22/2009

Project or Program Title: Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Partnership

Manager's Name: Tim Schlagenhaft

Title: Mississippi River Coordinator

Agency/organization: MN Department of Natural Resources

Mailing Address: 1801 S. Oak, Lake City, MN 55041

Telephone: 651-345-3365 ext. 233

Fax:

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Web Site:

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	1,000	0	0	0

Appropriation Language

Abstract

The Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Partnership is a long-term effort to restore habitat connectivity and improve water quality in critical areas along the Mississippi River corridor from the Twin Cities to the Iowa border by reconnecting tributaries to their floodplains, revitalizing backwaters and channels, and protecting and restoring floodplain forests, wetlands, and prairies that are essential to sustaining the incredible diversity of plants, animals, and human uses provided by this great river. Critical areas include the lower reaches of the Root, Zumbro, Cannon, and Vermillion Rivers, and the backwaters and channels of Mississippi River Pools 2 and 3 (St. Paul to Red Wing). FY2011 funding from the LSOHC will focus on acquisition and restoration of key parcels in the Lower Root River floodplain. Acquisitions will be completed by the MN Dept of Natural Resources and restoration will be accomplished through outside contracts.

Narrative

Prompt action is needed to protect and restore habitat that has been degraded in critical areas along the Mississippi River for fish and wildlife, including 82 species listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern. Channel modifications and levees along the lower end of the Zumbro and Root Rivers continues to fragment the lower tributary floodplains at their connection to the Mississippi River, resulting in a loss of wetlands, floodplain forest, and prairie. Development along the Vermillion and Lower Cannon Rivers continues to fragment floodplain forests and impact bluff landscapes. Locks and dams combined with excessive

sediment from the Minnesota River watershed continue to degrade the river above Lake Pepin, with high turbidity and lack of a low water cycle preventing the growth of aquatic vegetation which provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife. Acting now will protect these critical areas from further degradation and provide opportunities to improve habitat connectivity and restore wetlands, forests, and prairies for fish and wildlife that live and migrate along the Mississippi River corridor.

Outdoor Heritage funding for FY2011 will focus directly on protecting 86 acres of wetlands, 135 acres of prairie, and 98 acres of forest in the Lower Root River floodplain. Of those, 20 acres of wetlands, 135 acres of prairie, and 75 acres of forest will also be restored, and 10 acres of forest will be enhanced. Most parcels that are acquired and restored will connect to existing state or federal conservation lands and increase the amount and quality of habitat for fish and wildlife along the Mississippi River.

Over 20 agencies and organizations have joined together as partners in this effort, working cooperatively to meet common goals for the Mississippi River. These partners have successfully protected and restored forests, wetlands and prairies through their individual acquisition and private lands assistance programs, and have helped reduce turbidity and sediment in the Mississippi and its tributaries through TMDL and watershed conservation efforts. Partners have the knowledge and skills to accomplish this work. Outdoor Heritage funding will allow partners to accomplish additional protection and restoration work in critical areas within the Lower Root River floodplain. Partners will leverage this program by providing staff time for restoration planning, signing, outreach and other activities.

There is general local support for these projects. As landowners accept acquisition offers these parcels will be presented to the county for approval. It is anticipated the county will continue to approve these acquisitions.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

This project helps meet the goals and objectives in the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan by focusing on the protection and restoration of conservation corridors along the Mississippi River floodplain and tributaries. This effort will restore wetlands, forests, and prairies and protect critical shorelines of major tributaries and the Mississippi River main stem.

Numerous planning efforts incorporate the scientific justification for the projects identified in this proposal. The Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee’s “A Working River and A River that Works”, the River Resources Forum’s “Environmental Pool Plans”, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Comprehensive Conservation Plan; and the Navigation Environmental Sustainability Program Feasibility Study are only a few examples of reports that outline the scientific and technical basis and need for floodplain restoration, water level management, and island construction projects along the Mississippi River corridor. These activities are considered essential to restoring the health of the Mississippi River system, and will provide benefits not only to these specific locations, but also to the entire Mississippi River from the Twin Cities to the Gulf of Mexico. Outdoor Heritage funding for FY2011 will focus on floodplain restoration.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e. ,acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore	20	135	75	*
Protect	66		13	
Enhance			10	

* All acres listed for restoration and protection for wetlands, prairies, and forests will provide habitats for fish, game, and wildlife.

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	<i>Houston</i>	<i>Houston</i>	<i>Houston</i>	
Protect	<i>Houston</i>		<i>Houston</i>	
Enhance			<i>Houston</i>	

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore			<i>230</i>		
Protect			<i>79</i>		
Enhance			<i>10</i>		

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore			<i>\$742,900</i>		
Protect			<i>\$228,200</i>		
Enhance			<i>\$28,900</i>		

Indicate what is being funded

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	<i>\$64,700</i>	<i>\$436,000</i>	<i>\$242,200</i>	*
Protect	<i>\$190,700</i>		<i>\$37,500</i>	
Enhance			<i>\$28,900</i>	

* All costs listed for restoration and protection for wetlands, prairies, and forests will provide habitats for fish, game, and wildlife.

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability	86	135	98	*
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

* All acres listed for restoration and protection for wetlands, prairies, and forests will provide habitats for fish, game, and wildlife.

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel			
Contracts	\$78,400		
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$921,600		
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$1,000,000		

Relationship to Current Budget

Indicate the percentage of this project in relation to your organization/agency's total budget.

Demonstrate how this funding and activity will supplement your current budget.

If existing staff will be reassigned to this project, indicate what current projects or duties will be affected.

This project is 0.002% of the DNR budget. These acquisitions and restorations will be in addition to normal activities and will supplement existing budgets. DNR Area Wildlife Staff and partners (The Nature Conservancy) will complete many of the additional activities associated with these projects including landowner coordination, restoration planning, signing, outreach, etc.

Personnel

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state						
In-kind/Volunteer	\$15,000			\$15,000		\$15,000
TOTAL	\$15,000			\$15,000		\$15,000

Indicate how the leverage will be used

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	\$2,100	\$12,900	\$7,300		\$1,000	\$6,500	\$3,700	*
Protect	\$5,700		\$1,200		\$2,800		\$600	
Enhance			\$800				\$400	

Leverage represents FY11-FY13 total.

** All costs listed for restoration and protection for wetlands, prairies, and forests will provide habitats for fish, game, and wildlife.

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
<i>Initiate acquisition process</i>	XX			
<i>Develop site restoration plans</i>	XX	XX		
<i>Complete acquisitions</i>		XX	XX	\$921,600
<i>Complete restorations</i>		XX	XX	\$78,400

Maintenance and Sustainability

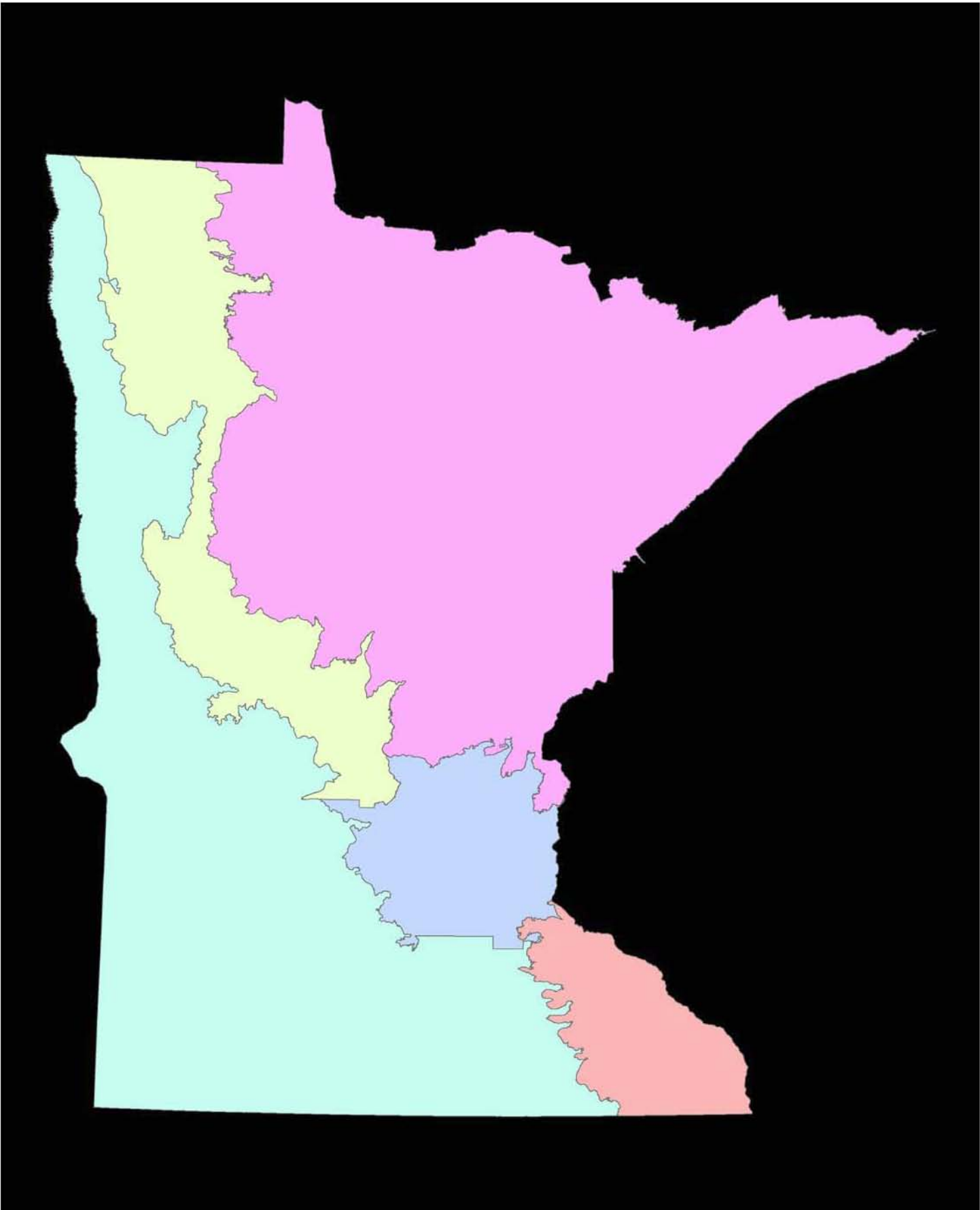
Please describe how lasting improvement will be maintained/ sustained. For easement acquisitions and fee acquisitions, explain how maintenance and sustaining costs will be paid.

Parcels acquired and restored will become part of the State Wildlife Management Area system and will be maintained by Area Field Managers and partners through normal operating budgets. Parcels will be maintained following standard management practices for prairie, wetland, and forest habitats. Parcels proposed for acquisition and subsequent restoration are listed below:

Parcel	Wetland acres protected	Wetland acres restored	Prairie acres restored	Forest acres protected	Forest acres restored	Forest acres enhanced	Acquisition cost	Restoration cost
A	46		40	10	60	10	\$479,600	\$37,500
B			15	3			\$52,000	\$4,500
C		20	50				\$202,200	\$21,000
D	20		30		15		\$187,800	\$15,400

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Accomplishment Plan
LSOHC



**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 22, 2009

Project or Program Title: (8 words or less) Washington County St. Croix River Land Protection

Manager's Name: Jane Harper

Title: Program Manager

Agency/organization: Washington County

Mailing Address: 14949 Street N. Stillwater, MN 55082-0006

Telephone: 651-430-6011

Fax: 651-430-6017

E-Mail: Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us

Web Site: www.washington.mn.use

	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Funds Recommended (\$000s)	FY 2011			
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$1,033,000	\$3,000,000		0

Appropriation Language

Abstract

Summarize your project or program in 250 words or less.

Washington County seeks to preserve the ecological integrity of the St. Croix River by completing 3 permanent conservation easements or fee title acquisitions to permanently protect up to 253 acres of critical riparian habitat and over one mile of shoreland. The three projects are located in Denmark Township within the state-managed portion of the St. Croix Scenic Riverway and are the remaining large lots along the lower St. Croix River. These properties provide the critical connections needed to complete a permanently protected three-mile continuous corridor of forested bluff lands and ravines. This funding will address two of the Outdoor Heritage Council's priority actions for the Metropolitan Urbanizing Section: to protect a habitat corridor along the St. Croix River and to protect, enhance and restore big woods forests and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity.

Narrative

What is the problem to be addressed? How will this directly relate to restoring, protecting, or enhancing habitat? Why will this strategy work? Describe the nature and extent of any partnerships in this project, stakeholder and public participation processes associated with the project and any anticipated support or opposition to the project. For land acquisitions, indicate local government support and approval

The St. Croix River and its watershed is a national treasure whose habitat and water quality is threatened. The St. Croix River watershed is considered to be one of the most biologically diverse rivers in the Upper Mississippi River basin. Its waters support 95 fish and approximately 38 mussel species, many of which are on the state and federal endangered species lists. Its forested lands provide nesting habitat for Bald Eagles and are home to several threatened and endangered species. Although the waters of the St. Croix River are very pristine, they are impacted by nutrient and sediment pollution. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency designated Lake St. Croix, the lower 25 miles of the river, as an “impaired water” due to high levels of phosphorus. This designation mandates that the federal, state and local governments take actions to ensure the lake’s recovery. With increasing urbanization in the watershed this will be difficult to do. By limiting development and maintaining mature forests along the river, the proposed acquisitions will help defray pollution impacts and will aid in arresting the decline in water quality in the lower stretch of the river. The proposed acquisitions will maintain essential habitat for resident and migratory wildlife, both game and non game species. These acquisitions will help maintain a high quality river fishery that is dependent on clean water. They will maintain hunting opportunities on private land, with landowner permission, an opportunity that will be lost if the land is subdivided.

The owners of each parcel applied to the Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program and are willing sellers. The proposed acquisitions were chosen from 44 applications to the county’s Land and Water Legacy Program. The applications were evaluated by a multi-agency technical committee and recommended by a citizen advisory committee. The projects were chosen as the highest priority because they best showcase the county’s priorities: preserve critical habitat; protect water resources; create networks of protected habitat; and protect lands that are accessible or highly visible to the public.

The county has received letters of support for these acquisitions from the National Park Service, Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota, St. Croix River Association, St. Croix Scenic Byway, St. Croix Scenic Coalition, and Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center. Denmark Township is concerned about the long-term tax impacts of restricting development on a large amount of high value residential land. To mitigate the impacts of fee acquisition, Washington County makes in lieu of tax payments when there is a taxable use of the acquired land such as farming or house rental. Through the purchase of conservation easements, the county can meet its habitat and water quality goals while the land stays in private ownership and on the tax rolls.

A reduction from the requested amount of funds will required the county to continue seeking additional funding partners to enable the county to complete all three projects. Other funding partners may have additional requirements such as coholding of the conservation easements.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

Reference resource management plans and their priorities that support this project.

Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan: Addresses three of the habitat recommendations.

- #1. To protect priority land habitats. The plan identifies the St. Croix River valley as having high conservation priority.
- #2. To protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes. The plan suggests that high priority shore lands be protected via economic incentives and other tools such as conservation easements. The plan acknowledges conservation easements as one of the key tools necessary to achieve land conservation goals in metropolitan areas where high land values make it very difficult to acquire fee title to all priority lands.
- #7: To keep water on the landscape.

Action Plan for Minnesota’s Wildlife: The properties provide habitat in the St. Paul Baldwin Plains and Moraines subsection for a variety of species in greatest conservation need.

The properties are located with the St. Croix Corridor of the Metro Conservation Corridors Plan, a network of remaining critical habitat areas in the metro area.

The properties are located within the DNR’s Regionally-Significant Ecological Area.

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway District Management Plan: Calls for more land protection along the river.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e. ,acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

ACRES CATEGORIZED UNDER RESTORATION HAVE POTENTIAL FOR RESTORATION. THE RESTORATION WILL NOT OCCUR UNTIL AFTER ACQUISITION AND IS NOT FUNDED BY THIS GRANT.

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore				<i>One mile of St. Croix River frontage.</i>
Protect	1.5	49.5	202	
Enhance				

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	<i>Washington</i>	<i>Washington</i>	<i>Washington</i>	
Enhance				

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect	253				
Enhance					

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect	\$1033,000				
Enhance					

Indicate what is being funded

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	\$6,125	\$202,108	\$824,767	
Enhance				

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement	1.5	49.5	202	

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel			
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition			
Easement Acquisition	\$720,000	\$313,000	
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$720,000	\$313,000	

Relationship to Current Budget

Indicate the percentage of this project in relation to your organization/agency's total budget.

Demonstrate how this funding and activity will supplement your current budget.

If existing staff will be reassigned to this project, indicate what current projects or duties will be affected.

Washington County has budgeted \$10 million in bonding in 2010 for the Land and Water Legacy Program. This funding would be approximately 10% of the total program budget. The entire amount of funding will be used for acquiring interests in property.

Personnel

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Not applicable.

Position	Name	Amount

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
DNR Metro Greenways	330,000					
Non state						
County Levy	2,362,500					
Metro Park Acquisition	1,387,500					
Other		587,000				
In-kind/Volunteer						
Appraisals, environmental assessments, survey, title work, recorder's fee, closing costs, management plans, etc.	75,000					
TOTAL	4,155,000	587,000				

Indicate how the leverage will be used

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect	\$1,956	\$64,548	\$263,408		\$26,159	\$863,231	\$3,522,698	
Enhance								

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
Project 1: purchase conservation easement	quarter			\$200,000
Project 2: purchase conservation easement	quarter			\$520,000
Project 3: purchase conservation easement		quarter		\$313,000

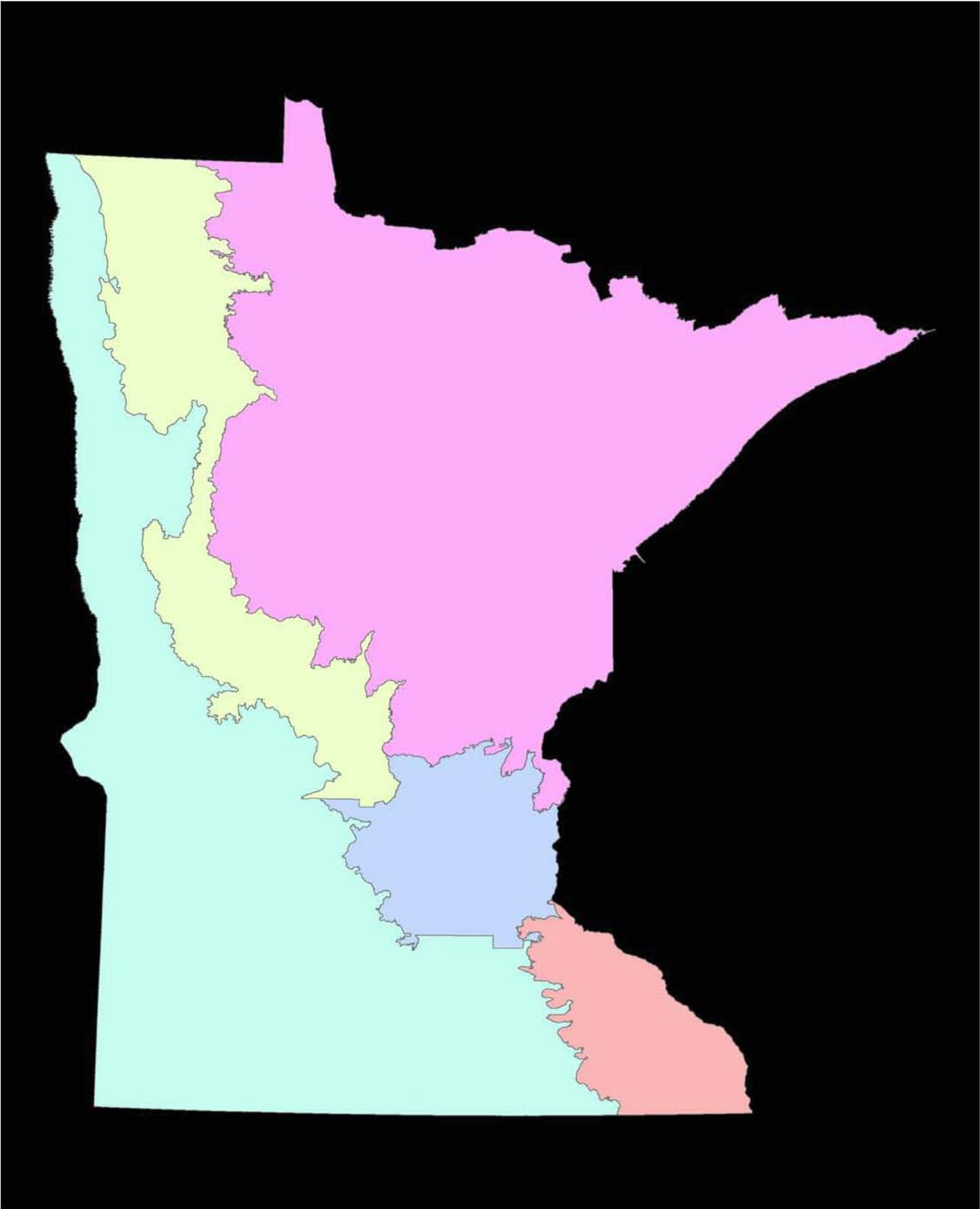
Maintenance and Sustainability

Please describe how lasting improvement will be maintained/ sustained. For easement acquisitions and fee acquisitions, explain how maintenance and sustaining costs will be paid.

The long-term protection will be assured through perpetual conservation easements that confine development, management and use of the properties to activities that are consistent with preservation of the public values. Washington County will hold all land interests that are acquired. The county follows the standards and practices of the National Land Trust Alliance, thus ensuring long-lasting conservation easements. The county monitors each of its acquisitions annually. The county attorney enforces the terms of the conservation easement. Each acquisition requires preparation of a management plan that recommends activities to improve and restore the ecological functions of the property. Washington County works with other agencies to secure funds and technical assistance for landowners to implement the management recommendations. The cost of these activities is funded through county property tax dollars.

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Accomplishment Plan
LSOHC



**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: December 22, 2009

Project or Program Title: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

Manager's Name: Leslie Tannahill

Title: Conservation Grants Coordinator

Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Road; St. Paul, MN 55155

Telephone: 651-259-5242

Fax: 651-297-4961

E-Mail: leslie.tannahill@state.mn.us

Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/cpl/index.html

Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	4,386	0	0	0

Appropriation Language

Abstract

The Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (CPL) will be managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide competitive matching grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional, state, and national non-profit organizations, including governments. Grant activities include the enhancement, restoration, or protection of forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. A 10% non-state cash match will be required from all grantees, and must be identified at the time of application.

For each of these appropriations, DNR will conduct financial reviews, prepare and execute agreement documents, review expenditure documentation, ensure recipients are only reimbursed for allowable expenses, and assist recipients with closing out their agreements.

Narrative

Applicants may apply for grants under this program to perform the following activities:

Restore: action to bring a habitat back to a former state of sustaining fish, game or wildlife, with an ultimate goal of restoring habitat to a desired conservation condition.

Protect: action to maintain the ability of habitat and related natural systems to sustain fish, game or wildlife through acquisition of fee title or conservation easements.

Enhance: action to increase the ability of habitat and related natural systems to sustain and improve fish, game or wildlife in an ecologically sound manner.

For projects that will restore and/or enhance

1. Projects will be only on lands under permanent protection of public fee ownership, or conservation easement as defined in MS 84C.01. This includes tribal lands under federal trust arrangements.
2. A conservation easement must be placed on any private land impacted before work may begin. Funding for the easement/deed restriction and associated costs may be paid for with in-kind match or grant funds.
3. Proposed projects on public lands will be approved by and coordinated with public land managers. Projects proposed for lands under permanent conservation easement will be reviewed by the easement holder. Proof of review or approval must be submitted to grant staff before the application deadline. The private landowner must agree to the project as well.
4. Grantees will be responsible for all administrative requirements such as Historic Property Review, Wetland Conservation Act, Stormwater Permits, Natural Heritage Review, DNR Waters Permits, and others as appropriate. Costs for any reviews or permits should be included in the grant application, either as in-kind match or requested from grant dollars. As specified in the grant agreement, grantees may, by letter, assign duties and associated funds back to DNR, with DNR consent.
5. The Commissioner of Natural Resources must approve all projects.
6. Vegetation and seed used in these projects will be from native materials where possible and appropriate.

For projects that will protect

1. Lands acquired in fee title will be open to the public for hunting and fishing during open seasons unless otherwise provided by law.
2. All easements must be permanent. Easements must include stewardship provisions to perpetually monitor and enforce the conditions of the easements.
3. Projects to acquire land in fee simple title or a permanent conservation easement must be associated with established land acquisition programs that use explicit criteria for evaluating a parcel's habitat potential.
4. Grantees must agree to abide by all LSOHC requirements for long-term management of any lands acquired with Outdoor Heritage Funds (OHF).
5. For fee acquisition, the final title holder and land manager must be specified. Lands that will be conveyed to a public agency must be donated.
6. For permanent easements, the following information must be provided:
 - a. What organization will monitor the easement;
 - b. Who the easement will revert to in the event the primary easement holder ceases to exist;
 - c. What easement monitoring standards will be used;
 - d. Amount, funding source, and holder of the stewardship endowment dedicated to the easement;
 - e. Any restrictions, allowed structures, allowed activities, and reserved rights.

7. Some State programs have specific statutory guidelines for determining the value of easements acquired under that program. If the easement will become part of that State program and the easement will be held by the State, any entity acquiring the easement may use that program's statutory method for the easement valuation.
8. All acquisition selection processes and related transactions costs for all parties involved in the acquisition must be reported to the LSOHC.
9. A Notice of Funding Restriction must be recorded for each acquisition.
10. An analysis of future operations and maintenance costs for any acquired lands must be provided to the LSOHC, commissioner of finance, and appropriate public agency.
11. The grantee must submit an annual report on the status of property acquired with grant funds to the LSOHC by December 1 of each year.
12. Grantees acquiring land that will be conveyed to DNR will be required to follow DNR's *Land Acquisition Procedures for Lands to be Conveyed to DNR*.
13. Grantees acquiring land that will NOT be conveyed to DNR will be required to follow DNR's *Land Acquisition Procedures for Lands NOT to be Conveyed to DNR*.

General Program Requirements

This appropriation will be available until June 30, 2012. For acquisition projects, funds are available until June 30, 2013. If a project receives federal funds, the time period of the appropriation is extended to equal the availability of federal funding. Grantees must submit a final progress report by August 1, 2012, unless the funds have previously been extended as described above.

All grant projects must conform to the terms set out in the *LSOHC's 2010 Call for Funding Requests*, and address the priorities in the *Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan*, and *Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare*. Capital expenditures and indirect costs will not be allowed. In administering this program the DNR will comply with the Department of Administration - Office of Grants Management policies.

Grantee Match

The match requirement is 10% in nonstate cash. The amount and source of the match must be identified at the time of application. Proof of all required and pledged grantee match must be provided before the final payment is made.

Grantee Payment

Grantees will be paid on a "for services rendered" basis, under MS 84.026. Partial payments will be allowed. Advances will be available for acquisition projects only, on a limited basis, and must be specified in the grantee's application and final work program.

Grant Process

A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be posted on the CPL website in July, 2010. The RFP will contain grant program information, application criteria, application requirements, state agency contacts and grant reporting requirements. The RFP, Program Manual, and all grant agreements will incorporate appropriate principles and criteria from the *LSOHC's 2010 Call for Funding Requests* and associated legislation.

Applications will be accepted electronically year-round, with grants selected for funding up to twice a year. Any ungranted funds from the first cycle will be available for use in a following cycle.

Applications must be submitted electronically using DNR's Online Grant Application System (OLGA). Maps and aerial photos showing the location of proposed projects are required, and must include the name of the public land unit or private landowner, county, and show on-site and adjacent habitat types.

DNR Grant Program Staff will review applications to make sure they are complete and meet grant program requirements. Technical Review Committee(s), selected by the Commissioner of Natural Resources will review and score applications based on criteria established by the LSOHC, MN State Legislature and DNR. These committees may include representatives from DNR, BWSR, the University of MN, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and other appropriate members. A final ranking committee made up of the Chief Financial Officer, and Directors of the DNR Divisions of Fish and Wildlife, Ecological Resources/Waters, and Forestry will recommend projects and funding levels to the Commissioner of Natural Resources. The Commissioner will make the final decision on projects funded, and funding levels. Projects may be fully or partially funded.

Every effort will be made to evenly distribute the selected grants by geographic location, activity, and funding level, with an objective of granting 50% of the funds to projects above and below \$125,000.

Once grant applications are selected, CPL Grant Program staff will work with grantees to ensure financial reviews, grant agreements, and any other necessary paperwork are completed. Work may not begin until the grant is executed.

Project Reviews and Reporting

Project reviews will be completed as required by Office of Grants Management Policy 08-10, Grant Monitoring. Grantees will report annual accomplishments on a CPL Annual Report Form by October 1 of each year. These reports will be based on work completed during the previous fiscal year. Reports must account for the use of grant and match funds, and outcomes in measures of wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat restored, enhanced, and protected. The report must include an evaluation of these results. A map and aerial photo showing the location of the project and including the name of the public land unit or private landowner, and county affected must be included. A final report will be required by all grantees by October 1 of the year that their grant agreement ends.

CPL Grant Program staff will compile grantee reports and submit an annual accomplishment report to the LSOHC, Legislative Coordinating Commission, and Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) on February 15 of each year. This report will contain information on the number of agreements made, number and amount of reimbursements paid to grantees, number and status of remaining open agreements, and administrative costs. The LSOHC may request interim accomplishment status reports. Accomplishment information will also be posted on LSOHC and DNR websites.

Relationship to *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other published resource management plans.

This program will provide additional funds to enhance, restore, and protect habitat in Minnesota. All published resource management and species plans—including the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan*—recognize that habitat is critical for the success of Minnesota's fish and wildlife species. Lack of funding is consistently listed in many plans as one of the largest issues limiting the amount of habitat work and protection that is completed each year.

In the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan*, habitat restoration and enhancement is specified in the following priorities:

- H1: Protect priority land habitats (pg 63)
- H2: Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes (pg 67)
- H4: Restore and protect shallow lakes (pg 78)
- H5: Restore land, wetlands, and associated wetlands (pg 80)
- H7: Keep water on the landscape (pg 84)
- LU 8: Protect large blocks of forested land (pg 130)
- L10: Support and expand sustainable practices on working forested lands (pg 131)

Other plans that list habitat restoration, enhancement and protection as priorities include:

- *Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare* (Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy), which identifies habitat loss and degradation as the primary problem facing species in greatest conservation need in Minnesota.
- The *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* Strategies #1 and 2.
- The DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife has several key plans identifying acquisition and habitat goals for fish and wildlife populations. Habitat goals are also addressed through more focused plans and programs that can be found on the DNR's website.
- National plans include the *North American Wetland Management Plan*, various Joint Venture Plans, *National Fish Habitat Initiative*, and all the *Bird Conservation Plans*.
- Non-governmental conservation agencies such as Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and Audubon Minnesota have developed their own conservation plans that list habitat restoration, enhancement and protection as a priority.

Project Design and Evaluation

Specific accomplishments are dependent upon projects submitted by grantees.

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore				
Protect				
Enhance				

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect				
Enhance				

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect					
Enhance					

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect					
Enhance					

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect				
Enhance				

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel	175,440		
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition			
Easement Acquisition			

Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
Grants	4,210,560		
TOTAL	4,386,000		

Relationship to Current Budget

In FY 10, DNR received \$4 million for grants and administration of this program. These were new funds for a new program and did not supplement existing funds.

Grant applicants will be asked to document the impact of LSOHC grant funds to their current budget, and if these funds will supplement or supplant existing funds, in their grant application

Personnel

Position	Name	Amount
Grant Management staff	1.4 FTEs	\$175,440

Grant management staff costs will be billed using a professional services rate of \$60.00/hour. The hourly rate includes salary and fringe for grants staff, computers, communications, travel, supplies contract management, accounts payable, rent, and expense.

DNR Real Estate Management Services will be billed on a professional services basis and will be a cost that is covered by the grant recipient.

Leverage

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Existing state funds	70,000			70,000		
Non state						
10% Grantee cash match (over the life of the grants)	438,600					
In-kind/Volunteer						
TOTAL	508,600			70,000		

This accomplishment plan does not include costs for activities necessary for DNR to receive donated land and technical guidance. These costs will be leveraged with DNR Operating funds.

Grantee leverage will vary depending on projects submitted.

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect								
Enhance								

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
FY 11 RFP issued	July, 2010			
First round FY 11 grant applications due	September 2010			
First round FY 11 grantees selected	December 2010			
First round FY 11 grants executed	February 2011			4,210,560 in grants encumbered
Annual grantee reports due		October 1, 2011		
Annual program report to Council		February 15, 2012		
Annual grantee reports due			October 1, 2012	
Annual program report to Council			February 15, 2013	
Grant work ends			June 30, 2013	
Final grantee reports due			October 1, 2013	
Final program report to Council			February 15, 2014	

Maintenance and Sustainability

Grantees will be required to provide this information in their application.

Map

Grantees will be required to provide a map with their application.

