

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2016 Final Report



Date: September 17, 2018

Program or Project Title: Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the Wild Rice River Watershed

Funds Recommended: \$2,188,000

Manager's Name: Doug McArthur

Title: Wildlife Manager

Organization: White Earth Nation

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Legislative Citation: ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(j)

Appropriation Language: \$2,188,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the White Earth Band of Ojibwe to acquire lands in fee in Clearwater County to be managed for wildlife habitat purposes. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. As a condition of receiving the grant under this paragraph, the White Earth Band of Ojibwe shall: (1) ensure that current access roads and trails on the property are maintained and open to continue the current access to adjoining lands; (2) ensure that the property remains open to hunting and fishing for individuals of the public who are not members of a federally recognized tribe in a manner consistent with current law; and (3) not transfer fee interest in whole or in part to the United States either directly or through an intermediary in trust for the White Earth Band of Ojibwe. Failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph shall trigger the reversion provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 15.

County Locations: Clearwater

Regions in which work was completed:

- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie

Summary of Accomplishments:

White Earth has acquired all 2,034 acres and transferred them into fee title status. Initial assessment/inventory of habitat conditions and needs were conducted in summer of 2017. Most illegal dump sites were removed in summer of 2017. The parcel located east of Lower Rice lake adjacent to HWY 92, which contained remnants of ~ 5 acres of food plots, were planted into a pollinator prairie mix. This prairie planting makes the property compliant with the MN Buffer Law. This east parcel is in the planning stages of an early succession forest manage plan.

Process & Methods:

White Earth purchased all parcels from seller and transferred titles into Fee status by the White Earth Land Office. Land office drafted

the appropriate language as to the requirements of the Lessard-Sam's stipulations for restrictions to be attached to all Warranty Deeds for all parcels. Natural Resource staff conducted a broad habitat evaluation to establish future habitat needs/enhancement opportunities. White Earth currently plans to keep the parcels in Fee title and continue paying taxes for the foreseeable future. The easterly parcel that abuts HWY 92 had 4 food plots for hunting, was treated for noxious weeds left prior to sale from a hunting lease. These 4 food plots were then planted to a pollinator prairie mix using a Truax seed drill. By utilizing a pollinator planting to prevent further weed growth and stabilize the soil, White Earth conserved runoff and potential contamination from eroding into the Wild Rice River on the upstream side of Lower Rice Lake while providing high quality pollinator species habitat. The remainder of this parcel is dominated by 2 nearly identical aged aspen regeneration was evaluated for an early succession forest plan by NRCS in November of 2017. Currently, there is a 5 year plan in the approval process. White Earth Forestry Department has begun assessing and inventorying current forest stands and pine plantations on several parcels. Lastly, there were several illegal dumpsites scattered across the parcels, of which most were completely picked up in 2017.

How does the request address MN habitats that have: historical value to fish and wildlife, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories:

The Conservation Project Area has habitat to support the following Minnesota Special Concern Species: acadian flycatcher, cerulean warbler, northern goshawk, red-shouldered hawk, and trumpeter swan. The trumpeter swan has been sighted in the area. The Conservation Project Area has habitat to support the following Minnesota Wildlife Species in Greatest Conservation Need: Franklin's ground squirrel, American badger, LeConte's sparrow, northern pintail, lesser scaup, American bittern, Swainson's hawk, whip-poor-will, common nighthawk, veery, northern harrier, mash wren, olive-sided flycatcher, eastern wood pewee, black throated blue warbler, least flycatcher, common loon, wood thrush, red-headed woodpecker, swamp sparrow, black crowned night heron, rose breasted grosbeak, horned grebe, red-necked grebe, American woodcock, ovenbird, brown thrasher, and golden-winged warbler. Bald eagles nest in the area. There is a healthy gray wolf population around Lower Rice Lake with at least one pack.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

White Earth has used NRCS staff that specializes in early succession forest practices to draft a plan for the easterly parcel. The draft plan has a 5 year rotation to allow better age difference among stands. Evaluating this plan's effectiveness will be gauged after 5 years. Best management practices will be used in and around all wetland and river systems to minimize degradation. The ultimate goal is protect and enhance wildlife habitat corridor along the Wild Rice River.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition:

White Earth has collaborated with USFWS, NRCS, ABC (American Bird Council) and many White Earth Tribal programs in the planning stages of the project. Currently, the NRCS has helped establish a 5 year early succession forest management plan for over 300 acres. Other programs will be used as reference and/or funding sources for future management on other parcels.

Additional Comments:

Exceptional challenges, expectations, failures, opportunities, or unique aspects of program

Not Listed

Other Funds Received:

- Not Listed

How were the funds used to advanced the program:

Not Listed

What is the plan to sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

White Earth Natural Resources Department has ample recurring annual funding from both the BIA and White Earth General Fund to sustain future management goals and objectives. These funds support staff and many of the on-the-ground management projects in the future. White Earth also has habitat management partners in the USFWS, NRCS, and MN DNR that can be used as both funding and technical assistance sources to aid in future planning and completion of projects.

Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2018	White Earth Wildlife/NRCS	Assess/inventory Forest Resources	Draft/approve Early Succession Forest Plan	Implement Plan
2019	White Earth Forestry	Assess/inventory Forest Resources	Draft and approve a Forestry Mgt. Plan	Implement Forestry Mgt. Plan

Outcomes:

The original accomplishment plan stated the program would

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation *White Earth Nation will evaluate the effectiveness in protecting forestlands from fragmentation by measuring the total acreage of contiguous forestland that is transferred from private ownership to tribal ownership. In addition, to measure the added value of protecting land adjacent to existing protected lands or in areas of heightened habitat importance (such as riparian corridors), White Earth Nation will break out and measure subsets of the total acreage of protected forestland that are adjacent to existing protected lands or are in areas of special habitat value (e.g., in riparian corridors).*

How will the outcomes be measured and evaluated?

White Earth will protect/conserves/manage all 2034 acres for wildlife habitat. Besides creating and enhancing quality habitat, the protection of the Wild Rice River riparian corridor is of utmost importance. All management activities that are in any way thought to be possible impact on this corridor will be guided and evaluated with utmost care. Creating diverse habitat types that focuses on numerous age classes of forest types to provide a mosaic of habitat types. Ultimately a long-term goal is to provide a habitat management plan that protects riparian corridors and provides uneven-aged forest habitats.

Budget Spreadsheet

Final Budget line item reallocations are allowed up to 10% and do not need require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

Total Amount: \$2,188,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000	White Earth Nation, White Earth Nation, White Earth Nation	\$120,000	\$120,000
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$70,000	\$0	White Earth Nation	\$70,000	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$2,180,000	\$2,136,000	\$0	\$0		\$2,180,000	\$2,136,000
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$8,000	\$13,300	\$8,000	\$0	White Earth Nation	\$16,000	\$13,300
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$4,300	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$4,300
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,188,000	\$2,153,600	\$198,000	\$120,000		\$2,386,000	\$2,273,600

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	Spent	Cash Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Forester	0.10	3.00	\$0	\$25,000	White Earth Nation	\$25,000
Wildlife Manager	0.20	3.00	\$0	\$50,000	White Earth Nation	\$50,000
Tribal Land Manager	0.25	2.00	\$0	\$45,000	White Earth Nation	\$45,000
Total	0.55	8.00	\$0	\$120,000		\$120,000

Amount of Request: \$2,188,000

Amount of Leverage: \$198,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 9.05%

DSS + Personnel: \$0

As a % of the total request: 0.00%

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Not Listed

All revenues received by the recipient that have been generated from activities on land with money from the OHF:

Total Revenue: \$2,188,000

Revenue Spent: \$2,153,600

Revenue Balance: \$34,400

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	199	199	40	40	1,795	1,795	0	0	2,034	2,034
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	199	199	40	40	1,795	1,795	0	0	2,034	2,034

Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?

Type	Native Prairie (original)	Native Prairie (final)
Restore	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0
Enhance	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$221,000	\$212,700	\$56,000	\$52,400	\$1,911,000	\$1,888,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,188,000	\$2,153,600
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$221,000	\$212,700	\$56,000	\$52,400	\$1,911,000	\$1,888,500	\$0	\$0	\$2,188,000	\$2,153,600

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SEForest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,034	2,034	2,034	2,034
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,034	2,034	2,034	2,034

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,188,000	\$2,153,600	\$2,188,000	\$2,153,600
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,188,000	\$2,153,600	\$2,188,000	\$2,153,600

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$1,111	\$1,069	\$1,400	\$1,310	\$1,065	\$1,052	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,076	\$1,059	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (original)

5

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (final)

5

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals:

Not Listed

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Clearwater

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Parcel 112170200	14538217	2,034	\$	No	Full	Limited	Forestland

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Completed Parcel: Parcel 112170200

# of Total Acres:	2034
County:	Clearwater
Township:	145
Range:	38
Direction:	2
Section:	17
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	2034
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	
Annual Reporting Address:	
Annual Reporting City:	
Annual Reporting State:	
Annual Reporting Zip:	
Annual Reporting Email:	
Annual Reporting Phone:	
Purchase Date:	December 01, 2016
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$2,136,000
Appraised Value:	\$2,136,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$17,600
Assessed Value:	\$2,136,000
Total Project Cost:	\$0
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$0
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	-
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	White Earth Nation

Parcel Map

Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the Wild Rice River Watershed

