



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Restoration Evaluations Program Laws of Minnesota 2013 Final Report

General Information

Date: 06/02/2026

Project Title: Restoration Evaluations Program

Funds Recommended: \$45,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2013, Ch. 137, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 6(c)

Appropriation Language: \$45,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for a technical evaluation panel to conduct up to ten restoration evaluations under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 10.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Wade Johnson

Title:

Organization: DNR

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Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Activity types:

Other : Restoration Evaluation

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

This program annually evaluates a sample of up to ten Outdoor Heritage Fund habitat restoration projects and provides a report on the evaluations in accordance with state law (M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10).

Process & Methods

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) are jointly responsible for convening a restoration evaluation panel (REP) of technical experts to annually evaluate a sample of up to 10 habitat restoration projects completed with outdoor heritage funding, as provided in M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10. Primary goals of the REP reports include improving future habitat restorations in the state and providing for transparency and accountability in the use of Legacy funds. The REP will evaluate the selected habitat restoration projects relative to the law, current science, stated goals and standards in the restoration plans, and applicable guidelines. The program coordinator, as statutorily required, is responsible for both identifying the sample of projects to be evaluated by the panel and providing a report to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and the legislature determining whether restorations are meeting planned goals, identifying problems with implementation of restorations and, if necessary, providing recommendations on improving restorations. As part of the restoration evaluation process, site assessments will be conducted on the selected habitat restoration projects.

In 2011 BWSR and DNR leadership initiated a year-long interagency project, staffed by a project manager and an interdisciplinary team of technical and professional experts, to cooperatively develop recommendations for the formation and implementation of the program, ensuring the effective coordination between the two responsible agencies and consistency in program development. The project team established recommendations for the development and implementation of a Restoration Evaluations Program, including options for administration of the program and recommendations on the process and methods for selecting and evaluating habitat restoration projects and reporting on the panel findings (see attached Development and Implementation of a Habitat Restoration Evaluation Program for Legacy Projects).

In 2012 the DNR hired a full time Restoration Evaluation Coordinator to manage implementation of the program. As directed in statute a restoration evaluation panel (REP) of technical experts was seated. This panel consists of:

Chris Weir-Koetter – DNR, Parks and Trails

Greg Larson – BWSR

Sue Galatowitsch – University of Minnesota

Greg Berg – Stearns County SWCD

Greg Hoch - DNR, Wildlife

Mark Oja – MN NRCS

The first REP meeting was convened in May 2012. At this time annual priorities for the fiscal year 2012 & fiscal year 2013 reports were established. Six Outdoor Heritage Fund projects have been selected for evaluation during the 2012 field season. Two of these evaluations will be reported in the fiscal year 2012 report on October 31st 2012, four will be reported on in the fiscal year 2013 report on October 31st 2013. It is anticipated, given current funding, that six projects will be evaluated and reported on for the fiscal year 2014 report.

This request supports a portion of the interagency Restoration Evaluations Program, which provides for the evaluation of habitat restoration projects completed with funds from the Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53), Outdoor Heritage Fund (M.S. 97A.056), and Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50) as required by state law.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

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

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

Budget

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$18,700	\$25,500	\$26,000	-	-	-	\$18,700	\$26,000
Contracts	-	\$15,500	\$15,500	-	-	-	-	\$15,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$3,500	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,500	-
Professional Services	\$16,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$16,000	-
Direct Support Services	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$3,100	-	-	-	\$3,800	\$3,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,000	-
Supplies/Materials	\$2,000	\$200	\$400	-	-	-	\$2,000	\$400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	-	-	-	\$45,000	\$45,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Restoration evaluations program coordinator	0.4	1.0	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Project Evaluators (State Staff)	0.01	0.01	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000

Direct Support Services

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

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Total Revenue: -

Revenue Spent: -

Revenue Balance: \$0

Of the money disclosed above, what are the appropriate uses of the money:

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

Clean Water Fund

How were the funds used to advance the program?

The Restoration Evaluation Program for Legacy Projects concurrently fulfills requirements to conduct restoration evaluations (M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Ch. 6) for projects completed with funds from the Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50) and Parks and Trails Fund (M.S. 85.53).

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Acres (AP)	Total Acres (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	0	0	0	0	0	0	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
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Funding (AP)	Total Funding (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	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	0	0	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
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/ Urban (AP)	Metro/ Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals

Outcomes

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

No