



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2014 Final Report

General Information

Date: 10/23/2020

Project Title: Reinvest In Minnesota Wetlands Partnership Phase VI

Funds Recommended: \$9,710,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2014, Ch. 256, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(a)

Appropriation Language: \$9,710,000 in the second year is to the Board of Soil and Water Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore wetlands and associated upland habitat in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and Ducks Unlimited, including \$645,000 for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to provide technical and bioengineering assistance. Up to \$190,000 to the Board of Water and Soil Resources is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the final report. The appropriations in Laws 2012, chapter 264, article 1, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (a), and Laws 2013, chapter 137, article 1, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (a), may be used for the purposes of this appropriation.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Sharon Doucette

Title: Easement Section Manager

Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources

Address: 520 Lafayette Road North

City: St. Paul, MN 55155

Email: sharon.doucette@state.mn.us

Office Number: 651-539-2567

Mobile Number:

Fax Number:

Website: www.bwsr.state.mn.us

Location Information

County Location(s): Redwood, Swift, Mahnommen, Nobles, Murray, Roseau, Renville, Lyon, Steele and Brown.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Wetlands Partnership Phase VI protected and restored 1,391 acres of previously drained wetlands and adjacent grasslands on 15 conservation easements.

Process & Methods

The RIM Wetlands Partnership Phase VI restored and protected almost 1,400 acres of previously drained wetlands and associated upland grassland wildlife habitat complexes via 15 permanent conservation easements. The goal of the RIM Wetlands Partnership was to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values and optimizing wildlife habitat on acres enrolled. Wetlands and adjacent grasslands provide habitat for waterfowl, pheasants, deer and non-game species, some that are threatened or endangered.

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 part 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 Wetlands Partnership held meetings regularly to provide program oversight and guidance and to establish payment rates for upcoming sign-ups. The RIM Wetlands Partnership used the GIS Wildlife Habitat Potential Model developed by the USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) to evaluate each easement application on its potential to restore wetland functions and values along with optimum wildlife habitat benefits.

A RIM Wetlands Partnership statewide sign-up was held in 2015. All applications were scored and ranked using the RIM Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet. The worksheet evaluated which projects provided the greatest wetland functions and values and optimized wildlife habitat on the selected and enrolled acres. The highest scoring applications were selected for funding.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

The RIM Wetlands Partnership was a local-state-federal partnership delivered locally by Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The partnership included collaboration among many local, state and federal partners including Ducks Unlimited (DU), the Minnesota

Waterfowl Association (MWA), Pheasants Forever (PF), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) and the United States Department of Interior - Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS).

In addition, Ducks Unlimited was a full partner in the RIM Wetlands Partnership, providing engineering services, promoting RIM easements and providing essential technical assistance and project management services through DU RIM specialists.

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

The 22% less acres than accomplished is a result of:

Losing the NRCS partnership for WRP between Proposal and Accomplishment Plan, this was the first accomplishment plan that had to be budgeted as RIM-only (no federal contribution).

For budget purposes, we likely used an average per acre rate for easement acquisition (calculated as a statewide average). Two of the largest easements under this appropriation (in Redwood and Renville) have a higher than average per acre cost. In addition, 8 of the 15 easements were recorded in counties that had higher than average payment rates in 2015 - Redwood, Renville, Murray and Nobles. This resulted in approximately 50% of the easement acquisition payments going toward approximately 30% of the easement acres.

What other funds contributed to this program?

- Other : Farm Bill Assistance Partnership with BWSR, DNR, PF and SWCDs

How were the funds used to advance the program?

The Farm Bill Assistance Partnership with BWSR, DNR, PF and SWCDs paid SWCDs to have technicians to promote the conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill and other conservation program opportunities to private landowners. The Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) provided \$1.0M via an LCCMR recommendation in FY10-11, \$625,000 in FY12-13 and \$3.0M in FY 14-15.

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

BWSR is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring of RIM easements into perpetuity. 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 and on-site inspections are performed every three years with compliance checks completed the other two years after the initial 5 years. SWCDs report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted and document findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations are identified.

Budget

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

| Item | Request | Spent | Antic. Leverage | Received Leverage | Leverage Source | Original Total | Final Total |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$396,500 | \$396,500 | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | -, Ducks Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited | \$411,500 | \$411,500 |
| Contracts | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | \$8,387,100 | \$8,274,100 | - | - | - | \$8,387,100 | \$8,274,100 |
| Easement Stewardship | \$190,000 | \$97,500 | - | - | - | \$190,000 | \$97,500 |
| Travel | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | - | - | - | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |
| Professional Services | \$685,500 | \$667,000 | - | - | - | \$685,500 | \$667,000 |
| Direct Support Services | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | \$7,100 | \$3,300 | - | - | - | \$7,100 | \$3,300 |
| Supplies/Materials | \$13,800 | \$9,400 | - | - | - | \$13,800 | \$9,400 |
| DNR IDP | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Total | \$9,710,000 | \$9,477,800 | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | - | \$9,725,000 | \$9,492,800 |

Partner: Ducks Unlimited

Totals

| Item | Request | Spent | Antic. Leverage | Received Leverage | Leverage Source | Original Total | Final Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Personnel | \$45,000 | \$11,000 | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | Ducks Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited | \$60,000 | \$26,000 |
| Contracts | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Stewardship | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Travel | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Professional Services | \$600,000 | \$628,600 | - | - | - | \$600,000 | \$628,600 |
| Direct Support Services | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Supplies/Materials | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| DNR IDP | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Total | \$645,000 | \$639,600 | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | - | \$660,000 | \$654,600 |

Personnel

| Position | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Antic. Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| DU Manager | 0.2 | 1.0 | \$5,300 | \$5,000 | Ducks Unlimited | \$10,300 |
| DU Engineer | 0.25 | 1.0 | \$5,700 | \$10,000 | Ducks Unlimited | \$15,700 |

Partner: BWSR

Totals

| Item | Request | Spent | Antic. Leverage | Received Leverage | Leverage Source | Original Total | Final Total |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | \$351,500 | \$385,500 | - | - | - | \$351,500 | \$385,500 |
| Contracts | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Easement Acquisition | \$8,387,100 | \$8,274,100 | - | - | - | \$8,387,100 | \$8,274,100 |
| Easement Stewardship | \$190,000 | \$97,500 | - | - | - | \$190,000 | \$97,500 |
| Travel | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | - | - | - | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |
| Professional Services | \$85,500 | \$38,400 | - | - | - | \$85,500 | \$38,400 |
| Direct Support Services | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Equipment | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other Equipment/Tools | \$7,100 | \$3,300 | - | - | - | \$7,100 | \$3,300 |
| Supplies/Materials | \$13,800 | \$9,400 | - | - | - | \$13,800 | \$9,400 |
| DNR IDP | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Total | \$9,065,000 | \$8,838,200 | - | - | - | \$9,065,000 | \$8,838,200 |

Personnel

| Position | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Antic. Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Engineering and Eco Services | 0.9 | 3.0 | \$297,400 | - | - | \$297,400 |
| Project Manager | 0.15 | 3.0 | \$45,000 | - | - | \$45,000 |
| Easement/Database/GIS | 0.11 | 3.0 | \$26,100 | - | - | \$26,100 |
| Program Management | 0.05 | 3.0 | \$17,000 | - | - | \$17,000 |

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: \$0

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

- E. This is not applicable as there was no revenue generated.

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 | 580 | 751 | 1,185 | 643 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,765 | 1,394 |
| Enhance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 580 | 751 | 1,185 | 643 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,765 | 1,394 |

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 | \$3,204,300 | \$4,866,700 | \$6,505,700 | \$4,153,800 | - | - | - | - | \$9,710,000 | \$9,020,500 |
| Enhance | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | \$3,204,300 | \$4,866,700 | \$6,505,700 | \$4,153,800 | - | - | - | - | \$9,710,000 | \$9,020,500 |

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 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|----------|------------|------------|----------|----------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Fee w/o State PILT Liability | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protect in Easement | 100 | 0 | 265 | 119 | 0 | 0 | 1,400 | 1,275 | 0 | 0 | 1,765 | 1,394 |
| Enhance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100 | 0 | 265 | 119 | 0 | 0 | 1,400 | 1,275 | 0 | 0 | 1,765 | 1,394 |

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 | \$485,500 | - | \$1,456,500 | \$764,700 | - | - | \$7,768,000 | \$8,255,800 | - | - | \$9,710,000 | \$9,020,500 |
| Enhance | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | \$485,500 | - | \$1,456,500 | \$764,700 | - | - | \$7,768,000 | \$8,255,800 | - | - | \$9,710,000 | \$9,020,500 |

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

| Type | Wetland (AP) | Wetland (Final) | Prairie (AP) | Prairie (Final) | Forest (AP) | Forest (Final) | Habitat (AP) | Habitat (Final) |
|--|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Restore | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | \$5,524 | \$6,480 | \$5,490 | \$6,460 | - | - | - | - |
| Enhance | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

| 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) |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Restore | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---|---------|---------|---|---|---------|---------|---|---|
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement | \$4,855 | - | \$5,496 | \$6,426 | - | - | \$5,548 | \$6,475 | - | - |
| Enhance | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Improved aquatic habitat indicators ~ *Conservation plans developed and implemented to maximize environmental benefits, restore hydrology to pre-altered state for both the wetlands and the associated uplands, and maximize wildlife benefits using sound practices.*
- Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Conservation plans developed and implemented to maximize environmental benefits, restore hydrology to pre-altered state for both the wetlands and the associated uplands, and maximize wildlife benefits using sound practices.*
- Water is kept on the land ~ *Conservation plans developed and implemented to maximize environmental benefits, restore hydrology to pre-altered state for both the wetlands and the associated uplands, and maximize wildlife benefits using sound practices.*
- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need ~ *Conservation plans developed and implemented to maximize environmental benefits, restore hydrology to pre-altered state for both the wetlands and the associated uplands, and maximize wildlife benefits using sound practices.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *RIM Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet used to prioritize sites to achieve maximum benefit.*
- Other ~ *RIM Wetland Restoration Evaluation Worksheet used to prioritize sites to achieve maximum benefit.*

Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Conservation plans developed and implemented to maximize environmental benefits, restore hydrology to pre-altered state for both the wetlands and the associated uplands, and maximize wildlife benefits using sound practices. Expiring CRP contracts were targeted and prioritized for both outreach and funding. Targeted outreach conducted in critical habitat landscapes.*
- Expiring CRP lands are permanently protected ~ *Conservation plans developed and implemented to maximize environmental benefits, restore hydrology to pre-altered state for both the wetlands and the associated uplands, and maximize wildlife benefits using sound practices. Expiring CRP contracts were*

targeted and prioritized for both outreach and funding. Targeted outreach conducted in critical habitat landscapes.

- *Increased participation of private landowners in habitat projects ~ Conservation plans developed and implemented to maximize environmental benefits, restore hydrology to pre-altered state for both the wetlands and the associated uplands, and maximize wildlife benefits using sound practices. Expiring CRP contracts were targeted and prioritized for both outreach and funding. Targeted outreach conducted in critical habitat landscapes.*
- *Remnant native prairies and wetlands are perpetually protected and adequately buffered ~ Conservation plans developed and implemented to maximize environmental benefits, restore hydrology to pre-altered state for both the wetlands and the associated uplands, and maximize wildlife benefits using sound practices. Expiring CRP contracts were targeted and prioritized for both outreach and funding. Targeted outreach conducted in critical habitat landscapes.*
- *Water is kept on the land to reduce flood potential and degradation of aquatic habitat ~ Conservation plans developed and implemented to maximize environmental benefits, restore hydrology to pre-altered state for both the wetlands and the associated uplands, and maximize wildlife benefits using sound practices. Expiring CRP contracts were targeted and prioritized for both outreach and funding. Targeted outreach conducted in critical habitat landscapes.*
- *Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for migratory and unique Minnesota species ~ Conservation plans developed and implemented to maximize environmental benefits, restore hydrology to pre-altered state for both the wetlands and the associated uplands, and maximize wildlife benefits using sound practices. Expiring CRP contracts were targeted and prioritized for both outreach and funding. Targeted outreach conducted in critical habitat landscapes.*

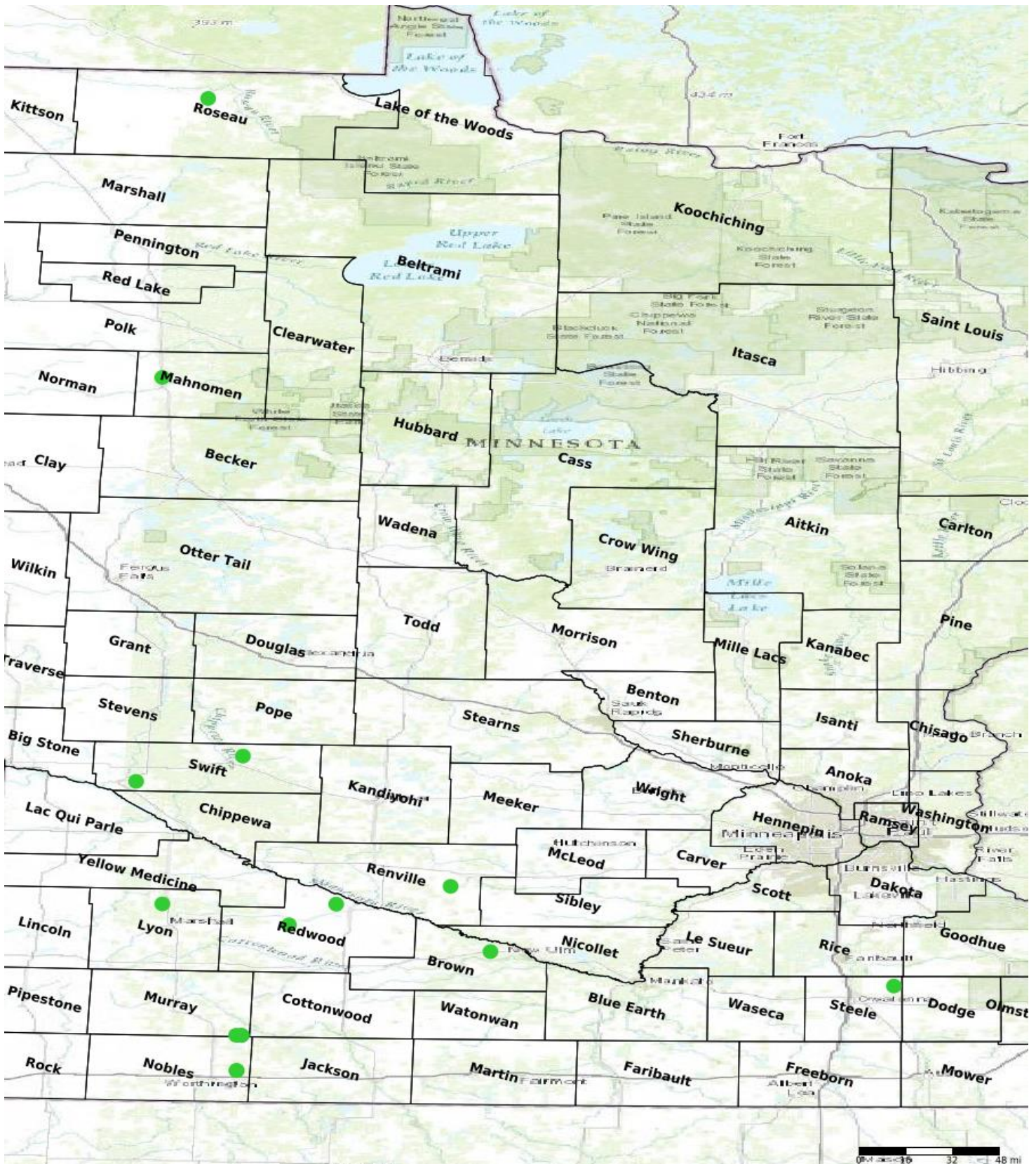
Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes](#)

Protect Parcels

| Name | County | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection |
|---------------|----------|----------|-------|-------------|---------------------|
| 08-01-15-03-- | Brown | 11031220 | 76 | \$577,300 | No |
| 42-02-15-03-- | Lyon | 11341232 | 64 | \$517,600 | No |
| 44-01-15-03-- | Mahnomen | 14542223 | 304 | \$640,500 | No |
| 51-01-15-03-- | Murray | 10539235 | 10 | \$91,800 | No |
| 51-03-15-03-- | Murray | 10539234 | 10 | \$91,200 | No |
| 51-02-15-03-- | Murray | 10539235 | 44 | \$397,000 | No |
| 53-04-15-03-- | Nobles | 10239203 | 4 | \$36,000 | No |
| 53-03-15-03-- | Nobles | 10239203 | 37 | \$328,500 | No |
| 64-08-15-03-- | Redwood | 11336227 | 3 | \$17,400 | No |
| 64-07-15-03-- | Redwood | 11137206 | 129 | \$1,134,200 | No |
| 65-01-15-03-- | Renville | 11432219 | 146 | \$1,324,000 | No |
| 68-01-15-03-- | Roseau | 16240218 | 118 | \$110,900 | No |
| 74-01-15-03-- | Steele | 10819223 | 95 | \$664,600 | No |
| 76-02-15-03-- | Swift | 12239227 | 196 | \$755,800 | No |
| 76-01-15-03-- | Swift | 12042217 | 158 | \$587,100 | No |



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

Parcel Map
Reinvest In Minnesota Wetlands Partnership Phase
VI
(Data Generated From Parcel List)