



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

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### Laws of Minnesota 2018 Accomplishment Plan

#### General Information

**Date:** 08/06/2020

**Project Title:** Metro Wildlife Management Areas

**Funds Recommended:** \$1,174,000

**Legislative Citation:** ML 2018, Ch. 208, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 5(e )

**Appropriation Language:** \$1,174,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with The Conservation Fund to acquire lands in fee in the metro area planning region for wildlife management under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

#### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Emilee Nelson

**Title:**

**Organization:** The Conservation Fund

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#### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Isanti, Anoka and Sibley.

**Eco regions in which work will take place:**

- Metro / Urban

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Fee

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands

- Habitat

## Narrative

### Abstract

Using the best science and biological data available, this project will protect sites that the DNR and has identified as high priority habitat acquisitions that are vital to support specific wildlife targets in the Metro Section Planning region. The Conservation Fund (TCF) will proactively contact and negotiate land protection with willing landowners in these complexes in coordination with DNR and local conservation groups and local communities to maximize wildlife populations of statewide and local importance.

### Design and Scope of Work

#### Problem to be Addressed

Throughout Minnesota, the MN DNR Division of Wildlife has identified wildlife habitat complexes, however many are only partially completed and not able to sustain viable populations of targeted species. Regional and state wildlife acquisition staff identified high priority DNR acquisitions, but have not yet been able, for a variety of reasons, to protect these sites.

#### Scope of Work

The priorities have been ranked by DNR wildlife management personnel and then vetted through statewide acquisition meetings held by DNR and attended by conservation partners. The parcels listed in this proposal comprise high priorities for DNR and our conservation partners. Although these priorities have been identified on a biologically important basis, it is our intention to also communicate long-term visions for wildlife habitat with local communities to establish a shared vision for conservation outcomes that will positively impact local economic vitality.

#### Current Trends

Fluctuations in real estate markets have opened an opportunity to work with these willing sellers in to potentially protect wildlife habitat for a better value than has been seen in the recent past. This can create a mutually beneficial strategy - to protect ecologically important sites while also allowing willing sellers to liquidate marginal land. Selling non-productive lands benefits wildlife and benefits the landowner.

Another timely opportunity exists to improve stakeholder communication between wildlife professionals and communities toward a comprehensive vision for how wildlife habitat can be integrated with existing and future local community goals in these areas.

### **How does the plan address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species?**

This project will provide habitat value to grassland and migratory birds, as well as aquatic habitat for the Blanding's turtle, identified as a Threatened status in Minnesota. As stated, the MN DNR have identified these sites as the highest ecological priority to protect critical habitat for the documented species.

**Describe how the plan uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:**

TCF has worked with DNR ecologists and Minnesota County Biological Survey staff to identify sites of importance for Species of Greatest Conservation Need to target the essential boundaries required for a species to persist in perpetuity in each of the priority areas. Once the areas are identified, the estimated carrying capacity the area can hold was then factored into the projected cost to protect those properties. By building on existing habitat complexes and focusing on marginal agricultural lands, the return on investment is far greater so that we can focus protection where costs of protection and restoration are low relative to the gain in conservation benefits.

**Which two sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are most applicable to this project?**

- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

**Which two other plans are addressed in this program?**

- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years
- Other : The Campaign for Conservation: A Fifty-Year Vision: Conservation for Minnesota's Future

**Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?**

**Metro / Urban**

- Protect, enhance, and restore riparian and littoral habitats on lakes to benefit game and nongame fish species

**Does this program include leveraged funding?**

-

**Non-OHF Appropriations**

Year	Source	Amount
2016	McKnight Foundation	\$6,000

**How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?**

TCF will seek to acquire only those parcels that demonstrate the best yield of conservation outcomes relative to cost to the State. TCF This will help to increase the likelihood that the MN DNR will have sufficient resources to manage the acquired sites. Additionally, TCF, as a requirement of our organization and a byproduct of maintaining our accreditation, completes land management plans, including costs estimates for all land management needs.

**Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes**

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2018	TCF	Conduct cost-benefit analysis with partner	Complete management plan per LTA accreditation standards	

## Activity Details

### Requirements

**If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?**

Yes

**Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition?**

No

**Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:**

The Conservation Fund will discuss projects with local government officials in conjunction with the acquisition process to determine if the conservation outcomes of the projects complement the goals of the community. The Conservation Fund does not seek pre-approval for land acquisitions but meets with local government officials to discuss the public benefits of the projects and the potential financial impacts.

**Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?**

Yes

### Land Use

**Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?**

Yes

**Explain what will be planted:**

Fee title lands that will be held and managed in perpetuity by the MN DNR are subject to DNR policies regarding the planting of corn or any crop, and we are unsure at this time what those policies will entail regarding the lands listed in this proposal.

**Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated?**

False

**Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?**

No

**Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?**

Yes

**Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:**

No variation.

**Who will eventually own the fee title land?**

MN DNR.

**Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?**

No

**Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?**

No

### Other OHF Appropriation Awards

### Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
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Discuss conservation goals with local decision makers and communities.	Fall 2018
Real estate due diligence.	Summer 2019-Summer 2020
Close on priority projects.	Summer 2019-Summer 2020
Convey to DNR	Upon closing

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 11/01/2021

## Budget

### Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$30,000	\$6,000	Private Source	\$36,000
Contracts	-	-		-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$937,000	-		\$937,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-		-
Easement Acquisition	-	-		-
Easement Stewardship	-	-		-
Travel	\$3,000	-		\$3,000
Professional Services	\$20,000	-		\$20,000
Direct Support Services	\$4,000	-		\$4,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$5,000	-		\$5,000
Capital Equipment	-	-		-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-		-
Supplies/Materials	-	-		-
DNR IDP	\$175,000	-		\$175,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,174,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>		<b>\$1,180,000</b>

### Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MN Acquisition Associate	0.05	3.0	\$15,000	\$6,000	Private Source	\$21,000
MN State Director	0.04	2.0	\$15,000	-		\$15,000

**Amount of Request:** \$1,174,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$6,000

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 0.51%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$34,000

**As a % of the total request:** 2.9%

**Easement Stewardship:** -

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** -

**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?**

The program is scalable and will pursue priority tracts with the available recommendation.

**Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:**

Private sources support land protection work in this watershed, and funding is in-hand.

### Travel

**Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?**

-

**Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging**

**I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:**

No

### **Direct Support Services**

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

Our real estate support staff keeps hourly time sheets to track direct time spent on projects by grant source. We have used those past metrics to estimate the costs for this grant.

### **Federal Funds**

**Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?**

No

## Output Tables

### Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	20	0	0	280	300
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>300</b>

### Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$70,000	-	-	\$1,104,000	\$1,174,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,104,000</b>	<b>\$1,174,000</b>

### Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	300	0	0	0	0	300
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>

### Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$1,174,000	-	-	-	-	\$1,174,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,174,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,174,000</b>

### Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$3,500	-	-	\$3,942
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

### Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$3,913	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State	-	-	-	-	-



PILT Liability					
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

**Outcomes**

**Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:**

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *The sites in this proposal contain 8 rare and threatened species and plant communities which are monitored by the MN County Biological Survey staff.*

## Parcels

### Parcel Information

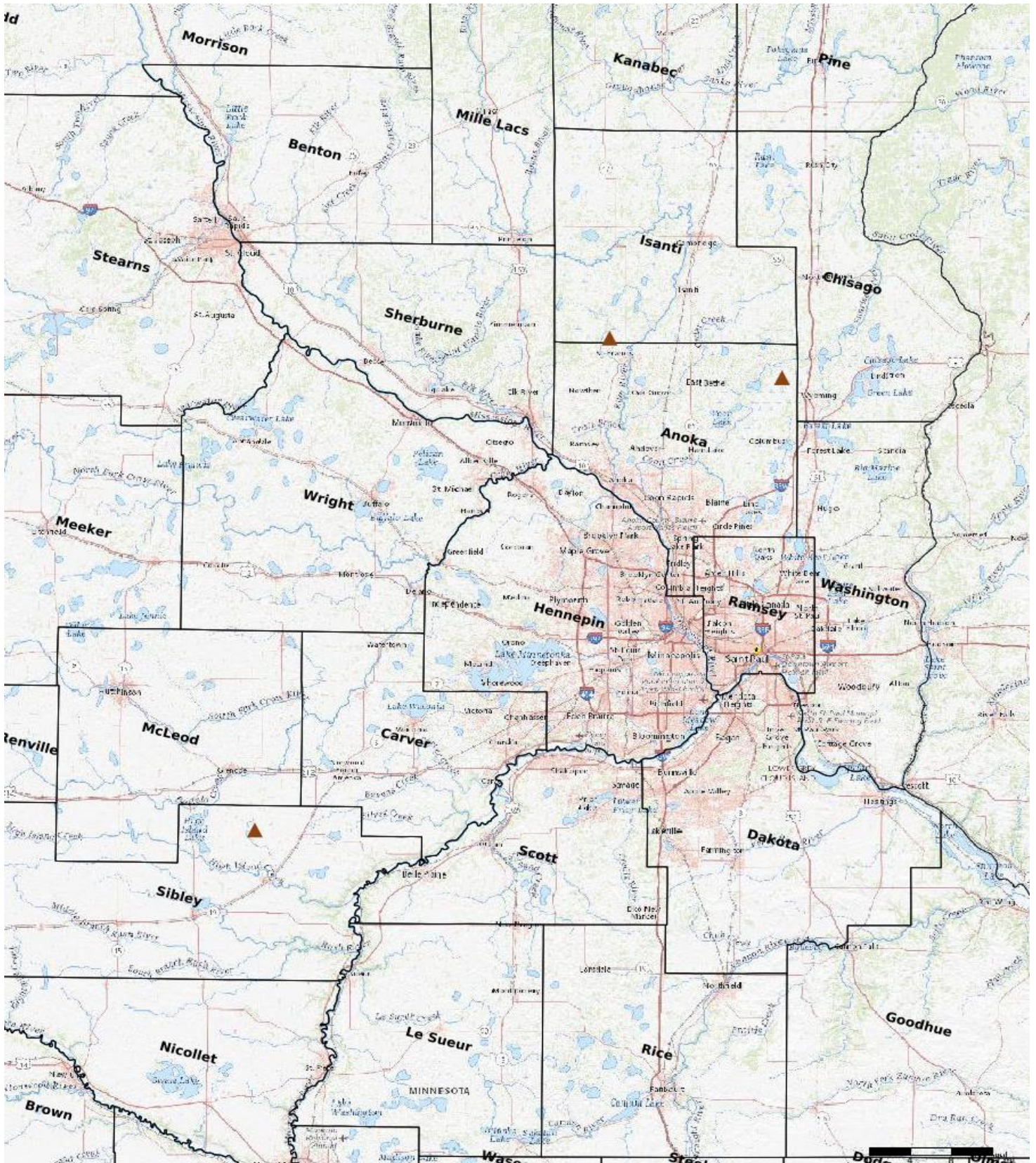
#### Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes](#)

**Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:**

### Protect Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Carlos Avery WMA	Anoka	03322211	80	\$84,000	No	0	\$0
Crown WMA	Isanti	03425224	393	\$1,658,000	No	0	\$0
Severance Lake WMA	Sibley	11427217	142	\$600,000	No	0	\$0



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

**Parcel Map**  
**Metro Wildlife Management Areas**  
**(Data Generated From Parcel List)**