



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Phase XV  
Laws of Minnesota 2025 Accomplishment Plan

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### General Information

**Date:** 10/29/2024

**Project Title:** Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Phase XV

**Funds Recommended:** \$3,658,000

**Legislative Citation:** ML 2025, Ch. XXX, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd.

**Appropriation Language:**

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Chris McGrath

**Title:** Habitat Protection Manager

**Organization:** The Nature Conservancy

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### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Nicollet, Becker, Brown, Chippewa, Big Stone, Clay, Cottonwood, Grant, Jackson, Kittson, Kandiyohi, Lyon, Lincoln, Lac qui Parle, Murray, Mahnomen, Marshall, Nobles, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Pipestone, Pope, Polk, Redwood, Red Lake, Renville, Rock, Stearns, Wilkin, Roseau, Swift, Stevens, Traverse, Yellow Medicine and Martin.

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

- Prairie
- Forest / Prairie Transition

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Prairie

**Narrative****Abstract**

The Nature Conservancy and US Fish and Wildlife Service will work together to permanently protect native prairie and associated complexes of wetlands and native habitats in western and central Minnesota by purchasing approximately 705 acres of permanent conservation easements and/or fee title properties. Approximately 480 acres will be native prairie. Work will be focused in priority areas identified in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan that have significant biodiversity by the Minnesota Biological Survey.

**Design and Scope of Work**

The Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) was established in 2000 to address the loss of America's grasslands and the decline of grassland wildlife. The Refuge was created to permanently preserve and restore a portion of our disappearing tallgrass prairie. The Refuge is authorized to work in the prairie landscapes of western Minnesota and northwestern Iowa.

To date, the Refuge has protected more than 14,199 acres. Funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) will allow The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), working in partnership, to significantly accelerate this progress. TNC and USFWS will cooperate on protecting approximately 705 acres of native prairie and associated habitat in the 49 Minnesota counties within the Refuge boundary. We expect to protect approximately 635 acres with permanent habitat easements and approximately 70 acres in fee title.

This program's work is targeted at protecting high-quality native habitat in areas with existing concentrations of native prairie, wetlands, and protected lands. The lands protected will consist of native prairie and associated habitats including wetlands, streams, coulees, and lakes.

Potential acquisitions are reviewed using the following criteria:

- 1) Is there untilled native prairie on the tract? If not, is it adjacent to untilled native prairie?
- 2) Is the property in a priority area (core/corridor/complex) identified in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan (Prairie Plan)?
- 3) Is it adjacent to an existing complex of protected land?
- 4) Was it identified by Minnesota Biological Survey (Biological Survey) or FWS biologists as having concentrations of threatened and endangered species and communities?
- 5) Is it suitable for public recreation?

Previous OHF support has allowed the partners to make significant progress towards our shared goal of protecting and buffering the remaining native prairie. The first property was acquired in March, 2013. Since then, approximately 8,578 acres have been added to the Refuge with OHF funding. Of these, approximately 5,258 acres (approximately 61%) are classified as untilled native prairie. Additional habitat includes approximately 691 acres of wetlands, 28 miles of stream front, and more than 2.5 miles of lakefront.

We have closed & signed \$3.5m of acquisitions over the past 12 months and we are negotiating with landowners for an additional \$5.9m of proposed conservation easements. Considering that we close 68% of proposed, which is \$4m out of the \$5.9m, the combination of the \$4m and the \$3.5m of closed and signed acquisitions is \$7.5m. At this

rate of success, we'll have signed & committed all remaining acquisition funds in all remaining appropriations in less than 7 months from today even though we have until June 30th 2028, nearly four more years, to spend down our most current appropriation, which is ML 2024.

With the continued support from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, this program will continue to make lasting progress towards protecting Minnesota's native prairies and the wildlife that depend on those lands.

### **Explain how the plan addresses habitat protection, restoration, and/or enhancement for fish, game & wildlife, including threatened or endangered species conservation**

The NTP NWR program takes the approach that specific species are best protected by conserving high-quality habitat in the most critical prairie areas.

This focus on habitat quality has produced results. Of the 8,578 acres protected, approximately 50% have been identified as having significant biodiversity by the Biological Survey. These high-quality lands provide habitat for a wide range of species, from game species to those that are endangered, threatened, or in greatest conservation need.

Biological Survey field work has identified populations of 29 rare species located wholly or partially on NTP NWR properties protected with OHF-funding. Benefited species include:

Birds – Henslow's sparrow (endangered), Wilson's phalarope (threatened), greater prairie-chicken, marbled godwit, short-eared owl, bald eagle, and yellow rail  
 Butterflies – Dakota skipper (endangered), Poweshiek skipperling (endangered), arogos skipper, Pawnee skipper, and regal fritillary  
 Fish - Topeka shiner (endangered)  
 Reptiles - Blanding's turtle (threatened)  
 Plants – prairie bush clover (federally threatened), sterile sedge (threatened), hair-like beak rush (threatened), western white prairie clover, blanket flower, buffalo grass, few-flowered spikerush, Hall's sedge, least moonwort, Missouri milk-vetch, mudwort, prairie mimosa, slender milk-vetch, slender plantain, and small white lady's slipper.

Highlights over the past year included the protection of 752 grassland acres, including 506 acres of untilled native prairie, 60 acres of wetlands, 6.3 miles of stream frontage, much of which identified as critical habitat for the Topeka Shiner, a federally listed species, and other populations of federally listed species & Species in Greatest Conservation Need.

Future acquisition work will be guided by this same focus on high-quality, diverse habitat, benefiting a wide range of species. As we successfully continue with the program to protect the last remaining native prairie in MN, we are seeing climate resiliency benefits resulting from increased enhancement and restoration investments. To that end, this proposal includes an increase in requested funding for the enhancement and restoration of approximately 750 acres. This increase also takes into consideration the MN Department of Labor & Industry (DLI) prevailing wage requirements. As we continue to correspond with the DLI, we will inform the Council of changes made to the application of prevailing wage.

### **What are the elements of this plan that are critical from a timing perspective?**

While native prairie once covered one-third of Minnesota, this habitat type has experienced steep declines in recent decades, and it is estimated that only approximately 1% of untilled prairie remains. Many of these remaining areas are small and geographically isolated from each other. Conversion of the few remaining native

prairie areas to cropland, sand and gravel mining, and residential development has been a consistent and real threat in many areas of the state. To protect these irreplaceable habitats, it is essential to either place them in public ownership through fee acquisition, which allows the public to enjoy the habitats for recreation or hunting/fishing, or to prevent the conversion of these habitats with permanent conservation easements.

### **Describe how the plan expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:**

In addition to an evaluation based on the Minnesota Prairie Plan and location in a Prairie Core, Corridor, or Complex, every proposed project is evaluated using Survey information on: 1) native prairie sites, 2) rare, threatened and endangered species locations, and 3) areas of biodiversity significance.

The selection criteria also recognize the importance of building on existing complexes and reducing fragmentation. If a prairie is small or isolated, the animal and plant species that live there are at risk. The best approach is conserving larger areas, like the Prairie Plan's cores/complexes/corridors, that have the scale, species diversity, and connectivity to support functioning prairie systems over the long-term.

The numbers shared above demonstrate this program's success at identifying and protecting biologically significant lands located in areas with existing complexes of habitat and protected lands.

### **Which top 2 Conservation Plans referenced in MS97A.056, subd. 3a are most applicable to this project?**

- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan
- Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area (HPA) Final Environmental Impact Statement

### **Explain how this plan will uniquely address habitat resilience to climate change and its anticipated effects on game, fish & wildlife species utilizing the protected or restored/enhanced habitat this proposal targets.**

Three quarters of the carbon dioxide emissions driven by humans have occurred since 1950. We have seen a nearly 70% average decline of birds, amphibians, mammals, fish and reptiles since just 1970. A key component of our evaluation of the conservation significance of a habitat easement or fee acquisition is TNC's Resilient and Connected Network analysis (RCN). The RCN analysis we engage in for every acquisition project determines the climate resiliency of the habitat we're acquiring, and we prioritize acquisitions of habitat with higher climate resiliency. Higher climate resiliency is critical for species to survive and thrive in a world that faces significant climate change and biodiversity loss. Once acquired, we take actions to protect, better manage and restore habitat to maximize biodiversity and climate resiliency, including the use of locally wild-collected seeds (local ecotypes) for prairie restorations.

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

#### **Forest / Prairie Transition**

- Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

#### **Prairie**

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna

**Outcomes**

**Programs in forest-prairie transition region:**

- Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands ~ *The percent of native remnant prairie, as determined by the Minnesota Biological Survey and/or USFWS biologists, will be documented on each parcel, as will the proximity to other protected land and neighboring habitat types, including oak savanna, wetlands, and Big Woods forest. These factors are considered in the ranking criteria for each parcel.*

**Programs in prairie region:**

- Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands ~ *The percent of native remnant prairie, as determined by the Minnesota Biological Survey and/or USFWS biologists, will be documented on each parcel. Surrounding natural habitat types and cropped areas will be evaluated as part of the ranking criteria for submitted parcels.*

**Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.**

This project does not substitute or supplant any previous funding. The work described in this proposal would not be funded or completed without this appropriation.

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

Outdoor Heritage Funds will be used to purchase the land in fee title or to purchase perpetual habitat easements. The land and easements purchased will be transferred to the USFWS to become units of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Long term costs for restoration, management, and wildlife/habitat/easement monitoring will be funded through annual USFWS operations funding.

**Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes**

| Year     | Source of Funds                      | Step 1  | Step 2 | Step 3 |
|----------|--------------------------------------|---|--------|--------|
| Annually | USFWS Annual Service Operating funds | Monitoring and management by USFWS managers, biologists, field staff, and realty staff to ensure the long-term health of these habitats is maintained. Activities may include burning as well as mechanical, biological, and chemical treatments. | -      | -      |

**Provide an assessment of how your program celebrates cultural diversity or reaches diverse communities in Minnesota, including reaching low- and moderate-income households:**

The Nature Conservancy is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, which are embedded in our code of conduct and values. We recognize that conservation is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and identities. Our hiring practices have been updated to be more inclusive. Additionally, we recognize that BIPOC and other marginalized communities experience disproportionate access to nature on private lands, making it essential to provide public lands that are accessible to, and safe for, all

Minnesotans; and where diverse communities will feel welcome and safe to pursue their passions for hunting, angling, photography, hiking, and simply enjoying all the benefits that nature provides. This program, if funded, will add to the availability of lands included in the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, and acquired fee parcels will be open for all Minnesotans, including BIPOC and other disadvantaged communities, to enjoy.

## Activity Details

### Requirements

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

Yes

**Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought\*\* prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**

No

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

We will follow the county/township board notification processes as directed by current statutory language.

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

Yes

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

Yes

**Who will manage the easement?**

The Nature Conservancy will transfer the ownership and management of the conservation easement to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service soon after close.

**Who will be the easement holder?**

The Nature Conservancy will transfer the ownership and management of the conservation easement to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service soon after close.

**What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?**

We anticipate acquiring between 7 and 10 conservation easements with this appropriation.

### Land Use

**Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?**

Yes

**Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:**

Short-term planting of agricultural crops is an accepted Best Management Practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example, short-term use of soybeans could be used to prepare seedbeds prior to prairie plantings, which has been proven effective in decreasing the need for subsequent invasives control activities, and can shorten the amount of time that additional weed control is needed on the site. In some cases this may necessitate the use of GMO products to facilitate herbicide use to control invasives.

Neonicotinoid treated seeds will not be used and we will require seed bag tags to verify the absence of

neonic seeds. We anticipate that the use of agricultural crops would not exceed 3 years on any given OHF-acquired property, and in most cases will be considerably shorter.

**Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this program either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?**

No

**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:**

Land acquired in fee title will be open to public hunting and fishing during the open season according to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, United States Code, Title 16, Section 668dd, et seq.

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

- Federal

**Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:**

- National Wildlife Refuge

**What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?**

We anticipate acquiring 1 - 2 fee title properties with this appropriation.

**Will the eased land be open for public use?**

No

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

Yes

**Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:**

Lands protected with conservation easements often include private roads or trails used by the landowners on their property

**Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition?**

Yes

**How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?**

Landowners with easements may continue to use currently existing private roads or trails on their property

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

No

**Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?**

Yes

Yes, we anticipate that the majority of our fee & conservation easement acquisitions will include restoration & enhancement work

**Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?**

Yes

**Timeline**

| <b>Activity Name</b>   | <b>Estimated Completion Date</b> |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Grassland and wetland restoration and enhancement activities on all acquired parcels to be completed.      | June 30, 2033                    |
| Closing of approximately 70 acres of fee acquisitions and approximately 635 acres of easement acquisitions | June 30, 2029                    |

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 11/01/2033

**Availability of Appropriation:** Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:

- (1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2029;
- (2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2033;
- (3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2030;
- (4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
- (5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.



## Budget

*Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan.*

### Totals

| Item                          | Funding Request    | Leverage         | Leverage Source | Total              |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Personnel                     | \$394,500          | \$200,000        | USFWS           | \$594,500          |
| Contracts                     | \$405,600          | -                | -               | \$405,600          |
| Fee Acquisition w/<br>PILT    | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Fee Acquisition w/o<br>PILT   | \$305,400          | \$150,000        | Federal         | \$455,400          |
| Easement Acquisition          | \$2,138,000        | -                | -               | \$2,138,000        |
| Easement<br>Stewardship       | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Travel                        | \$13,200           | -                | -               | \$13,200           |
| Professional Services         | \$124,600          | -                | -               | \$124,600          |
| Direct Support<br>Services    | \$84,800           | -                | -               | \$84,800           |
| DNR Land Acquisition<br>Costs | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Capital Equipment             | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Other<br>Equipment/Tools      | \$14,700           | -                | -               | \$14,700           |
| Supplies/Materials            | \$177,200          | -                | -               | \$177,200          |
| DNR IDP                       | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| <b>Grand Total</b>            | <b>\$3,658,000</b> | <b>\$350,000</b> | <b>-</b>        | <b>\$4,008,000</b> |

### Personnel

| Position      | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Leverage  | Leverage Source | Total     |
|---------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| TNC Staff     | 1.8        | 3.0           | \$394,500       | -         | -               | \$394,500 |
| USFWS In-kind | -          | -             | -               | \$200,000 | USFWS           | \$200,000 |

**Amount of Request:** \$3,658,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$350,000

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 9.57%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$479,300

**As a % of the total request:** 13.1%

**Easement Stewardship:** -

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

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

This program is scalable & therefore the deliverables in this accomplishment plan have been adjusted based on the recommended appropriation for this phase. Lower acreage estimates in this appropriation reflects the measurable increase in fee & easement acquisition costs/acre resulting from rapidly rising land values over the past 3+ years.

### **Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:**

The Personnel line includes USFWS in-kind support. The fee acquisitions w/out PILT line includes leverage from Pheasants Forever that will be paid for through a North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant. Federal funds confirmation letters are attached.

**Does this project have the ability to be scalable?**

Yes

**If the project received 50% of the requested funding**

**Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

As it is more efficient to purchase larger parcels and acreages, a reduction of 50% of the requested funding would likely result in a reduction of deliverables to approximately 45-50% of the proposed amounts.

**Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

We are anticipating that personnel and DSS expenses would be reduced approximately proportionally to the overall budget.

**Personnel**

**Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?**

Yes

**Contracts**

**What is included in the contracts line?**

These funds are entirely for restoration and enhancement work. While this program targets primarily high-quality habitats, small areas included in the acquisition projects may need enhancement and/or restoration. It is anticipated that the majority of the contract work will consist of woody species, invasives removal, and seeding.

**Professional Services**

**What is included in the Professional Services line?**

- Appraisals
- Other : Environmental Assessments, and Marketable Minerals Assessment (if necessary)
- Surveys
- Title Insurance and Legal Fees

**Fee Acquisition**

**What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?**

It is anticipated that this program will acquire approximately 70 acres in 1-2 fee title acquisitions.

**Travel**

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

Yes

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

Rental car expense is included in the travel budget

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

Yes

## Direct Support Services

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

DSS is based on The Nature Conservancy's Federal Negotiated Rate (FNR) as proposed and approved by the US Dept. of Interior on an annual basis. In this proposal we are requesting reimbursement of 7.5% of eligible base costs as determined by our annual FNR and based on suggestions from the Council in prior years' hearings. The amount requested for reimbursement represents less than one-third of the total reimbursable costs allowed under the FNR. Examples of expenses included in the FNR include services from in-house legal counsel; finance; human resources; and information technology support, all of which contribute directly to the implementation of the project. The FNR is not applied to capital equipment over \$50,000 or land acquisition.

## Other Equipment/Tools

### **Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?**

The equipment and tools line will be used primarily to lease a vehicle for use of protection staff to meet with landowners, contractors, partners, and perform site inspections.

## Federal Funds

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

Yes

#### **Are the funds confirmed?**

Yes

#### **Is Confirmation Document attached?**

[Yes](#)

- Cash : \$150,000
- In Kind : \$200,000

## Output Tables

### Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

| Type                                     | Wetland | Prairie    | Forest | Habitat | Total Acres |
|--|---------|------------|--------|---------|-------------|
| Restore                                  | -       | -          | -      | -       | -           |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -       | 0          | -      | -       | 0           |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -       | 70         | -      | -       | 70          |
| Protect in Easement                      | -       | 635        | -      | -       | 635         |
| Enhance                                  | -       | -          | -      | -       | -           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | -       | <b>705</b> | -      | -       | <b>705</b>  |

### How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie? (Table 1b)

| Type                                     | Native Prairie (acres) |
|--|------------------------|
| Restore                                  | -                      |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0                      |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | 30                     |
| Protect in Easement                      | 450                    |
| Enhance                                  | -                      |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>480</b>             |

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

| Type                                     | Wetland | Prairie            | Forest | Habitat | Total Funding      |
|--|---------|--------------------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| Restore                                  | -       | -                  | -      | -       | -                  |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -       | -                  | -      | -       | -                  |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -       | \$457,200          | -      | -       | \$457,200          |
| Protect in Easement                      | -       | \$3,200,800        | -      | -       | \$3,200,800        |
| Enhance                                  | -       | -                  | -      | -       | -                  |
| <b>Total</b>                             | -       | <b>\$3,658,000</b> | -      | -       | <b>\$3,658,000</b> |

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

| Type                                     | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie    | N. Forest | Total Acres |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Restore                                  | -           | -              | -         | -          | -         | -           |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -           | -              | -         | -          | -         | -           |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -           | 4              | -         | 66         | -         | 70          |
| Protect in Easement                      | -           | 32             | -         | 603        | -         | 635         |
| Enhance                                  | -           | -              | -         | -          | -         | -           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | -           | <b>36</b>      | -         | <b>669</b> | -         | <b>705</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 | -           | -                | -         | -                  | -         | -                  |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -           | \$22,900         | -         | \$434,300          | -         | \$457,200          |
| Protect in Easement                      | -           | \$160,000        | -         | \$3,040,800        | -         | \$3,200,800        |
| Enhance                                  | -           | -                | -         | -                  | -         | -                  |
| <b>Total</b>                             | -           | <b>\$182,900</b> | -         | <b>\$3,475,100</b> | -         | <b>\$3,658,000</b> |

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

| Type | Wetland | Prairie | Forest | Habitat |
|------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
|------|---------|---------|--------|---------|

|  |   |         |   |   |
|--|---|---------|---|---|
| Restore                                  | - | -       | - | - |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | - | -       | - | - |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | - | \$6,531 | - | - |
| Protect in Easement                      | - | \$5,040 | - | - |
| 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 | -           | -              | -         | -       | -         |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -           | \$5,725        | -         | \$6,580 | -         |
| Protect in Easement                      | -           | \$5,000        | -         | \$5,042 | -         |
| Enhance                                  | -           | -              | -         | -       | -         |

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

## Parcels

### Parcel Information

#### Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](#)

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

Submitted parcels will be prioritized and selected according to criteria that include: the amount of native remnant prairie on the parcel, location in a Minnesota Prairie Plan priority area (Prairie Core, Corridor, or Complex), adjacency to existing protected lands and habitat complexes, and presence of federally or state listed plant and animal species and Species in Greatest Need of Conservation.

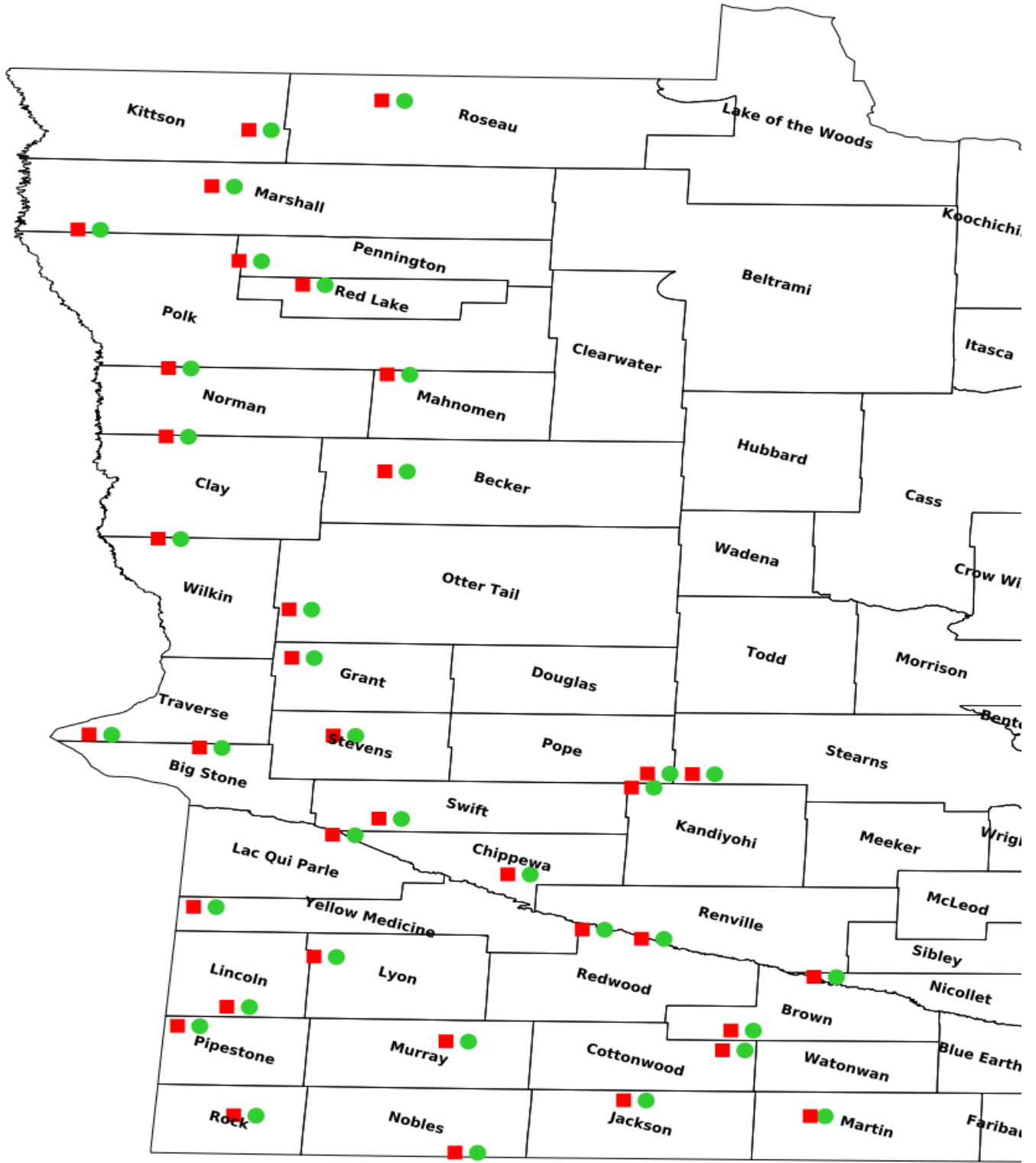
### Fee Parcels

| Name | County          | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection |
|------|-----------------|----------|-------|----------|---------------------|
| NA   | Becker          | 14142233 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Big Stone       | 12446209 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Brown           | 10834216 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Chippewa        | 11739216 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Clay            | 14247204 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Cottonwood      | 10734220 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Grant           | 13044233 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Jackson         | 10436219 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Kandiyohi       | 12236207 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Kittson         | 16045206 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Lac qui Parle   | 11943209 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Lincoln         | 10945217 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Lyon            | 11243218 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Mahnomen        | 14642208 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Marshall        | 15746216 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Martin          | 10332217 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Murray          | 10740207 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Nicollet        | 11132208 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Nobles          | 10140228 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Norman          | 14647204 | 99    | \$1,000  | Yes                 |
| NA   | Otter Tail      | 13244205 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Pennington      | 15345230 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Pipestone       | 10846219 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Polk            | 15449204 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Pope            | 12336216 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Red Lake        | 15144204 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Redwood         | 11336204 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Renville        | 11437219 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Rock            | 10345228 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Roseau          | 16242207 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Stearns         | 12335216 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Stevens         | 12543216 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Swift           | 12042209 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Traverse        | 12548219 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Wilkin          | 13647205 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Yellow Medicine | 11546221 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |

## Easement Parcels

| Name | County             | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection |
|------|--------------------|----------|-------|----------|---------------------|
| NA   | Becker             | 14142236 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Big Stone          | 12446212 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Brown              | 10834213 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Chippewa           | 11739213 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Clay               | 14247201 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Cottonwood         | 10734223 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Grant              | 13044236 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Jackson            | 10436222 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Kandiyohi          | 12236210 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Kittson            | 16045203 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Lac qui Parle      | 11943212 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Lincoln            | 10945214 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Lyon               | 11243215 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Mahnomen           | 14642211 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Marshall           | 15746213 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Martin             | 10332215 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Murray             | 10740210 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Nicollet           | 11132211 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Nobles             | 10140225 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Norman             | 14647201 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Otter Tail         | 13244202 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Pennington         | 15345227 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Pipestone          | 10846222 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Polk               | 15449201 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Pope               | 12336213 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Red Lake           | 15144201 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Redwood            | 11336201 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Renville           | 11437222 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Rock               | 10345225 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Roseau             | 16242210 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Stearns            | 12335213 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Stevens            | 12543213 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Swift              | 12042212 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Traverse           | 12548222 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Wilkin             | 13647202 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |
| NA   | Yellow<br>Medicine | 11546224 | 99    | \$1,000  | No                  |

### Parcel Map



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





## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Phase XV

### Comparison Report

**Program Title:** ML 2025 - Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Phase XV

**Organization:** The Nature Conservancy

**Manager:** Chris McGrath

### Budget

**Requested Amount:** \$8,982,300

**Appropriated Amount:** \$3,658,000

**Percentage:** 40.72%

| Item                       | Requested Proposal | Leverage Proposal | Appropriated AP    | Leverage AP      | Percent of Request | Percent of Leverage |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Personnel                  | \$968,700          | \$200,000         | \$394,500          | \$200,000        | 40.72%             | 100.0%              |
| Contracts                  | \$996,000          | -                 | \$405,600          | -                | 40.72%             | -                   |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT    | -                  | -                 | -                  | -                | -                  | -                   |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT   | \$750,000          | \$150,000         | \$305,400          | \$150,000        | 40.72%             | 100.0%              |
| Easement Acquisition       | \$5,250,000        | -                 | \$2,138,000        | -                | 40.72%             | -                   |
| Easement Stewardship       | -                  | -                 | -                  | -                | -                  | -                   |
| Travel                     | \$32,500           | -                 | \$13,200           | -                | 40.62%             | -                   |
| Professional Services      | \$306,000          | -                 | \$124,600          | -                | 40.72%             | -                   |
| Direct Support Services    | \$208,100          | -                 | \$84,800           | -                | 40.75%             | -                   |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | -                  | -                 | -                  | -                | -                  | -                   |
| Capital Equipment          | -                  | -                 | -                  | -                | -                  | -                   |
| Other Equipment/Tools      | \$36,000           | -                 | \$14,700           | -                | 40.83%             | -                   |
| Supplies/Materials         | \$435,000          | -                 | \$177,200          | -                | 40.74%             | -                   |
| DNR IDP                    | -                  | -                 | -                  | -                | -                  | -                   |
| <b>Grand Total</b>         | <b>\$8,982,300</b> | <b>\$350,000</b>  | <b>\$3,658,000</b> | <b>\$350,000</b> | <b>40.72%</b>      | <b>100.0%</b>       |

#### **If the project received 70% of the requested funding**

**Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

As it is more efficient to purchase larger parcels and acreages, a reduction of 50% of the requested funding would likely result in a reduction of deliverables to approximately 45-50% of the proposed amounts.

**Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

We are anticipating that personnel and DSS expenses would be reduced approximately proportionally to the overall budget.

## **If the project received 50% of the requested funding**

### **Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

As it is more efficient to purchase larger parcels and acreages, a reduction of 70% of the requested funding would likely result in a reduction of deliverables to approximately 25-30% of the proposed amounts.

### **Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

We are anticipating that personnel and DSS expenses would be reduced approximately proportionally to the overall budget.

## Output

### Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

| Type                                     | Total Proposed | Total in AP | Percentage of Proposed |
|--|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Restore                                  | 0              | -           | -                      |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0              | 0           | -                      |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | 150            | 70          | 46.67%                 |
| Protect in Easement                      | 2,100          | 635         | 30.24%                 |
| Enhance                                  | 0              | -           | -                      |

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

| Type                                     | Total Proposed | Total in AP | Percentage of Proposed |
|--|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Restore                                  | -              | -           | -                      |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -              | -           | -                      |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | \$1,122,800    | \$457,200   | 40.72%                 |
| Protect in Easement                      | \$7,859,500    | \$3,200,800 | 40.73%                 |
| Enhance                                  | -              | -           | -                      |

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

| Type                                     | Total Proposed | Total in AP | Percentage of Proposed |
|--|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Restore                                  | 0              | -           | -                      |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0              | -           | -                      |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | 150            | 70          | 46.67%                 |
| Protect in Easement                      | 2,100          | 635         | 30.24%                 |
| Enhance                                  | 0              | -           | -                      |

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

| Type                                     | Total Proposed | Total in AP | Percentage of Proposed |
|--|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Restore                                  | -              | -           | -                      |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -              | -           | -                      |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | \$1,122,800    | \$457,200   | 40.72%                 |
| Protect in Easement                      | \$7,859,500    | \$3,200,800 | 40.73%                 |
| Enhance                                  | -              | -           | -                      |