



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Restoring and Enhancing Minnesota's Important Bird Areas IV  
Laws of Minnesota 2025 Accomplishment Plan

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### General Information

**Date:** 10/28/2024

**Project Title:** Restoring and Enhancing Minnesota's Important Bird Areas IV

**Funds Recommended:** \$2,003,000

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

**Appropriation Language:**

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Alexandra Wardwell

**Title:** Prairie Project Manager

**Organization:** Audubon Upper Mississippi River

**Address:** 2355 Highway 36 West Suite 400

**City:** Roseville, MN 55113

**Email:** [awardwell@audubon.org](mailto:awardwell@audubon.org)

**Office Number:** 651-493-0546

**Mobile Number:** 608-370-1774

**Fax Number:**

**Website:** <https://mn.audubon.org/>

### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Polk, Red Lake, Mahnomen and Norman.

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

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie

**Activity types:**

- Restore
- Enhance

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands

- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

## Narrative

### **Abstract**

Audubon Upper Mississippi River (Audubon) is requesting funds to enhance 1300 acres and restore 100 acres of significant wildlife habitat on public and permanently protected private lands. Our project and parcel prioritization criteria places an emphasis on Important Bird Areas (IBA) and priority areas identified by the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, within the 8 most northwestern Minnesota counties associated with the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands region, the Prairie Parklands region, and the northwestern edge of the Eastern Broadleaf Forest.

### **Design and Scope of Work**

Audubon will advance conservation in northwestern Minnesota with the fourth phase of Restoring and Enhancing Minnesota's Important Bird Areas (IBA). This Program will continue to expand the Outdoor Heritage Funds legacy of restoration and enhancement of Minnesota's natural heritage. Our Program places an emphasis on Minnesota's IBAs as they are essential to maintaining healthy and diverse bird populations in the state. The Tallgrass Aspen Parklands (TAP) region alone supports over 279 bird species (143 regular breeding species, 22 permanent residents, and over 114 migrants or winter residents) including sandhill cranes, waterfowl, northern harrier, yellow rail, and greater prairie chicken. Gray wolves, moose, elk, whitetail deer, fisher, and the American badger are among other wildlife found in the region. The Prairie Parklands supports 140 regular breeding species, 23 permanent residents, and over 115 species that do not breed in the region but depend on critical habitats for migration. The Prairie Parklands is important to 139 species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). This geography contains the meeting point of three of the four ecological regions in Minnesota creating a mosaic of diverse habitats in close-proximity.

While enhancing and restoring habitats within IBAs is a primary goal, we recognize that some of the greatest conservation opportunities exist within the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan due to the loss of grassland and wetland habitats in recent years. In phase four, we will focus on two Prairie Parkland/Eastern Broadleaf Forest counties (Mahnomon and Norman) and the northwestern counties that compose the TAP (Polk, Red Lake, Pennington, Marshall, Kittson, Roseau).

We will expand the available habitat for priority grassland bird species by utilizing a variety of activities: native seed enhancements, management of brush and tree species, invasive species control, as well as prescribed fire. Projects will be targeted and selected based on a prioritization model that focuses on core habitat, conservation estate, acres of remnant habitat, and habitat condition. Restoration and enhancement projects will include a site assessment, including a rapid analysis of habitat suitability for priority species and habitat condition as well as documentation of prescribed habitat management actions (photo points) and recommended follow up actions for future management.

We will continue to work closely with local U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources staff to identify habitat needs on public lands in these key geographies. Audubon will write Habitat Management Action Plans, get necessary permits, and complete enhancement and restoration work to create better habitat for target species.

Audubon, with assistance from the MN Natural Resources Conservation Service, will conduct outreach to private landowners with Wetland Reserve Program Easements (WRP/WRE) that have Wetland Reserve Plans of

Operations. These plans are road maps for habitat work for each specific easement. Audubon will assist with habitat identification and prioritization, develop Habitat Management Action Plans for a select number of easements, and conduct habitat work.

These partnership efforts will deliver effective means of enhancing and restoring ecologically significant land for the benefit of birds, wildlife, and people in northwestern Minnesota.

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

Through the development of our Minnesota Blueprints for Bird Conservation, Audubon has identified a group of breeding bird species known as priority species. This group highlights species that have experienced significant declines in the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands and Prairie Parklands regions, are dependent on vulnerable habitat, and have been recognized as priorities by various state and federal resource agencies. The purpose of identifying priority species is to be strategic about identifying a small number of species that should be the focus of conservation efforts in the short term. Based on our priority species for the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands and Prairie Parkland regions, there are 32 Species of Greatest Conservation Need that would benefit from this grassland and wetland habitat restoration and enhancement program, such as the Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Green-winged Teal, and Black Tern. In addition, there are 11 bird species that are MN State Listed Species including the: Greater Prairie Chicken, Horned Grebe, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Baird's Sparrow, Yellow Rail, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Short-eared Owl, Nelson's Sparrow, Marbled Godwit and Trumpeter Swan.

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

There has been a significant loss of grassland and wetland habitats essential to wildlife and bird populations in Minnesota and throughout the Mississippi Flyway. With the loss of adequate habitat, bird populations have plummeted. Wetlands, prairie grasslands and open woodlands once dominated the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Region, a transition zone between the prairie and forest. Today, approximately 64% of the landscape has been converted to row crops and the hydrology has been highly altered, affecting woody plant species encroachment. Habitat loss is even greater in the Prairie Parkland, where an estimated 1/10th of 1% of remnant prairie remains. Prairie and grassland cover, even when protected, are in danger of becoming overgrown by woody species and invaded by exotic cool season grasses when there is a lack of disturbance. Over time, the cost of enhancement and restoration on these lands in need of disturbance becomes more costly and time consuming.

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

All of the proposed parcels fall within the priority areas and build on past work and current partner efforts, decreasing fragmentation and increasing and enhancing the local conservation estate for grassland species.

In an effort to maintain some of the most unique wildlife habitat in Minnesota, our proposal focuses on Important Bird Areas and the Prairie Conservation Plan boundaries and prioritizes the six counties within the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands (TAP) and two counties in the Prairie Parklands/Eastern Broadleaf Forest region. Audubon and partners have identified 57 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Minnesota through a Technical Committee, comprised of bird experts and conservationists from across the state. IBAs have been identified in over 170 countries to provide essential habitat for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating bird species. It is a proactive and science-based program that works to identify, monitor and conserve the most essential habitats for birds. In short, these IBAs are the most important areas in which to preserve Minnesota's game and non-game avian legacy. Audubon sees tremendous opportunity for directing conservation resources to protection and management of habitats within

IBAs and Prairie Plan priority areas. Audubon uses critical plans and analyses, like Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan, the Minnesota Biological Survey biodiversity significance status, and Natural Heritage Information System data to further refine the geographic scope of our efforts to yield the highest conservation return on investment.

In addition to the rigorous process used to designate IBAs, Audubon has developed the Blueprints for Bird Conservation, a comprehensive compilation of national, regional and state bird and habitat conservation plans that address Minnesota bird species and Minnesota landscapes. A particular emphasis was placed on bird conservation documents developed by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI). This Blueprint builds upon existing efforts by identifying the highest priorities in each ecological region and using select conservation focal species; synthesizing the best proven conservation practices for each species; establishing measurable goals for species' population targets; and identifying key sites for conservation.

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

- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan
- Other : Minnesota Blueprints for Bird Conservation

### **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.**

This proposal enhances habitat resilience in northwest Minnesota by promoting habitat diversity and connectivity, which are vital for wildlife species adaptation to climate change. Northwest Minnesota is a dynamic landscape that Audubon predicts to be a climate stronghold for birds in the coming decades (Natural Climate Solutions Report). Intact prairie systems are naturally resilient to environmental changes and invasive species invasions if they are connected and healthy. Prairies and grasslands, thanks to extensive root systems, store about a third of the world's land-based carbon making these systems a natural climate solution. This proposal works to maintain an open, connected, and thriving prairie system by working with partners in the same geographic area for the best outcomes for prairie grouse, grassland birds and other prairie reliant wildlife like moose and the American Badger. This proposal promotes habitat and species biodiversity and enhances habitat resilience against the impacts of climate change.

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

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

- Protect, restore, and enhance habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need

#### **Prairie**

- Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

### **Outcomes**

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

- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need ~ *Outcomes can be measured by the number of acres impacted and the number and quality of projects Audubon restores or enhances. Habitat Management Action Plans will detail specific*

*restoration or enhancement prescriptions for each project on public lands and permanent conservation easements. The quality of work and level of success of projects on USFWS lands, DNR lands, WRP/WRE easements will be monitored through various USFWS monitoring protocols, NRCS stewardship audits, and site visits. All of the project work undertaken can be assessed based on the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan goals as well as the Minnesota Blueprints for Bird conservation.*

**Programs in prairie region:**

- Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for migratory and unique Minnesota species ~ *Outcomes can be measured by the number of acres impacted and the number and quality of projects Audubon restores or enhances. Habitat Management Action Plans will detail specific restoration or enhancement prescriptions for each project on public lands and permanent conservation easements. The quality of work and level of success of projects on USFWS lands, DNR lands, and WRP/WRE easements will be monitored through various USFWS monitoring protocols and NRCS stewardship audits respectively. All of the project work undertaken can be assessed based on the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan goals as well as the Minnesota Blueprints for Bird conservation.*

**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.**

LSOHC funding is in addition to other funding sources, and does not supplant this work. Without LSOHC funding, Audubon would not have resources to implement vast enhancement and restoration projects for birds and wildlife, and would have greater challenges in funding personnel salaries associated with this conservation work.

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

Audubon is committed to working with our State and Federal partners to ensure management recommendations are understood and implemented to the highest degree. Enhancement and restoration that occurs on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) held lands will expand and bolster the habitat work being done on public lands for the benefit of game and non-game bird species. The USFWS, MN DNR, and NRCS have very successful stewardship programs that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, defending the resources, and site visits. USFWS monitors their landholdings closely with multiple site visits a year, habitat management prioritization models, and monitoring. In many cases, this enhancement and restoration work will improve habitat conditions for priority species and increase the efficiency of future actions with regards to invasive species and woody species encroachment. Any Outdoor Heritage Funds allocated will expedite and expand the breadth of the enhancement activities on these conserved parcels.

In addition, Audubon will prepare a habitat management action plan for each property, providing ecological management recommendations for the property over time to maintain and manage the land for grassland and wetland species, including focal species and species of greatest conservation need.

**Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes**

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2030-2033	USFWS, MN NRCS, MN DNR	Plan updates or Amendments	Maintenance/Management	Partner Monitoring
2025-2029	USFWS,LSOHC, MN NRCS, MN DNR	Site Visits, Develop Habitat Management Action Plans,Planning, Habitat Suitability	Conduct Enhancement and Restoration	Follow up Maintenance as needed

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

This work will directly benefit indigenous communities in some of the counties where Audubon will restore and enhance public lands including at least two potential projects in Mahnomon County. Mahnomon County is the home of the White Earth Nation and the White Earth Reservation. Prairie and wetland restoration and enhancements benefit the overall health of the surrounding ecosystem and creates a more diverse habitat for both game and non-game wildlife species. In the past, indigenous cultures managed wild bison herds and used prescribed fire as an important tool to manage the land for game species. Today, indigenous cultures still manage livestock, use prescribed fire for habitat enhancement, and harvest many native plants such as wild rice and many wild fruits. Audubon's restoration activities near the White Earth Nation will complement their own natural resource management activities and help to maximize the clean water benefits, as well as, preserving the cultural importance of the natural landscape for indigenous communities. Of the 8 counties proposed for projects, only one county (Polk County, East Grand Forks) is included as having a portion of the population in a metro. The majority of these 8 counties are largely rural with small towns. Hiring local Minnesota contractors can have a big impact on rural community economies.

### Activity Details

#### **Requirements**

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

Yes

**Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?**

Yes

**Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?**

Yes

**Where does the activity take place?**

- Permanently Protected Conservation Easements
- WPA
- Refuge Lands
- WMA
- SNA
- Public Waters
- State Recreation Areas
- State Forests
- Other : Public Lands as appropriate.

#### **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?**

No

**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

**Timeline**

<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
Make future maintenance and habitat recommendations for continued benefits to grassland birds and prairie wildlife.	June 2029
Conduct habitat restoration and enhancement of both public and permanently protected private lands. Complete restoration and enhancement habitat projects. Management summary of habitat suitability for targeted grassland bird and wildlife species.	June 2029
Conduct landowner outreach for enhancement and restoration on permanent conservation easements (ongoing). Utilize prioritization ranking and habitat suitability assessments for grassland and wetland birds.	June 2027
Implement a portion of the Habitat Management Action Plans for restoration and enhancement recommendations on public lands and permanent conservation easements to benefit targeted bird species and other prairie wildlife.	June 2027

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 11/01/2029

**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	\$483,800	\$135,000	USFWS In-Kind	\$618,800
Contracts	\$1,439,300	\$100,000	USFWS In-kind	\$1,539,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$49,900	\$84,900	Audubon UMR In-Kind Match	\$134,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$5,000	-	Audubon UMR	\$5,000
Supplies/Materials	\$5,000	-	Audubon UMR	\$5,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,003,000</b>	<b>\$319,900</b>	-	<b>\$2,322,900</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservation Director	0.08	4.0	\$47,100	-	-	\$47,100
Grant Administrator	0.08	4.0	\$38,700	-	-	\$38,700
Prairie Project Manager	0.9	4.0	\$297,000	\$135,000	USFWS In-Kind	\$432,000
Conservation Manager	0.2	4.0	\$101,000	-	-	\$101,000

**Amount of Request:** \$2,003,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$319,900

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 15.97%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$533,700

**As a % of the total request:** 26.65%

**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 will accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation by reducing the personnel budget, the contracting budget, and the acre deliverables for the program. Personnel funds for project planning and management have been reduced.



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

Leverage is funded through other Audubon funds. The Direct Support Service (DSS) leverage amount of \$84,900 is based a federally negotiated NICRA rate of 25.49%. The leverage amount is coming from our 15.49% unrecovered DSS. Confirmed in-kind match from USFWS is \$235,000.

**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?**

This project is scalable; the number of acres could be reduced proportionally. Acres of restoration and enhancement projects would be reduced if the project received 50% of requested funding.

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

Based on our experiences with the first three LSOHC phases, personnel and dedicated support staff are important to project success and more difficult to scale down, though possible.

**Personnel**

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

Yes

**Contracts**

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

The contract line item is directed toward enhancement and restoration projects on permanently protected lands in our targeted areas and includes contracts with private vendors.

**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**

Short-term rental vehicles by Audubon staff may be used occasionally for in-state travel for this program when it is more efficient economically or time-wise to do so.

**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 was calculated on a base cost of \$498,793. This includes 6 contracts over 25,000 for a total Contractual DSS calculation totaling \$15,000 and \$483,793 in salary and fringe at 10% for a total DSS cost of \$49,879.

## Other Equipment/Tools

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

General field and office supplies (field gear, field guides, office supplies for fieldwork and file management, smartphone applications related to mapping or plant ID, maps, and plat books, etc.) and personal protective equipment.

## Federal Funds

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

Yes

#### Are the funds confirmed?

Yes

#### Is Confirmation Document attached?

[Yes](#)

- In Kind : \$235,000

Output Tables**Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	100	-	-	100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	300	1,000	-	0	1,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,400</b>

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

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Easement	-
Enhance	180
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$144,000	-	-	\$144,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$429,000	\$1,430,000	-	-	\$1,859,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$429,000</b>	<b>\$1,574,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,003,000</b>

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	100	-	0	-	100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	900	-	400	-	1,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,400</b>

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$144,000	-	-	-	\$144,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	\$1,287,000	-	\$572,000	-	\$1,859,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,431,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$572,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,003,000</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
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Restore	-	\$1,440	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$1,430	\$1,430	-	-

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	\$1,440	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	\$1,430	-	\$1,430	-

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

## Parcels

### Parcel Information

#### Sign-up Criteria?

No

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

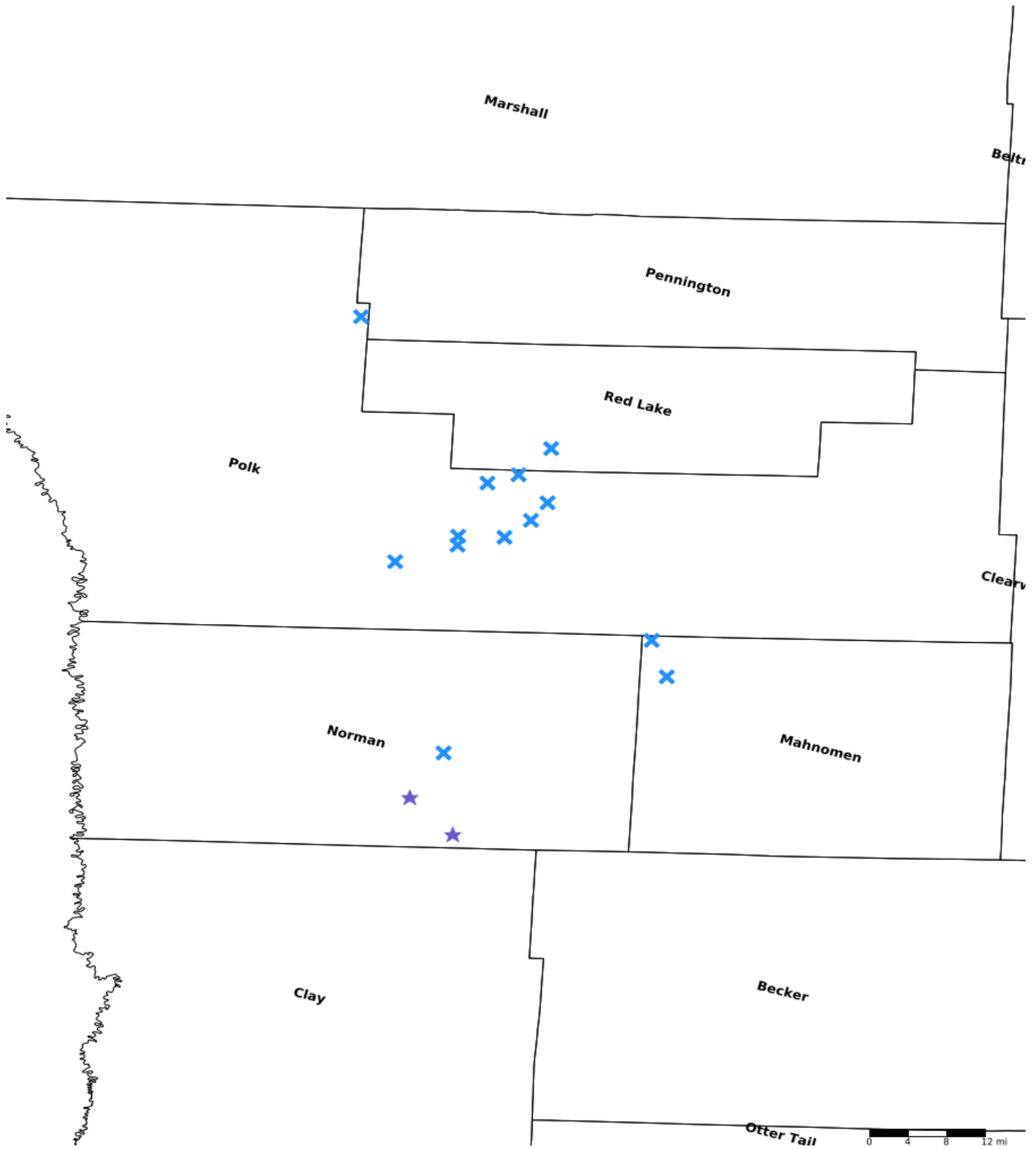
Audubon collaborates with partners such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and others, to identify priority parcels for enhancement and restoration projects. Projects were targeted and selected based on a prioritization model that focuses on core habitat, geography, conservation estate, target bird species suitability, acres of remnant habitat, and current habitat condition. Additional parcels may be added as specific prioritization mapping, site visits, project cost, and habitat assessments further narrow our focus.

### Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Bejou WMA	Mahnomen	14642229	75	\$25,000	Yes	Woody species management in native prairie to benefit breeding/migrating grassland birds and prairie wildlife.
Dittmer WMA	Mahnomen	14642206	75	\$25,000	Yes	Woody species management in native prairie to benefit breeding/migrating grassland birds and prairie wildlife.
Ida WMA	Norman	14445212	30	\$25,000	Yes	Woody species and Common Buckthorn control in native prairie to benefit breeding and migrating birds and prairie wildlife.
Rockwell WMA	Norman	14345203	35	\$35,000	Yes	Prescribed burn and interseeding enhancement in prairie to benefit breeding/migrating grassland birds and prairie wildlife.
Twin Valley WMA	Norman	14344230	160	\$150,000	Yes	Prescribed burn and interseeding enhancement in prairie to benefit breeding/migrating grassland birds and prairie wildlife.
Burnham-Creek-Glacial Ridge NWR	Polk	14845212	100	\$60,000	Yes	Woody species management in prairie to benefit breeding/migrating grassland birds and prairie wildlife. Prescribed burn in-kind from USFWS.
Burnham-Trail WMA	Polk	14845213	100	\$125,000	Yes	Improve habitat for Greater Prairie Chickens and grassland-dependent birds through woody species management in prairie.

Chicog WMA	Polk	14845229	100	\$125,000	Yes	Improve habitat for Greater Prairie Chickens and grassland-dependent birds through woody species management in prairie.
Crookston Unit-Glacial Ridge NWR	Polk	14943219	225	\$200,000	Yes	Improve habitat for Greater Prairie Chickens and grassland-dependent birds through woody species management in prairie. Prescribed burn in-kind from USFWS.
East Haul Road-Glacial Ridge NWR	Polk	14944209	100	\$60,000	Yes	Woody species management in prairie to benefit breeding/migrating grassland birds and prairie wildlife. Prescribed burn in-kind from USFWS.
Godfrey-Glacial Ridge NWR	Polk	14844209	300	\$200,000	Yes	Improve habitat for Greater Prairie Chickens, Sharp-tailed grouse, and grassland-dependent birds and wildlife through woody species control in prairie. Prescribed burn in-kind from USFWS.
Luxemburg-Glacial Ridge NWR	Polk	14944202	30	\$25,000	Yes	Improve habitat for Greater Prairie Chickens and grassland-dependent birds through woody species management in prairie. Prescribed burn in-kind from USFWS.
Oak Ridge West-Glacial Ridge NWR	Polk	14944236	100	\$60,000	Yes	Woody species management in prairie to benefit breeding/migrating grassland birds and prairie wildlife. Prescribed burn in-kind from USFWS.
Pembina WMA	Polk	15246212	100	\$125,000	Yes	Improve habitat for Greater Prairie Chickens and grassland-dependent birds through woody species management in prairie.
Marcoux WMA	Red Lake	15043219	100	\$125,000	Yes	Improve habitat for Greater Prairie Chickens and grassland-dependent birds through woody species management in prairie.

# Parcel Map



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



# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Restoring and Enhancing Minnesota's Important Bird Areas IV

### Comparison Report

**Program Title:** ML 2025 - Restoring and Enhancing Minnesota's Important Bird Areas IV

**Organization:** Audubon Upper Mississippi River

**Manager:** Alexandra Wardwell

### Budget

**Requested Amount:** \$3,592,700

**Appropriated Amount:** \$2,003,000

**Percentage:** 55.75%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	\$563,800	\$235,000	\$483,800	\$135,000	85.81%	57.45%
Contracts	\$2,900,000	-	\$1,439,300	\$100,000	49.63%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$25,000	-	\$20,000	-	80.0%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$93,900	\$122,200	\$49,900	\$84,900	53.14%	69.48%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$5,000	-	\$5,000	-	100.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	\$5,000	-	\$5,000	-	100.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,592,700</b>	<b>\$357,200</b>	<b>\$2,003,000</b>	<b>\$319,900</b>	<b>55.75%</b>	<b>89.56%</b>

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

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

This project is scalable; the number of acres could be reduced proportionally. Acres of restoration and enhancement projects would be reduced if the project received 50% of requested funding.

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

Based on our experiences with the first three LSOHC phases, personnel and dedicated support staff are important to project success and more difficult to scale down, though possible.



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

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

This project is scalable; the number of acres could be reduced proportionally. Acres of restoration and enhancement projects would be reduced if the project received 30% of requested funding.

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

Based on our experiences with the first three LSOHC phases, personnel and dedicated support staff are important to project success and more difficult to scale down, though possible.

## Output

### Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	200	100	50.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	2,800	1,300	46.43%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	\$417,500	\$144,000	34.49%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	\$3,175,200	\$1,859,000	58.55%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	200	100	50.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	2,800	1,300	46.43%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	\$417,500	\$144,000	34.49%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	\$3,175,200	\$1,859,000	58.55%