



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 10  
Laws of Minnesota 2025 Accomplishment Plan

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### General Information

**Date:** 11/12/2024

**Project Title:** Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 10

**Funds Recommended:** \$2,853,000

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

**Appropriation Language:**

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Wayne Ostlie

**Title:** Director of Land Protection

**Organization:** Minnesota Land Trust

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### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Pope, Otter Tail, Douglas and Grant.

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

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie
- Northern Forest

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Easement
- Restore
- Enhance

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

## Narrative

### **Abstract**

Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 10 advances conservation of high priority wetland complexes within Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Region to the benefit of waterfowl and SGCN populations. Phase 10 will permanently protect 261 acres and restore/enhance 450 acres of priority habitat. Minnesota Land Trust will prioritize parcels with high-quality wildlife habitat proximal to other protected lands. Restoration and enhancement will be completed with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on previously protected properties. This proposal includes enhanced leverage from the USFWS, the Inflation Reduction Act, and donation of easement value from landowners.

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

Wetlands and shallow lakes provide the essential backbone for the survival of waterfowl and other important wildlife species. In fact, more than 50% of Minnesota's Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) use wetlands during their life cycle. Most of the plans developed to protect Minnesota's wildlife—including Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, and the Long Range Duck Recovery Plan—cite the protection and restoration of the state's remaining wetlands as one of the top priorities to achieve the State's conservation goals. Moreover, these plans cite the use of conservation easements on private lands as one of the primary strategies to protect important wetland and shallow lake habitat.

Minnesota Land Trust's Wetlands Habitat Protection Program area extends from Meeker County northwest to the Canada border, located along a vast glacial moraine system in western Minnesota. This prairie pothole country is the core of Minnesota's "duck factory" and is central to one of North America's most important flyways for migratory birds. Through Phase 9 of this program to date, the Land Trust has procured 45 conservation easements protecting 5,793 acres of habitat and 60 miles of shoreline. The Program has 5,680 acres of restoration/enhancement complete or underway.

Phase 10 will continue these accomplishments by restoring or enhancing 450 acres of important prairie and wetland habitats on permanently protected private lands within the Program area in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The Land Trust will also work with FWS and landowners to develop additional shovel ready R/E projects. In addition, the Land Trust will protect 261 acres of new priority wetland and associated upland habitat through conservation easements. The Program will be closely coordinated with other public agencies, non-profit organizations and other stakeholders to ensure this Program meets multi-agency conservation goals.

The Land Trust will continue to implement a criteria-based ranking system and market-based approach for purchasing conservation easements. The Program will continue to target projects that help complete gaps in existing public ownership, are of the highest ecological value, and provide the greatest leverage to the state. The Land Trust will seek donated easements in these areas whenever possible, but will also purchase the full or partial value of easements to complete key complexes as necessary.

To focus our easement protection work, the Prairie Plan and other data sets/plans were used to shape our

Wetlands Program plan and identify important wetland complexes in this landscape based on the nexus of high-quality habitat, existing protected areas and restorable agricultural lands. These complexes include a mosaic of wetland, prairie/grassland, and forest habitats, and agricultural land. Outcomes from this project include: 1) healthy wetland habitat complexes and associated populations of waterfowl, upland birds, and SGCN; 2) improved water quality; 3) increased participation of private landowners in habitat conservation projects; and 4) enhancement of prior public investments in wetland and upland habitat

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

Our Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program addresses LSOHC priorities by protecting and restoring/enhancing wetland and grassland complexes that provide critical habitat for Minnesota's wildlife, especially its migratory waterfowl and prairie-pothole associated species.

Minnesota's wetlands are essential to our wildlife health and diversity. This project directly benefits SGCN and other important game and non-game wildlife species by minimizing the potential threats to their habitat caused by detrimental agricultural practices, residential or commercial development or imprudent land management. The wetland habitat complexes that will be targeted through the ranking system will include a mosaic of wetlands, grasslands and woodlands. Priority projects will include high or outstanding habitat as identified in Minnesota Biological Survey data. Projects will also be located near other protected lands to help build larger habitat complexes comprised of both public and private lands. The vast majority of this landscape is in private ownership. For that reason, working with private owners on land protection strategies is key to successful conservation in this region. Finally, we will work closely with partners in the region to identify those habitat complexes where private land protection can make a significant contribution to existing conservation investments.

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

Wetlands and associated upland grasslands in Minnesota's Prairie Pothole region (and the species that live in these habitats) are under continuous threat of agricultural conversion and residential development. A short window of opportunity exists to permanently protect previously unavailable parcels as current land ownership is transitioning from one generation to the next. This proposal aims to capitalize on strong landowner interest we have secured in land protection and R/E arenas.

In addition, a significant backlog of R/E needs occurs on USFWS protected properties. In early 2024, the USFWS initiated a broad effort utilizing funds from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to accelerate restoration of native habitats on its lands in the Prairie Pothole Region. The Land Trust's Wetlands Program will have this enhanced leverage over the next 5 years.

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

This program is focused on procuring easements and restoring prairie and wetland habitats on easement lands within priority complexes of wetlands and associated upland habitats, as guided by the State Wildlife Action Plan, Duck Plan and Prairie Plan. Specific parcels available for easement acquisition are evaluated relative to each other to identify priorities among the pool of applicants. This relative ranking is based on three primary ecological factors (1. amount of habitat on the parcel (size) and abundance of SGCN; 2. the quality or condition of habitat; and 3. the parcel's context relative to other natural habitats and protected areas) and cost. The program serves to build upon past conservation investments in the program area, expand the footprint of existing protected areas (WMAs, WPAs, etc.), facilitate the protection of habitat corridors and reduce the potential for fragmentation of existing

habitats. In addition, our partnership with USFWS will enable the Land Trust to further reduce effects of fragmentation through restoration of prairie, wetlands and other habitats. Minnesota Biological Survey data is cornerstone to our assessment of potential conservation easement acquisitions; we also conduct field visits to further identify and assess condition of habitats prior to easement acquisition, because many private lands were not formally assessed through MBS.

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

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

### **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.**

The Minnesota Land Trust's Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program uses a two-prong approach to addressing habitat resilience to climate change: 1) we prioritize land protection and restoration projects that most support regional climate adaptation strategies such as improving migration corridors or habitat complexes, and 2) we include adaptive specifications in every project, such as using climate forward seed mixes and designing wetland features for future precipitation patterns.

Within our program, increasing the number and distribution of wetland-prairie complexes within the flyway improves the habitat selection opportunities for waterfowl and SGCN species, resulting in an increase in the regional resilience to climate change. Climate-forward seed mixes include enhanced proportions of plant species of the native plant communities that are expected to maintain or increase under future climate scenarios.

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

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

- Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

#### **Northern Forest**

- Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

#### **Prairie**

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

## **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 ~ *This program will permanently protect 100 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes and restore/enhance 100 acres of wetlands and prairies in the forest-prairie transition region. Measure: Acres protected; acres restored; acres enhanced.*

**Programs in the northern forest region:**

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *This program will permanently protect 61 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes in the forest-prairie transition region. Measure: Acres protected.*

**Programs in prairie region:**

- Remnant native prairies and wetlands are perpetually protected and adequately buffered ~ *This program will permanently protect 100 acres and restore/enhance 289 acres of wetland and upland habitat complexes in the prairie region. Measure: Acres protected; acres restored; acres enhanced.*

**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.**

Funding procured by MLT through the Outdoor Heritage Fund through this proposal will not supplant or substitute any previous funding from a non-Legacy fund used for the same purpose.

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

Land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through state-of-the-art standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. The Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in cases of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

The USFWS and MLT (as easement holders on respective properties) will work with landowners on an ongoing basis to provide habitat restoration plans, resources, and technical expertise to undertake restoration, enhancement, and ongoing management of these properties. The partnership between USFWS and MLT also includes the landowners we work with. The landowners who participate in this partnership have a landowner agree that states they must maintain the habitat restored. The level of dedication they have to their land makes what we do possible and propels our work far beyond each phase. We could not be successful without them.

**Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes**

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Every 4-6 years	USFWS, Landowners, MLT	Prescribed fire, tree control, invasive species control	-	-
2029 and in perpetuity	MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of easements in perpetuity	Enforcement as necessary	-

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

One of the Minnesota Land Trust’s core public values is a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have been engaged in a year-long process to assess how the conservation community—and the Minnesota Land Trust in particular—can better address these issues. To date, we have demonstrated this commitment when possible given the funding parameters and our unique role in working with private landowners, including numerous projects to protect the camps and nature centers that serve a diversity of Minnesota youth and a long-term partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa on wild rice restoration. Going forward, we intend to build on

this engagement by using diversity, equity, and inclusion as a lens in project, partner, and contractor selection. In each of our program areas, we intend to listen and seek out potential, authentic partnerships that can advance our goals of conserving the best of Minnesota’s remaining habitats and, at the same time, being a more inclusive organization. One related program we are exploring is a new “Ambassador Lands Program” which would connect willing conservation landowners to diverse community groups that need access to land for a variety of programming purposes, such as youth mentor hunts, cultural or ceremonial use, conservation employment training, bird banding, and much more. This would add greatly to the more universal public benefits of conserved lands such as wildlife habitat, clean water, and climate mitigation. Finally, we welcome more conversations with the LSOHC and conservation community about how these values can be better manifest in all our shared work going forward.

## Activity Details

### Requirements

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

Yes

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

Yes

**Who will manage the easement?**

Minnesota Land Trust

**Who will be the easement holder?**

Minnesota Land Trust

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

Minnesota Land Trust expects to close 3-7 conservation easements depending on cost, size, and amount of donation of easement value provided by landowners.

**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

### 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:**

**Easement Acquisition:**

The purpose of the Minnesota Land Trust's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. We restrict agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases where there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either exclude the agricultural area from the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to exclude those areas. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement.

**Restoration/Enhancement:**

Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted best practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example, 1-2 rotations of soybeans could be used for restorations in order to control weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank.

**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

**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:**

Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, the conservation easement permits the continued usage of established trails and roads so long as their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed.

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

Yes

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

Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the Land Trust's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in accordance with the terms of the easement will be the responsibility of the landowner.

**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?**

No

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

No

**Explain how, when, and source of the R/E work:****Timeline**

<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
Restoration and enhancement projects completed	June 30, 2029
Conservation easements completed or options secured	June 30, 2029

**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	\$218,000	\$270,000	PFW In-Kind; Inflation Reduction Act	\$488,000
Contracts	\$1,430,000	-	-	\$1,430,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$839,000	\$380,000	USFWS Migratory Bird Fund; Landowner donation of easement value	\$1,219,000
Easement Stewardship	\$168,000	-	-	\$168,000
Travel	\$11,700	-	-	\$11,700
Professional Services	\$113,000	-	-	\$113,000
Direct Support Services	\$58,800	-	-	\$58,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$600	-	-	\$600
Supplies/Materials	\$13,900	-	-	\$13,900
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,853,000</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>	-	<b>\$3,503,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Land Protection Staff	0.4	4.0	\$160,000	-	-	\$160,000
MLT Restoration Staff	0.15	4.0	\$58,000	\$270,000	PFW In-Kind; Inflation Reduction Act	\$328,000

**Amount of Request:** \$2,853,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$650,000

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 22.78%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$276,800

**As a % of the total request:** 9.7%

**Easement Stewardship:** \$168,000

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 20.02%

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

Outputs were reduced by 70% and 76%, respectively, for R/E and Easement Acquisition. Personnel/DSS was

reduced 56%, accommodating for fixed costs (grant management, landowner recruitment), potential of projects failing midstream, and number of donated easements that ultimately become part of the portfolio.

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

USFWS: \$300,000 in permanent conservation easements funded by USFWS/Migratory Bird Conservation Fund; \$20,000 in-kind contributions for R/E projects.

MLT: \$250,000 for R/E personnel from Inflation Reduction Act. Anticipated: \$80,000 from landowners through donated conservation easement value.

**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?**

Acre scaling will be moderately less than proportional due to fixed costs and other factors. R/E project selection will be based on priorities; scaling may not be proportional. Activities will be curtailed, but less than proportional, as some activities are fixed and necessary for program success.

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

Personnel and DSS will be scaled, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

**Personnel**

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

Yes

**Contracts**

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

Restoration and enhancement accounts for \$1,393,000 of the contracts line amount. Additional funds in the contract line are for the writing of habitat management plans via qualified vendors and engaging county SWCD and other vendors for landowner outreach purposes to facilitate communication of the protection program.

**Professional Services**

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

- Appraisals
- Design/Engineering
- Other : Phase 1 Environmental Assessments, Mapping, Mineral Reports, etc.
- Surveys
- Title Insurance and Legal Fees

## Easement Stewardship

### What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?

Minnesota Land Trust expects to close 3-7 conservation easements through this proposal. The average cost per easement to fund the MLT's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$28,000, although in extraordinary circumstances additional funding may be warranted. This figure is derived from MLT's detailed stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates to this cost analysis with LSOHC staff.

## 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

Land Trust staff regularly rents vehicles for grant-related purposes, which is a significant cost savings over use of personal vehicles.

### 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?

In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We applied this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services requested through this grant.

## Other Equipment/Tools

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

GPS devices, R/E tools, satellite communicator, safety gear.

## 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 : \$550,000
- In Kind : \$20,000

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	56	-	-	-	56
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	261	261
Enhance	-	394	-	-	394
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>711</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	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	\$184,500	-	-	-	\$184,500
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$1,370,200	\$1,370,200
Enhance	-	\$1,298,300	-	-	\$1,298,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$184,500</b>	<b>\$1,298,300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,370,200</b>	<b>\$2,853,000</b>

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	56	-	-	-	56
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	100	-	100	61	261
Enhance	-	105	-	289	-	394
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>711</b>

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$184,500	-	-	-	\$184,500
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	\$500,000	-	\$500,000	\$370,200	\$1,370,200
Enhance	-	\$345,900	-	\$952,400	-	\$1,298,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,030,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,452,400</b>	<b>\$370,200</b>	<b>\$2,853,000</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
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Restore	\$3,294	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$5,249
Enhance	-	\$3,295	-	-

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	\$3,294	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	\$5,000	-	\$5,000	\$6,068
Enhance	-	\$3,294	-	\$3,295	-

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

0

## 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:

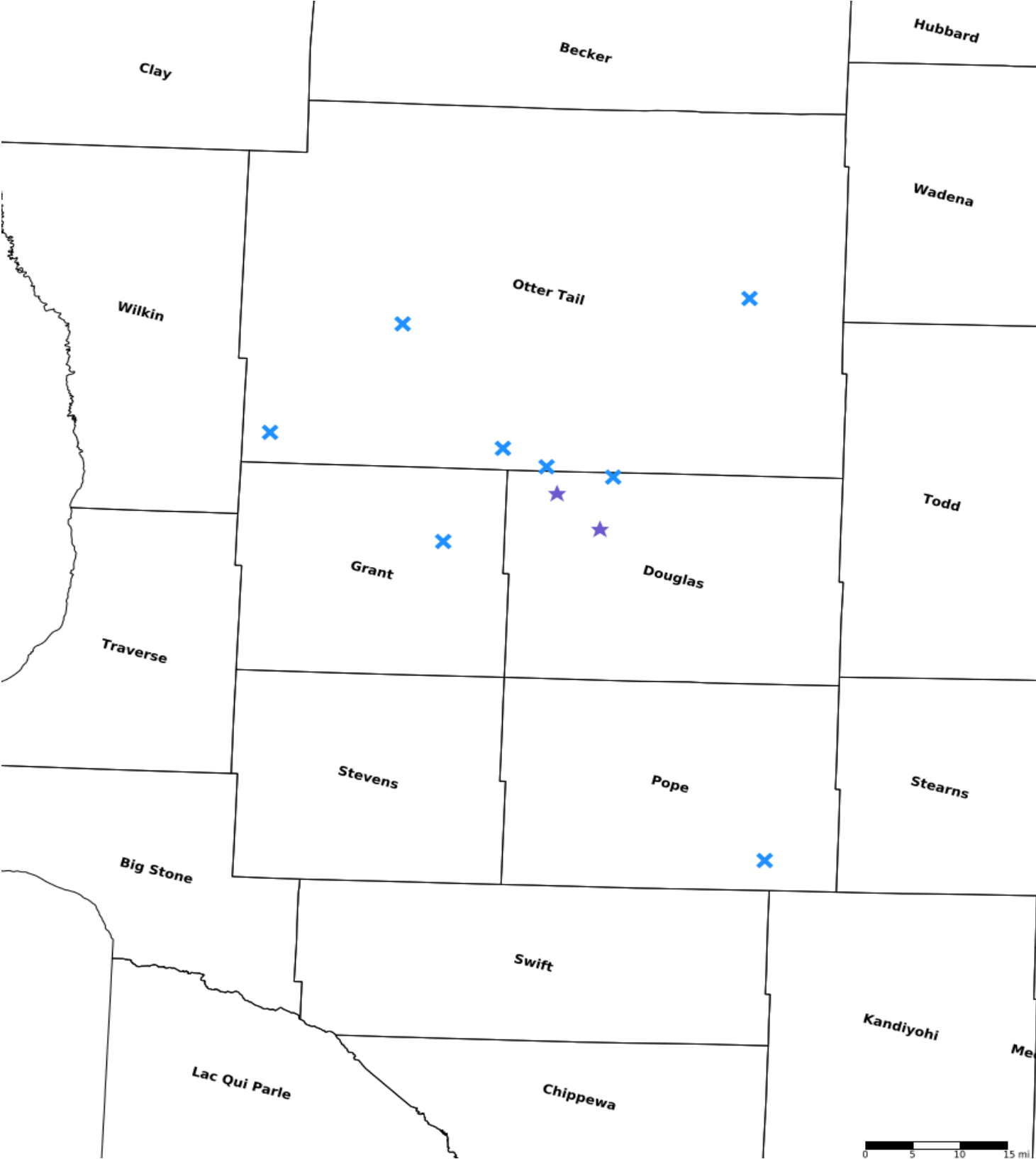
The Land Trust uses a competitive, market-based approach through an RFP process to identify interested landowners and prioritize parcels for conservation easement acquisition. All proposals submitted by landowners are evaluated and ranked relative to their ecological significance based on three primary factors: 1) size of habitat on the parcel; 2) condition of habitat on the parcel; and 3) the context (both in terms of amount/quality of remaining habitat and protected areas) within which the parcel lies. We also ask the landowner to consider contributing all or a portion of fair market value to enable our funds to make a larger conservation impact (see attached sign-up criteria). We contract with local SWCD offices to provide outreach services as a way to connect effectively with local landowners.

Restoration and enhancement work will take place on private lands over which MLT and USFWS have secured permanent conservation easements to protect wetlands and associated upland habitat. The projects included in the parcel list were identified as priorities for restoration/enhancement by USFWS staff in their Morris and Fergus Falls offices and MLT staff.

### Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
JHP2	Douglas	13039203	20	\$125,000	Yes	Prairie
LNee	Douglas	12939204	2	\$10,000	Yes	Wetland
RSla	Douglas	13040214	54	\$290,000	Yes	Wetland
CShe	Grant	12941218	20	\$150,000	Yes	Prairie
BTru	Otter Tail	13437222	50	\$150,000	Yes	Prairie
ESP2	Otter Tail	13140234	10	\$100,000	Yes	Prairie
FFFGC Do	Otter Tail	13144216	150	\$150,000	Yes	Prairie
JRaL	Otter Tail	13141224	25	\$125,000	Yes	Prairie
LWZu	Otter Tail	13342209	50	\$150,000	Yes	Prairie
Skar	Pope	12337213	69	\$158,600	Yes	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

### Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 10

#### Comparison Report

**Program Title:** ML 2025 - Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase 10

**Organization:** Minnesota Land Trust

**Manager:** Wayne Ostlie

### Budget

**Requested Amount:** \$9,738,000

**Appropriated Amount:** \$2,853,000

**Percentage:** 29.3%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	\$500,000	\$296,000	\$218,000	\$270,000	43.6%	91.22%
Contracts	\$4,831,000	-	\$1,430,000	-	29.6%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$3,500,000	\$1,100,000	\$839,000	\$380,000	23.97%	34.55%
Easement Stewardship	\$336,000	-	\$168,000	-	50.0%	-
Travel	\$25,500	-	\$11,700	-	45.88%	-
Professional Services	\$361,000	-	\$113,000	-	31.3%	-
Direct Support Services	\$135,000	-	\$58,800	-	43.56%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,500	-	\$600	-	24.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	\$47,000	-	\$13,900	-	29.57%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$9,738,000</b>	<b>\$1,396,000</b>	<b>\$2,853,000</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>	<b>29.3%</b>	<b>46.56%</b>

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

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

Acre scaling will be moderately less than proportional due to fixed costs and other factors. R/E project selection will be based on priorities; scaling may not be proportional. Activities will be curtailed, but less than proportional, as some activities are fixed and necessary for program success.

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

Personnel and DSS will be scaled, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream



after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

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

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

Acre scaling will be moderately less than proportional due to fixed costs and other factors.

Restoration/enhancement project selection will be based on priorities; scaling may not be proportional.

Activities will be curtailed, but less than proportional, as some activities are fixed and necessary for program success.

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

Personnel and DSS will be scaled, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

## Output

### Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	94	56	59.57%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	1,314	261	19.86%
Enhance	1,300	394	30.31%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	\$341,300	\$184,500	54.06%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$4,677,000	\$1,370,200	29.3%
Enhance	\$4,719,700	\$1,298,300	27.51%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	94	56	59.57%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	1,314	261	19.86%
Enhance	1,300	394	30.31%

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

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	\$341,300	\$184,500	54.06%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$4,677,000	\$1,370,200	29.3%
Enhance	\$4,719,700	\$1,298,300	27.51%