Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Phase VIII: Statewide and Metro Habitat
Laws of Minnesota 2016 Final Report

General Information

Date: 08/02/2025

Project Title: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Phase VIII: Statewide and Metro Habitat

Funds Recommended: $7,438,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(k)

Appropriation Language: $7,438,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for a program to provide competitive, matching grants of up to $400,000 to local, regional, state, and national organizations for enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount, up to $2,500,000 is for grants in the seven-county metropolitan area and cities with a population of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made for activities required to fulfill the duties of owners of lands subject to conservation easements. Grants shall not be made from the appropriation in this paragraph for projects that have a total project cost exceeding $575,000. Of the total appropriation, $588,000 may be spent for personnel costs and other direct and necessary administrative costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests in land. Easements must be permanent. Grants may not be used to establish easement stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee must be open to hunting and fishing during the open season unless otherwise provided by law. The program must require a match of at least ten percent from nonstate sources for all grants. The match may be cash or in-kind resources. For grant applications of $25,000 or less, the commissioner shall provide a separate, simplified application process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the commissioner of natural resources shall, when evaluating projects of equal value, give priority to organizations that have a history of receiving or a charter to receive private contributions for local conservation or habitat projects. If acquiring land in fee or a conservation easement, priority must be given to projects associated with or within one mile of existing wildlife management areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic management areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02. All restoration or enhancement projects must be on land permanently protected by a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual maintenance and protection of restored and enhanced habitat, by a conservation easement, by public ownership, or in public waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority must be given to restoration and enhancement projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded under this paragraph. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2020. No less than five percent of the amount of each grant must be held back from reimbursement until the grant recipient has completed a grant accomplishment report by the deadline and in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The commissioner shall provide notice of the grant program in the game and fish law summary prepared under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051, subdivision 2.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Kathy Varble
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Location Information

County Location(s): Martin, Fillmore, Stevens, Marshall, St. Louis, Clearwater, Pine, Koochiching, Kanabec, Anoka, Washington, Rice, Ramsey, Itasca, Dakota, Mower, Hennepin, Isanti, Hubbard, Becker, Otter Tail, McLeod, Wright, Scott, Olmsted, Crow Wing, Lake, Polk, Goodhue and Kittson.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Protect in Fee

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

With the ML 2016 appropriation The Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program awarded 54 grants, 22 of these grants were the metropolitan area. Over 27,900 acres were enhanced, 5,750 acres were restored, and 200

acres protected through these 54 projects. Thirty counties had CPL projects completed in them through 36 unique organizations. The average project for the ML 2016 grants was $127,000, with few exceptions most projects were completed on time and many were under budget. Additionally, the awarded grant partners contributed over $1.3 million in in-kind or cash match, far exceeding the 10% requirement.

Process & Methods

The CPL Program fulfills MS 97a.056 Subd. 3a, directing LSOHC to establish a conservation partners' grant program, encouraging and supporting local conservation efforts. $6,850,000 of the appropriated funds was available for grants. This is a stand alone program but depends on the support and technical advice of local land managers, habitat and acquisition specialists, and support staff.

Grant activities include: enhancement, restoration, and protection of forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife. A 10% match from non-state sources is required for all grants.

CPL staff develop a Request for Proposal and Program Manual incorporating LSOHC priorities, solicit applications, work with applicants to submit scorable applications, oversee grant selection, prepare/execute grant documents, review expenditure documentation, ensure financial integrity, make payments, monitor grant work, assist recipients with closing out agreements, and prepare required reports. CPL staff complies with the Department of Administration- Office of Grants Management policies.

Application process:
A Request for Proposal/Program Manual was posted on the CPL website in August 2016. Document contains all grant program information.

Applications are submitted on the online grant application system. Applicants use the mapping tool in the application to map project sites. Applications are accepted until September 2016 for round 1 of all grant cycles. Expedited Conservation Project (ECP) applications and applications for less than $25,000 have a shorter application form. The application system accepts ECP applications until funding runs out, but is designed for 5 rounds of applications. Traditional (statewide) applications were accepted once, Metro applications were accepted twice, and ECP applications were accepted one time.

Grant Selection Process:
CPL Grant Program Staff review applications for completeness. Technical Review Committees, selected by the Commissioner of Natural Resources, evaluate applications based on criteria below. A final score is given to all applications. Committees include representatives from the DNR, BWSR, UMN, USFWS, USFS, counties, and other local government and non-profit organizations. A final ranking committee of Directors of the DNR Divisions of Fish and Wildlife, Ecological Resources/Waters, and Forestry consider the technical review committee, division and regional DNR comments, and recommend projects and funding to the Commissioner. ECP grants are reviewed by CPL staff, using criteria established for each type of project, and make recommendations. Division of Fish and Wildlife leadership make final decisions. CPL Grant Program Staff work with grantees to complete financial reviews, grant agreements, and other paperwork. Work may not begin until grant contract is executed.
Applications are evaluated on these criteria:
Amount of habitat restored, enhanced, or protected
Local Support
Degree of collaboration
Urgency
Multiple benefits
Consistency with current conservation science

Adjacent to protected lands
Full funding of project
Budget/cost effectiveness
Public access for hunting and fishing
Use of native plant materials
Applicants' capacity to successfully complete and sustain work

Project Reviews and Reporting:
Grantees submit annual accomplishment reports on forms provided by CPL staff, based on LSOHC report forms. Reports account for the use of grant and match funds, and outcomes in measures of wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat restored, enhanced, and protected. The report must include an evaluation of these results. A final report is required by all grantees 30 days after project completion.

CPL Administration Budget:
Grant administration costs total $112,200, include salary/fringe for grants staff, direct and necessary costs, travel, supplies, and expenses. An Internal Service Level Agreement (SLA) is developed with MNIT to update/manage the online grant application system.

DNR Land Acquisition Costs:
Applicants are required to budget for DNR Land Acquisition costs that are necessary to support the land acquisition process for parcels to be conveyed to the DNR. These costs are billed to awarded grants on a professional services basis.

DNR Technical Support:
The Division of Fish and Wildlife provides ongoing technical guidance, helping applicants prepare grant proposals and meet requirements for working on state lands. Project development and oversight is provided by area managers and additional guidance is provided for land acquisitions.

Grantee Payment:
Grantees are paid on reimbursement basis, meaning payment is made to the grantee after work has been performed or materials purchased, but before the vendor is paid by the grantee. Grantees provide proof that work is completed or a purchase made to receive payment. Proof that the vendor was paid must be submitted to CPL staff before additional grant payments are made. Payment advances may be made for acquisitions with a signed purchase agreement. Partial payments are allowed. Funds are built into grants for required Legacy logo signage and forms of acknowledgement/notification including, but not limited to, local news advertisements announcing completion of grantees projects.

How did the program address habitats of significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, threatened or endangered species, and/or list targeted species?

All CPL project requests include a Natural Heritage Database Review, which addresses wildlife species of greatest conservation need, the MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories.

How did the program use science-based targeting that leveraged or expanded corridors and complexes, reduced fragmentation, or protected areas in the MN County Biological Survey.

The CPL program has a Technical Review Committee that reviews and evaluates projects for sound conservation science.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

CPL works with partners all over the state, including non-profit organizations and local, state, and federal units of government.

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

CPL is unique because the program works with over 200 organizations throughout the state. CPL also requires local investment in projects of at least 10% of the grant award.

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this program?

N/A

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

Successful applicants include long term maintenance plans in their applications, which are considered greatly by the technical review committees.

Budget

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	$480,000	$480,000	$83,200	-	-	-	$480,000	$83,200
Contracts	$6,850,000	$6,850,000	$6,190,700	$685,000	$1,313,800	Local match	$7,535,000	$7,504,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$25,000	$25,000	$500	-	-	-	$25,000	$500
Professional Services	$36,000	$36,000	$12,100	-	-	-	$36,000	$12,100
Direct Support Services	$42,000	$42,000	$11,700	-	-	-	$42,000	$11,700
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$5,000	$5,000	$4,700	-	-	-	$5,000	$4,700
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$7,438,000**	**$7,438,000**	**$6,302,900**	**$685,000**	**$1,313,800**	**-**	**$8,123,000**	**$7,616,700**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
CPL Coordinator	1.0	1.0	$83,200	-	-	$83,200

Direct Support Services

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

Explain any budget challenges or successes:
One parcel was not acquired because the landowner backed out of the sale, one parcel appraised significantly less than the assessed (applied for) value, and another parcel was replaced by two parcels of lesser value, all of these acquisitions resulted in partners turning back funding. A restoration project received bids far above the estimates so the organization applied directly to LOSHC/OHF for funding, and several restorations and enhancements came in under budget. The personnel costs were significantly under budget because the program was efficiently run by one DNR staff member with minimal assistance from two other staff.

Total Revenue: $0

Revenue Spent: $0

Revenue Balance: $0

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

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

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Acres (AP)	Total Acres (Final)
Restore	0	7	0	431	0	5,165	0	149	0	5,752
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	152	0	0	0	13	0	165
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	0	0	42
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	2,147	0	21,451	0	2,366	0	2,006	0	27,970
Total	**0**	**2,154**	**0**	**22,034**	**0**	**7,573**	**0**	**2,168**	**0**	**33,929**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Funding (AP)	Total Funding (Final)
Restore	-	$50,000	-	$552,700	-	$855,700	-	$1,168,800	-	$2,627,200
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$659,000	-	-	-	$325,000	-	$984,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	$167,700	-	-	-	$167,700
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$329,800	-	$564,300	-	$1,148,700	-	$481,200	-	$2,524,000
Total	**-**	**$379,800**	**-**	**$1,776,000**	**-**	**$2,172,100**	**-**	**$1,975,000**	**-**	**$6,302,900**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	0	287	0	1	0	375	0	138	0	4,951	0	5,752
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	152	0	13	0	165
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	42
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	1,058	0	22,365	0	125	0	884	0	3,538	0	27,970
Total	**0**	**1,345**	**0**	**22,366**	**0**	**500**	**0**	**1,174**	**0**	**8,544**	**0**	**33,929**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro/ Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	-	$834,600	-	$305,300	-	$523,200	-	$226,100	-	$738,000	-	$2,627,200
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$659,000	-	$325,000	-	$984,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$167,700	-	$167,700
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$1,112,400	-	$426,500	-	$103,300	-	$322,100	-	$559,700	-	$2,524,000
Total	**-**	**$1,947,000**	**-**	**$731,800**	**-**	**$626,500**	**-**	**$1,207,200**	**-**	**$1,790,400**	**-**	**$6,302,900**

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Other ~ *Outcomes are measured and evaluated by the grantee's final report and a monitoring visit.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Other ~ *Outcomes are measured and evaluated by the grantee's final report and a monitoring visit.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Other ~ *Outcomes are measured and evaluated by the grantee's final report and a monitoring visit.*

Programs in prairie region:

Other ~ *Outcomes are measured and evaluated by the grantee's final report and a monitoring visit.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Other ~ *Outcomes are measured and evaluated by the grantee's final report and a monitoring visit.*

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Anoka Conservation District Martin and Typo Lake Carp Removal	Anoka	03422221	528	$99,000	Yes	This project improved aquatic habitat in Martin and Typo Lakes and interconnected wetland habitats by removing common carp with a science-based approach that incorporates existing carp barriers, radio tracking, and population analysis to set goals and track progress. Over three years we did 4 commercial harvests at deeper Martin Lake and 16+ days of summer box netting at shallower Typo Lake to remove most carp. To guide these and future harvests we used radio tagging and tracking, age structure analysis of captured carp and identification of nursery areas. We developed a long-term, location-specific, science-based strategy, and a decision-support tool (carp population model) to sustain project benefits after the grant period. By working throughout this chain of lakes we created a connected network of habitat yielding multiple benefits to fish, wildlife and water.
Isanti Soil and Water Conservation Distrct Enhancing Rum River shore habitat with revetments	Anoka	03324231	1	$100,000	Yes	This project is part of a multi-county effort to improve riparian habitat identified during the regional Rum River WRAPS. Water's edge habitat and erosion control is an important management need for the Rum River. Cedar tree revetments were used to enhance shore habitat and correct erosion on 1,500 linear-feet of mild to moderately eroding

						riverbank. 40 landowners expressed interest in response to outreach on 1/9th of the river corridor. Sites were selected with preference for creating contiguous habitat particularly adjacent to protected land and stabilizing riverbanks that were most likely to worsen if left untreated.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Carlos Avery Woody Cover Development	Anoka	03322220	50	$75,000	Yes	Planted mixed hardwood trees on 50 acres of old fields on Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area (CAWMA). The goal of this project was to provide a more continuous, diverse, and resiliant forest. Planting these openings connected existing forest stands and reduce edge habitat. The project area is adjacent to the Boot Lake Scientific and Natural Area (BLSNA) which contains a diverse forest community, including old growth white pine.
National Wild Turkey Federation Lamprey Pass Deer Protection	Anoka	03222213	22	$34,425	Yes	This area of Lamprey Pass WMA is an old field that was direct seeded to oak in 2011 and yielded good results. However, as of the summer of 2016 the majority of the seedlings only reach a height of 24" or less due to deer browse. The DNR Area Wildlife office, who manages the land, wanted to install a temporary fence in order to allow the trees time grow beyond the browse line.
MN Prairie Chicken Society Enhanced Grassland Management 2017	Becker	11943201	20,385	$220,827	Yes	This project increased the ability of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) to manage grasslands on Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) and National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) in the prairie regions of MN. Management was primarily by prescribed (Rx) fire, and to a lesser extent mechanical/chemical treatment of woody vegetation. Grant funds were used to contract with

						the F&WS to bring in staff from outside the local offices (detailers) and also to hire local personnel who are trained in wildland fire and who would work on a day by day basis (ADs). These additional fire personnel supplemented existing local F&WS fire personnel. Grasslands must be periodically disturbed (burned, grazed, mowed) to maintain their productivity. In the absence of regular disturbance, the litter layer builds up, woody plants invade, and the vegetation changes to a less desirable state with respect to plant species composition and biologic productivity.
Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society Bemidji Area STGR Habitat Enhancement	Clearwater	14935219	290	$42,364	Yes	Sharp-tailed grouse are a listed SGCN and their habitat management is embedded in DNR-SWAP. Populations are gradually declining in this area due to quality habitat loss/natural degradation. This is occurring because brushland habitats are growing older, more dense and more rank and openland habitats (old fields/lowland meadows/upland grass) is being encroached upon by brush and trees. Sharptail populations have experienced a decline evidenced by spring dancing ground surveys which show a dramatic loss of these Leks in the past 10 years. These brushland complexes suffer the same "plague" as the above described scenario.
Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District Pine River:Fish Passage Project	Crow Wing	13727234	2	$89,028	Yes	Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Fisheries (DNR), Big Pine Lake Association, The Nature Conservancy, and Crow Wing County (CWC)have partnered to replace a 46-year-old failing rock dam to restore up and

						downstream passage for fish and other aquatic life. The new structure design mimics natural stream hydraulics and effectively restore connectivity and stability to the stream with minimal maintenance. This project improves biological health and stability in the stream and Big Pine Lake, it also helps protect three state listed fish species. This project helps increase the numbers of these species and other aquatic species as passage and connectivity is restored between Big Pine Lake, the Pine River, tributaries, and ultimately the Mississippi. This will greatly benefit migratory fish, mussels, and numerous aquatic organisms. The positive effects will be direct and immediate to the aquatic plant and animal communities that inhabit or utilize more than 20 miles of the river and 400 acres of Big Pine lake, essentially reversing decades of impacts. Over time this will also improve fisheries and habitat in the upper Mississippi and tributaries.
Rollie Johnson Natural and Recreational Area Rollie Johnson Islands Restoration 3	Crow Wing	13728217	57	$18,000	Yes	The Rollie Johnson Natural and Recreational Area consists of three islands (Big Island, Little Island, and Steamboat Island) on Upper Whitefish Lake in Crow Wing County. Big Island is a 51.41 acre island, 5.75 acres belonging to the MNDNR and 45.66 acres belonging to Crow Wing County. Little Island is a 1.84 acre island belonging to the MNDNR. Steamboat Island is a 3.82 acre island belonging to the MNDNR. Designated areas of these islands are open to public camping and there is a nature walking trail on Big Island. We are attempting to restore/maintain these islands for future generations to enjoy. Most

						of the major areas of erosion on the high, sandy slopes have been stabilized with funds from previous grants. There are still smaller areas to be protected. There are areas along the toe that need to be worked on. Damage is caused each year by wind and wave action during the open water season and by ice damage in the spring. This spring high water, a foot above normal, caused additional damage to the shoreline. Coir logs already in place were moved or buried by sand and rocks. Some of the coir logs that have been in place for several years are beginning to deteriorate. Grant funds were needed to complete additional areas and to restore damaged areas.
Dakota County Jensen Lake Enhancement Phase II	Dakota	02723234	112	$257,400	Yes	Dakota County will begin Phase II of a 112 acre woodland enhancement (FDs37) at Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Phase I of this project (CPL15 Buck Pond Prairie and Woodland Restoration) removed large quantities of buckthorn and Siberian elm, and began control of herbaceous invasives in the ground layer. This project returned open and large gap habitats typical of early succession FDs37 communities to Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Similar to savannas, these open habitats can support a highly diverse ground layer, due to the variation in light availability. FDs37 is a frequently occurring plant community within the local area, however a legacy of fire suppression and exotic species invasion have erased the once-common woodland-savanna ecotones. To restore these ecotones, Phase II involved a modest amount of additional canopy thinning and seeding within high

						quality woodlands, but also took full advantage of disturbed inclusions (historic homesteads, formerly cultivated land, etc) to create larger gaps and openings. Volunteers controlled invasive species where appropriate, conducted plant and native bee surveys, collected and sowed white oak group acorns and other native seed, and planted and tended targeted propagation pods containing select native species. A contractor to initiated the reintroduction of fire to the project area, covering approximately one third to one half of the project area.
Dakota County Parks Dakota Lake: Forest, Woodland, and Savanna	Dakota	02723235	65	$221,000	Yes	Dakota County enhanced 65 acres of forests, woodlands and savannas located in Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Primary tasks included removing exotic woody shrubs in all of the target plant communities. Also, canopy cover was thinned in the savanna and woodland areas to stimulate native plant growth and herbaceous ground cover growth to restore conditions that will be able to carry running ground fires in the future. Once canopy and brush removal was complete, fire was reinstated as an ecosystem process. Approximately 2/3 of the site was formerly in agricultural use, so we installed seed across much of the site
Dakota County Parks Miesville Bluff Restoration Phase II	Dakota	11317225	131	$400,000	Yes	Dakota County restored and enhanced approximately 130 acres of degraded bluffland and former crop fields to native prairie, savanna, woodland, and forest at Miesville Ravine Park Reserve (MRPR) in southeast Dakota County. The project area is on the shoulder, crest, and flat

						tops of limestone bluffs on the east side of Trout Brook, a class-1A protected trout stream. Historically, much of the steep bluffs contained Dry Bedrock Bluff Prairie (UPs13c), a state and globally threatened plant community and potential habitat for dozens of Minnesota's SGCNs. There were several small patches of prairie scattered across the slopes of the project area, but were shrinking due to encroachment by woody vegetation. This project expanded and buffered the remnants, connecting them where possible, and connecting them to several other remnants that were enhanced adjacent to the proposed project area, thanks to a CPL grant from FY 2016. The remainder of the project acreage consists of enhanced savanna, woodland, and forest, plus restoring former cropland and an old field; all that are next to UPs13c communities.
Friends of the Mississippi River Dakota and Washington County Restorations	Dakota	11519216	48	$89,369	Yes	This project enhanced and restored a total of 48 acres at three sites: Vermillion Linear Park (VLP) and Rosemount Wildlife Preserve (RWP) in Dakota County, and Camel's Hump Park and Open Space (CHPOS) in Washington County. At VLP, three acres of floodplain and terrace forest along the Vermillion River was enhanced through non-native woody species control and native shrub and wildflower planting, and roughly four acres of non-native grassland was restored and enhanced to native prairie. At CHPOS, 11 acres of forest and woodland was enhanced through non-native shrub removal, native shrub and understory additions,

						seeding, and a prescribed burn. Work at VLP and CHPOS occured on extensions of areas that were previously restored with ENRTF, LSOHC and CPL funding, expanding the restored and enhanced areas at each site. Restoring and enhancing these new acres will help buffer the current restorations and decrease the amount of invasive propagules reaching already restored areas. At RWP, 18 acres of forest and seven acres of prairie was be enhanced by removing non-native shrubs, adding native shrubs, and conducting prescribed burns.
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Org South Creek Stream Habitat Restoration	Dakota	11420235	3	$258,229	Yes	Restored and improved stream habitat within South Creek, a trout stream tributary to the Vermillion River. The restoration consisted of a multitude of different features that provide new and improved habitats, increase sinuosity, improve aeration, reduce stream temperatures, and stabilize eroding slopes. Those features include removing select trees that block the flow within the channel; narrowing and stabilization of the stream banks in select locations using either brush mats with boulder toes or seed with blanket; and the installation of cover boulders, rock veins, rootwads, stream barbs, backwater pools, cobble, and tree pins. Furthermore, the channel was narrowed throughout portions of the parcel, which should combine with the habitat features to improve habitat and maintain a channel substrate with significantly less sand and fine sediment.
Pheasants Forever Fillmore County WMA Enhancements	Fillmore	10412206	100	$50,000	Yes	This project addressed the limiting factor for pheasants and other game and non-game grassland

						species- quality nesting and brood rearing cover. In the pheasant range of Minnesota, quality grassland habitat is the limiting factor for higher pheasant populations. It is well documented that wildlife responds better to well managed habitat. Brome conversion significantly enhanced the grassland complex on Chosen Valley WMA and Spring Valley WMA. Brome conversion occured to help maximize production of pheasant, waterfowl and other wildlife. Grasslands like these over time degrade naturally and periodic management is needed to keep them functioning properly.
City of Red Wing Red Wing Prairie and Oak Savanna Restorations	Goodhue	11314229	244	$123,192	Yes	Red Wing, on the banks of the Mississippi, is surrounded by wetlands, bluffs, forests, savannas, and prairies. Native prairie and oak savanna are two of Minnesota's most threatened plant communities. Red Wing's Memorial Park, Barn Bluff, and Billings-Tomfohr Conservation Area/Coon Hill hold more than 222 acres of prairie and savanna that are home to many species of plants, insects, birds, and other wildlife, including many rare species. Red Wing residents and personnel, along with resource professionals from several conservation agencies, recognized the importance of these sites and the growing problem with invasive species. Partners included City of Red Wing, Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM), Friends of the Bluffs, Audubon, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Management

						plans were written and a Comprehensive Work Plan was completed. Restoration of prairie and oak savanna through invasive species management were identified as the highest priority. The restoration strategy was to conduct initial invasive species removal on management units, institute prescribed burning, and conduct follow-up invasive species removal as necessary. Restoration work was initiated in 2014, and initial invasive species removal was completed on 120 acres at the end of 2016. The work is highly visible and has received strong support from citizen stakeholders.
Hennepin County HCPW Ecological Restoration	Hennepin	11823210	43	$49,609	Yes	The project restored three habitat types that comprise approximately 48.3 acres of a 140 acre parcel owned and managed by Hennepin County and located in the City of Medina. The 43 acre project area contains remnant Southern Mesic Oak-Basswood Forest (MHs38), a complex of wetlands, a degraded restored Southern Mesic Prairie (UPs23) and other altered landscapes. A combination of mechanical, chemical, and fire treatments were used to eliminate non-native invasive species while providing growing conditions conducive to establishing native herbaceous, graminoids and tree species. Treatments were followed by seeding in the prairie and planting in the remnant forest using community specific native plants. This project restored prairie and wetlands and enhanced the adjacent remnant Mesic Oak- Basswood Forest (MHs38C) that is identified on the MNDNR county biological survey.

Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District High Meadows Rum River Re-meander	Isanti	03623208	6	$206,046	Yes	This project restored and enhanced aquatic and terrestrial habitat by reconnecting over a mile of the Rum River to its historic channel using natural channel restoration principals including woody debris and native plants. A shortcut in the river channel caused by anthropogenic sources prior to the 1950s, which has since grown into a much larger eroded channel, was repaired. This shortcut caused excessive sedimentation, channel headcutting, floodplain disconnection and erosion of adjacent MN DNR lands. The repair design included removal of aggraded sediment from the natural channel in order to activate the channel. Once the natural channel was activated sheer stress was reduced enough to put a plug (fill with two toe-wood sod mats) into the man-made diversion. The bank was revegetated with native plants.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Cass & Itasca Co Oak Enhancement	Itasca	05426215	300	$29,893	Yes	Oak is an invaluable tree that provides food and cover to wildlife in Minnesota. Acorns provide high energy food to many species of wildlife and is especialy important to deer,bear and turkeys. Mature oak trees also provide hollow cavities for wildlife dens and nest sites for waterfowl. However, oak is not shade tolerant and growth can be slowed from ompetition and shading from other trees. Timber stand improvement methods were done to enhance the growth of oak and also promote the production of acorns at an earlier age. Project sites are in mixed hardwood stands and have regenerating oak saplings or stump sprouts from recent timber sales. Project work enhanced,

						promoted, and increased the growth of oak within timber stands.
Ruffed Grouse Society Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Habitat Enhancement	Itasca	14525229	1,199	$228,073	Yes	Brushlands and openlands in forested regions of Minnesota provide critical early successional habitats for a suite of migratory and non-migratory wildlife species. Fire suppression and lack of agency funding are factors that have contributed to a backlog of brushland habitats that have not been managed to replicate a natural disturbance regime. As a result these sites have continued to mature and the physical characteristics are no longer providing the benefits to these species. Conservation organizations such as RGS, WMI, and ABC as well as agencies (USFWS, USFS, MN DNR) have cited a need for this type of management in the forested regions of the eastern united states. This project diversified age classes on state owned brushland and openlands across the forested regions of Minnesota.
Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society EC Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Enhancement #1	Kanabec	04122204	613	$49,997	Yes	Sharp-tailed grouse are a listed SGCN and their habitat management is embedded in DNR-SWAP. Populations are gradually declining in this area due to quality habitat loss/natural degradation. This is occurring because brushland habitats are growing older, more dense and more rank and openland habitats (old fields/lowland meadows/upland grass) is being encroached upon by brush and trees. Sharptail populations have experienced a decline evidenced by spring dancing ground surveys which show a dramatic loss of these Leks in the past 10 years. These brushland complexes suffer the same

						"plague" as the above described scenario.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Thief Lake/Karlstad Prescribed Burning	Kittson	16346212	279	$46,463	Yes	The Tallgrass Aspen Parklands remains one of the most intact tallgrass prairie habitats on the continent. The area contains large tracts of protected land, including over 200,000 acres of Wildlife Management Areas, managed by the Minnesota DNR. A major challenge of habitat management in the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands is brush encroachment in grasslands. Contractors provided a critical amount of staffing to participate on prescribed burns with Area staff. Many prairie parkland species will benefit from a reduction in woody species encroachment.
Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society NC Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Enhancement #2	Koochiching	16033212	261	$35,000	Yes	Sharp-tailed grouse are a listed SGCN and their habitat management is embedded in DNR-SWAP. Populations are gradually declining in this area due to quality habitat loss/natural degradation. This is occurring because brushland habitats are growing older, more dense and more rank and openland habitats (old fields/lowland meadows/upland grass) is being encroached upon by brush and trees. Sharptail populations have experienced a decline evidenced by spring dancing ground surveys which show a dramatic loss of these Leks in the past 10 years. These brushland complexes suffer the same "plague" as the above described scenario.
The Nature Conservancy North Shore Browse Protection	Lake	05510212	1,615	$49,931	Yes	The transition of Northeast Minnesota forests from dominance by conifers to dominance by short lived aspen and birch has resulted in a simplification and degradation of forest habitats and diminished habitat quality for many

						Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and other elements of biodiversity. This loss of diversity leaves our forests more vulnerable to stress from climate change, invasive species, and outbreaks of native pests and pathogens. This problem and the related issue of simplified age class distribution are two of the most widely recognized forest ecology problems in the nation and we have struggled with addressing both in Minnesota since the early 1990s. The issue of species diversity loss has been dealt with in all Northern Minnesota county, state, and federal land management plans since that time and in both versions of the MN Forest Resources Council's Northeast Landscape Plans (2003 and 2014). Through previous CPL and other funding The Nature Conservancy has worked with Lake County, St. Louis County, DNR, and USFS to restore species diversity through tree planting, and follow up treatments of browse protection and release. This project provided additional browse protection treatments to ensure the plantings continue grow out of reach of deer and competing vegetation. The sites are on upland native plant communities in a variety of settings on public land that offer a diverse range of habitats for many SGCN. Most sites are along the North Shore of Lake Superior. All sites have been planted with tree species that require browse protection including white pine, white cedar, yellow birch, and red oak.
The Nature Conservancy Tending and Completing NE MN Forest Restorations	Lake	05508230	3,006	$197,695	Yes	Over the last fifteen years The Nature Conservancy developed strong

						collaborations with major landowners to improve upland forest and riparian habitat in Northeast Minnesota. To increase diversity, build ecological resilience, improve wildlife habitat, and help protect water quality, we planted and tended 2 million trees on 9000 acres of land, focusing on long-lived conifers and important hardwood species. Starting in 2010, we used CPL funding to plant and tend nearly 1 million trees on 5000 of those acres. In 2013, using complementary, private foundation funds, we initiated a climate adaptation tree planting project one of the first in the region to bring the latest climate science into on-the-ground restoration. This resulted in an additional 2000 acres of work. The net result is a large network of thriving seedlings across a diverse range of habitats used by many Species of Greatest Conservation Need. However, many of these seedlings are at a critical, vulnerable stage. Without several more years of additional tending that will protect them from deer browse and release them from competing vegetation, many of these seedlings will not make it to the free to grow sapling stage, putting much of the initial investment at risk. This project providedthe browse protection, pruning, additional planting, and release from competition that is necessary to ensure that the trees planted on our previous CPL sites will survive and become thriving forest trees and important components of habitat for many wildlife species.
Minnesota Deer Hunters	Marshall	15841236	68	$48,838	Yes	Common buckthorn, an

Association Thief Lake/Karlstad Buckthorn Removal						invasive brush species, has been found across the Tallgrass Aspen Parkland habitat. Buckthorn has been invading the aspen stands within the WMA sites and will need to be controlled and monitored to help prevent the spread of this invasive species. Control efforts enhanced the forest understory for many wildlife species.Aaggressive treatment will set back buckthorn infestations, preventing the forest from becoming a buckthorn monoculture.
Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. Martin County WMA Grasslands PHASE II	Martin	10331231	56	$29,539	Yes	3 Martin County WMA's were is great need of grassland restorations. The 50 acres targeted for replacement was primarily brome grass and has little habitat value. The replacement of these grassland acres with native species will greatly impact wildlife.
Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. Martin County WMA Tree Removal PHASE II	Martin	10129206	50	$45,649	Yes	Encroachment of trees by shading out prairie vegetation is destroying said vegetation. Both the encroaching tree seedlings and the seed trees need to be removed to eliminate this threat to the prairie habitat. Currently the sites are dominated by diverse native prairie species. Small areas of mature trees exist on edges or in clumps within the prairie habitat. These mature trees are providing a seed source resulting in tree invasion into the prairie as scattered trees and dense patches of trees that are completely smothering out the prairie plant species. All undesirable trees and shrub species were cut and piled and deciduous tree and shrub stumps and foliage regrowth was treated on 5 Wildlife Management Areas located in Martin County.
Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. Martin County WMA	Martin	10332229	7	$50,000	Yes	This project restored hydrology on 2 parcels of

Wetlands PHASE II						land. Tiles were disabled and sediment was excavated. Local source native vegetation was restored on all disturbed project areas. High quality wetland and riparian habitat was restored on approximately 14 acres.
Pheasants Forever McLeod County WMA Enhancements	McLeod	11629235	95	$44,330	Yes	The McLeod County WMA Enhancements project enhanced 90 acres of permanently protected upland cover on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Scattered tree removal significantly enhanced the grassland complex on Penn WMA, Phasianus WMA, and Prairie Heritage WMA and maximized production of pheasant, waterfowl and other wildlife. In addition to these WMA's that suffered from volunteer woody cover invasion, this project also converted 8 acres of brome on Prieve WMA back to a diverse seed mixture. Grasslands like these over time degrade naturally and periodic enhancements are needed to keep them functioning properly. By enhancing these grasslands, we maximize past investments in habitat protection and create a robust structure of productive and more resilient habitat for waterfowl and other grassland/wetland species.
Friends of the Hormel Nature Center Hormel Nature Center Critical Habitat Restoration	Mower	10317231	75	$146,520	Yes	The Hormel Nature Center Critical Habitat Restoration Project built on significant habitat restoration efforts that the City of Austin/Friends of Hormel Nature Center have undertaken in recent years. Those efforts have included the recent purchase of over 100 acres of land and the restoration of over 165 acres of species-rich mesic/wet prairie to former crop ground. The City has also successfully conducted several pilot oak savanna

						restoration projects to test which savanna restoration methods would be most effective at HNC.The project restored an additional 50 acres of species-rich mesic/wet prairie to former crop ground and conducted 25 acres of oak savanna habitat restoration. Goals of the project were to improve habitat quality for game (particularly white-tail deer, ring-neck pheasant, waterfowl, and mourning dove), as well as nongame species (including pollinators, five state-listed species known to occur at HNC and the 23 documented Species in Greatest Conservation Need).
RNeighbors Quarry Hill Silver Creek Urban Corridor	Olmsted	10713231	25	$30,910	Yes	The Quarry Hill Silver Creek Urban Corridor project enhanced vulnerable native flora and fauna communities on over 300 acres of undeveloped public land. Quarry Hill Park hosts the Quarry Hill Nature Center with over 80,000 visitors per year. This number does not include the many "at-large" park visitors consisting of City of Rochester residents, visitors and school children for passive and active recreation, including fishing in the DNR stocked pond, Monarch butterfly tagging, bat observation, biking and cross-country skiing. These opportunities are less than two miles from downtown Rochester. Silver Creek's banks lead to Silver Lake-which connects to the ongoing restoration on city park land. With the suppression of invasives in the areas described at Quarry Hill and Silver Creek a diversity of native species will return to (or expand within) the area as well as be more apparent as under-story visibility improves.
Pelican Group of Lakes	Otter Tail	13742217	1	$305,255	Yes	An 84-year-old dam on the

Improvement District Fish Lake Dam Rock Arch Rapids Fishway						Pelican River near the outlet of Fish Lake was deteriorating and unsafe due to exposed rebar, sheet pile and crumbling concrete. The area where the dam existed was a major draw for recreation including swimming, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, and waterfowl hunting. This existing dam was modified by installing a rock arch rapids fishway, which improved safety, opportunities for recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and dispersal, and provided a permanent fix to the aging dam. A rock arch rapids fishway is a structure that mimics shallow natural waterfalls in rivers that can be traversed by fish moving up and downstream from the falls. While modification of the dam into rock rapids will benefit all aquatic species moving along the river, this structure will be particularly usefully in aiding the DNR's goal of reintroduction of sturgeon, a fish that is native to the Red River basin, but has been absent since the mid-1900s.
Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society EC Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Enhancement #2	Pine	04419222	206	$49,977	Yes	Sharp-tailed grouse are a listed SGCN and their habitat management is embedded in DNR-SWAP. Populations are gradually declining in this area due to quality habitat loss/natural degradation. This is occurring because brushland habitats are growing older, more dense and more rank and openland habitats (old fields/lowland meadows/upland grass) is being encroached upon by brush and trees. Sharptail populations have experienced a decline evidenced by spring dancing ground surveys which show a dramatic loss of these Leks in the past 10

						years. These brushland complexes suffer the same "plague" as the above described scenario.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hybrid Cattail Reduction Effort	Polk	14944222	1,325	$43,010	Yes	Similar to many wetland habitats throughout Minnesota, the majority of wetlands within Glacial Ridge NWR have become cattail-dominated and contain minimal open water habitat or other emergent vegetation. Hydrid cattail monocultures provide very little wildlife habitat value and lead to increased levels of sediment and phosphorus accumulation within a wetland basin. Both hybrid and non-native (narrow-leaf)cattails can tolerate a wider range of environmental conditions than native (broadleaf)cattail, thereby exacerbating management issues with this highly invasive hydrophyte. Water level management is no longer a viable option for cattail reduction in most prairie wetlands. Hybrid cattail expansion in both natural and restored wetlands is THE primary wetland habitat management issue at Glacial Ridge NWR. Reducing cattail coverage in semipermanent (and to a lesser extent seasonal) wetlands to provide a 50:50 ratio of emergent vegetation to open water createf optimal habitat for the greatest diversity of migratory birds that use the Refuge. More than 1,500 acres of cattail-dominated habitat occur within wetlands that exhibit a seasonal and/or semipermanent hydroperiod and will serve as ideal sites for cattail reduction efforts on the Refuge.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Woody Vegetation Reduction Effort	Polk	14944224	308	$45,000	Yes	Glacial Ridge NWR is especially important because approximately

						5,000 acres of virgin (remnant) prairie and savanna and 12,000 acres of wetlands exist within the acquisition boundary. In addition, 18,000 acres of prairie have been restored (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2005a). Within one mile of the Glacial Ridge NWR boundary lies 7,800 acres of remnant grassland in a combination of private and public ownership. As such, Glacial Ridge NWR represents a remarkable opportunity to restore disrupted ecological processes, species, and function on a landscape scale. The importance of this is amplified, because tallgrass prairie and savanna are globally endangered ecosystems. Historically, frequent wildfires and the presence of large ungulate grazers mitigated the constant encroachment of woody species into this landscape. Today, these practices are replicated whenever possible on Glacial Ridge NWR but limitations exist on the number of acres that can be treated annually. This problem is further exacerbated by the fragmented nature and terrain features of some management units that prohibit recurring management actions. In order to reduce the cover of woody at Glacial Ridge NWR, we needed to investigate and utilize another disturbance tool that is able to efficiently cover large areas efficiently. Herbicide was applied aerially to woody vegetation.
City of Saint Paul, Dept of Parks and Recreation Crosby Farm Floodplain Forest Enhancement Phase 2	Ramsey	02823222	210	$168,000	Yes	The Crosby Farm Floodplain Forest Enhancement, Phase 2 program enhanced and managed approximately 210 acres of disturbed floodplain forest along the

						Mississippi River, within Crosby Farm Regional Park, through invasive species removal and control, and reforestation efforts. The project improved tree canopy diversity, increased connectedness of high-quality forests, increased the probability of a self-sustaining forest community, reduced sedimentation of impaired waterbodies, and improved habitat for fish and wildlife. This program focused on a significant land parcel in the Mississippi River Critical Area, within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) and the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge Important Bird Area. Work will be guided by the Great River Passage Master Plan (July 2012) and the Crosby Farm Regional Park Ecological Inventory and Restoration Management Plan (Great River Greening, 2005).
Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Long Lake Oak Woodland Restoration Project	Ramsey	03023220	25	$25,000	Yes	This project helped further enhance efforts for the restoration of the oak savanna and woodlands located in Long Lake Regional Park. In the past there have been a combination of volunteer funding and donated work for the restoration of 20 acres within the Park. Numerous hours and thousands of dollars in donations were used to remove woody invasive species, complete a prescribed burn and plant native seed for the restoration of the oak savanna/woodland. This donated time and funding only scratched the surface of the restoration work to be completed at these locations, so once again volunteers and donators have come forward to provide in kind match to continue restoration efforts

						for this area with the common goal of turning the site back to native oak woodland and savanna. This project continued to remove exotic and invasive woody material from these natural areas, remove larger material off site, plant native herbaceous seed to promote a desirable understory and surrounding prairie, and plant additional oak seedlings.
Cannon River Watershed Partnership Prairie Creek WMA, Grassland Mgmt	Rice	11119225	445	$50,000	Yes	The site for this project is Prairie Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), a 460 acre WMA located in Rice County containing several rare habitat types, including a large native Dry Hill Prairie of approximately 130 acres, rare Dry Hill Oak Savanna, and Maple-Basswood (Big Woods) Forest. Restoration and enhancement was continued on the project acres addressed in the 2015 CPL grant by targeting tree removal and woody encroachment management on both savanna and prairie habitats, as well as restoration of cropland within the WMA by planting native grass seed raised in the on-site nursery plots as well as grass seed and prairie flowers collected on the WMA. Control of other non-native herbaceous species was targeted as well in follow-up to the work completed under the 2015 Grant as part of a 5+ year plan to exhaust the on-site seed bank and reduce/eradicate these invasive species.
Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District Raymond Park Habitat Restoration Project	Scott	11422209	4	$24,000	Yes	Raymond Park is a relatively untouched peninsula of land that stretches out between Spring Lake and a large wetland, which are connected only by a small channel. Once platted into 11 lots and planned for

						development, the land is now a park owned by the City of Prior Lake and offers a unique opportunity to restore a variety of habitats in one location. The natural beach community has been been altered by years of attempts to control the erosion at the shoreline. A history of turf grass and lawn maintenance have led to the loss of pollinator habitat previously provided by flowering forbs. The oak savanna area, once maintained by fire and grazing, has become overgrown with low-quality, weedy species. The Raymond Park Restoration Project provided a unique opportunity to restore four different habitats at one site: beach, shoreland, grassland, and oak savanna. As a public park, this restoration project also serves as a demonstration site for the public to learn more about different types of habitat restoration which could potentially be installed on their own property.
Three Rivers Park District Murphy Southern Savanna Woodland	Scott	11421210	200	$353,100	Yes	The 200 acre Murphy Southern Savanna Woodland Project connected Murphy Hanrehan Prairie complex into a 675 acre fire management complex. The 190 acres of oak savanna and woodlands was cleared of woody invasives and dead wood. The 10 acre acorn sites created savanna in existing prairies providing a more natural transition from the woodlands to prairie. The restored Murphy Southern Savanna Woodland increased the habitat for numerous SGCN listed birds and may encourage savanna specialist, such as, Red-headed Woodpeckers.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Orr Area Wildlife	St. Louis	06619215	156	$21,157	Yes	This project mowed and hand-cut vegetation in

Openings						wildlife openings to improve habitat for white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, black bear, and woodcock. These openings were being invaded by brush and tree saplings that needed to be regenerated to improve browse quality, berry production, and provide singing grounds for woodcock.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Tower Rock Outcrop Management	St. Louis	06214202	60	$10,250	Yes	This project mechanically treated a number of rock outcrops located between Buckshot and Burntside Lakes, between Tower and Ely. These sites were managed with hand-cutting to set back encroaching woody vegetation and enhance browse and acorn production for deer. These sites are fire-dependant communities which have not been burned in 80-100 years. They are not viable for commercial forest management.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Winter Conifer Cover Establishment	St. Louis	05818205	226	$30,750	Yes	On 625 acres of state forest land, coniferous tree species were released by hand-cutting competing vegetation. The goal was increased regeneration and growth rate of conifers, providing winter thermal cover for whitetail deer. Conifer cover provides refugia during winter, reducing stress on deer and increasing survival.Whitetail deer are often highly stressed during winter months in Northern Minnesota. They rely on coniferous tree stands for protective shelter, especially during the coldest periods. Conifer regeneration in harvested stands is often problematic as other species often out compete them during the first few years of regeneration post-harvest. Conifer dominance takes decades or centuries to establish after harvest. Releasing conifers from

						competition by removing adjacent vegetation is the fastest and surest way of establishing conifer stands. This will reduce deer herd thermal stress during the coldest period, improving herd survival rates and overall health. Release by hand-cutting is the surest way for achieving this goal as large equipment is not suitable for this practice.
Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society NE Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Enhancement	St. Louis	05518235	287	$49,938	Yes	Sharp-tailed grouse are a listed SGCN and their habitat management is embedded in DNR-SWAP. Populations are gradually declining in this area due to quality habitat loss/natural degradation. This is occurring because brushland habitats are growing older, more dense and more rank and openland habitats (old fields/lowland meadows/upland grass) is being encroached upon by brush and trees. Sharptail populations have experienced a decline evidenced by spring dancing ground surveys which show a dramatic loss of these Leks in the past 10 years. These brushland complexes suffer the same "plague" as the above described scenario.
North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District North St. Louis Conifer Enhancement	St. Louis	05820213	204	$45,351	Yes	Winter thermal cover needed to be increased in primary wintering areas and as a result increase the winter survival of whitetail deer populations. There was a lack of adequate winter cover along these river corridors that is necessary for winter survival. The intent on these sites was to increase conifer cover by tree planting and release existing conifers present. This allowed for increased regeneration and growth rate of conifers, thus providing winter thermal cover for whitetailed deer.

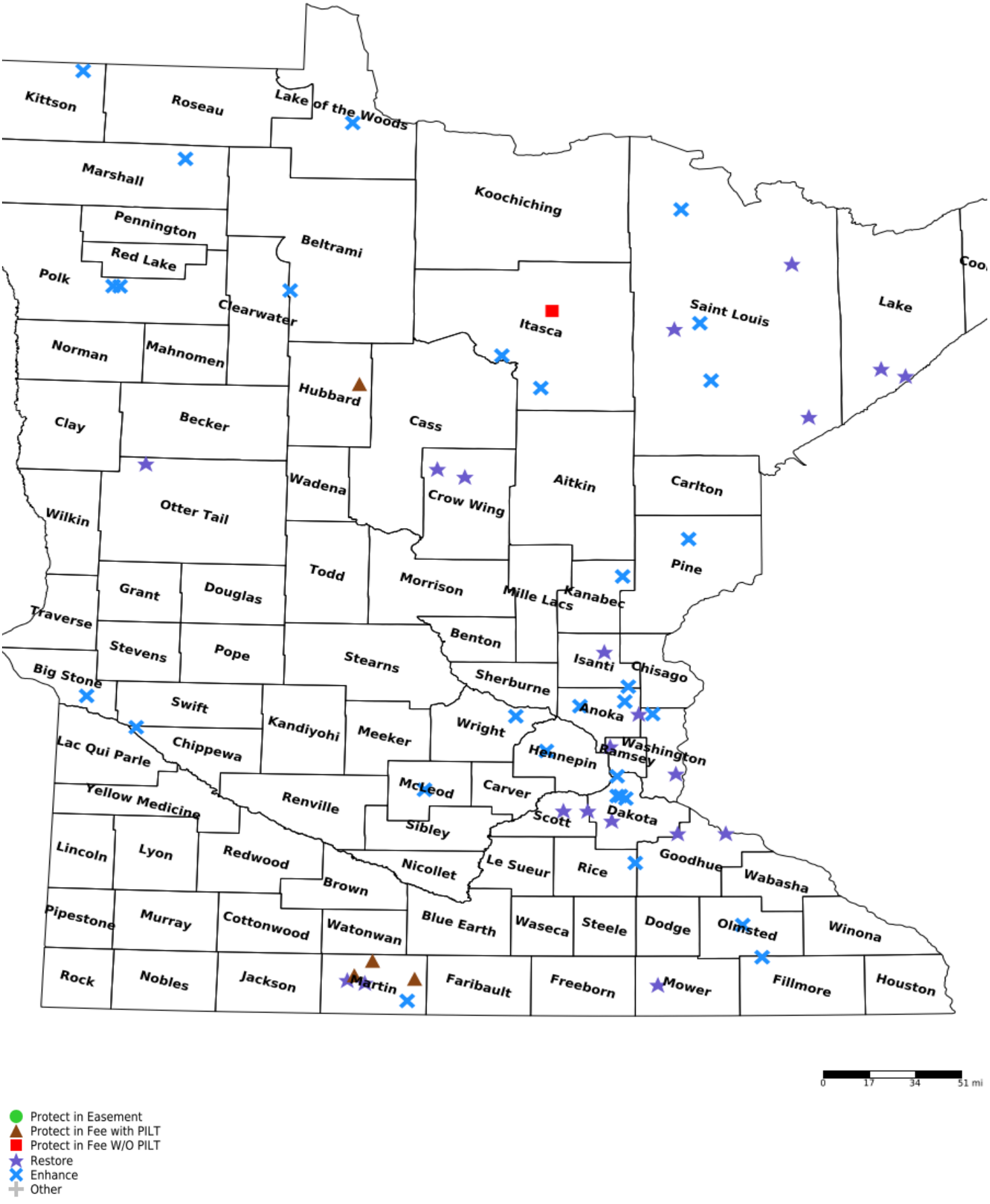
						When these winter thermal cover habitat are adequate they reduce stress on the deer population and increase survival rates. These habitats are imperative to the survival of whitetailed deer in these harsh winter areas.
South St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District French River Headwaters AMA Fish Passage Project	St. Louis	05213216	1	$121,728	Yes	The goal of the proposed project was threefold: 1.) to remove a culvert that is impeding fish passage in the headwaters of the French River, a designated trout stream in northeast Minnesota 2.) to preserve the trail crossing at this location by replacing the culvert with an alternative, fish-friendly option (bridge) and 3.) to restore approximately 150 feet of the river channel once the culvert is removed. The site is entirely contained within the State-owned French River Headwaters Aquatic Management Area. The DNR offered to remove the culvert and haul away the material. The Reservoir Riders snowmobile club is donating the bridge, and this contribution will serve as the match.
Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust Seasonal Wetlands Cattail Control III	Stevens	12145203	115	$49,715	Yes	Many small seasonal wetlands end up being completely covered by dense invasive cattails making them unusable by migrating waterfowl. Open water seasonal wetlands are often laden with invertebrates, the nutritional food waterfowl need to refuel after a long migration and for egg shell strength.
Belwin Conservancy Valley Creek Project	Washington	02820216	33	$139,957	Yes	As part of Belwin's overall management plan for Valley Creek, Belwin Conservancy restored a 33.5 acre parcel of land in the Valley Creek watershed that is permanently protected by a conservation easement. Fifteen acres on the North side are comprised of steep east and south-facing

						slopes. Eighteen and a half acres are across the road, directly adjacent to Valley Creek and include some gradual north-facing slopes. Valley Creek feeds directly into the St. Croix River, is one of the highest quality trout streams in the region, and has naturally reproducing populations of brook, brown and rainbow trout. Restoring these acres to native trees, shrubs and plants will improve stream quality in an important watershed district and provide a healthy habitat for birds, wildlife and pollinators.
Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District Shields Lake Fish Barrier	Washington	03221215	1	$30,600	Yes	Shields Lake is a small (30 acres), eutrophic basin in northern Washington County that drains via a channel into Forest Lake. An electric fish barrier was being operated along the channel to prevent the movement of rough fish between Forest Lake and Shields Lake. The electric fish barrier was unreliable due to its old age and failing hardware. The CLFLWD removed the electric barrier and replaced it with a passive barrier that can provide rough fish management at a lower long-term cost.
Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust Seasonal Wetand Cattail Control IV	Wright	12124231	179	$109,857	Yes	Many small to moderate sized wetlands end up being completely covered by dense/invasive cattails making them unusable by migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Open water seasonal wetlands are often laden with invertebrates, the nutritional food waterfowl need to refuel after a long migration and for egg shell strength. Wild rice is an additional food vitally important to waterfowl during fall migration and provides valuable cover for refuge and protection.

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Northern Waters Land Trust Hubbard County Tullibee Refuge Acquisition	Hubbard	14332228	13	$324,986	No
The Conservation Fund Chippewa National Forest, Dagg Property	Itasca	05925207	42	$167,704	No
Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. Gleam WMA acquisition	Martin	10431216	18	$155,634	No
Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. Rooney Run WMA acquisition	Martin	10332215	18	$127,478	No
Martin County Conservation Club, Inc. Findley Addition to Center Creek WMA	Martin	10329221	116	$375,922	No

Parcel Map


Kittson
Roseau
Lake of the Woods
Marshall
Koochiching
Pennington
Red Lake
Beltrami
Polk
Clearwater
Itasca
Saint Louis
Lake
Norman
Mahnomen
Hubbard
Clay
Becker
Cass
Aitkin
Carlton
Wadena
Crow Wing
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Pine
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Grant
Douglas
Traverse
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Benton
Isanti
Chisago
Big Stone
Sherburne
Swift
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Wright
Anoka
Chippewa
Hennepin
Ramsey
Washington
Lac Qui Parle
McLeod
Carver
Yellow Medicine
Renville
Scott
Dakota
Sibley
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Nicollet
Le Sueur
Rice
Goodhue
Wabasha
Brown
Pipestone
Murray
Cottonwood
Watonwan
Blue Earth
Waseca
Steele
Dodge
Olmsted
Winona
Rock
Nobles
Jackson
Martin
Faribault
Freeborn
Mower
Fillmore
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Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other