Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Phase IX: Statewide and Metro Habitat

Laws of Minnesota 2017 Final Report

General Information

Date: 08/26/2025

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

Funds Recommended: $9,294,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2017, Ch. 91, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(j)

Appropriation Language: $9,294,000 in the first 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 $2,660,000 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, $634,000 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 shall require a match of at least ten percent from non-state 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 charter to receive private contributions for local conservation or habitat projects. If acquiring land in fee or a conservation easement, priority shall 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, or by public ownership or in public waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority shall 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, 2021. 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: Jessica Lee
Title: CPL Program Coordinator
Organization: MN DNR
Address: 500 Lafayette Road Box 20
City: St. Paul, MN 55155
Email: jessica.lee@state.mn.us
Office Number: 651-259-5233
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Lake, Sibley, Washington, Ramsey, Steele, Cass, Hubbard, Becker, Hennepin, Meeker, St. Louis, Otter Tail, Pine, Martin, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Dakota, Sherburne, Jackson, Mower, Winona, Clay, Itasca, Chisago, Wadena, Blue Earth, Clearwater, Mille Lacs, Kittson, Stearns, Nobles, Isanti, Murray, Waseca, Douglas, Marshall, Grant, Anoka, Stevens, Kanabec, Cottonwood, Rice and Goodhue.

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 2017 appropriation The Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program awarded 87 grants, 12 of these grants were the metropolitan area. 34,900 acres were enhanced, 4,300 acres were restored, and 870 acres protected through these 87 projects. Thirty-eight counties had CPL projects completed in them through 47 unique organizations. The average project for the ML 2017 grants was $86,000, with few exceptions most projects were completed on time and many were under budget. Additionally, the awarded grant partners contributed over $1.55 million in in-kind or cash match, exceeding the 10% requirement.

Process & Methods

The CPL program fulfills MS 97a.056 Subd. 3a, directing LSOHC to establish a conservation partner's grant program encouraging/supporting local conservation efforts. $8,660,000 was available for grants. Of this amount, up to $2,660,000 was used for projects in the 7-county metro area and in cities with a population of 50,000 people or greater. This is a stand-alone program, but depends on support/technical advice from public land managers and habitat and acquisition specialists.

Grant activities included enhancement, restoration and protection of forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. A 10% match from non-state sources is required for all grants, and may be in-kind or cash. Applicants described the project, location, activity, habitat, benefit, etc. For acquisition projects, applicants described the parcel selection process. CPL Staff developed an RFP incorporating LSOHC priorities. Staff worked with applicants to submit applications, oversaw grant selection, prepared/executed grant documents, reviewed expenditures, approved payments/reports, monitored work, and assisted recipients with close-out. Staff complies with Office of Grants Management policies.

The CPL program has 3 annual grant cycles- Traditional, Metro, and Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP). The Traditional and Metro cycles had one grant round beginning August 2017. Projects under $25,000 will have a simplified application. The ECP grant cycle had two rounds of funding.

CPL staff reviewed applications for completeness. Technical Review Committees, comprised of habitat experts across the state and approved by the DNR Commissioner, reviewed and scored Traditional and Metro applications based on evaluation criteria (see attached). The DNR Directors of Fish and Wildlife, Eco Waters, and Forestry reviewed the committee's recommendations and provide a final ranking to the Commissioner. Funding decisions were made by the Commissioner's office. ECP grants are reviewed by CPL staff and DNR habitat experts using established criteria. The Director of Fish and Wildlife made final funding decisions for ECP.

Grantees were required to submit annual and final accomplishment reports. Grantees were paid on a reimbursement or "for services rendered" basis, meaning payment is made to the grantee after work has been performed. Proof that the vendor was paid must be submitted to staff before additional payments are made. Funds were advanced for acquisitions to accommodate cash flow needs.

CPL Administration Budget:
Administration costs of $101,300 include salary/fringe, direct support services, travel, supplies, outreach, ongoing application system/database maintenance, and other professional services.

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 included 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	$490,000	$490,000	$86,100	-	-	-	$490,000	$86,100
Contracts	$8,660,000	$8,660,000	$7,467,200	$866,000	$1,557,500	grantees and partners	$9,526,000	$9,024,700
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$40,000	$40,000	-	-	-	-	$40,000	-
Professional Services	$50,000	$50,000	-	-	-	-	$50,000	-
Direct Support Services	$44,000	$44,000	$11,400	-	-	-	$44,000	$11,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$10,000	$10,000	$3,900	-	-	-	$10,000	$3,900
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$9,294,000**	**$9,294,000**	**$7,568,600**	**$866,000**	**$1,557,500**	**-**	**$10,160,000**	**$9,126,100**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
CPL Program Coordinator	1.0	1.0	$86,100	-	-	$86,100

Direct Support Services

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

Explain any budget challenges or successes:
During this grant period a partner organization dissolved and cancelled two awarded grants. Two acquisitions were not completed because the landowner or land recipient backed out of the process. About $150,000 was not awarded between the metro, traditional, and ECP grant cycles, and many projects came in under budget by $10,000 or more, depending on the project. Approximately $500,000 was unspent from the personnel, direct support services, travel, etc budget because there was one staff member that worked on the program rather than two and due to Covid, travel was not possible in 2020 and 2021.

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	1,379	0	942	0	1,758	0	268	0	4,347
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	185	0	175	0	317	0	677
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	181	0	23	0	204
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	603	0	13,179	0	18,148	0	3,034	0	34,964
Total	**0**	**1,982**	**0**	**14,306**	**0**	**20,262**	**0**	**3,642**	**0**	**40,192**

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	-	$566,000	-	$657,900	-	$636,600	-	$769,900	-	$2,630,400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$759,600	-	$275,800	-	$299,700	-	$1,335,100
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	$279,700	-	$400,000	-	$679,700
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$124,300	-	$661,500	-	$1,102,300	-	$1,035,300	-	$2,923,400
Total	**-**	**$690,300**	**-**	**$2,079,000**	**-**	**$2,294,400**	**-**	**$2,504,900**	**-**	**$7,568,600**

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	1,155	0	7	0	25	0	989	0	2,171	0	4,347
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	0	561	0	677
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	204	0	204
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	842	0	13,667	0	2	0	3,351	0	17,102	0	34,964
Total	**0**	**1,997**	**0**	**13,674**	**0**	**27**	**0**	**4,456**	**0**	**20,038**	**0**	**40,192**

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	-	$976,400	-	$126,200	-	$45,700	-	$674,600	-	$807,500	-	$2,630,400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$658,000	-	$677,100	-	$1,335,100
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	$679,700	-	$679,700
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$863,700	-	$414,700	-	$51,200	-	$821,000	-	$772,800	-	$2,923,400
Total	**-**	**$1,840,100**	**-**	**$540,900**	**-**	**$96,900**	**-**	**$2,153,600**	**-**	**$2,937,100**	**-**	**$7,568,600**

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?

Yes - Sign up criteria is attached

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Aitkin County Land Dept. Aitkin Pollinator Restoration	Aitkin	05223234	102	$24,500	Yes	Aitkin County Land Department (ACLD) implemented pilot restoration projects at two sites in the fall of 2016. Nine (9) small patches of upland grass were disced and seeded with a seed mix approved by the Xerces Society for Pollinator habitat enhancement and restoration. The goal was to improve species diversity in patches that could expand and colonize additional adjacent areas of grassland habitat. It typically takes two to three years for wildflowers to bloom. However, initial reconnaissance show success and germination. ACLD expanded the success of this initial effort and restore additional acreages for pollinators
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Oak Regeneration Aitkin Forestry	Aitkin	04622214	299	$45,821	Yes	Aitkin DNR Forestry has identified approximately 275 acres of recently harvested forest sites throughout the county that contain a significant amount of natural and planted northern red oak regeneration within the stands. Due to increasing deer populations the need for protecting these seedlings and saplings from winter deer browse is necessary to ensure successful regeneration of an oak covertype within these stands.
National Wild Turkey Federation Aitkin County Oak Treatments	Aitkin	04724205	169	$46,796	Yes	Contractors performed various intermediate treatments on several red oak stands on state forests throughout Aitkin County, MN, including but not limited to mechanical

						release, TSI, budcapping, chemical browse protection, planting, prescribed burning, and treating invasive species. These activities are intended to aid in the regeneration of the stands into functional oak forests and prevent them from converting to northern hardwoods or aspen-dominated stands.
City of Fridley Springbrook Nature Center and West Moore Lake NHA	Anoka	03024203	50	$34,876	Yes	Expanded and restored the remnant prairie and savanna sites (28 acres) through invasive woody vegetation removal and prescribed fire management. Restored 15 acres of potential oak savanna (currently open canopy oak woodland) through invasive woody species removal and prescribed fire management.
American Bird Conservancy Tamarac NWR Prescribed Fire	Becker	14139233	1,328	$15,000	Yes	US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is located at the intersection of the two ecological provinces, the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province and the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province and is within five miles of the Tallgrass Prairie Province. Due to its size (42,724 contiguous acres) and unique ecological location, Tamarac NWR is an optimal landscape within which to maintain and enhance fire dependent forest habitats and maintain a dynamic mosaic of ecological communities through prescribed (Rx) fire treatments that emulate natural disturbance regimes. Historic fire regimes compounded with other disturbance factors once served to increase landscape-level and site-level heterogeneity throughout northern Minnesota. In addition to

						fire dependent communities, Rx fire is also extremely important to maintaining young forest or early successional habitat patches and healthy populations of associated wildlife species at Tamarac NWR
Tall Pine Toms/NWTF Smoky Hill Oak Regeneration	Becker	13937202	440	$50,000	Yes	Oak regeneration site that was over-run by brush and non-oak species. This regeneration project released oak sprouts and promote better growth.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Brainerd Area Forest Improvement/Browse Protection	Cass	13732224	250	$40,832	Yes	This project did variety of treatments in the Brainerd Wildlife and Backus Forestry work areas. Treatments included budcapping, mechanical release, and mowing brush to rejuvenate browse. Budcapping and mechanical release occured in jack pine stands. Jack pine is a species that is disappearing across our landscape and this project maintained this species as a component of our forests. There were additional mechanical release sites for spruce, red pine, and hardwood stands in order to release them from competition to ensure that these species will be maintained in the stands. Lowland brush mowing was used to rejuvenate rank brush. Mowing lowland brush will provide fresh deer browse in these areas.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Pillsbury SF Planting Project	Cass	13430235	159	$49,213	Yes	A straight line windstorm in 2015 damaged ~1500 acres of the Pillsbury State Forest. A large salvage harvest has been completed recently and now requires additional effort to bring the stand back to a healthy and resilient oak covertype, with interspersed white pine throughout the stand to provide thermal cover and restore a long-lived conifer species to the site.

Tall Pine Toms/NWTF Foothills/PSF Oak Regeneration	Cass	13430214	60	$8,515	Yes	Sites enhanced were oak regeneration sites that have been over taken by hazel and other brush species. The brush species reduced growth and vigor of desired oak species.
Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District Chisago County Parks Pollinator Habitat Program	Chisago	03521216	49	$20,308	Yes	Chisago County has declared itself a pollinator friendly county and has 40 acres of grassland habitat within it's parks that can be converted from old field or lawn conditions to a habitat that is beneficial to pollinators. Four areas, including Kost Dam Regional Park, Frandsen Park on Rush Lake, Ki Chi Saga Park, and the Sunrise Prairie Trail, have areas that can be utilized for pollinator purposes. The Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District provided technical assistance to Chisago County to guide the conversion of these areas into native prairie grasses and forbs that are especially beneficial to native pollinators.
Audubon Dakota Red River Riparian Restoration in Moorhead, MN	Clay	14048218	272	$147,294	Yes	The project creates habitat for birds and wildlife within Fargo-Moorhead, while also providing FM community members and visitors the opportunity to reconnect with nature. With 24 sites and over 650 acres enrolled, the Urban Woods and Prairies (UWP) Initiative restores grasslands, wetlands, and woodlands along the Red River to provide environmental benefits for residents and urban wildlife. The goals of the UWP Initiative include habitat enhancement, water conservation, providing natural recreational spaces, and promoting outdoor education to more than 3000 residents and visitors annually through Audubon-led outreach programming.

						By restoring the native prairie, wetlands, and enhancing riparian woodland areas, this Initiative strives to increase water quality, flood resiliency, bank stabilization, and carbon sequestration which provide long term benefits to the entire community. These improvements create healthy habitats for wildlife and will reduce management burdens of land owning partners.
Minnesota Land Trust Clearwater County Wetland Restoration	Clearwater	14936214	188	$49,610	Yes	Across the prairie pothole region of Minnesota, greater than 90% of wetlands have been drained and approximately only 1% of native prairie remains on the landscape. This alteration is well documented and one only needs to drive across the rural country-side or look at aerial photos to see how drastically humans have changed the ecology of this landscape. This change has had two effects; first, wetland drainage and agricultural development has removed hundreds of thousands of acres of nesting and brood rearing habitat for waterfowl and other grassland game-birds and songbirds. Second, instead of holding water in the watershed in those wetlands and reducing erosion of uplands, precipitation flushes directly into our lakes and river systems negatively impacting water quality with increased sediment, nutrients, and pesticides. Because 85% of the land in the prairie pothole region is privately owned, addressing these issues at an effective scale requires working with private landowners. This project focused on restoring and enhancing wetlands that will be protected in perpetuity by conservation

						easements. This work used the best conservation science to strategically restore and enhance wetlands in existing grasslands to sustain and increase migratory bird, pollinator, and resident wildlife populations.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Delft WMA Oak release, Planting, Seeding	Cottonwood	10635217	10	$19,280	Yes	There was a 2.5 acre stand of Bur Oak that was being overrun with invasive trees (Green Ash, Boxelder, Buck Brush). This area needed to have a thinning and removal. This area is a natural wintering are for whitetail deer and Turkeys. The amount of oak production was not adequate to support the number of animals and Birds in the area. There are two other areas where additional stands of trees could be established. An additional 50 oaks were added adjacent to the current stand. Within this same area two plantings of 2 acres each of nut varieties were added- a combination of Oaks and Black Walnuts, using a direct seeding process.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Brainerd Area Buckthorn Control	Crow Wing	04530233	66	$28,459	Yes	Poor Farm and Ray Cook Wildlife Management Areas are managed to provide quality habitat for game species such as ruffed grouse, turkey, and deer. Buckthorn was removed by cutting and basal bark treatment.
National Wild Turkey Federation Brainerd Area Oak Release	Crow Wing	13531224	192	$30,542	Yes	Project sites include recently harvested stands of oak or aspen that need release work to encourage species diversity within these stands and encourage faster growth of desirable species. These sites are growning back naturally but seedlings of red oak, bur oak, birch and other preferred hardwoods are being outcompeted by aspen, hazel, and other undesirable species for the sites.

City of Burnsville Terrace Oaks Restoration Phase I (north-central)	Dakota	11520217	26	$110,430	Yes	This project is to created a network of savanna, woodland and wetland habitat that is conducive to sustainable long term management through the use of controlled burns. The project is located at Terrace Oaks Park, a 230 acre natural area that is a mixture of rolling wooded hills and depressional wetlands. This was Phase I of a two part plan for this area. During Phase I, habitat improvements were made through the removal of invasive shrub species, canopy thinning, seeding of native grasses and follow-up invasive species control.
Dakota County Parks Dakota Lake: Forest, Woodland Enhancement Phase II	Dakota	02723234	62	$204,222	Yes	Dakota County enhanced approximately 60 acres of land located in the north-central part of Lebanon Hills Regional Park (LHRP). LHRP contains 1,961 acres of natural area that consist of a matrix of glacial moraine hills, plains, and kettle-hole lakes and ponds. Soils are generally dry and sandy (sandy loams and loamy sands), but hydric soils occur also. The dominant landcover types pre-settlement would have been primarily a mosaic of oak forest (MHs37), oak woodland (FDs37), shallow lakes and wetlands, and prairie/savanna (primarily mesic, but some dry). Topography is gently rolling to moderately flat, with steeper slopes typically near the larger lakes.
Vermillion River Watershed JPO South Creek at Hamburg Stream Habitat Restoration	Dakota	11420233	4	$207,436	Yes	The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) and its partner, the City of Lakeville (City), restored and improved in-stream and riparian habitat in and along South Creek, a tributary to the Vermillion River. South Creek is a

						DNR-designated trout stream, and is of significant importance for restoration and protection to the City and VRWJPO. This reach of South Creek, just downstream of Hamburg Avenue in Lakeville, MN, is approximately 1,400 feet long, and has a small tributary joining it at the end of the reach. Most of this reach of South Creek and the lower portion of the tributary benefitted from in-stream and riparian habitat improvements. The VRWJPO and City are installed numerous in-stream habitat features, narrowed portions of the channel, performed bank stabilization measures using bioengineering, and improved riparian conditions in the reaches in order to limit habitat-filling sedimentation and improve wildlife habitat. This reach is also directly adjacent to a City-owned parcels that South Creek flows through that are publicly accessible and had considerable in-stream and riparian habitat restoration previously conducted on them.
Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust Seasonal Wetand Cattail Control V	Douglas	12740224	421	$42,317	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.
Goodhue SWCD Phase2-Covered Bridge Park Riparian Restoration	Goodhue	11016225	2	$30,942	Yes	Riparian improvements included removal of large woody debris, overhanging

						trees and trash from the stream. Large trees were removed by chainsaws, excavators and skid loaders. Debris and garbage were removed from site and stabilized in an upland/non-floodplain location. Instream habitat improvement included the installation of 30 root wads, 10 log deflectors and 75 cu/yards rock riprap as prescribed in the plan. Cleared trees were utilized for rootwads and log deflectors to provide cost-effective instream habitat.
Wildlife Forever USFWS Pomme De Terre WPA	Grant	13941206	300	$49,851	Yes	Pomme De Terre WPA is ranked as the 3rd highest quality property in the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District and has many acres of native remnant prairie. Removal of invasive trees from prairie grassland/wetland habitat was the project goal. The USFWS Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) targeted in the grant project had been invaded by invasive trees limiting the ecological benefits originally preserved, which is part of a much larger eco-system.
City of Champlin Elm Creek Stream Restoration Phase III	Hennepin	12021219	3	$206,749	Yes	Phase 3 is a continuation of an existing 3,000 linear feet Elm Creek Watershed District stream restoration project. This phase includes 2,287 linear feet of stream bank restoration of Elm Creek which is located upgradient of and flows through the Mill ponds ultimately into the Mississippi River. Design plans have been completed in cooperation with the MNDNR, Elm Creek Management Commission and Hennepin County.
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Arden Park Habitat Restoration	Hennepin	02824218	5	$22,500	Yes	Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) and the City of Edina have partnered to complete a natural resource and park

						restoration project within Arden Park in Edina. Minnehaha Creek flowed through the park within a degraded channel; the creek was remeandered within the park and stream bed and bank restoration and floodplain wetland restoration was completed in 2018-2019. Contributing to the poor condition of the creek system as a whole was the degraded quality of the adjacent woodland areas. The work under this proposal restored the upland woodland areas of the park adjacent to Minnehaha Creek by replanting with native trees and shrubs in an effort to improve the creek system as a whole.
Three Rivers Park District North Twin Wetland Restoration	Hennepin	12023218	80	$203,352	Yes	The North Twin wetland restoration consists of two wetland restoration sites both located on Crow-Hassan Park Reserve. North Twin is the largest water resource within Crow-Hassan Park and is a previously restored 70 acre complex. The territorial wetland is an adjacent wetland and is 10 acres in size. These wetlands are significant because of high quality restored prairie that have provided excellent habitat in the past. They also are larger in size and are close in proximity to each other. These restored wetlands found inside of a prairie and oak savannah landscape provide excellent habitat for wetland wildlife found within the Park. This may include Trumpeter Swans, Blanding's Turtles, and numerous amphibian species. The wetland will serve as a brood wetland as well as a migration wetland for waterfowl and other migratory birds. It will serve as a permanent home for beaver and muskrat.

Tall Pine Toms/NWTF PR Oak Enhancement	Hubbard	13933227	172	$23,999	Yes	Enhanced oaks in Area WMAs.
Chippewa National Forest Chippewa National Forest Wetland Restoration	Itasca	14629222	96	$25,000	Yes	The Chippewa National Forest Wetland Restoration Project aims to restore natural wetland ecosystems at three failing waterfowl impoundment sites. The control structures and berm material were removed from the floodplain in order to restore the historical hydrology and mosaic of beaver dominated wetlands forested to open water.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association CNF Wildlife Openings	Itasca	14229229	536	$66,096	Yes	Mowed wildlife openings within and around the Chippewa National Forest. This project worked in three MN DNR Wildlife Areas(Grand Rapids, Park Rapids and Bemidji).
Ruffed Grouse Society 2018 Minnesota Forest Health	Itasca	04726220	595	$145,420	Yes	Forest species and age class diversity, brushlands and openlands in forested regions of Minnesota provide critical 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 forest and 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 the Ruffed Grouse Society, American Woodcock Society, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association and American Bird Conservancy as well as agencies (Counties, USFWS, USFS, MN DNR) have cited a need for this type of management in the forested regions of the eastern United States. This project resulted in the diversification of age

						classes on state owned forests, brushland, and openlands across the forested regions of Minnesota. Some of Minnesota's most iconic species like moose, sharp-tailed grouse, American woodcock and ruffed grouse will benefit from the enhancement efforts completed in this project.
Heron Lake Watershed District Toe WMA Wetland Restoration	Jackson	10336236	62	$21,661	Yes	The Heron Lake Watershed District, in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District, completed a 62-acre wetland enhancement project within the Toe Wildlife Management Area in rural Jackson County, a property used predominantly for public hunting and other outdoor recreation.
Pheasants Forever East Central MN Enhancements	Kanabec	03627234	323	$38,828	Yes	The East Central MN Enhancement enhanced 250 acres of permanently protected cover on two Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) including the Erickson-Lidstrom Family WMA in Kanabec County and the Kunkel WMA in Mille Lacs County. Prescribed fire was used on all three sites to control tree and brush encroachment as well as improve native grass/forb stand conditions. In addition to a prescribed burn the SW unit of the Erickson-Lidstrom Family WMA was lacking in native species diversity. After the prescribed fire was conducted additional native prairie species were seeded into 30 acres of this site.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association RMEF Buckthorn Removal	Kittson	16245222	166	$43,138	Yes	Common buckthorn, an invasive brush species, has been identified throughout the Tallgrass Aspen Parkland habitat. Buckthorn has been

						invading aspen stands within area WMA sites and is needed to be controlled and monitored to help prevent the spread of this invasive species. Control efforts enhanced the forest understory for many wildlife species.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association RMEF/SCA Rx Burn-Phase II	Kittson	15841222	10,665	$49,303	Yes	The area contains large tracts of protected land (Tallgrass Aspen Parklands) including over 200,000 acres of Wildlife Management Areas. Brush encroachment and invasive species threaten grasslands in the Tallgrass Aspen Parkland and area offices cannot reasonably manage all of the brush work, fire, and invasive treatments with current staffing levels. The work done under this project mitigated threats to the grasslands through prescribed fire operations, invasive species treatments, and brush removal projects.
Superior National Forest Olive-Sided Flycatcher and Pollinator Habitat	Lake	06111210	165	$46,914	Yes	Olive-sided flycatchers (Contopus cooperi; OSFL) are designated as a U.S. Forest Service Region 9, Regional Forester Sensitive Species, a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Minnesota, and a Federally Threatened Species in Canada. Breeding Bird Survey estimates OSFL numbers in North America have declined by -3.1% from 1966-2015, and by -3.88% in Minnesota from 2005-2015. Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025 (SWAP) identified OSFL as one of six species whose populations are declining due to unknown causes. This species is native to montane and northern coniferous forests, and is most often associated with forest openings, forest edges near natural or human-made openings, or semi-open

						forested stands. OSFL are frequently found in burned forest, harvested units, or semi-open lowland black spruce-tamarack forest. They depend on abundant snags for perching and insects, especially bees (Hymonoptera), for prey. Bees have exhibited wide-ranging and dramatic population declines in recent years, which could be a contributing factor to OSFL decline. OSFL habitat was restored by enhancing prey habitat. We identified seven general project areas as timber sale boundaries containing harvested conifer stands (mostly FDn32) adjacent to streams or black spruce-tamarack lowlands. These areas were at high risk of competition from non-native species. Non-natives such as spotted knapweed and common tansy can outcompete other plants, resulting in a local monoculture that only offers a pulse of flowering resources during a limited time, and not the steady flowering resource throughout the full growing season that results from a mix of species, with greater benefit to pollinators. If OSFL are attracted to the project areas for their habitat structure, but prey abundance is not sufficient, these areas may serve as ecological sinks. Hence our interest in supplemental seeding.
The Nature Conservancy North Shore Browse Protection Phase 2	Lake	05409211	901	$50,000	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 to grow out of reach of deer and competing vegetation.
Red Lake Watershed District Wetland Habitat Quality and Management Enhancement	Marshall	15741230	2,375	$227,297	Yes	Native wildlife habitat and increase biodiversity was enhanced in more than 26,000 acres of non-forested wetlands. The site was experiencing a significant invasive species infestation of overgrown hybrid and non-native cattails. Through various methods and techniques (e.g. grazing, chemical application) to combat cattails, accompanied with improved water management following water control structure repair, the outcomes were increased biodiversity,

						improved water quality, and increased open water habitat within the Refuge's wetland impoundments.
Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. FLCL/Martin County WMA Tree Removal Phase 3	Martin	10430230	169	$50,000	Yes	Encroaching tree seedlings and the seed trees were removed to eliminate the threat to the prairie habitat. Small areas of mature trees existed on edges or clumps within the prairie habitat. These mature trees were providing a seed source resulting in tree invasion into the prairie as scattered trees and dense patches of trees.
Superior National Forest Kawishiwi Riparian Restoration Project	Meeker	06112224	70	$44,234	Yes	In some areas in the Superior National Forest there is a need to add a component of long-lived conifer species to riparian areas to benefit fish and wildlife and for overall forest health. The stands selected for treatment were primarily older aspen stands, with few, if any, long-lived species in the understory. Some sites were already planted with a component of long-lived conifer seedlings (white pine, white spruce, jack pine and red pine) but needed additional treatment such as conifer release and bud-capping to prevent deer herbivory.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Diederich Habitat Easement Enhancement	Meeker	11930222	137	$61,573	Yes	The 120 acre easement was purchased in 2009 which includes approximately 27 acres of seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands and approximately 93 acres of uplands. This habitat complex has a good wetland to upland ratio and is adjacent to property containing perpetual Wetland Easements. Portions of the uplands on this property were enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program at the time of purchase so no enhancement to the uplands had taken place. Uplands on this Habitat

						Easement were enhanced by removing trees encroaching into the grasslands and reseeding the uplands to increase native plant diversity for the benefit of pollinators, migratory birds, and other wildlife.
National Wild Turkey Federation Mille Lacs WMA Deer Fence	Mille Lacs	04125207	22	$44,631	Yes	A contractor installed a deer exclosure fence to prevent deer browsing on oak seedlings and advance regeneration.
Page Township Page Community Park Habitat Restoration	Mille Lacs	03927222	4	$9,136	Yes	The restoration transformed a highly visible and accessible site from a degraded hay field into a quality habitat and recreational asset. Benefiting animal species include: pollinators (especially Monarch, bumble bee, and other native invertebrates), song birds, game birds, amphibians, and small mammals. The site is located just upland of the Rum River Wild and Scenic River corridor, an important migration route and habitat in its own right.
Pheasants Forever Kunkel WMA Enhancements	Mille Lacs	03627236	100	$47,166	Yes	This project converted 97 acres of cropland to a diverse mixture of native grasses and wildflowers on the Steinhagen Addition to Kunkel WMA. In the pheasant range of Minnesota, quality grassland habitat is the limiting factor for higher pheasant populations. The Long Range Pheasant Plan states "pheasant densities increase as the proportion of undisturbed grass in the landscape increases, up to a maximum of about 50% grass". In addition to restoring cropland to quality grassland habitat, all feasible wetlands were restored. Restoration of the Steinhagen Addition will help maximize production of pheasants, waterfowl, pollinators and other grassland species

Friends of the Hormel Nature Center Hormel Nature Center Critical Habitat Phase II	Mower	10317231	169	$305,636	Yes	The project restored oak savanna/woodland and terrace forest as well as conduct hydrologic and native vegetation restoration on 48 acres of wetland/wet prairie habitat restoration. The project improved habitat quality for game (particularly white-tail deer, ring-neck pheasant, waterfowl, and mourning dove), as well as nongame species (including pollinators, six state-listed species plant and wildlife species known to occur at HNC and the 23 documented Species in Greatest Conservation Need).
National Wild Turkey Federation Plum Creek WMA Direct Hardwood Seeding	Murray	10839210	27	$8,500	Yes	This project restored the site (14 acres) to what it was before the area was cleared for agriculture. The fields were fallow cropland surrounded by a Bur oak dominated forest with associated uplands consisting of dry hill prairie.
Pheasants Forever SW MN Wetland Enhancements	Murray	10737234	38	$35,264	Yes	The wetlands on Mason and Storden WPAs were restored by activities such as repairing the water control structure, breaking tile, and building dikes. This gave USFWS area managers the ability to enhance these wetlands by manipulation of the water levels. This will allow for the establishment of a somewhat hemi-marsh stage or a more diverse emergent vegetation. By breaking tile, building structures and removing sediment, we turned these wetland acres back into a usable and restored state. This area of Minnesota is predominantly an agricultural landscape and has seen an unprecedented rate of drain tile installation which has drained seasonal depressions and in some

						cases what use to be permanent wetlands.
Pheasants Forever Goose Graham CPL	Nobles	10439220	85	$42,205	Yes	The wetlands on Graham and Goose Creek WPAs were restored by activities such as repairing the water control structure, breaking tile, and building dikes. This gave USFWS area managers the ability to enhance these wetlands by better manipulation of the water levels. By breaking tile, building structures and removing sediment, these wetland acres were turned back into a usable and restored state. These water control structures were failing and not allowing area managers to best manage these wetlands.
Minnesota Land Trust Restoring Prairie Pothole Wetlands & Grasslands #2	Otter Tail	12437201	441	$383,570	Yes	Across the prairie pothole region of Minnesota, greater than 90% of wetlands have been drained and approximately only 1% of native prairie remains on the landscape. This alteration is well documented and one only needs to drive across the rural country-side or look at aerial photos to see how drastically humans have changed the ecology of this landscape. This change has had two effects; first, wetland drainage and agricultural development has removed hundreds of thousands of acres of nesting and brood rearing habitat for waterfowl and other grassland game-birds and songbirds. Second, instead of holding water in the watershed in those wetlands and reducing erosion of uplands, precipitation flushes directly into our lakes and river systems negatively impacting water quality with increased sediment, nutrients, and pesticides. Because 85% of the land in the prairie pothole region is privately owned,

						addressing these issues at an effective scale requires working with private landowners. This project focused on restoring and enhancing wetlands that will be protected in perpetuity by conservation easements. This work used the best conservation science to strategically restore and enhance wetlands in existing grasslands to sustain and increase migratory bird, pollinator, and resident wildlife populations.
West Otter Tail SWCD Gizzard Creek Fish Habitat Enhancement	Otter Tail	13240202	1	$9,842	Yes	The West Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District (WOTSWCD), in partnership with the West Battle Lake Association (WBLA) restored and enhanced spawning habitat for Walleye and other fish species in Gizzard Creek, an inlet to West Battle Lake, located in Otter Tail County. In 1996, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Fisheries Section, in cooperation with the WBLA, added rock and gravel of appropriate size for Walleye spawning in an area approximately 250 feet within Gizzard Creek. Follow up monitoring indicated that Walleye and White Sucker used the newly created spawning habitat. A recent inspection of the site showed that silt has filled in most of the available spawning habitat and significant streambank erosion exists in the area. An enhancement of this site included updated methods for a self-cleaning spawning riffle and re-establishing a stream bank using bank stabilization methods. Increased streambank stability and in-channel restorations will benefit other recreational use of the lake by reducing sediment and nutrient

						inputs in the lake.
Wildlife Forever Elmo WMA Buckthorn Removal	Otter Tail	13237204	30	$16,125	Yes	Removal of Buckthorn from Oak Savanna habitat. The project was a cooperative effort with the Private land neighbor also removing Buckthorn from private land bordering the DNR's WMA. Elmo WMA had Buckthorn throughout the Oak dominated woods. The purpose of the project was to restore protected public habitats through the removal of invasive Buckthorn that had taken over the habitat.
Wildlife Forever Erlandson WMA Woody Removal	Otter Tail	13143225	160	$24,850	Yes	Removal of invasive trees from prairie grassland/wetland habitats. The Erlandson WMA had scattered trees throughout the entire uplands of the 160 acre property, with some very dense pockets of trees. The purpose of the project was to restore protected public prairie habitats through the removal of invasive trees that have taken over the habitat.
Wildlife Forever Native Prairie Tree Removal Phase 1	Otter Tail	13039206	430	$48,652	Yes	Removal of invasive trees from prairie grassland/wetland habitats. The project targeted Basal Bark treatment of invasive trees on approximately 130 acres of remnant native prairie. Another 300 acres of adjacent tame warm season plantings was also targeted. Nicholson WPA is ranked as the 5th highest quality property in Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, with Reger WPA ranking 7th and Bah lakes 8th.
Wildlife Forever USFWS Backstrom WPA	Otter Tail	13543209	120	$50,000	Yes	Backstrom WPA is ranked as the 6th highest quality property in the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District and has many acres of native remnant prairie. Removal of invasive trees from prairie grassland/wetland habitat was the project goal. The

						USFWS Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) targeted in the grant project had been invaded by invasive trees limiting the ecological benefits originally preserved, which is part of a much larger eco-system.
National Wild Turkey Federation Pine County Hardwood Enhancement 2	Pine	04116203	171	$24,718	Yes	On July 1, 2011 a severe windstorm hit eastern Pine County impacting over 10,000 acres within the St. Croix State Forest. Of these 10,000 acres, 2,300 were mixed northern hardwood stands (dominated by oak) that were subsequently salvage harvested. Because of the severity of the disturbance, if these stands were left to regenerate naturally, they will become dominated by aspen species and the oak will be lost. Oak is a very important habitat component in this landscape and it is critical that these stands be restored. Hardwood sites were treated by release.
City of Roseville Roseville Phase II Wildlife Habitat Restoration	Ramsey	02923211	361	$353,572	Yes	Roseville conducted habitat enhancement activities at four discovery parks totaling 361 acres to further improve and diversity wildlife habitat. Sites include Central Park/Bennett Lake, Acorn Park, Pioneer Park, and Reservoir Woods. Habitat enhancement activities further improved the quality of the following natural community types: oak forest, oak savanna, prairie, emergent wetland, shrub carr, wet meadow, and shallow lake shoreline. These habitats support remnant plant communities that are rare for an urban core area (within 3.5 miles of downtown St. Paul). Habitat was improved for game species (especially wood duck), nongame species (birds and

						pollinators), as well as improve shoreline and lake buffer habitat in Bennett Lake (a MN DNR kids Fishing In the Neighborhood lake).
City of Saint Paul, Dept of Parks and Recreation Cherokee Regional Park Woodland Enhancement	Ramsey	02823212	61	$135,144	Yes	The Cherokee Regional Park Woodland Enhancement project enhanced 61 acres total, including southern mesic oak-basswood forest (MHs38), wet-mesic hardwood forest (MHs49), and 0.37 acres of remnant dry prairie (UPs13) along the Mississippi River bluff within Cherokee Regional Park. Enhancement of these remnant native plant communities was accomplished through invasive species management, prescribed burning, and revegetation efforts.
Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Battle Creek Corridor Restoration Project	Ramsey	02822203	124	$315,000	Yes	The Battle Creek Corridor Project area is located within Battle Creek Regional Park and within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area, which is a designated area under State Statue, with a goal to â€œprotect and preserve the biological and ecological functions of the Mississippi River corridor.This project included the restoration of 60 acres of oak woodlands and 3.5 acres of steep woodland edge that was planted with invasive crown -vetch for erosion control decades ago. The Battle Creek Corridor Project Site is a unique site that contains primarily oak woodlands along the steep limestone bluff lands that cradle Battle Creek. This site also contains wetland seeps emerging from the hillsides. This unique ecosystem sustains the State Endangered Kitten-tails and is also home to a diverse mix of plant species that live amongst the Oaks,

						such as skunk cabbage, pitcher plant, countless fern species and forbs. This area also provides refuge to numerous types of wildlife, including migratory birds, traveling along the Mississippi River Flyway. This project site is also located adjacent to the Northwest Bluffs Wildlife Habitat Project, a 72 acre site, that was restored with funds provided through the County and CPL program (2015).
Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Central Snail Lake wetland buffer & forest project	Ramsey	03023224	63	$198,141	Yes	The Central Snail Lake wetland buffer & forest project restored 60 acres of degraded forest and 4,000 linear feet of wetland buffer (4 acres of wetland buffer) into quality habitat that will benefit aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. The restoration included the removal of woody invasive species throughout the woodlands and stabilization and restoration of wetland buffer through native plantings. This project is located within the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park, which is one of the largest tracts of open space within the north Ramsey County metro that includes forest, wetlands and lake. This parkland is home to a variety of wildlife, including nesting and migrating waterfowl, songbirds, raptors and Blandings turtles in the Grass Lake section, which is connected south of this project.
Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Oak Woodland Restoration	Ramsey	03023220	20	$36,000	Yes	This project included the restoration of 6 acres of oak woodland and enhancement of another 14 acres of oak woodland. The restoration and enhancement included removal of invasive species, primarily buckthorn, further removal of undesirable tree species,

						prescribed burning at select areas, and seeding of aggressive native herbaceous mix put together to out compete reemerging buckthorn seedlings. The 6 acres of restoration adjoins previous woodland restoration work funded by the CPL grant program (2015 and 2016), which completed almost all oak forest restoration within Long Lake Regional Park. The enhancement included over 14 acres of woodland that was restored through donated contributions.
Pheasants Forever Rice County WMA Enhancements	Rice	11022210	86	$21,570	Yes	30 acres of permanently protected upland cover on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) were enhanced. Scattered tree removal significantly enhanced the grassland complex and maximize production of pheasant, waterfowl, and other wildlife. The negatives associated with tree encroachment in grasslands are well documented contributing to higher levels of depredation and avoidance by area-sensitive grassland birds. Seeding identified areas and increasing diversity levels will also help pollinator and grassland bird usability. In addition high quality diverse stands are known to be more resilient to encroaching non-native species. These grasslands are now required to function at a higher level than when first developed. To do this we need to periodically enhance these WMAs above and beyond normal management. By enhancing these grasslands we will maximize past investments in habitat protection and create a robust structure of productive and more resilient habitat for waterfowl and other

						grassland dependent species.
Great River Greening Native Prairie and Oak Savanna Enhancement	Sherburne	03527229	59	$33,620	Yes	A Conservation Corps of Minnesota crew was hired, and under the guidance of the Refuge biologist, aggressively treated several of our invasive species prior to them seeding out, while implementing natural disturbance into some of these areas and returning Sherburne's prairies and savannas back to their fully functioning state.
Minnesota Waterfowl Association Migratory Waterfowl Habitat Restoration	Sherburne	03528224	860	$38,700	Yes	In order to maintain that mosaic it is important to reduce the amount of invasive species such as hybrid cattail in order to facilitate the growth of native wetland species. Herbicide treatments allow us to eradicate large areas of invasive cattails when other control methods or not possible. Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge has experienced significant reduction in our ability to reduce cattail growth through prescribed fire. Chemical applications allow us to continue to reduce hybrid cattail growth in our wetlands which allows us to provide more quality habitat for the thousands of migrating waterfowl that use Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge. Using fixed wing aircraft allows for greater coverage, less chemical to be applied, more accurate coverage of difficult to reach areas by airboat or marsh master. It is a far more efficient way of treating large areas of invasive hybrid cattail. Once treated, fire and grazing, used in combination with natural hydrologic conditions will help to mitigate the migration of these invasive species back into wetland habitats.

National Wild Turkey Federation Prescribed Burning for Oak Savanna Management	Sherburne	03528214	12,214	$59,988	Yes	This project enhanced oak savanna habitat to pre-European settlement conditions by controlling invasive species and increasing diversity through the use of prescribed burning.
Sibley SWCD Altnow Marsh WMA Enhancement	Sibley	11328210	28	$22,000	Yes	Trees and non-native shrubs were removed mechanically throughout a 28 acre portion of the property, and then burned in desired locations specified by local MN DNR Wildlife Management staff to restore prairie habitat. After completion of this project the WMA has proper nesting habitat for waterfowl and pheasants, along with excellent grazing and bedding areas for whitetail deer.
Sibley SWCD Severance Lake WMA Enhancement	Sibley	11427218	12	$12,000	Yes	The main unit portion of this WMA was restored through preventative tree removal maintenance, the area was encroached by smaller 1-2 inch diameter trees. With this encroachment the upland prairie area of this WMA wouldn't exist in years to come without tree removal.
Sibley SWCD Sibley WMA Enhancement	Sibley	11228228	38	$24,500	Yes	This unit is a very productive WMA in terms of hunter use and wild game presence, with increased management the improvements will likely continue to support the population of game at this location in a positive way. Tree removal on the west and center of the property was needed to achieve management goals, the trees are large and required mechanical removal.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Laurentian Budcapping-Phase II	St. Louis	05712212	585	$49,998	Yes	The objective of this project was to protect seedlings from browse damage through the application of paper bud caps. This has been done in the past in this area and has been very successful. It allows regeneration of

						conifer species with higher deer densities. The sites restored had been already been planted by the USFS and were in need of protection from deer browsing.
North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Orr Area Trout Streams II	St. Louis	06821236	1	$37,372	Yes	1) Bulldog Hanson Creek is one of two known streams with naturally reproducing brook trout populations in the International Falls Management Area. It provides cold water inputs to the Lost River and it lies entirely in state land. Cold water is supplied by groundwater springs. It has a relatively short section of desirable trout habitat in the upper reach of the stream and is limited by its small size. Population assessments have shown trout concentrate in the upper end of the stream. Trout tend to be small, averaging four inches in length. An existing culvert would be reset to the correct elevation and another installed for floodplain capacity. 2) Fawn Creek was stocked with Brook Trout from 1942 to 1962 and again beginning in 2013. Electrofishing in fall 2014 sampled trout and coldwater species including Sculpin spp. Fawn Creek appears to have the physical habitat necessary to support trout with good bottom substrates and some large pools. A 2008 survey found water temperatures suitable for coldwater fish. One challenge for trout management is the evidence of extreme high water events. This raises concerns about newly stocked trout being pushed downstream even more than they naturally tend to do. The most beneficial habitat improvements are likely to be beaver control/dam removal and

						tree plantings to help keep water temperatures down, maintain suitable levels of dissolved oxygen and possibly increase base flow. 3) Kinmount Creek was stocked with Brook Trout of various life stages from 1942 to 1989. The DNR has recently began stocking trout again. A 2009 survey calculated IBI coldwater scores of "poor" to "fail" at all sites sampled, and water temperature monitoring indicated relatively suitable thermal habitat for trout at some sites. Beaver trapping and dam removal would likely provide cooler water temperatures. 4) The Lost River has a long history of stocking though the current regimen has only been in place since 2011. Several surveys sampled Brook Trout, indicating that the stream is capable of producing a put-and-take fishery. Stocking assessments have recaptured stocked fish and also sampled naturally reproduced fish. The habitat pools that were recently completed are very popular with anglers and have improved habitat for trout. Culvert improvements for passage, tree planting, and/or added structures would be installed in suitable locations. The focus will maintain connectivity with its coldwater tributary and improve trout habitat.
St. Louis County SWCD Riparian Buckthorn Removal	St. Louis	05114201	32	$73,301	Yes	This project improved the native plant communities in the riparian corridor of Lester River, and improved aquatic habitat. Work occured within easements on the Lester River and tributaries within the watershed. Lester River is a designated Trout stream of high quality. Native species replaced invasive species, primarily buckthorn, but also Japanese barberry, and

						bush honeysuckle. The health of trout streams is closely tied to forest health, and these invasive species were very detrimental to forest health. Native plants provide much greater ecosystem benefits, including shade which moderates water temperature, coarse woody debris for habitat structure, and quality nutrients, in the form of plant material and healthy insect populations. A variety of methods were used to control these plants, based on the suitability of the individual sites, and native trees and shrubs were replanted, based on the conditions of each site.
US Forest Service 2018 West Zone Oak-Blueberry Habitat Enhancement	St. Louis	06519212	572	$50,000	Yes	This effort enhanced the natural regeneration of blueberry by returning fire to a fire-dependent system. Fire has historically influenced many aspects of the environment from vegetation composition and structure to wildlife diversity. Without regular fire intervals on the landscape, shade tolerant species such as balsam and alder create a dense understory, out-competing and blocking light for desired native species. With little chance for new regeneration, the habitat becomes heavily over browsed and contributes to a loss of diversity.
Pheasants Forever Lovell Quinn WPA Enhancements	Stearns	12632201	54	$48,901	Yes	Brome dominated grasslands were restored back to a diverse native dominated stand. Brome invasion is a threat to many MN grassland landscapes. In addition woody vegetation was removed on these sites. Invasive and encroaching woody vegetation has been shown to have negative affects on many grassland dependent song birds and waterfowl nesting success.

Sauk River Watershed District Cold Spring Fen	Stearns	12330213	7	$126,194	Yes	The site contains a portion of floodplain along the Sauk River, within a portion of a City of Cold Spring wellhead and is adjacent to a Scientific and Natural Area. The property was at risk of development until MLT's easement and was restored for onsite habitat improvement, floodplain restoration and to treat runoff from upstream sources. The property is 70 acres with nearly 14 acres of cropland that were restored to wetland including a rare fen type and 56 acres of marginal habitat that will be enhanced. A natural drainage that borders the site was straightened years ago to facilitate drainage and could be re-directed to supply water back to the drained wetlands . Restoring the seepage zone of the fen and the receiving wetland between the seep and the Sauk River a unique habitat was restored and water quality entering the Sauk River was improved. This project provided a large tract of managed habitat for fish and wildlife, protect vulnerable soils, and improve water quality locally and downstream.
MN Pheasants Steele County Chapter Aurora WMA Grassland Enrichment	Steele	10619229	7	$1,782	Yes	The project site on Aurora WMA was dominated by non-native cool season grass (smooth brome) with some woody encroachment. In order to improve the value of the habitat for both game and nongame species, the site was converted to a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs.
MN Pheasants Steele County Chapter Somerset WMA Grassland Establishment	Steele	10720229	26	$10,621	Yes	This project established prairie on approximately 15 acres of cropland on Somerset WMA and covered the purchase of native seed, planting, and follow up maintenance of

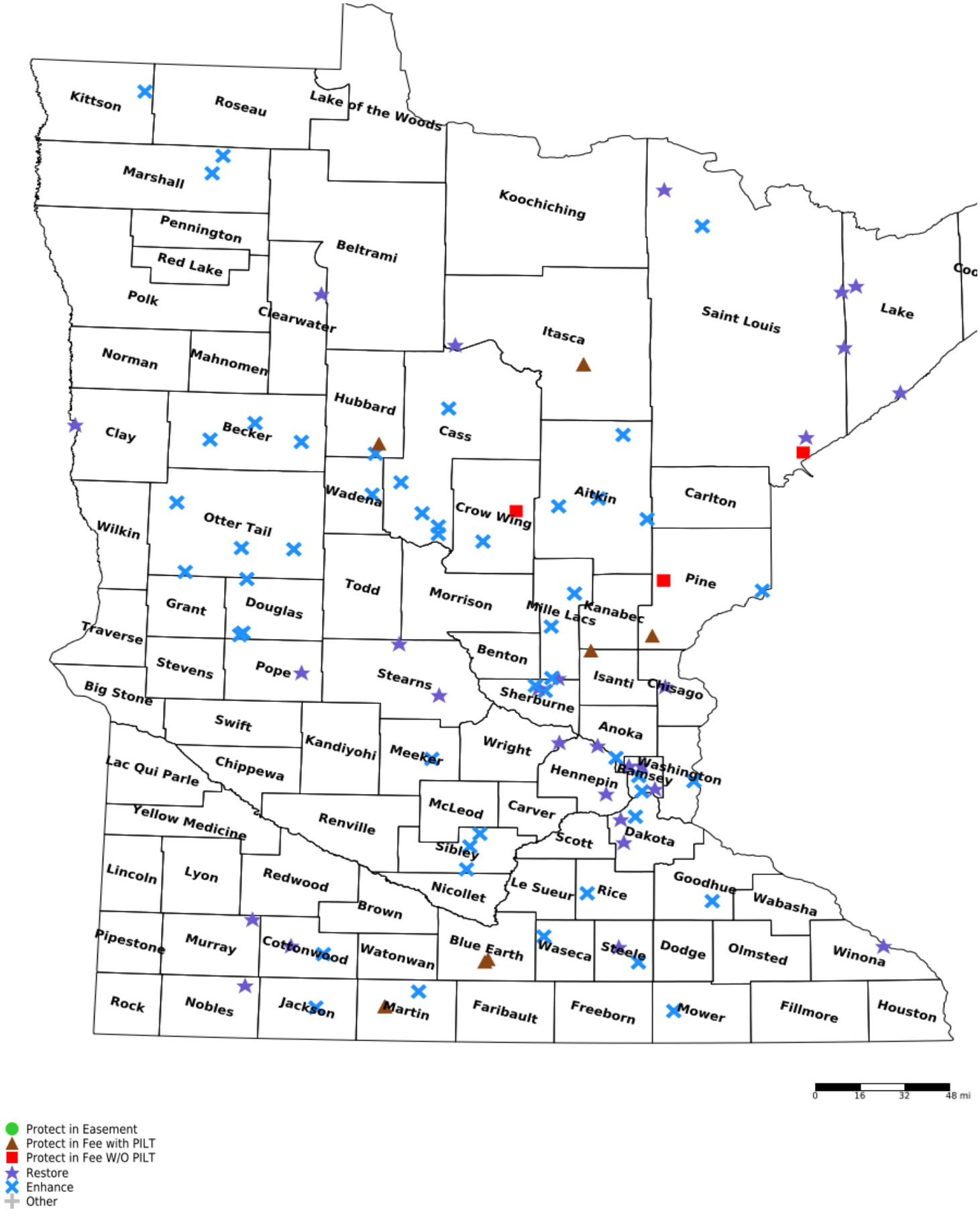
						the planting site and includee 2 years of follow up control of weeds and invasive plants in the planting site using chemical treatment and mowing.
Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust Seasonal Wetland Cattail Control VI	Stevens	12740226	120	$35,000	Yes	Many small to moderate sized wetlands end up being 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.
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Bemidji/Park Rapids Thermal Cover Improvement	Wadena	13633216	846	$36,000	Yes	Jack pine, white pine, red pine, balsam fir, white cedar and other thermal cover species was planted or seeded on timber harvest sites after logging was completed. Some sites may have had site preparation, which could include brush cutting, soil scarification or burning before planting or seeding. Other sites required budcapping of seedlings to protect plants from deer browsing. Project work also included white cedar establishment and/or restoration. Cedar establishment included brush cutting, tree planting and tree protection.
Pheasants Forever Waseca County WMA Enhancements	Waseca	10724204	243	$46,249	Yes	Scattered tree removal significantly enhanced the grassland complex and maximized production of pheasant, waterfowl, and other wildlife. The negatives associated with tree encroachment in grasslands are well documented contributing to higher levels of depredation and avoidance

						by area-sensitive grassland birds. Prescribed fire was completed to remove the duff layer and promote native forb expression.
Pheasants Forever Metro WMA Enhancements	Washington	02920222	100	$8,515	Yes	(1) Bayport WMA: The Bayport Wildlife Management Area is located in eastern Washington County and is a heavily used public area with many different wildlife qualities. The major emphasis is to manage for a variety of woodland and grassland wildlife. The area consists of 72% grassland/agricultural land, 27% woodland and a small amount of wetland. Management needs on several prairie areas within the WMA were addressed, restoring function and diverse prairie species in the process. (2) Hardwood Creek WMA Existing native prairie was restored through a prescribed burn, as well as killing volunteer trees (boxedler, elm, and buckthorn) starting to emerge on the property.
City of Winona East Lake Winona Shoreland Restoration	Winona	10707226	25	$45,672	Yes	This project enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, reduce shoreline erosion, help meet water quality objectives, and maintain the beauty and recreational value of Lake Winona for everyone. The habitat improvements included removal of invasive species and replacement with native herbaceous, shrub, and tree species, which enhanced habitat for birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and pollinators. In addition, shallow water habitat along the shoreline was planted with emergent aquatic plants that protected the shoreline from wind and wave erosion, provides nursery habitat for fish and wildlife

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Maple River WMA-Tract 12 Acquisition	Blue Earth	10627228	15	$45,400	No
Pheasants Forever Maple River WMA	Blue Earth	10627222	46	$256,578	No
Crow Wing County CWC Natural Resource Protection & Enhancement	Crow Wing	04728231	40	$54,500	No
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Muckey Creek Critical Habitat Acquisition	Hubbard	13933202	160	$230,337	No
Pheasants Forever Dalbo WMA Addition	Isanti	03725203	84	$147,000	No
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Prairie Lake Deer Yard 2	Itasca	05625210	80	$102,559	No
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Prairie Lake Deer Yard Acquisition	Itasca	05625210	120	$110,559	No
Fox Lake Conservation League Inc. Martin County WMA Acquisition - Dick Parcel	Martin	10332228	40	$262,000	No
Fox Lake Conservation League Inc. Martin County WMA Acquisition - Olson Parcel	Martin	10332228	15	$94,000	No
Audubon Center of the North Woods Formanek Additions to ACNW	Pine	04221215	80	$114,829	No
Audubon Center of the North Woods Oswald Additions to ACNW	Pine	04221215	60	$110,400	No
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Pine County-Tract 5 Acquisition	Pine	03822202	117	$83,340	No
City of Duluth 2017 Tributary 6.5 Protection and Restoration	St. Louis	05014202	23	$399,993	No

Parcel Map


Kittson
Roseau
Lake of the Woods
Marshall
Pennington
Red Lake
Polk
Beltrami
Clearwater
Koochiching
Itasca
Saint Louis
Lake
Norman
Mahnomen
Hubbard
Clay
Becker
Cass
Wadena
Crow Wing
Aitkin
Carlton
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Pine
Grant
Douglas
Traverse
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Benton
Isanti
Chisago
Big Stone
Swift
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Sherburne
Anoka
Wright
Lac Qui Parle
Chippewa
Hennepin
Ramsey
Washington
Yellow Medicine
Renville
McLeod
Carver
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
Houston
0
16
32
48 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other