



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Protecting and Restoring Minnesota's Important Birds Areas

Laws of Minnesota 2015 Final Report

General Information

Date: 08/17/2025

Project Title: Protecting and Restoring Minnesota's Important Birds Areas

Funds Recommended: \$1,730,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2015, First Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(i)

Appropriation Language: \$1,730,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire conservation easements within important bird areas identified in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, to be used as follows: \$408,000 is to Audubon Minnesota and \$1,322,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to \$100,000 is for establishing monitoring and enforcement funds as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the final report.

Manager Information

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Location Information

County Location(s): Becker, Polk, Kittson, Pope, Douglas, Otter Tail and Grant.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

Audubon and Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) successfully concluded this grant, protecting, restoring, and enhancing 2,808 acres of wildlife habitat on protected public and private lands within the program area. In total, 2,323 acres of habitat were restored or enhanced (1,594% of goal); Audubon restored and enhanced 743 acres of prairies and wetlands, while MLT restored and enhanced 1,580 acres. MLT completed 4 conservation easements under this appropriation, protecting 485 acres of habitat (108% of goal) and 4,754 feet of shoreline . All work was completed within Important Bird Areas and/or Minnesota Prairie Plan priority areas.

Process & Methods

Audubon and Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) designed the Protecting and Restoring Minnesota's Important Birds Areas Program to provide solutions to declining grassland and waterbird populations due to habitat loss in western Minnesota.

This program is unique for several reasons: 1) the emphasis on Important Bird Areas, which are essential to maintaining healthy and diverse bird populations in Minnesota; 2) a commitment to protecting and restoring working grasslands, remnant prairies and threatened wetlands within these IBAs; 3) the utilization of the cost-effective, reverse-bid model of evaluating and paying for conservation easements.

In the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands, Audubon utilized a GIS analysis which found that within these IBAs, there are a total of 339,616 acres of private lands. Of those, 105,000 acres (31%) could be considered wildlife habitat worthy of conservation (e.g., wetlands, grasslands or woodlands). More specifically, private lands that are both within an Important Bird Area and a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan core area total 195,480 acres, of which 51,576 (26%) could be considered of conservation value. It is this 26% of high priority private lands that this project targeted for protection, restoration, and enhancement in the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands.

Specific tracts for easements were identified through a targeted application process as part of this Program's innovative scoring system. The evaluation and payment strategy was based on MLT's successful Avon Hills and the Wetlands Protection Initiative, which both used a science-based ranking system and reverse-bid model to leverage the State's investment on these high-value wildlife lands.

Audubon and MLT focused restoration/enhancement efforts on IBAs and the Prairie Plan's priority areas within western and northwestern Minnesota where these efforts would most benefit target species.

Restoration/enhancement work occurred on public lands and private lands previously protected by MLT under this grant and existing USFWS conservation easements. Easement lands, although permanently protected, often have a significant need for habitat restoration and enhancement. In addition, program partners restored and enhanced 524 acres of habitat within Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, as part of the largest tallgrass prairie restoration projects in North America. These acres enabled MLT and Audubon to further increase the value of these respective lands for focal species by targeting priority lands prioritized by the USFWS.

Using this model, Audubon Minnesota and MLT protected four properties totaling 485 acres through perpetual conservation easements and restored and enhanced 2,323 acres of habitat on permanently protected public lands and private lands protected through publicly funded conservation easements by the USFWS and MLT.

Properties protected through conservation easements under this Program:

Skull Lake (Peterson) – Kittson County. 80 acres

The property falls within the Kittson-Roseau Aspen Parkland Important Bird Area and within the Aspen Parklands Core Area. The property protects portions of two rare wet prairie native plant communities and is within 3.5 miles of a 7,000+ acre unit of Skull Lake Wildlife Management Area and four miles of The Nature Conservancy's Wallace C. Dayton Conservation and Wildlife Area. The property supports sharp-tailed grouse and their courtship leks.

Skull Lake (Pines Land) – Kittson County. 105 acres

The property lies within the Kittson-Roseau Aspen Parkland Important Bird Area and within the Aspen Parklands Core Area. The property is located within a complex of natural habitats that provide habitat for elk, moose, gray wolf and black bear. Skull Lake WMA, which is identified by MBS as being of outstanding biodiversity significance, is located less than two miles to the south of the property.

Skull Lake (Paine-Smude) – Kittson County. 160 acres

This spectacular property lies within the Kittson-Roseau Aspen Parkland Important Bird Area and within the Aspen Parklands Core Area. The property borders the 7,000+ acre Skull Lake Wildlife Management Area to the north and 230-acres of land owned by The Nature Conservancy to the east. The property consists of five native plant communities, some of which are considered rare or imperiled in Minnesota, including Northwestern Dry-Mesic Oak Woodland, Bur Oak- (Prairie Herb) Woodland and Dry Barrens Prairie (Northern). The property is located within a site of high biodiversity significance, as ranked by Minnesota Biological Survey.

Gilchrist Lake (Mulvaney) – Pope County. 140 acres

The property lies in close proximity to over 6,000 acres of existing protected lands that are located within five miles of the Property. The wetlands and lakes in this area form the heart of Minnesota's prairie pothole 'Duck Factory' that is of continental significance for waterfowl reproduction. The rolling terrain found on the property contains a mosaic of mesic hardwood forests, a variety of wetlands, and remnant native prairie. It also contains 4,588 acres of undeveloped shoreline on a bay of Gilchrist Lake, a popular recreational lake. A wide variety of wildlife frequents this property, including many species of migratory waterfowl and Species in Greatest Conservation Need.

For this Program, MLT:

1) identified, contacted and negotiated with interested landowners; 2) completed four perpetual conservation easements totaling 485 acres; 3) documented property conditions and developed habitat management plans for; 4) dedicated funds for the perpetual monitoring and enforcement of those easements; 5) managed restoration/enhancement of 1,580 acres of private lands protected through publicly funded conservation easements held by MLT and USFWS.

Audubon Minnesota:

1) served as Program Manager and local point of contact; 2) assisted with landowner identification and easement site assessments; 3) managed habitat identification and prioritization on the conservation easements; 4) managed the restoration/enhancement of 743 acres of lands which are protected through publicly-funded conservation easements or in public ownership; 5) managed the restoration/enhancement of 524 acres of lands funded through MLT's appropriation through a subcontract from MLT (those acres are attributed to MLT above); and 6) enhanced

an additional 48 acres on Minnesota Land Trust easements conserved under this Program which are not included in any deliverable totals since they fall within the already acquired conservation easement.

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?

Important Bird Areas have been designated by a technical committee which assessed migration patterns, land cover, species diversity and a variety of other factors which indicate what areas of the state are most essential to our bird populations. This funding request directly addresses the priorities set out in these international IBA designations. Moreover, it also addresses the goals outlined in Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan and the State Wildlife Action Plan in addition numerous other state and federal plans. Thus, the habitats that will be protected and restored, by definition, will be those that have historic and present value to a great diversity of birds. Specifically, the proposal addresses two habitat types that are disappearing rapidly: grasslands and wetlands. While important for birds, these habitats are also essential for other wildlife.

Audubon Minnesota and the Minnesota Land Trust worked with private landowners to negotiate perpetual conservation easements and restoration projects that benefit the land, water, and wildlife in the IBAs, including the restriction of row crop agriculture, commercial or industrial development, and other threats to natural habitat. Targeted outreach to private landowners included properties that have sensitive terrestrial habitats that support wildlife species of greatest conservation need and biologically significant lands mapped by the MN County Biological Survey.

The majority of Audubon's restoration/enhancement projects occurred in a globally important IBA and Prairie Core, where one of the primary objectives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is managing for grassland birds like marbled godwits, upland sandpipers, greater prairie chicken, and sharp-tailed grouse. Audubon used the Refuge's Habitat Management Plan, the Minnesota Blueprint for Bird Conservation, and the Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan to guide all work.

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.

IBAs were designated through a rigorous scientific process. We conducted an analysis looking at critical IBAs within the context of plans such as the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan and the Minnesota Bird Conservation Blueprint. This allows us to focus on the highest priority IBAs and their associated habitats for focal birds and other wildlife. The conservation easements secured with this Program adjoined or were within a quarter mile from permanently conserved land including Skull Lake Wildlife Management Area, an area of high biodiversity, lands owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy, or other Minnesota Land Trust conservation easements. Audubon's restoration and enhancement parcels were all within Important Bird Areas and often within a Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan core or corridor area as well. We put a high priority on Global Important Bird Areas, prairie core areas, and areas of high and moderate biological significance as delineated by the MN County Biological Survey.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Refuge and Wetland Management District staff in northwestern Minnesota were an essential partner for Audubon, providing technical expertise as well as in-kind services like use of a vehicle, office space, and other equipment for the Prairie Project Manager. These contributions strengthened Audubon's ability to accomplish so much restoration and enhancement work in Important Bird Areas and Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Boundaries. Our supporters included Minnesota DNR staff including area wildlife managers, The Nature Conservancy staff, and county SWCD staff.

Minnesota Land Trust worked closely with various USFWS Wetland Management District Offices to accomplish their restoration and enhancement work on public lands and publicly-funded conservation easements in Important Bird Areas and Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Boundaries.

We are unaware of any opposition to these projects.

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

A new Program in a new geography always comes with a learning curve with challenges to logistics and expectations that requires flexibility. Partnerships with agencies and organizations developed through shared conservation vision. Strong landowner relationships were built with time and face-to-face visits. One challenge was that landowners in this geography were less familiar with conservation easements so we spent time discussing the nuances of conservation easements, answering questions, and addressing concerns.

With restoration and enhancement work, timelines need as much built-in flexibility as possible. Certain steps can only occur in certain seasons to avoid soil disturbance, soil compaction, and impacts to ground-nesting birds. Prescribed fire is very weather and season dependent. Fire staff must be on-site and not out west for severe wild fire seasons. The pandemic created supply chain issues for some partners for things like replacement teeth for equipment, causing delays or altering the acres affected.

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?

The land permanently protected through easements held by the Minnesota Land Trust will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. MLT is a nationally-accredited land trust with a successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. MLT will work with the private landowners who complete an easement to develop land management plans to ensure that the quality of the protected habitat will remain into the future. Funding for these activities is included in the project budget. Audubon Minnesota will work with our partners to maintain restored prairie lands through regular disturbance, be it prescribed burns or grazing. Future enhancements on private lands with easements will follow best management practices and the habitat management plans written expressly for that easement.

On public lands, the land management agency (USFWS and MN DNR) is committed to maintaining and further enhancing the restoration and enhancement outcomes. Prescribed fire, managed rotational grazing, and other management tools will be utilized.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2021 and in perpetuity	MLT Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of conservation easements.	Enforcement as necessary.	-
-	-	-	-	-

Budget

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$249,100	\$328,200	\$304,500	\$36,900	\$27,900	Audubon Funds	\$286,000	\$332,400
Contracts	\$208,500	\$949,600	\$955,700	-	-	Audubon Funds	\$208,500	\$955,700
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,022,000	\$281,000	\$280,500	-	\$159,200	Landowners	\$1,022,000	\$439,700
Easement Stewardship	\$100,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	-	-	-	\$100,000	\$80,000
Travel	\$13,600	\$13,600	\$9,800	-	-	-	\$13,600	\$9,800
Professional Services	\$136,800	\$70,800	\$44,900	-	-	-	\$136,800	\$44,900
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	\$5,200	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	-	\$1,600	\$100	-	-	-	-	\$100
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,730,000	\$1,730,000	\$1,676,500	\$36,900	\$187,100	-	\$1,766,900	\$1,863,600

Partner: Audubon

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$159,100	\$192,900	\$172,900	\$27,900	\$27,900	Audubon Funds	\$187,000	\$200,800
Contracts	\$208,500	\$203,300	\$199,600	-	-	Audubon Funds	\$208,500	\$199,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$5,600	\$11,200	\$2,200	-	-	-	\$5,600	\$2,200
Professional Services	\$34,800	-	-	-	-	-	\$34,800	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	\$600	\$100	-	-	-	-	\$100
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$408,000	\$408,000	\$374,800	\$27,900	\$27,900	-	\$435,900	\$402,700

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Audubon Project Staff	0.56	5.0	\$172,900	\$27,900	Audubon Funds	\$200,800

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$90,000	\$135,300	\$131,600	\$9,000	-	-	\$99,000	\$131,600
Contracts	-	\$746,300	\$756,100	-	-	-	-	\$756,100
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,022,000	\$281,000	\$280,500	-	\$159,200	Landowners	\$1,022,000	\$439,700
Easement Stewardship	\$100,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	-	-	-	\$100,000	\$80,000
Travel	\$8,000	\$2,400	\$7,600	-	-	-	\$8,000	\$7,600
Professional Services	\$102,000	\$70,800	\$44,900	-	-	-	\$102,000	\$44,900
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	\$5,200	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	-	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,322,000	\$1,322,000	\$1,301,700	\$9,000	\$159,200	-	\$1,331,000	\$1,460,900

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Staff	0.33	3.0	\$131,600	-	-	\$131,600

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Costs of restoration and enhancement steps varied widely based on the methods of implementation, the number of bids received, and the timeline for the projects. There were two instances where contractors did not complete a project action under the time constraints of the contract. In both cases, that work was not able to be completed due to the time remaining and weather. Project scopes and budgets had to be adjusted, accounting for some contracting funds that were unable to be spent. Shorter contract timelines may help avoid these situations in the future and allow for re-bidding of projects.

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	85	78	55	650	0	0	0	0	140	728
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	180	265	270	220	0	0	0	0	450	485
Enhance	0	95	0	1,500	0	0	0	0	0	1,595
Total	265	438	325	2,370	0	0	0	0	590	2,808

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

Type	Native Prairie (AP)	Native Prairie (Final)
Restore	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	65
Enhance	0	0
Total	0	65

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	\$244,800	\$57,400	\$163,200	\$374,700	-	-	-	-	\$408,000	\$432,100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$528,800	\$101,900	\$793,200	\$386,500	-	-	-	-	\$1,322,000	\$488,400
Enhance	-	\$31,500	-	\$739,500	-	-	-	-	-	\$771,000
Total	\$773,600	\$190,800	\$956,400	\$1,500,700	-	-	-	-	\$1,730,000	\$1,691,500

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	0	0	350	0	0	140	378	0	0	140	728
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Fee w/o State PILT Liability												
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	345	0	0	450	140	0	0	450	485
Enhance	0	0	0	933	0	0	0	662	0	0	0	1,595
Total	0	0	0	1,628	0	0	590	1,180	0	0	590	2,808

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	-	-	-	\$237,800	-	-	\$408,000	\$194,300	-	-	\$408,000	\$432,100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$386,500	-	-	\$1,322,000	\$101,900	-	-	\$1,322,000	\$488,400
Enhance	-	-	-	\$430,700	-	-	-	\$340,300	-	-	-	\$771,000
Total	-	-	-	\$1,055,000	-	-	\$1,730,000	\$636,500	-	-	\$1,730,000	\$1,691,500

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

4,754 feet

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals

Program partners, Audubon Minnesota and MLT, exceeded acreage goals on all fronts. MLT protected 485 acres versus the 450 proposed (107%). Together, Audubon Minnesota and MLT restored or enhanced 2,323 acres of habitat versus the 140 acres proposed, 1,659% of goal. Land prices were less than anticipated in the proposal, resulting in MLT's ability to meet grant deliverables with less funds. Remaining funds were moved to restoration and enhancement, which resulted in a large increase in acres restored and enhanced versus those proposed.

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for migratory and unique Minnesota species ~ *The success of this program resulted in our ability to protect, restore, and enhance habitats that built larger conservation estates for migratory and species of special concern in Minnesota. For each parcel or project, we developed a priority ranking criteria and developed habitat management plans to maximize the benefits for a wide range of species. We researched preferred habitat conditions and utilized an ecosystem approach to species management to select the proper management actions. We will continue to work with landowners to adapt strategies to ensure that optimal habitat conditions are present for a number of Minnesota's priority species.*

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

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

Restore / Enhance Parcels

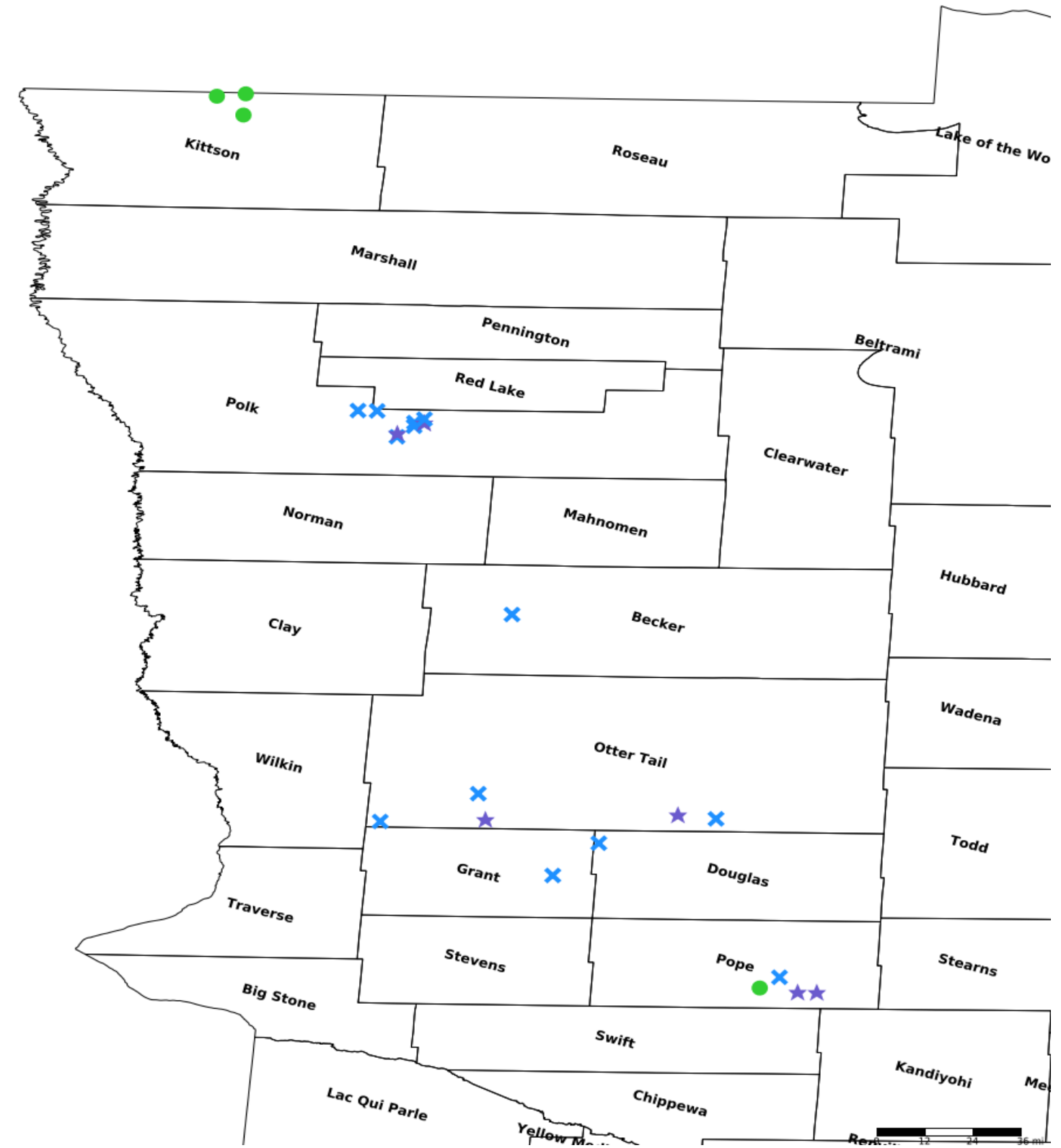
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Detroit Lakes WMD_Hamden and WPAs	Becker	14042209	86	\$4,860	Yes	Wetland enhancement, invasive plant treatment to benefit waterbirds, USFWS in-kind Marshmaster work in wetlands to create open water
Fergus Falls_9 (Probst)	Douglas	13040219	103	\$55,876	Yes	Prairie, tree removal, rxfire,
Fergus Falls WMD_8 (Frykman)	Grant	12841205	3	\$4,830	Yes	Wetland, dike construction
Fergus Falls WMD_3 (Torgrimson)	Otter Tail	13139209	10	\$12,582	Yes	Wetland, dike construction, ditch plugs
Fergus Falls WMD_4 (Douglas)	Otter Tail	13144229	324	\$58,419	Yes	Prairie, tree removal, rxfire, wetland scrape
Fergus Falls WMD_6 (Becker)	Otter Tail	13138218	6	\$6,770	Yes	Wetland, dike construction
Fergus Falls WMD_7 (Vaughn)	Otter Tail	13142219	8	\$26,043	Yes	Wetland, tile removal, sediment scrape
Fergus Falls Wmd_5 (Aho)	Otter Tail	13243213	45	\$32,700	Yes	Prairie, tree removal, rxfire
Glacial Ridge (Four Square Mile)_1	Polk	14944224	200	\$35,170	Yes	Restoration of 200 acres of mesic-wet prairie. Prairie seed purchase. In-kind spray, mowing, prescribed fire by the U.S. FWS
Glacial Ridge (Four Square Mile)_2	Polk	14944224	90	\$20,982	Yes	Restoration of 90 acres to mesic-wet prairie through prairie seed purchase and seeding. In-kind spray treatment, brush mulching, prescribed fire by U.S. FWS.
Glacial Ridge (Four Square Mile)_3	Polk	14944223	19	\$29,571	Yes	Prairie Enhancement-woody treatment
Glacial Ridge (Four Square Mile)_4	Polk	14944213	261	\$69,165	Yes	Large-scale brush (10-13 ft) and tree (5-25 ft) removal in prairie
Glacial Ridge (Herman Ridge)_1	Polk	14944226	145	\$14,949	Yes	Prairie Enhancement-woody treatment
Glacial Ridge (Kerstonville)	Polk	14945202	84	\$8,592	Yes	Enhancement of mesic prairie through woody species treatment on 84 acres.
Glacial Ridge (Lee)_1	Polk	14844205	50	\$23,258	Yes	Restoration of mesic prairie through non-native tree and shrub removal (aerial spray, tree removal, brush shear, prescribed fire (U.S. FWS in-kind), and mesic prairie seeding of 50 acres
Glacial Ridge (Lee)_2	Polk	14844208	300	\$306,873	Yes	Enhancement of mesic prairie through large (20-70 ft) non-native tree and shrub treatment (aerial spray), mulching or removal of large trees and brush

						from site, stump grinding of 140 stumps
Glacial Ridge (West Haul Road)	Polk	14944206	32	\$24,750	Yes	Tree and brush removal on grassland site, will assist with easier prescribed fire efforts by USFWS in future
Morris WMD_4 (Sievers West)	Pope	12337210	217	\$66,450	Yes	Prairie, tree removal
Morris WMD_5 (Sievers East)	Pope	12337212	153	\$15,400	Yes	Prairie, tree removal
Morris WMD_6 (BBB Farms LLC)	Pope	12437220	187	\$50,200	Yes	Prairie, tree removal

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Skull Lake (Paine-Smude)	Kittson	16347227	160	\$96,000	No
Skull Lake (Peterson)	Kittson	16447231	80	\$40,000	No
Skull Lake (Pines Land)	Kittson	16447227	105	\$71,000	No
Gilchrist Lake (Mulvaney)	Pope	12338201	140	\$73,500	No

Parcel Map



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