

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2013 Accomplishment Plan



Date: October 07, 2014

Program or Project Title: Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program - Phase V

Funds Recommended: \$ 7,960,000

Manager's Name: Eran Sandquist

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Legislative Citation: ML 2013, Ch. 137, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(b)

Appropriation Language: \$7,960,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire land in fee for wildlife management purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Anoka, Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac qui Parle, LeSueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, McLeod, Mower, Murray, Pipestone, Renville, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Waseca, and Wright.

Regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Metro / Urban
- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Prairie
- Wetlands

Abstract:

This proposal accelerates the protection of 1,220 acres of prairie grassland, wetland, and other wildlife habitat as State Wildlife Management Areas open to public hunting.

Design and scope of work:

The pressures from development, industry, and agriculture continue to mount on wildlife habitat within the farmland regions of Minnesota. In fact, despite our collective investments in conservation, it is believed that many of the agricultural counties in Minnesota are continuing to experience a net loss of wildlife habitat. This unfortunate reality is currently being exacerbated by conversion of lands expiring out of CRP. Now, more than ever, is the time to accelerate our investments in permanently protected high quality public habitat complexes that will protect, maintain, and increase Minnesota's wildlife populations. In addition, being able to provide public

areas for Minnesotans to hunt, trap, fish and otherwise recreate in the outdoors are urgent needs and is fundamental to ensure Minnesota's outdoor heritage and appreciation of the outdoors is passed on to future generations.

To help slow and reverse the loss of habitat and declining wildlife populations, Pheasants Forever (PF) and our partners will protect (fee acquisition from willing sellers) 1,220 acres of high priority grassland (native prairie if available), wetland, and wildlife habitat as state Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) throughout the pheasant range of Minnesota. Striving to build landscape level habitat complexes that will protect and sustain wildlife populations, many of the potential projects are additions to existing WMAs or WPAs, many of which were originally acquired in partnership with MNDNR, local PF chapters, and conservation partners.

Projects were developed and selected in conjunction with local and regional DNR staff. All projects will meet standards and requirements for inclusion into the WMA system and DNR Commissioner approval will be received for any project funded under this proposal. In addition to meeting the minimum WMA standards, additional criteria were used to develop the potential project list including:

Does the parcel contain habitat restoration potential that will result in an increase in wildlife populations?

Does the parcel build upon existing investments in public and private land habitat (landscape scale significance)?

Does the parcel contain significant natural communities or will it protect or buffer significant natural communities?

Does the parcel have the potential and focus for habitat protection and restoration in the future?

Does the parcel provide multiple benefits (recreation, access, water control, water quality, lakeshore, local community support etc.)?

All acquired lands will meet the minimum initial development standards for WMAs. In addition, providing high quality habitat and keeping future management concerns in mind, all acquisitions will be restored and/or enhanced to as high quality as practicable, with the belief that quality and comprehensive restorations utilizing native species result in lower management costs. Acquired croplands will be permanently retired and restored to diverse grasslands and wetlands to the fullest extent. Enhancement work may include undesirable woody vegetation removal, water control structure installation, inter-seeding to increase diversity and structure, managed grazing, invasive species control, or any other activity that improves the diversity and health of the prairie-wetland habitat complex.

Pheasants Forever's network of 76 Minnesota chapters and 26,000 members have been actively involved in protecting and restoring lands in partnership with the Minnesota DNR for 27 years and will continue to be a priority. WMA's are an integral component to the comprehensive conservation strategy within the prairie region of the state. The WMAs within this proposal will not only protect, increase, and sustain wildlife habitat and populations; they will provide access and recreational opportunities, including hunting, to ALL Minnesotans, so fundamentally important to our outdoor heritage.

Crops:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **Not Listed**

Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:

- Not Listed

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Not Listed

Which LSOHC state-wide priorities are addressed in this proposal:

- Not Listed

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Forest / Prairie Transition:

- Not Listed

Metro / Urban:

- Not Listed

Prairie:

- Not Listed

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

How does this proposal accelerate or supplement your current efforts in this area:

Land acquisition and restoration have not kept pace with habitat restoration needs or the backlog of willing sellers within the pheasant range. Opportunity is not the limiting factor in implementing the pheasant plan. Available funding is the limiting factor. With over 500,000 acres of CRP expiring in the near future, our conservation efforts must be accelerated. Before the passage of the OHF, PF would help acquire approximately 1,000 acres of land yearly that had been donated to a public agency. This grant significantly accelerates our ability to acquire priority parcels and more than doubles our historic yearly accomplishments. If funded, this proposal will accelerate the protection and restoration of Minnesota’s valuable wetland and grassland habitats and provide additional public hunting and fishing areas.

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

All lands will be enrolled into the state Wildlife Management Area system and will be managed in perpetuity by the Minnesota DNR. All acquired lands will meet the minimum initial development standards for WMAs. In addition, providing high quality habitat and keeping future management concerns in mind, all acquisitions will be restored and/or enhanced to as high quality as practicable, with the belief that quality and comprehensive restorations utilizing native species result in lower management costs. In addition, our local Pheasants Forever chapter members and volunteers maintain a high interest in seeing the habitat and productivity of acquired parcels are at high-quality levels. PF and partners including the DNR and USFWS will develop an ecological restoration and management plan for each parcel. Grant and partner dollars will be used to for the initial site development and restoration/enhancement work.

Activity Details:

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition - **No**

Current DNR language requires acquisition partners to notify local government of acquisition. However, where local government approval is already required, or if DNR guidance was to change, we will adhere to all requirements and seek approval.

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection - **No**

Because we are working within priority habitat areas, it is possible that parcels could have perpetual easements on a portion of them. If a parcel has a perpetual easement and is deemed a high priority by the partners, we will follow guidance established by the Outdoor Heritage Fund to proceed, or use non-state funding to acquire the protected portion of the property.

Is this land open for hunting and fishing - **Yes**

No Variation from State of Minnesota regulations.

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Identify priority acquisitions	07/01/2013
Contract appraisals ordered	09/01/2013
Purchase agreements	02/01/2014
Re-evaluate tract priority	02/15/2014
Contract appraisals ordered	04/01/2014
Purchase agreements	07/01/2014
Close on tracts	01/01/2015
Restoration completed	06/30/2015
Lands Donated	06/30/2015

Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **Not Listed**

Outcomes:

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Improved access to public lands

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Improved access to public lands

Programs in prairie region:

- Improved access to public lands

Budget Spreadsheet

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

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

Not Listed

Total Amount of Request: \$ 7960000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$48,000	\$0		\$48,000
Contracts	\$477,000	\$106,000	PF, Private, Federal	\$583,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$7,315,000	\$292,000	PF, Private, Federal	\$7,607,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$80,000	\$0		\$80,000
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$7,960,000	\$398,000		\$8,358,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PF Director of Conservation	0.04	3.00	\$16,000	\$0		\$16,000
PF Regional Staff	0.04	3.00	\$16,000	\$0		\$16,000
PF National Grants Staff	0.10	3.00	\$16,000	\$0		\$16,000
Total	0.18	9.00	\$48,000	\$0		\$48,000

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	305	915	0	0	1,220
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	305	915	0	0	1,220

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

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	0
Total	0

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$1,990,000	\$5,970,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,960,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,990,000	\$5,970,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,960,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	54	106	0	1,060	0	1,220
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	54	106	0	1,060	0	1,220

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$477,000	\$636,000	\$0	\$6,847,000	\$0	\$7,960,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$477,000	\$636,000	\$0	\$6,847,000	\$0	\$7,960,000

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

Parcel List

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Anoka

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Carlos Avery WMA	03222231	170	\$800,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Carlos Avery WMA Tr. 2	03222230	40	\$200,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Blue Earth

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Maple River WMA	10627222	116	\$960,000	No	Full	Full

Brown

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Coal Mine Creek WMA	10935207	142	\$860,000		Full	Not Applicable
Rosenau Lambrecht WMA	10935207	157	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Carver

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Paterson Lake WMA	11625220	320	\$3,200,000		Full	Not Applicable
Tiger Marsh WMA Tr. 2	11526216	15	\$75,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
Tiger Marsh WMA Tr. 3	11526209	86	\$450,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Cottonwood

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Farhagen WMA	10536211	105	\$700,000		Full	Not Applicable

Jackson

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Minnesota WMA Tr. 2	10136231	80	\$500,000		Full	Not Applicable
Teal Lake WMA Tr. 2	10436230	185	\$1,400,000		Full	Not Applicable
Vaca WMA	10236205	80	\$400,000		Full	Not Applicable

Lac qui Parle

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
25th Anniversary WMA Tr. 2	11744203	158	\$825,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

LeSueur

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Sanborn Lake WMA	11223226	214	\$1,300,000		Full	Full

Lincoln

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Minnkota WMA Tr. 5	11346206	221	\$750,000		Full	Not Applicable

Lyon

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Sodus WMA	11042236	177	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Full

Martin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Center Creek WMA	10329221	235	\$950,000		Full	Not Applicable
Gruven WMA	10330235	131	\$850,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

McLeod

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Rich Valley Tr. 2	11628219	114	\$680,000		Full	Not Applicable

Mower

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Ramsey Mill Pond WMA Tr. 2	10318213	167	\$1,150,000		Full	Not Applicable

Murray

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Shetek Inlet	10841211	100	\$550,000		Full	Full

Pipestone

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Woodstock WMA Tr. 2	10744202	136	\$650,000		Full	Not Applicable

Renville

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Beaver Falls	11335225	80	\$368,000		Full	Not Applicable

Stearns

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Middlefork Meadows	12334231	229	\$1,053,400		Full	Not Applicable
Prairie Heritage T2	12334236	160	\$736,000		Full	Not Applicable

Stevens

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Do lven WMA Tr.2	12541219	29	\$140,000		Full	Not Applicable
Selk WMA	12541227	40	\$300,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Swift

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Danvers WMA	12240231	40	\$200,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Waseca

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Linde WMA	10824235	76	\$365,000	No	Full	Full

Wright

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Clearwater WMA	12227222	615	\$3,000,000	No	Full	Full

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

Carver

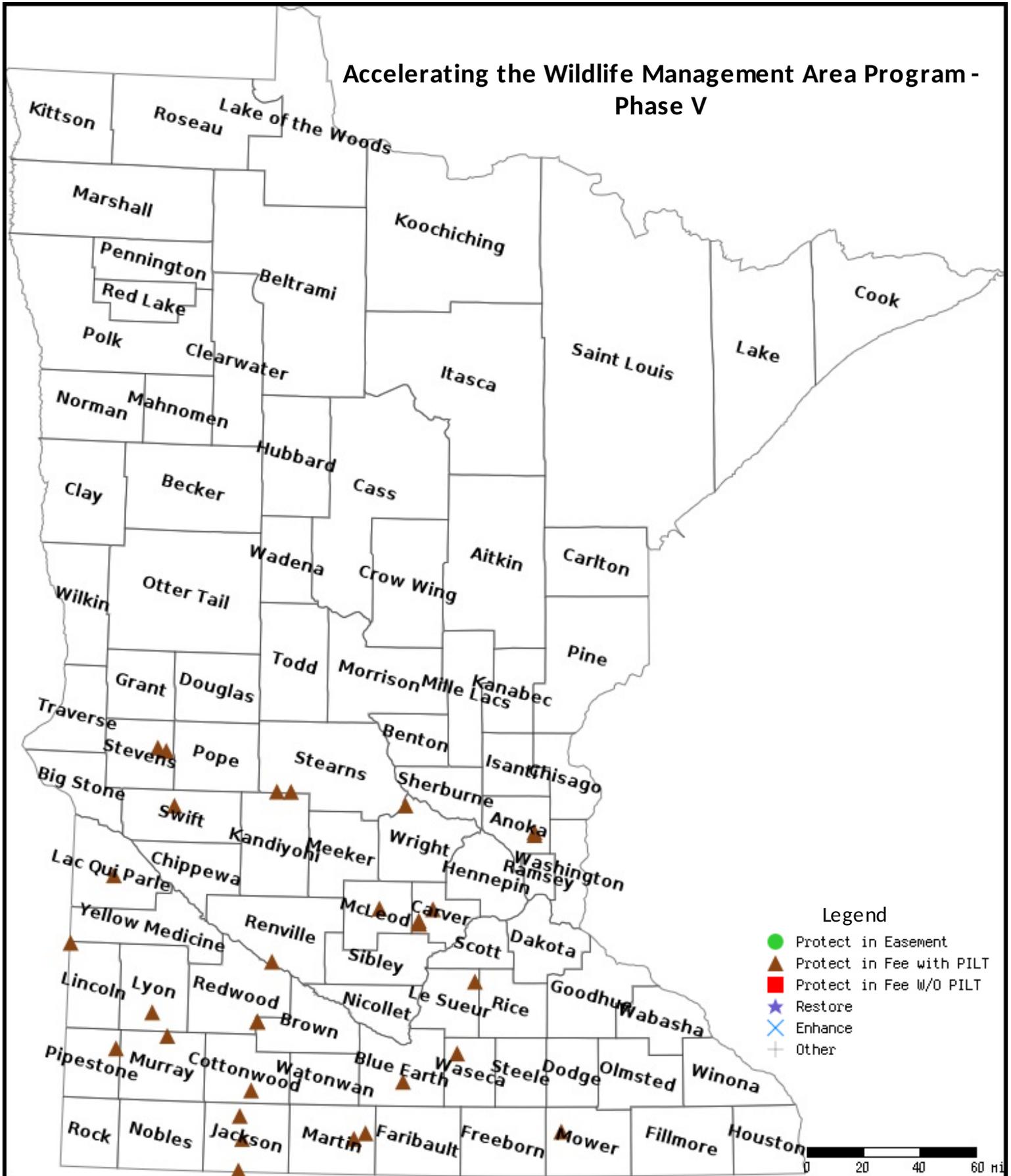
Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	# Bldgs?	Bldg Impove Desc	Value of Bldg	Disposition of Improvements
Tiger Marsh WMA	11526216	110	\$825,000	5	Old Farmstead	\$0	Demolish

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program - Phase V



Data Generated From Parcel List