



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase IV

Laws of Minnesota 2016 Final Report

General Information

Date: 02/02/2022

Project Title: Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase IV

Funds Recommended: \$5,000,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(d)

Appropriation Language: \$5,000,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with The Nature Conservancy, in cooperation with The Trust for Public Land and Minnesota Land Trust, to acquire land in fee for wildlife management purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8, to acquire land in fee for scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 5, to acquire land in fee for state forest purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 7, to acquire permanent conservation easements, and to restore and enhance prairie, grasslands, forest, and savanna as follows: \$1,506,000 to The Nature Conservancy; \$2,930,000 to The Trust for Public Land; and \$564,000 to Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to \$80,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund, as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. Annual income statements and balance sheets for income and expenses from land acquired in fee with this appropriation and not transferred to state or local government ownership must be submitted to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Richard Biske

Title: Freshwater Conservation Program Director

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

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Location Information

County Location(s): Fillmore, Winona, Houston and Goodhue.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie
- Southeast Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee
- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

[Narrative](#)

Summary of Accomplishments

Collectively partners protected 1,853 acres, nearly 5 miles of trout stream and enhanced 41 acres of prairie with this appropriation.

The Trust for Public Land acquired and conveyed 2 WMA additions to DNR totaling 1,023 acres in Fillmore and Houston Counties.

The Nature Conservancy acquired 409 acres of a larger 885 acre WMA along Rush Creek in Winona and Fillmore Counties and completed 41 acres of bluff prairie and oak savanna enhancement.

The Minnesota Land Trust protected 451 acres across 5 properties, including a donated conservation easement valued at \$696,400 near a state park.

Process & Methods

The program's 4 core activities were to acquire lands in fee, protect lands through conservation easement, restore and enhance habitat.

On June 19, 2017, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) acquired and conveyed a former 833-acre Girl Scout camp to the Minnesota DNR to create the new Yucatan Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Fillmore and Houston Counties. Located in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial State Forest in Southeast Minnesota, the Yucatan WMA is predominantly forested with oaks, cherry and other hardwood species. It contains majestic bluffs with stunning panoramic views of the Root River, one of the best trout streams in the Midwest. In addition, the new WMA includes the literal headwaters of a small spring-fed stream that is teeming with native brook trout. Several rare species call the land home, including timber rattlesnakes and a rare plantain. Yucatan WMA will provide outstanding public recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife observation in an area with relatively little public land. This successful acquisition used \$2,255,200 of the Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase IV acquisition funds.

On December 13th, 2018, TPL acquired and conveyed approximately 340 acres to the Minnesota DNR as an addition to Choice WMA in Fillmore County. This land contains bluffs with beautiful views of the Root River Valley. It also contains the headwaters of a small spring-fed stream with a healthy population of native brook trout. Many animal species call the land home, including deer and turkey, providing excellent public hunting opportunities. This acquisition used the remaining \$489,901 of the ML16 Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase IV

acquisition funds in addition to \$331,099 of the ML17 Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase V acquisition funds. This project also leveraged \$500,000 in DNR RIM funds. We have accomplished and exceeded the stated outcomes of this program.

In the Spring of 2019, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) closed on 409 acres of the 885-acre Schueler Wildlife Management Area acquisition, including 1 mile of trout stream. The portion of the property acquired with this appropriation has approximately 18 acres of bluff prairie overlooking the Rush Creek valley and 276 acres of hardwood forest; nearly 115 acres of pasture and a farmstead that has been cleaned up is being restored to habitat. TNC used private funds to restore a portion of an oxbow wetland on the property near Rush Creek that provides new wetland habitat. The successful acquisition of this property is the result of TNC maintaining contact with a large landowner along Rush Creek since 2007, when it was identified as a top 10 protection priority in the region.

TNC used goat grazing to enhance bluff prairie and oak savanna on 35 acres in Whitewater WMA and 6 acres on Rush Creek Woods WMA. Using goats on bluff prairie and oak savannas in Southeast Minnesota has proven to be a cost-effective means to prepare sites for prescribed fire and allow for a regular fire return interval.

The Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) completed 4 conservation easements protecting 451 acres of forest and prairie, and 16,473 feet of shoreland along streams. Each project is described in brief below; project summary sheets with more extensive descriptions, maps and photos have also been uploaded into the final report:

1. Bear Creek (Erding) – Located along Bear Creek in Fillmore County, this 81-acre property lies within an MBS Site of Moderate Biodiversity Significance, and protects forested bluffs, canyon-like ravines, and one mile of shorelines along a tributary to Bear Creek.
2. Frontenac State Park (Jones Trust) – This scenic 164-acre property lies on a terrace of the Mississippi River adjacent to Frontenac State Park in Goodhue County. Composed principally of agricultural field, the landowner donated the conservation easement valued at \$696,400. Subsequent to the donation, the Land Trust restored the ag lands to native prairie through a CPL grant.
3. South Fork Root River (Dahl Creek Farms, LLLP) – Situated on the edge of Irish Ridge above the South Fork Root River in Houston and Fillmore Counties, this 415-acre property is dominated by forested bluffs that descend over 400 feet in elevation to the floodplain below. The conservation easement protects 1.73 miles of shoreline along the South Fork Root River and its tributaries.
4. Wiscoy Valley (Mueller) – Located in Winona County, this 164-acre conservation easement protects mixed hardwood forest and over 3,800 feet of shoreline along a tributary to Money Creek, a state-designated trout stream.

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 work in this project was focused around priority conservation areas within the Blufflands Ecological Subsection, which contains more Species in Greatest Conservation Need than any other subsection in Minnesota. Conservation opportunity areas have been identified by TNC, MLT, TPL, the MN DNR and others based on the MN Biological Survey, existing public land assets, and the potential to expand and connect habitat complexes. Projects protected and improved habitat conditions for rare plants and animals along with popular game species in the region, including whitetail deer, wild turkey and ruffed grouse. Most projects are situated along or near trout streams; protection and restoration were focused on maintaining and improving trout waters and fishing opportunities. Projects funded through this appropriation have impacted known 32 occurrences of 25 different plants, animals, or communities considered rare, threatened, endangered, or of special concern. These include plants such as goat's rue, snow trillium, and the endangered Carey's Sedge; and animals such as timber rattlesnake, North American racer, Blanding's turtle, and Red-shouldered hawk.

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.

Enhancement and protection projects took place in conservation opportunity areas identified based on concentrations of native plant communities mapped by the MN Biological Survey (MBS), rare features, existing conservation lands and the potential to expand habitat complexes and link them. As a result, roughly 48% of the habitat impacted by this award is of Moderate, High, or Outstanding significance to biodiversity according to the MBS.

TPL's 340-acre addition to the Choice WMA expands the 1,100-acre unit created with a previous phase of this program. The South Fork Root River (Dahl Creek Farms) easement acquired by MLT protected private lands adjacent to and downstream of that WMA. These combined accomplishments created a nearly contiguous block of over 1,850 acres of protected habitat.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

The strength of our collaboration with local partners was key to our success. All three partners funded through this award collaborated on landowner outreach. Priority areas were identified in partnership with multiple local stakeholders, especially members of the MN Forest Resource Council's Southeast Landscape Committee. We worked closely with MN DNR throughout this program from planning to implementation and follow-up. Our coordination with County Soil and Water Conservation Districts has led to improved landowner outreach and connections to local landowners.

TNC and TPL notified each county board prior to acquiring parcels. TNC also hosted a meeting with county commissioners from Fillmore County on the Schueler WMA. While some local officials have had reservations around the acquisition of cropland, we have been communicating proactively with board members around potential projects in their districts to address concerns early in the process.

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

Three large fee acquisitions were completed in this phase (Yucatan, Choice and Schueler WMAs), accomplishing 133% of fee acquisition goal. Due to the high acquisition costs of these tracts, the program was unable to conduct the original estimate of restoration and enhancement. Multiple appropriations were necessary to complete the larger acquisition projects and one easement project included in this phase of the program. The creation of two new WMAs each over 800 acres is a major accomplishment for habitat protection and access in the region. Outdoor Heritage Funding was essential to initiate those acquisitions, each having been regional conservation priorities for decades.

MLT was able to significantly exceed conservation easement goals for this appropriation by 150% due to a landowner donation of easement value (which also exceeded MLT's leverage goal by 440%).

What other fund may contribute to this program?

- Other : US Fish and Wildlife Service State Wildlife Grant, Private Funds

How were the funds used to advance the program?

Funds from this appropriation were used as leverage to secure a US Fish and Wildlife Service State Wildlife Grant. The grant was used to collect native seed and restore and enhance prairie in Southeast Minnesota. It also provided funding for additional bluff prairie enhancement on private lands near or adjacent to projects funded with Outdoor Heritage Funds.

The Nature Conservancy also leveraged private funds to excavate and plant native grasses and trees on an oxbow near Rush Creek on the Schueler WMA. The oxbow restoration increases aquatic habitat within the floodplain of

Rush Creek and serves as a demonstration to increase riparian and floodplain habitat while also improving water quality entering Rush Creek.

For the Yucatan WMA project, TPL negotiated for the landowner to cover \$250,000 in demolition costs. For the Choice WMA North 1 project, TPL leveraged \$250,000 in RIM funds and secured \$55,000 in land value donation from the landowners. In addition, TPL leveraged private funds to cover our fringe costs and ½ of our DSS costs.

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

Protection parcels are adjacent to or within close proximity to existing protected lands, including state-owned lands and lands under conservation easement. This allows for the expansion of maintenance and restoration activities that are currently taking place on those protected lands and adjacent private lands. Habitats cleared of invasive species will be maintained with prescribed fire and in some instances with goat grazing to prepare for prescribed fire.

Land protected through conservation easements will be sustained by MLT through a state-of-the art easement stewardship standards and practices. MLT is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a successful easement stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring and defending the easements as necessary. In addition, MLT encourages landowners to undertake active ecological management of their properties, provides them with habitat management plans and works with them to secure resources (expertise and funding) to undertake these activities over time.

Protection and restoration projects will improve future prescribed fire and maintenance activities through economies of scale. The tracts protected and enhanced with this appropriate meet the prioritization for the State Wildlife Action Plan. MN DNR has been successful securing federal habitat enhancement funding for Southeast Minnesota allowing DNR and partners to use federal funds to complete habitat enhancement for Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Each project is within a Conservation Opportunity Area, receiving higher level of coordination and resource priority by many partners for maintaining and enhancing protected habitats.

Budget

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Antic. Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$323,800	\$321,800	\$306,800	\$44,100	\$44,100	-, Private	\$367,900	\$350,900
Contracts	\$350,000	\$82,900	\$13,800	-	-	-	\$350,000	\$13,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$3,591,600	\$3,858,400	\$3,970,900	\$150,000	\$527,500	-, Private	\$3,741,600	\$4,498,400
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$300,000	\$302,600	\$302,500	\$100,000	\$443,500	Private	\$400,000	\$746,000
Easement Stewardship	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	-	-	-	\$80,000	\$80,000
Travel	\$9,000	\$9,500	\$9,700	-	-	-	\$9,000	\$9,700
Professional Services	\$162,500	\$180,500	\$184,600	-	-	-	\$162,500	\$184,600
Direct Support Services	\$98,100	\$79,300	\$62,600	\$86,100	\$47,700	-, Private, Private	\$184,200	\$110,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	-	-	-	\$25,000	\$25,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$25,000	\$25,000	-	-	-	-	\$25,000	-
DNR IDP	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	-	-	-	\$35,000	\$35,000
Grand Total	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$4,990,900	\$380,200	\$1,062,800	-	\$5,380,200	\$6,053,700

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Antic. Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$90,000	\$88,000	\$83,900	-	-	-	\$90,000	\$83,900
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$300,000	\$302,600	\$302,500	\$100,000	\$443,500	Private	\$400,000	\$746,000
Easement Stewardship	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	-	-	-	\$80,000	\$80,000
Travel	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$5,600	-	-	-	\$5,000	\$5,600
Professional Services	\$77,000	\$70,000	\$69,000	-	-	-	\$77,000	\$69,000
Direct Support Services	\$12,000	\$17,900	\$14,800	-	-	-	\$12,000	\$14,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$564,000	\$564,000	\$555,800	\$100,000	\$443,500	-	\$664,000	\$999,300

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT - Conservation and Legal Staff	0.29	3.0	\$83,900	-	-	\$83,900

Partner: The Nature Conservancy

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Antic. Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$142,000	\$142,000	\$131,100	-	-	-	\$142,000	\$131,100
Contracts	\$350,000	\$82,900	\$13,800	-	-	-	\$350,000	\$13,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$832,900	\$1,124,700	\$1,237,200	-	-	-	\$832,900	\$1,237,200
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,600	-	-	-	\$2,500	\$2,600
Professional Services	\$60,500	\$60,500	\$65,600	-	-	-	\$60,500	\$65,600
Direct Support Services	\$63,100	\$38,400	\$25,700	\$63,100	\$25,600	Private	\$126,200	\$51,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	-	-	-	\$15,000	\$15,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$25,000	\$25,000	-	-	-	-	\$25,000	-
DNR IDP	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	-	-	-	\$15,000	\$15,000
Grand Total	\$1,506,000	\$1,506,000	\$1,506,000	\$63,100	\$25,600	-	\$1,569,100	\$1,531,600

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TNC Grant Administration	0.1	3.0	\$6,200	-	-	\$6,200
TNC Project Manager	0.32	3.0	\$57,200	-	-	\$57,200
TNC Protection Staff	0.27	3.0	\$67,700	-	-	\$67,700

Partner: Trust for Public Land

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Antic. Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$91,800	\$91,800	\$91,800	\$44,100	\$44,100	Private	\$135,900	\$135,900
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,758,700	\$2,733,700	\$2,733,700	\$150,000	\$527,500	Private	\$2,908,700	\$3,261,200
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	-	-	-	\$1,500	\$1,500
Professional Services	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	-	-	-	\$25,000	\$50,000
Direct Support Services	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$22,100	\$23,000	\$22,100	Private	\$46,000	\$44,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	-	-	-	\$10,000	\$10,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	-	-	-	\$20,000	\$20,000
Grand Total	\$2,930,000	\$2,930,000	\$2,929,100	\$217,100	\$593,700	-	\$3,147,100	\$3,522,800

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection and Legal Staff	0.3	3.0	\$91,800	\$44,100	Private	\$135,900

Direct Support Services

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

TNC: DSS is based on TNC's Federally Negotiated rate as proposed and subsequently approved by the US Dept. of Interior. The proportion requested from the grant represents 50% , with the other 50% contributed as leverage.

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

TPL: TPL used grant funds for half their federally-approved indirect rate, and will leverage the other half.

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Acquisition costs for TNC were higher than originally estimated so most of the original amount budgeted for contracts was needed to complete acquisitions and restoration and enhancements were deferred to future years. This resulted in more acres protected and less acres enhanced.

MLT - Due to landowner donation of easement value (\$443,500), MLT was able to significantly exceed its proposed land protection goals by 150% (451 acres protected versus 300 acres proposed). In addition, this leverage exceeded our proposed leverage goals for the grant by 440%.

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: -

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	35	94	1,040	1,119	0	219	1,075	1,432
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	150	18	150	328	0	203	300	549
Enhance	0	0	150	41	130	0	0	0	280	41
Total	0	0	335	153	1,320	1,447	0	422	1,655	2,022

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	18
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0
Enhance	30	0
Total	30	18

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$150,000	\$590,500	\$3,876,000	\$3,408,600	-	\$416,000	\$4,026,000	\$4,415,100
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$282,000	\$301,700	\$282,000	\$254,100	-	-	\$564,000	\$555,800
Enhance	-	-	\$320,000	\$20,000	\$90,000	-	-	-	\$410,000	\$20,000
Total	-	-	\$752,000	\$912,200	\$4,248,000	\$3,662,700	-	\$416,000	\$5,000,000	\$4,990,900

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	1,075	1,432	0	0	0	0	1,075	1,432
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	300	451	0	0	0	0	300	451
Enhance	0	0	0	0	280	41	0	0	0	0	280	41
Total	0	0	0	0	1,655	1,924	0	0	0	0	1,655	1,924

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$4,026,000	\$4,415,100	-	-	-	-	\$4,026,000	\$4,415,100
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	\$564,000	\$555,800	-	-	-	-	\$564,000	\$555,800
Enhance	-	-	-	-	\$410,000	\$20,000	-	-	-	-	\$410,000	\$20,000
Total	-	-	-	-	\$5,000,000	\$4,990,900	-	-	-	-	\$5,000,000	\$4,990,900

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

4.6

Outcomes

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Large corridors and complexes of biologically diverse wildlife habitat typical of the unglaciated region are restored and protected ~ *The land protected through this award grew existing complexes of protected public/private land representative of the Driftless Area, expanding Choice WMA and creating Schueler WMA to provide access and connectivity to a state property. Growing the protected area in these critical habitat*

*complexes better maintains functioning and connected habitat for a diverse set of species.
Enhancement activities focused on improving fire dependent bluff prairie and oak savanna that can be managed through large complex prescribed fire to maintain the natural heterogeneity of the region.*

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

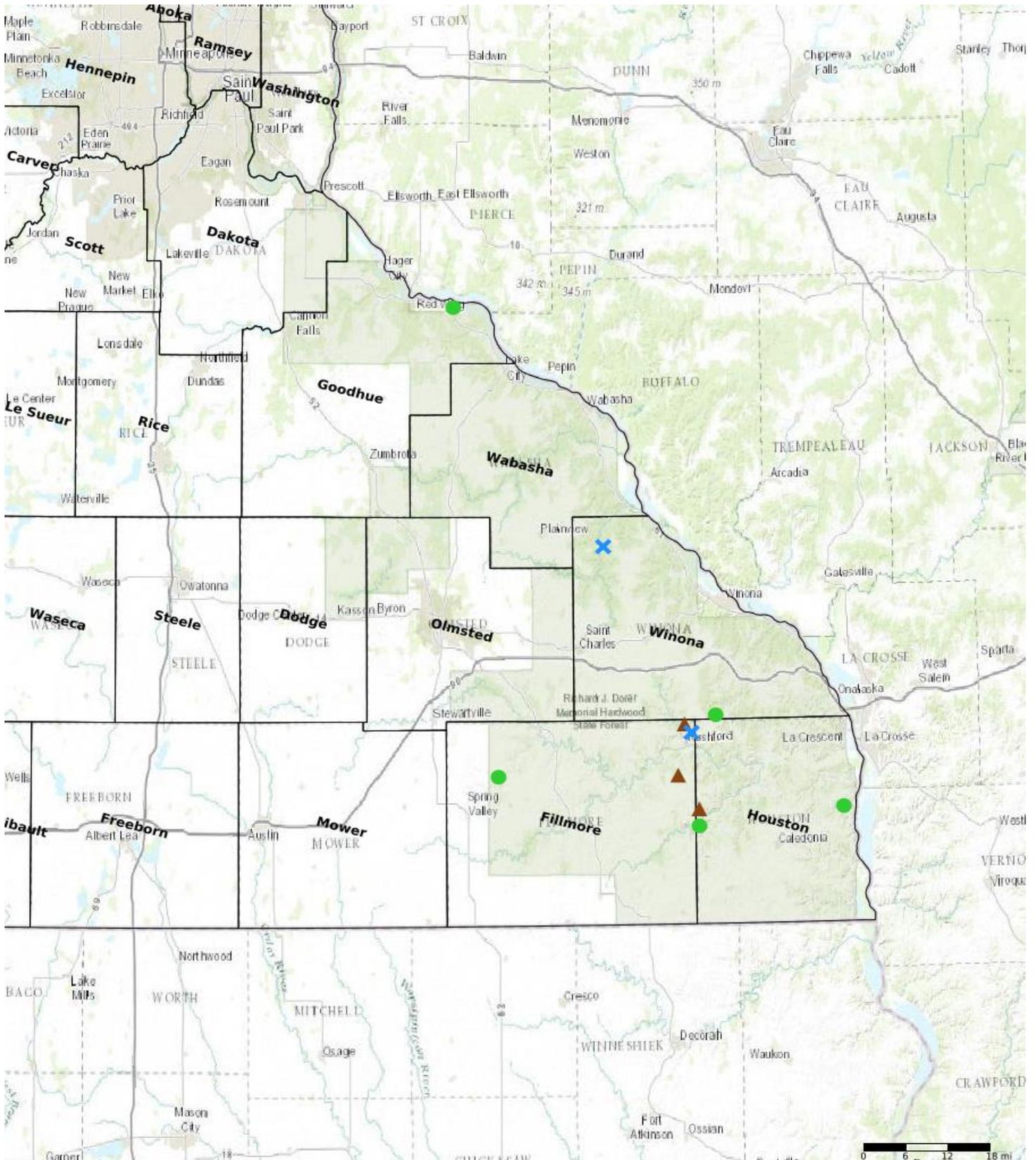
[Yes](#)

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Rush Creek Woods Grazing	Fillmore	10408212	6	\$6,750	Yes
Whitewater Grazing	Winona	10810223	35	\$14,000	Yes

Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Bear Creek (Erding)	Fillmore	10312205	81	\$65,200	No
Rush Creek	Fillmore	10408202	409	\$1,237,100	Yes
Choice WMA North 1	Fillmore	10308203	190	\$1,321,000	No
Frontenac State Park (Jones Trust)	Goodhue	11313231	164	\$0	No
Yucatan WMA	Houston	10307230	833	\$2,500,000	No
Wildcat Creek (Scanlan)	Houston	10304227	98	\$122,000	No
South Fork Root River (Dahl Creek Farms)	Houston	10207206	49	\$62,400	No
Wisoy Valley (Mueller)	Winona	10507233	157	\$175,000	No



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

Parcel Map
Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration
Phase IV
(Data Generated From Parcel List)