

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Fiscal Year 2020 / ML 2019 Request for Funding



**Date:** May 31, 2018

**Program or Project Title:** Lower Wild Rice Corridor Habitat Restoration - Request 2

**Funds Requested:** \$5,008,300

**Manager's Name:** Kevin Ruud

**Title:** District Administrator

**Organization:** Wild Rice Watershed District

**Address:** 11 East 5th Avenue

**City:** Ada, MN 56510

**Office Number:** 218-784-5501

**Email:** kruudwrwd@loretel.net

**Website:** www.wildricewatershed.org/

**County Locations:** Norman

**Regions in which work will take place:**

- Prairie

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Easement

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat

### Abstract:

Channelization of the Lower Wild Rice River in the early 1900s converted 50 miles of sinuous river channel to 23 miles of straight channel and resulted in the loss of several thousand acres of wetland and grassland habitat within the river's corridor. This project will permanently protect over 1,100 acres of private lands in easements through a partnership between the Wild Rice Watershed District and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources that represents a model approach to river corridor acquisition.

### Design and scope of work:

Rivers and streams in the Red River Basin were straightened, ditched, cleared, and snagged with a goal of improving drainage. These activities destroyed hundreds of miles of aquatic habitat and eliminated thousands of acres of riparian forest, wetland and grassland. These habitat losses continue and have directly resulted in reduced fish and wildlife populations within the channelized reaches of rivers.

The Red River Drainage Commission channelized the Lower Wild Rice River in the late 1800's with further channel "improvement" completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 1950's. The channelized reach of the Wild Rice River currently provides little functional aquatic or riparian corridor habitat and reduces connectivity between the lower 49 miles of the river to the upstream 130 miles. The vision for the project includes establishment of a ½-mile wide protected corridor along the river channel, setting back existing spoil banks, reconnecting oxbows, and construction of a natural river channel, and restoration of riparian wetland and prairie plant communities.

The Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) and the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) have approved a Memorandum of Understanding which details responsibilities for easement acquisition. The partnership between the WRWD and BWSR will use the Reinvest In Minnesota Program to secure, maintain, and monitor easements within Reach C of the corridor.

Since this is a large project the river has been divided into Reaches A to F (attached illustration). This funding request will target

acquisition to Reach C of the corridor. This reach was selected due to expressed landowner interest and the high percentage of cultivated land. While land acquisition will be targeted to Reach C, other opportunities to protect lands within or adjacent to the main corridor (A-F) will also be considered. A total of 1,193 acres of land is targeted for acquisition with this proposal. The previous proposal (2015) targeted acquisition to the remaining lands within Reach C.

Once acquisition is complete, future channel rehabilitation phases of the project will be completed with the assistance of MN DNR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The WRWD will be the local sponsor responsible for final design, engineering, and construction of the project.

The land acquisition phase of the long term project is critical to advancing the largest river restoration project ever proposed in Minnesota.

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

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H6 Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams

## **Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:**

- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan
- Red River of the North Fisheries Management Plan

## **Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:**

Objective 1 of the Red River of the North Fisheries Management Plan is to "Establish and maintain stable stream channels." Additional information within this objective states that "These habitat losses continue today and have directly resulted in reduced fish and wildlife populations within channelized reaches of river corridors. Restoration and enhancement of channelized river segments is a top priority in the Red River basin."

From the Minnesota Prairie Plan: "Restoring the natural functioning of these channelized stream segments while allowing legal agricultural drainage will be a major challenge for the future. Another widespread concern about the streams and ditches in the Prairie Region is the cultivation of lands immediately adjacent to waterways." This project will restore the natural function of the Wild Rice River while protecting and restoring upland habitat along the corridor.

## **Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:**

### **Prairie:**

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

## **Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:**

This project will permanently protect and restore lands along the Wild Rice River corridor. Currently, none of the lands targeted in this proposal are protected. Within the primary reach targeted in this proposal, 67% of the acres are classified as cultivated crops. The other primary land classifications within this reach are woody wetland (17% of acres) and open water (10% of acres).

## **Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:**

Restoration of the Lower Wild Rice River Corridor is the highest priority project on the state river restoration priority list. The Minnesota Prairie Plan also lists restoration of channelized prairie river segments of cultivation lands immediately adjacent to streams and ditches as critical challenges. One Minnesota County Biological Survey site of moderate biodiversity significance is located within the Lower Wild Rice River Corridor.

Reference stream reaches established by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be used to set the geometry of the restored stream channels.

## How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species:

This project is the land acquisition phase of a long term project that will restore 50 miles of river and over 6,500 acres of habitat for associated fish and wildlife communities. In addition to the direct habitat benefits within the project area, fish and wildlife populations downstream of the project will benefit through water quality improvements. Wild Rice River and associated prairie and forest lowland habitats were identified as key habitats for species of greatest conservation need in the Red River Prairie ecoregion. Key among aquatic species is the Lake Sturgeon, a species of special concern. Wild Rice River provides critical sturgeon habitat and is a primary reintroduction waterbody where Lake Sturgeon have been stocked. Restoration of Wild Rice River habitat will help ensure successful reestablishment of Lake Sturgeon populations in the Red River basin.

This project will also likely benefit mussel and insect populations in Wild Rice River. Two species of caddisfly and two species of mussels, black sandshell and fluted-shell are listed as species of special concern and known to be present in the upstream reaches of Wild Rice River. Acquisition and restoration of the stream and associated riparian wetlands will also improve habitat for gamefish and more than 50 other fish species present in other reaches of the Wild Rice River watershed.

## Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

Warmwater fisheries surveys by conducted by MDNR generate standardized catch rates (fish captured per unit of effort). The following species can be used as indicators: Sauger 2lbs/acre, Channel Catfish 116/acre, Mussel species 8,000/acre.

According to the research literature and personal observations in Minnesota, prairie chickens require a minimum of 320 acres of high quality grasslands with no areas hostile to grassland wildlife (woodlots, farmsteads, etc) near these grasslands. For every 320 acre patch of high quality grassland in the prairie chicken range in the northwest part of the state, we can expect there to be a lek, or booming ground. The average size of booming grounds in Minnesota is roughly 11 males.

The breeding territory size of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows is 1.7 and 2.1 acres respectively in high quality habitat in Wisconsin. If all of the habitat was occupied, a 100 acres of habitat could potentially hold approximately 60 and 48 pairs of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows respectively.

Research from the University of Minnesota has shown that it takes approximately 30 milkweed to result in one monarch butterfly contributing to the overwintering Mexican population. Grasslands can have between 100-250 milkweed stems per acre. An acre of restored or enhanced grassland could potentially contribute 3 to 8 monarchs to the population.

By looking at the ratios of CRP acres in Minnesota to pheasant harvest, we can estimate that every three acres of grassland habitat has the potential to produce one harvested pheasant rooster.

## Outcomes:

### Programs in prairie region:

- Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife *The outcomes of the Lower Wild Rice River corridor project will be a stable stream with permanently protected and restored riparian corridor. This will significantly improve upland and aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife within the immediate corridor. Also, this project will improve water quality and provide substantial benefits extending to the entire watershed.*

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

Once a RIM easement is acquired, BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement into perpetuity. The BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry-out oversight, monitoring and inspection of its conservation easements. Easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted and partners' staff document findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at \$6,500 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship cover costs of the SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and any enforcement necessary.

**Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:**

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2019-Ongoing	Stewardship Account	Inspections first 5 years; then every 3rd year	Corrective actions on any violations	Enforcement action taken by MN Attorney General Office
2019-Ongoing	Landowner Responsibility	Maintain compliance with easement terms		

**What is the degree of timing/opportunistic urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:**

Land acquisition is the critical first step in the restoration of over 6,500 acres of riparian habitat and converting 23 miles of ditch to over 50 miles of river channel. Once land acquisition is complete, Army Corps of Engineers will be approached to contribute much of the channel restoration implementation under the Section 1135 program. Currently, landowners along the corridor are very interested in implementing the proposed project. If funding for this corridor rehabilitation is not secured, the opportunity to rehabilitate this reach of the Wild Rice River Corridor will be lost due to the uncertainty of future land and crop prices and continued landowner interest.

**How does this proposal include leverage in funds or other effort to supplement any OHF appropriation:**

The WRWD has agreed to contribute an amount equal to 20% of the offered RIM payments to match the LSOHC funding. This amounts to an approximately 15% match to the LSOHC funds.

**Relationship to other funds:**

- Not Listed

**Describe the relationship of the funds:**

Not Listed

**Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose:**

This funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

**Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:**

Not Listed

## Activity Details

**Requirements:**

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) free of any other permanent protection - **Yes**

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

**Land Use:**

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **Yes**

Explain

In certain circumstances food plots for wildlife are an allowable use on RIM easements and must be part of an approved Conservation Plan. Food plots on narrow buffers, steep slopes and wet areas are not allowed. RIM policy limits food plots to 10% of

the total easement area or 5 acres whichever is smaller. There is no cost share for establishment of food plots and upon termination the landowners must reestablish the vegetation as prescribed in the Conservation Plan at their own expense. Food plots are a rarely selected option by landowners, to date only 2.2% of RIM easements have food plots.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated - **No**

Will the eased land be open for public use - **No**

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

This appropriation is funding a program that will have a parcel list identified at a later time. Roads or trails are typically excluded from the easement area if they serve no beneficial purpose to easement maintenance, monitoring, or enforcement. Existing trails and roads are identified during the easement acquisition process. Some roads and trails, such as agricultural field accesses, are allowed to remain.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition - **Yes**

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program that has over 6,500 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms.

Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement Program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

This appropriation is funding a program that will have a parcel list identified at a later time. Roads or trails are typically excluded from the easement area if they serve no beneficial purpose to easement maintenance, monitoring, or enforcement. Existing trails and roads are identified during the easement acquisition process. Some roads and trails, such as agricultural field accesses, are allowed to remain.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program that has over 6,500 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms.

Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement Program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

## Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Obtain applications from eligible landowners	June 30, 2020
Allocation to specific parcels	July 30, 2020
Easements recorded	June 30, 2023
Restorations completed and final report submitted	June 30, 2028

# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$5,008,300**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$245,600	\$0		\$245,600
Contracts	\$60,900	\$0		\$60,900
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$4,203,300	\$736,500	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$4,939,800
Easement Stewardship	\$188,500	\$0		\$188,500
Travel	\$8,100	\$0		\$8,100
Professional Services	\$267,700	\$0		\$267,700
Direct Support Services	\$19,100	\$0		\$19,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$11,600	\$0		\$11,600
Supplies/Materials	\$3,500	\$0		\$3,500
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$5,008,300	\$736,500		\$5,744,800

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.08	5.00	\$43,000	\$0		\$43,000
Easement Processing	0.37	3.00	\$78,100	\$0		\$78,100
Engineering/Eco Services	0.08	3.00	\$23,900	\$0		\$23,900
0.2 FTE	0.20	5.00	\$100,600	\$0		\$100,600
Total	0.73	16.00	\$245,600	\$0		\$245,600

## Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	BWSR	\$145,000	\$0		\$145,000
Contracts	BWSR	\$60,900	\$0		\$60,900
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	BWSR	\$4,203,300	\$0		\$4,203,300
Easement Stewardship	BWSR	\$188,500	\$0		\$188,500
Travel	BWSR	\$8,100	\$0		\$8,100
Professional Services	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	BWSR	\$19,100	\$0		\$19,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	BWSR	\$11,600	\$0		\$11,600
Supplies/Materials	BWSR	\$3,500	\$0		\$3,500
DNR IDP	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	-	\$4,640,000	\$0		\$4,640,000

## Personnel - BWSR

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.08	5.00	\$43,000	\$0		\$43,000
Easement Processing	0.37	3.00	\$78,100	\$0		\$78,100
Engineering/Eco Services	0.08	3.00	\$23,900	\$0		\$23,900
Total	0.53	11.00	\$145,000	\$0		\$145,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$100,600	\$0		\$100,600

Contracts	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$0	\$736,500	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$736,500
Easement Stewardship	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$267,700	\$0		\$267,700
Direct Support Services	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$0	\$0		\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>\$368,300</b>	<b>\$736,500</b>	<b>-</b>
					<b>\$1,104,800</b>

**Personnel - Wild Rice Watershed District**

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
0.2 FTE	0.20	5.00	\$100,600	\$0		\$100,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>\$100,600</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$100,600</b>

Amount of Request: \$5,008,300  
Amount of Leverage: \$736,500  
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 14.71%  
DSS + Personnel: \$264,700  
As a % of the total request: 5.29%  
Easement Stewardship: \$188,500  
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 4.48%

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

BWSR calculates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done.

**Does the amount in the contract line include R/E work?**

No. Estimated restoration costs from BWSR (for vegetation only) are included in the easements acquisition line. We estimate that LSOHC costs for vegetative restoration will amount to \$477,200.

**Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental? - No**

**Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging:**

The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs.

**Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:**

The WRWD has agreed to contribute an amount equal to 20% of the offered RIM payments to match the LSOHC funding. This amounts to an approximately 15% match to the LSOHC funds.

**Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes**

**Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the “economy of scale” and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:**

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally for the most part. Program management costs would be the exception, due to program development and oversight remaining somewhat consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

## 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	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	1,193	0	0	1,193
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1,193	0	0	1,193

**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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$5,008,300	\$0	\$0	\$5,008,300
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$5,008,300	\$0	\$0	\$5,008,300

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	1,193	0	1,193
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1,193	0	1,193

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,008,300	\$0	\$5,008,300
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,008,300	\$0	\$5,008,300

**Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$4,198	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,198	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

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I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

# Parcel List

## **Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:**

The parcels listed include all parcels needed to complete all of Reach C. Priority will be given to landowners voluntarily applying within the area of Reach C. Landowners within the other reaches would be considered as secondary priority on a first come basis if funding remains after all landowners in Reach C have been offered to enroll in the program.

## **Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List**

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

## **Section 2 - Protect Parcel List**

Norman

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
ADA ELEVATOR CO	14347203	55	\$212,684	No	No	Limited
ADA ELEVATOR CO	14447234	88	\$295,360	No	No	Limited
ADA ELEVATOR CO	14447235	136	\$456,030	No	No	Limited
BORGEN/CHARLES A /LIVING TRUST	14447226	9	\$26,721	No	No	Limited
HANSON/CLIFFORD/INC.	14347203	7	\$29,416	No	No	Limited
HANSON/CLIFFORD/INC.	14347203	58	\$251,049	No	No	Limited
HEITMAN/DENNIS J	14447236	0	\$914	No	No	Limited
HEITMAN/DWIGHT A & MARY L	14446230	29	\$81,130	No	No	Limited
HEITMAN/DWIGHT A & MARY L	14447225	4	\$14,900	No	No	Limited
HEITMAN/DWIGHT A & MARY L	14447225	5	\$15,830	No	No	Limited
HEITMAN/DWIGHT A & MARY L	14447225	8	\$26,408	No	No	Limited
HEITMAN/DWIGHT A & MARY L	14447225	14	\$48,957	No	No	Limited
HEITMAN/DWIGHT A & MARY L	14447225	38	\$135,168	No	No	Limited
HEITMAN/DWIGHT A & MARY L	14447225	67	\$218,663	No	No	Limited
HEITMAN/DWIGHT A & MARY L	14447236	74	\$271,597	No	No	Limited
HELLERUD/LARRY	14347209	0	\$494	No	No	Limited
LEE/MARGARET A/TRUST	14347204	114	\$469,970	No	No	Limited
LEE/MARGARET A/TRUST	14347210	0	\$438	No	No	Limited
LEE/WARREN & SHARON	14347203	0	\$412	No	No	Limited
LEE/WARREN & SHARON	14447225	39	\$143,770	No	No	Limited
LEE/WARREN & SHARON	14447236	9	\$23,483	No	No	Limited
LEE/WAYNE & LYNN	14347203	75	\$274,826	No	No	Limited
LEE/WAYNE & LYNN	14347203	77	\$265,974	No	No	Limited
LEE/WILLIAM R/TRUST	14347203	38	\$137,146	No	No	Limited
LEE/WILLIAM R/TRUST	14347209	0	\$358	No	No	Limited
NELSON/BARBARA & DAVID/TRS	14446230	46	\$131,675	No	No	Limited
NELSON/BARBARA & DAVID/TRS	14446231	55	\$181,132	No	No	Limited
NELSON/BARBARA & DAVID/TRS	14447225	36	\$123,813	No	No	Limited
NELSON/BARBARA & DAVID/TRS	14447236	29	\$110,556	No	No	Limited
PAXTON/ARLO D	14447235	62	\$234,607	No	No	Limited
PLATT/ROBERT E	14447225	4	\$10,100	No	No	Limited
PLATT/ROBERT E	14447225	12	\$38,732	No	No	Limited
PLATT/ROBERT E	14447225	50	\$135,281	No	No	Limited
THIEL/WALTER A/JR ET AL	14347203	13	\$47,426	No	No	Limited
TOMMERDAHL/MARLENE/Q TIP TRUST	14447235	37	\$122,876	No	No	Limited
TOMMERDAHL/MARLENE/Q TIP TRUST	14447235	38	\$125,439	No	No	Limited
TUFTE/BRUCE, BLAIR & BRENT	14347202	41	\$140,529	No	No	Limited
TUFTE/BRUCE, BLAIR & BRENT	14347203	67	\$230,478	No	No	Limited
VIK/EUGENE G	14447235	155	\$521,151	No	No	Limited
VIK/EUGENE G	14447236	99	\$333,850	No	No	Limited

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

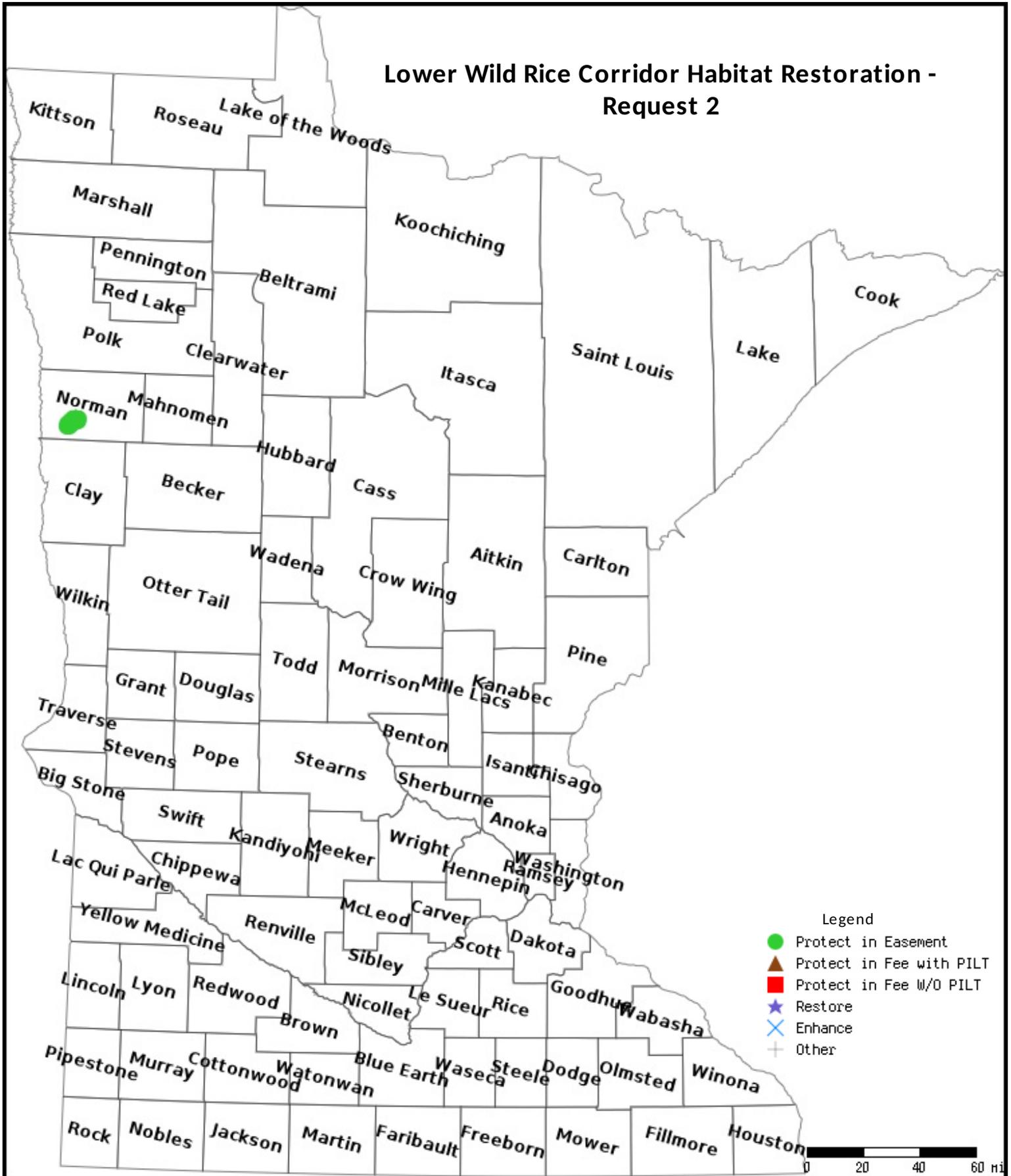
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

# Parcel Map

## Lower Wild Rice Corridor Habitat Restoration - Request 2



Data Generated From Parcel List

# Lower Wild Rice Corridor Habitat Restoration Program

## What is the Program

The Lower Wild Rice Corridor Habitat Restoration Program (LWRRCHRP) is a voluntary effort with the long-term goal to restore a natural corridor area along the Lower Reach of the Wild Rice River. This project will improve fish and wildlife habitat, enhance water quality, and reduce the risks of flood damages to agricultural land. This is a cooperative project between the Wild Rice Watershed District, BWSR, MnDNR, and other local LGUs as illustrated in the Implementation Process diagram on the following page.

The program provides an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives through enrolling land along the corridor in the program. Landowners enrolling land in the program will be required to follow the conservation requirements of the *Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Outside Request Program* and a *Supplemental WRWD Easement* to allow for Phase 2-4 modifications described below.

## Phased Implementation

Due to the overall size of the initiative, it is planned that the project will be conducted in multiple phases over the next decades. The phases were established to allow both for orderly implementation of the project and to ensure that wildlife and habitat benefits would be gained from the onset of implementation. The following describes the anticipated phases and major work items anticipated under each phase.



- **Phase 1 – Land Acquisition/Restoration** – This phase will involve acquisition of a Conservation Easements. Two companion easements would be executed, RIM and a Supplemental WRWD Easement.



As part of this phase, the production of agricultural crops within the parcel would cease and the area would be restored to a permanent vegetative cover by the landowner as set forth in the Conservation Easement conservation plan under the requirements of the RIM program. Since the lands would still be in private ownership, management/maintenance activities identified within the easement area will be the responsibility of the landowner. In addition, the

landowner will grant the Watershed District rights to install and maintain future phases of implementation. Future easement monitoring and stewardship will be provided by and through the Board of Water and Soil Resources and Norman County SWCD as part of the RIM Easement.

- **Phase 2 – Detailed Design and Setback Levee Construction** – Once a significant reach of property has been enrolled as part of Phase 1 and detailed design for the corridor restoration has been completed, the existing river-side levees would be decommissioned and replaced with new levees setback further from the river. The alignment of these levees would be established to allow for future implementation of Channel Rehabilitation under Phase 3.



Work under this phase would be completed by the Wild Rice Watershed District. Future maintenance of the setback levees and directly adjacent features would also be completed by the Wild Rice Watershed District. All other areas would continue to be maintained by the underlying property owner under the terms of the Conservation Easement conservation plan established in Phase 1.

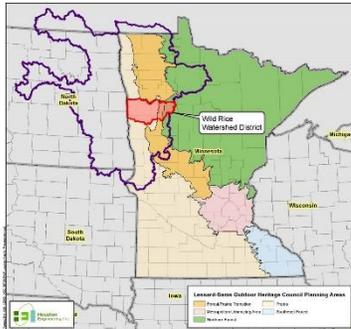
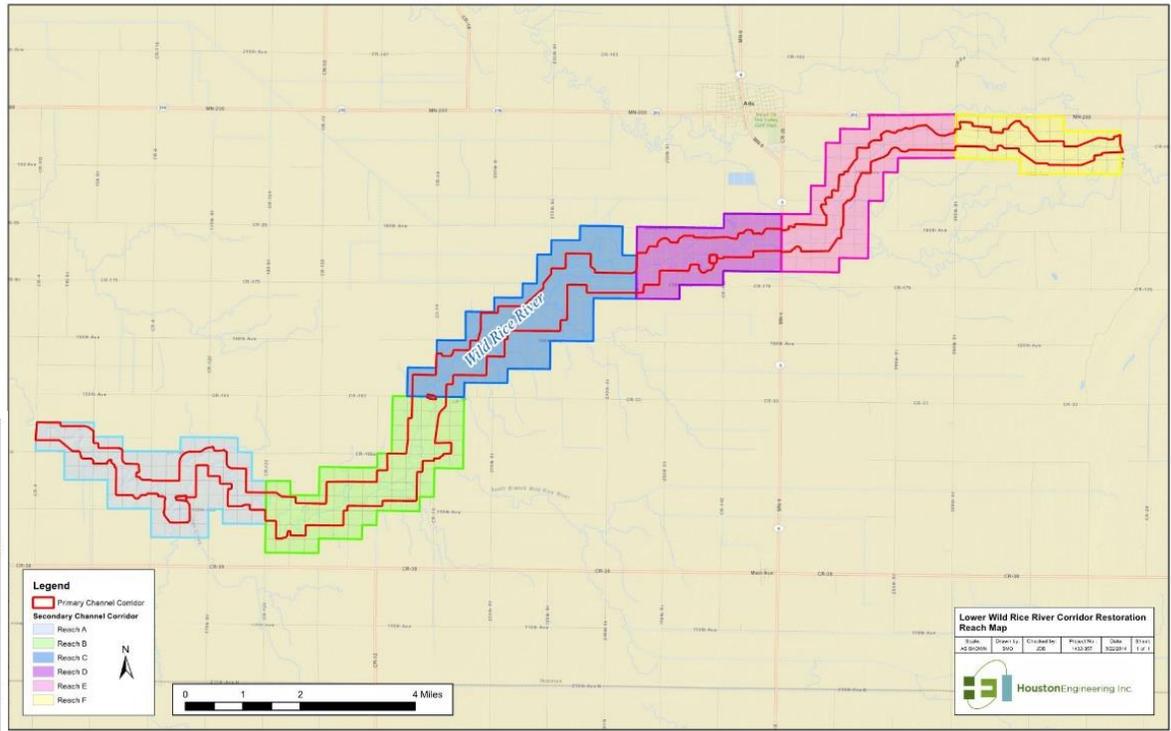
- **Phase 3 – Channel Rehabilitation** – Phase 3 will involve restoration of the channel along an approximately 23-mile segment of river. This restoration will reconnect many segments of the natural river that were cut off by the channelized, leveed river channel. Reconnecting the floodplain will also benefit adjacent prairie and wetlands. The timing of this channel restoration will depend on available funding and completion of Phase 2. Modifications under this phase as well as future maintenance of the channel areas would be completed by the Wild Rice Watershed District. Other areas would continue to be maintained by the underlying property owner under the terms of the Conservation Easement conservation plan established in Phase 1, except for the setback levee corridors defined in Phase 2.



**Phase 4 – Operation and Maintenance** – Once Phases 1-3 are completed, the operation and maintenance of the setback levee and channel corridors (including adjacent drainage features) would be completed by the Wild Rice Watershed District. Other areas would continue to be maintained by the underlying property owner under the terms of the Conservation Easement.

# Eligible Project Area

Priority is currently being placed on the area within Reach C in the map on this page. However, applications would be accepted/funded from landowners within any reach if funding is available.



## Lower Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat Restoration Project (LWRRCHRP) Implementation Process



*With approval of this requested amount, and previously approved LSOHC funding, it is expected that over 1700 acres will be acquired through the implementation of approximately 40 easements.*

## Prioritized Stream Restoration Projects Scoring Worksheet

Please use this sheet in conjunction with the Stream Restoration Prioritization Criteria. Select a score from the Stream Restoration Prioritization Criteria and give a justification. The Stream Habitat Program will determine final scores. Criterion without written justification will be scored with the lowest possible score for that criterion. Concise answers are appreciated.

<b>Stream Name: Wild Rice River</b>
<b>Proposer: Jamison Wendel, Red River Fisheries Specialist</b> <b>Contact Information: 218-846-8298</b>
<b>Location (county, nearest town, twp/range/section, UTM coordinates, etc.):</b> <b>County: Norman</b> <b>Nearest Town: Ada, MN</b> *Note: Please include an aerial photo of the project area whenever possible.
<b>Estimated cost:</b> Total – \$46M Requested amount – Nothing this year
<b>Priority within your region (1 being the highest priority):</b>
<b>1) Restoration Project Score: 10</b> <b>Project Type</b> (channel restoration, dam removal, dam modification, fish passage or other): <u>Channel Restoration</u> <u>Insert Conceptual Design and Sketch:</u> <b>Channel Restoration:</b> Channel width (ft) _____ Project length (ft) _____ Cross sectional area _____ <b>Dam Projects:</b> Dam height _____ Dam width _____ Scour depth _____ <b>Justification (What problems are being addressed?):</b> <p>This project would restore approximately 23 miles of channelized river. Lack of habitat complexity and high sediment loads characterize this straightened reach of river. Several feet of aggradation has occurred in the river below the channelized section. Active headcutting is occurring upstream of the channelized section.</p> <p>The project would establish an approximately ½-mile wide corridor around the Wild Rice River channel. Existing levees would be setback ¼-mile from the Wild Rice River channel, near the boundary of the corridor. Selected oxbows within the corridor would be reconnected to restore natural river habitat, increase sinuosity, and stabilize slopes. Plugs will be placed in the channelized river to direct flows into the restored channel. Areas adjacent to the river will be restored or configured to provide natural riparian habitat.</p>

**2) Resource potential Score: 10**

Justification (e.g., What are the ecological benefits of this project? What is the potential for stream improvement?):

The restored natural channels and protected corridors will provide high quality aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats for fish and wildlife species. Improved lateral connectivity will occur by moving levees further away from the river channel. Restored river channels will increase sinuosity and decrease sedimentation. Also, improved riparian buffers will decrease nutrient input. The restored river channel will improve stability and alleviate longitudinal aggradation and degradation. Also, protecting the stream corridor through purchase or easement will enable natural channel migration.

**3) Scale of impact Score: 10**

Justification (e.g., What is the scale of the project and are there impacts beyond the immediate project area?)

Channel restoration will occur along an approximately 23 mile segment of river. This restoration will alleviate many of the latitudinal and longitudinal impacts created by the channelized, leveed river channel. Reconnecting the floodplain will also benefit adjacent prairie and wetlands.

**4) Critical habitat Score: 8**

Justification (e.g., What species will benefit? Are there any rare, declining, state or federally listed species that will benefit? Is the habitat reconnected or restored?):

Critical Habitat: This project will restore natural stream channel in what is currently a highly altered, channelized stream segment.

Biodiversity: This project will restore critical habitat for Lake Sturgeon, a species of special concern present in the Wild Rice River. The enhanced stream and associated riparian wetlands will also improve habitat for Channel Catfish, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, and the other 50+ fish species documented in the Wild Rice River.

**5) Impacts Regarding Invasive Species Score: 9**

Justification (e.g., Please explain reasoning for each sub-criteria)

Range Expansion: There is no existing barrier within the project site.

Ecological Impact: By increasing habitat complexity, this project will strengthen populations of existing native species in the Wild Rice River.

Invasive Species Habitat: This project will reduce or eliminate the simplified habitat created by this channelized river segment that favors invasive species.

**5) Community support/acceptance Score: 5**

Justification (e.g., Who in the community has expressed support and to what degree? Is there any significant opposition? ):

The Wild Rice River Watershed District has been actively involved in this restoration project. The first phase of the project has been recommended for funding by LSOHC.

**6) Timing Score: 4**

Justification (e.g., How does timing play into the success of this project?):

This is the first phase of a multi-year project. Once land acquisition or flowage easements have been secured, it is likely that Army Corps of Engineers will be able to contribute much of the channel restoration engineering and implementation. However, the longer it takes to complete the first phase of this project, the less likely it becomes that funding from the Army Corps of Engineers would still be available. Also, the Wild Rice River Watershed District currently is committed to this project. Phase one of this project has been recommended by LSOHC for \$2.27M.

**7) Technical feasibility Score: 4**

Justification (e.g., What are the technical and logistical problems?):

Many similar stream restorations have been successfully completed. However, any restoration project of this scale will inevitably encounter many minor logistical issues.

**8) Compatibility with other resource initiatives Score: 3**

Justification (e.g., How does this project fit in with what others are doing? Are there any partnership opportunities?)

In addition to restoring natural stream processes, this project will also increase the amount of riparian habitat within the corridor. There may also be opportunities for prairie restoration. As this project progresses, development of parks, trails, and canoe access may be possible. This project would also reduce flood damage impacts, a high priority within the Red River Basin.

**9) Professional Judgment Score: 4**

Justification (e.g., What are the unique qualities of this project that are not addressed by the other Stream Restoration Criteria?)

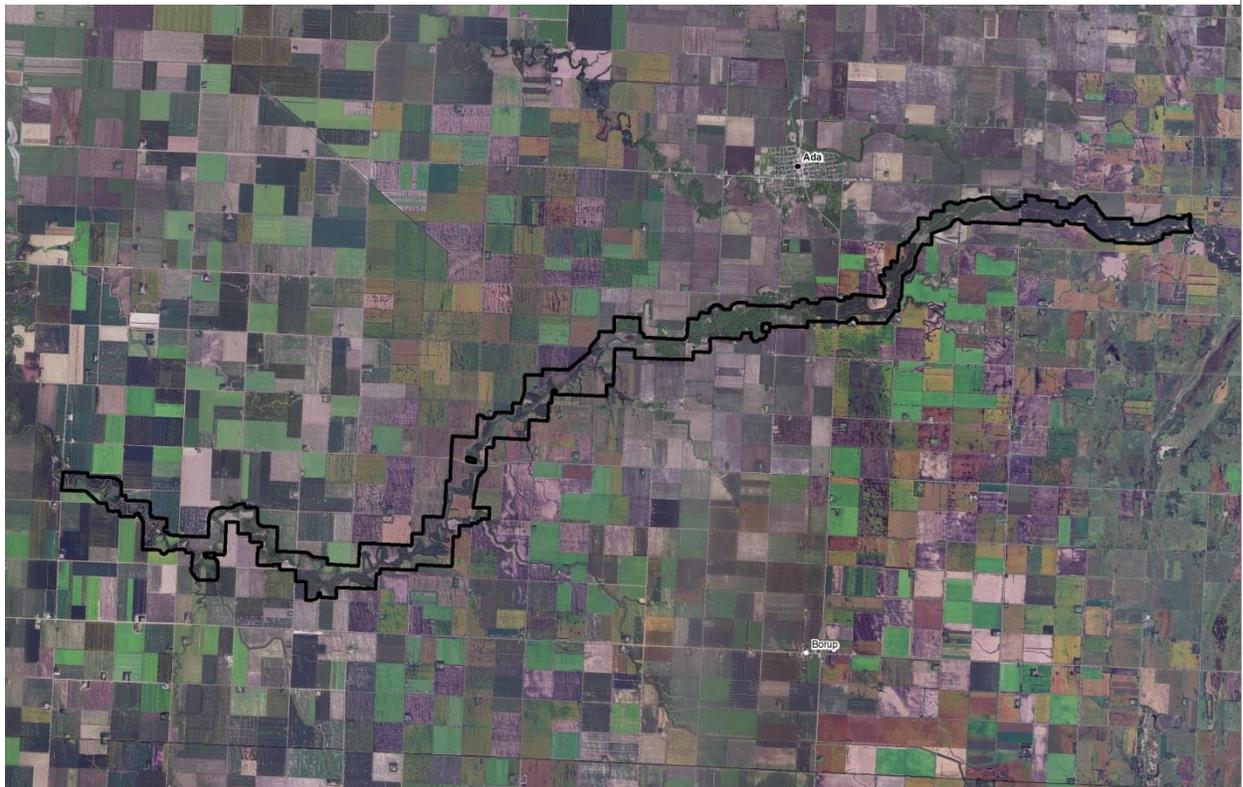
This project would be a high profile example of a large scale stream restoration in the Red River Basin. Positive progress on this project may stimulate further stream restoration efforts in the basin.

Will the project be funded by multiple sources? YES

If so, which agency/source will contribute? Wild Rice River Watershed District, OHF, NRCS, Army Corps of Engineers

Does the project meet the requirements for Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funding?  
YES

**Additional Comments:**



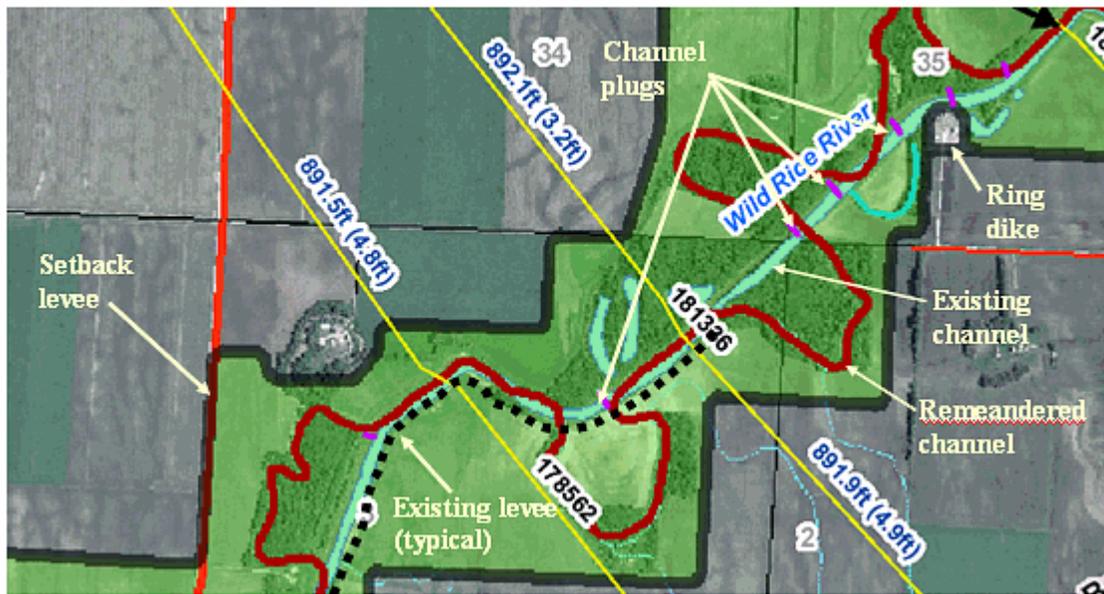
Outline of project area.



Example of channelized river segment in upper end of project area.



Example of channelized river segment in lower end of project area.



Example of typical restoration measures.

\*Note: If photos of project area exist please insert here.



2011 Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Inductee

June 11, 2014

Board of Managers  
Wild Rice Watershed District  
11 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue East  
Ada, MN 56510

Dear Board of Managers;

Please accept this letter of support for the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council "Lower Wild Rice River Stream Restoration Project" as proposed by Kevin Ruud, Administrator – Wild Rice Watershed District

As an organization with the mission "to promote sportsmanship, conservation & education with respect to walleye fishing", FM Walleyes Unlimited, Inc. sees the benefit of habitat restoration in supporting healthy populations of all fish species. We therefore, wish to offer our support for this proposal and the work outlined within to restore sections of the Wild Rice River in Western Minnesota to natural habitat, benefiting the entire Red River Basin.

Sincerely,

Kyle Agre, Vice President  
Representing, FM Walleyes Unlimited, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1077  
Moorhead, MN 56560

*"To Promote Sportsmanship, Conservation & Education  
With Respect To Walleye Fishing"*