

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2013 Accomplishment Plan



Date: August 05, 2019

Program or Project Title: Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement & Restoration, Phase V

Funds Recommended: \$ 2,470,000

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Legislative Citation: ML 2013, Ch. 137, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(g)

Appropriation Language: \$2,470,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited to restore and enhance coldwater river and stream habitats in Minnesota. A list of proposed land restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Carlton, Carlton , Cook, Dakota, Fillmore, Houston, Lake, Olmsted, Rice , St. Louis, and Winona.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Metro / Urban
- Northern Forest
- Prairie
- Southeast Forest

Activity types:

- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat

Abstract:

Minnesota Trout Unlimited and our volunteers, chapters and partners will directly enhance habitat for fish and wildlife in and along eleven or more coldwater streams located in existing Aquatic Management Areas and on existing public lands around the state.

Design and scope of work:

The problem being addressed.

Minnesota's remaining coldwater streams represent just six percent of the State's total miles of streams and rivers. They are, however, disproportionately popular with anglers and valued by citizens because they represent the highest quality aquatic systems remaining. Degraded habitat in and along coldwater streams is, therefore, a conservation issue of statewide importance that requires accelerated investment in projects which enhance or restore this habitat.

Minnesota Trout Unlimited ("MNTU") proposes to improve degraded habitat on eleven or more streams located on existing AMAs and

public land around the state. Our members have demonstrated the capacity to complete these projects with Fiscal Year 2014 funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (“OHF”). MNTU respectfully proposes to partner with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and the citizens of Minnesota to enhance habitat in and along the following public waters (in these counties):

1. Spruce Creek (Cook);
2. Split Rock River (Lake);
3. Miller Creek and Coffee Creek (St. Louis);
4. Garvin Brook (Winona);
5. Trout Brook (Dakota);
6. Rice Creek/Spring Brook (Rice);
7. Blackhoof River (Carlton);
8. Pine - Rush Creeks (Winona);
9. Mill Creek (Olmsted);
10. Newburg Creek (Fillmore);
11. Willow Creek (Fillmore).;
12. Cedar Valley Creek (Winona);
13. Ahrensfield Creek (Winona);
14. Schueler Creek (Winona);
15. Daley Creek, Diamond Creek and Duschee Creek (Fillmore);
16. Little Pickwick Creek (Winona);
17. Pickwick Creek (Winona);
18. Trout Run Creek (Winona).

Goals and scope of work.

Each project aims to increase the carrying capacity and trout population of the stream, increase angling access and participation, improve water quality and provide other benefits to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. FY2014 funded projects will use methods similar to those used on successful projects recently completed by MNTU chapters. MNTU will leverage our experience to optimize project design and implementation.

In consultation with resource professionals within the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (“MNDNR”), MNTU will use the best available stream restoration and coldwater aquatic science to select specific habitat improvement methods for each stream that reflect the distinct characteristics of the watershed and ecological region, address the specific limiting factors (e.g. spawning substrate, adult or juvenile cover, invertebrate production), and account for the land use practices.

Objectives: Projects will accomplish one or more of these objectives: (a) increase adult trout abundance, (b) reduce stream bank erosion and associated sedimentation downstream, (c) reconnect streams to their floodplains to reduce negative impacts from severe flooding, (d) increase natural reproduction of trout and other aquatic organisms, (e) increase habitat for invertebrates and non-game species, (f) improve angler access and participation, and (g) protect productive trout waters from invasive species.

Methods: Habitat enhancement methods typically include: (1) sloping stream banks back to both remove streamside sediments that have previously been transported from uplands areas and better reconnect the stream to its floodplain, (2) removing shallow rooted woody vegetation (invasive box elder, buckthorn, etc.) to enable removal of accumulated sediments, reduce competition with desirable plant and grass species, and allow beneficial energy inputs (sunlight) to reach the streams, (3) stabilizing eroding stream banks using vegetation and/or rock, (4) installing overhead bank and other in-stream cover for trout, (5) installing soil erosion prevention measures (6) seeding exposed banks and taking steps to firmly establish vegetation (including using native prairie grasses where appropriate and feasible), (7) improving angling access, (8) fencing riparian corridors where appropriate to facilitate managed grazing and prevent damage from over-grazing, (9) restoring large cover logs to the channels of Northern forested streams to increase deep pool habitat, and (10) planting long lived trees along Northern forested streams to shade and cool the water, and eventually become large cover logs.

These actions directly enhance physical habitat, and typically increase overall trout abundance, the number of larger trout, and levels of successful natural reproduction. Additional benefits, that extend many miles downstream from the project, include reduced erosion and sedimentation, cooler water temperatures, and improved water quality.

Budget numbers, and the relative allocation between contracts, materials and professional services, are estimates only. Through construction efficiencies and leveraging substantial federal and private monies we expect to lengthen several projects and even work on additional streams.

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

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H6 Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams
- H7 Keep water on the landscape

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Driftless Area Restoration Effort
- Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management
- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- National Fish Habitat Action Plan
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework
- State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Strategic Plan for Coldwater Resources Management in Southeastern Minnesota
- Asian Carp Action Plan

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

- Address conservation opportunities that will be lost if not immediately acted on
- Address wildlife species of greatest conservation need, Minnesota County Biological Survey data, and rare, threatened and endangered species inventories in land and water decisions, as well as permanent solutions to aquatic invasive species
- Allow public access. This comes into play when all other things about the request are approximately equal
- Are able to leverage effort and/or other funds to supplement any OHF appropriation
- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Ensures activities for "protecting, restoring and enhancing" are coordinated among agencies, non profits and others while doing this important work
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities
- Restore or enhance habitat on state-owned WMAs, AMAs, SNAs, and state forests
- Target unique Minnesota landscapes that have historical value to fish and wildlife
- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:

Metro / Urban:

- Enhance and restore coldwater fisheries systems

Northern Forest:

- Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

Prairie:

- Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

Southeast Forest:

- Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

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

Each discrete project is an additional “stand alone” project which supplements the amount of habitat work which MNTU chapters have traditionally been able to complete. While our members and chapters have been planning, fundraising for and executing quality fish habitat restoration and enhancement projects around Minnesota for four decades, our partnership with the L-SOHC has dramatically increased the amount of degraded habitat we are restoring and enhancing.

While members play vital roles in planning, designing, overseeing, directing and providing manual labor on what are essentially construction projects, we must hire excavation contractors and purchase rock, lumber and other materials put into the project sites. The availability of funds to hire heavy equipment operators and purchase materials remains the limiting factor in the amount of habitat work we can complete. The knowledge, passion and commitment of our volunteers continue to increase, as does their successful acceleration of the pace of habitat restoration. To ensure we finish what we start, we have developed, and continue expanding, a pool of qualified external contractors to assist with critical tasks. In less than three fieldwork seasons, MNTU and our partners have improved over twenty miles of stream habitat using OHF and leveraged funding.

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:

Not Listed

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

MNTU’s coldwater aquatic habitat restoration and enhancement projects are designed for long-term ecological and hydrologic stability. Once in-stream work is completed and riparian vegetation well established (which may take several years), no significant maintenance is usually required in order to sustain the habitat outcomes for several decades. The sloped streambanks allow floodwaters to quickly spread out into the re-connected floodplain and dissipate energy, reducing the destructive impact of a flood. Flood waters typically flatten grasses temporarily and do not damage the in-stream structures and undercut banks. A tenfold increase in trout populations and three fold increase in large trout are typical following completion of a Southeast Minnesota project, and are sustainable through natural reproduction.

We anticipate that long-term monitoring of the integrity of the improvements will be done in conjunction with routine inspections and biological monitoring conducted by local MNDNR staff, MNTU members, or landowners as appropriate. This monitoring will not require separate OHF or other constitutional funding. In the unlikely event that there are other maintenance costs, potential sources of funding and volunteer labor include MNTU, MNDNR AMA maintenance funding, and other grant funds and organizations. MNTU volunteers will provide long-term monitoring and periodic labor as needed.

Activity Details:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **No**

Is the activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, subd 13(f) and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 - **Yes (WMA, AMA, County/Municipal, State Forests)**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Begin project planning, design, and permitting work following a July 2013 appropriation	July 2013
Begin habitat enhancements during 2014 fieldwork season, following completion of design, permits and contracting.	2014 fieldwork season
Complete riparian and in-stream habitat enhancements.	October 31, 2019
Cutting, burning and/or spot spraying vegetation to ensure grasses become well established.	Summers 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019
Tree painting in riparian corridors of northern project sites in May-June following in-stream work	By June 2019

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/30/2019

Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **Yes**

Are the funds confirmed - **Yes**

Documentation

What are the types of funds?

Cash Match - \$200000

In-Kind Match - \$

Other -

Outcomes:

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Improved aquatic habitat indicators

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Improved aquatic habitat indicators

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Improved aquatic habitat indicators

Programs in prairie region:

- Improved condition of habitat on 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: \$ 2470000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$80,000	\$0		\$80,000
Contracts	\$1,155,000	\$0		\$1,155,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$3,000	\$0		\$3,000
Professional Services	\$410,000	\$0		\$410,000
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$7,000	\$0		\$7,000
Supplies/Materials	\$815,000	\$0		\$815,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$2,470,000	\$0		\$2,470,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
program administrator	0.40	2.00	\$60,000	\$0		\$60,000
watershed director	0.10	2.00	\$13,000	\$0		\$13,000
program assistant	0.25	2.00	\$7,000	\$0		\$7,000
Total	0.75	6.00	\$80,000	\$0		\$80,000

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	0	0	0	0	0
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	78	78
Total	0	0	0	78	78

Table 2. Total 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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,470,000	\$2,470,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,470,000	\$2,470,000

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	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	0	0	0
Enhance	7	0	44	11	16	78
Total	7	0	44	11	16	78

Table 4. Total 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	\$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	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$255,000	\$0	\$1,640,000	\$285,000	\$290,000	\$2,470,000
Total	\$255,000	\$0	\$1,640,000	\$285,000	\$290,000	\$2,470,000

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

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

Carlton

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Blackho of River	04717215	0	\$0	Yes
Blackho of River	04717222	0	\$0	Yes
Blackho of River	04717210	0	\$0	Yes

Carlton

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Blackho of River	04717227	6	\$130,000	yes

Cook

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Spruce Creek (Deer Yard Creek)	06002210	3	\$30,000	Yes

Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Trout Brook	11317235	7	\$255,000	yes

Fillmore

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Diamand Creek	10309211	0	\$0	Yes
Diamond Creek	10309213	0	\$0	Yes
Diamond Creek	10309224	0	\$0	Yes
Duschee	10310224	0	\$0	Yes
Mill Creek	10411206	0	\$0	Yes
Newburg Creek	10108205	7	\$260,000	yes
Pine & Rush Creeks	10408204	0	\$0	Yes
Willow Creek	10211201	7	\$260,000	yes

Houston

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Daley Creek	10307204	0	\$0	Yes

Lake

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Split Rock River	05509216	3	\$40,000	yes

Olmsted

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Mill Creek	10512225	12	\$405,000	yes
Mill Creek	10511231	0	\$0	Yes

Rice

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Rice Creek (Spring Brook)	11120203	11	\$285,000	yes

St. Louis

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Coffee Creek	04915229	2	\$60,000	Yes
Miller Creek	04915229	1	\$30,000	Yes

Winona

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Ahrensfield Creek	10508219	0	\$0	Yes
Cedar Valley Creek	10606232	2	\$0	Yes
Garvin Brook	10608204	0	\$0	Yes
Garvin Brook	10608205	0	\$0	Yes
Garvin Brook	10608208	0	\$0	Yes
Garvin Brook	10608207	6	\$200,000	yes
Little Pickwick Creek	10605229	0	\$0	Yes
Pickwick Creek	10606223	0	\$0	Yes
Pickwick Creek	10606226	0	\$0	Yes
Pine - Rush Creeks	10508233	12	\$410,000	yes
Rush Creek	10508220	0	\$0	Yes
Rush Creek	10508229	0	\$0	Yes
Rush Creek	10508234	0	\$0	Yes
Schueler Creek	10408202	0	\$0	Yes
Trout Run Creek	10510231	0	\$0	Yes
Trout Run Creek	10510232	0	\$0	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

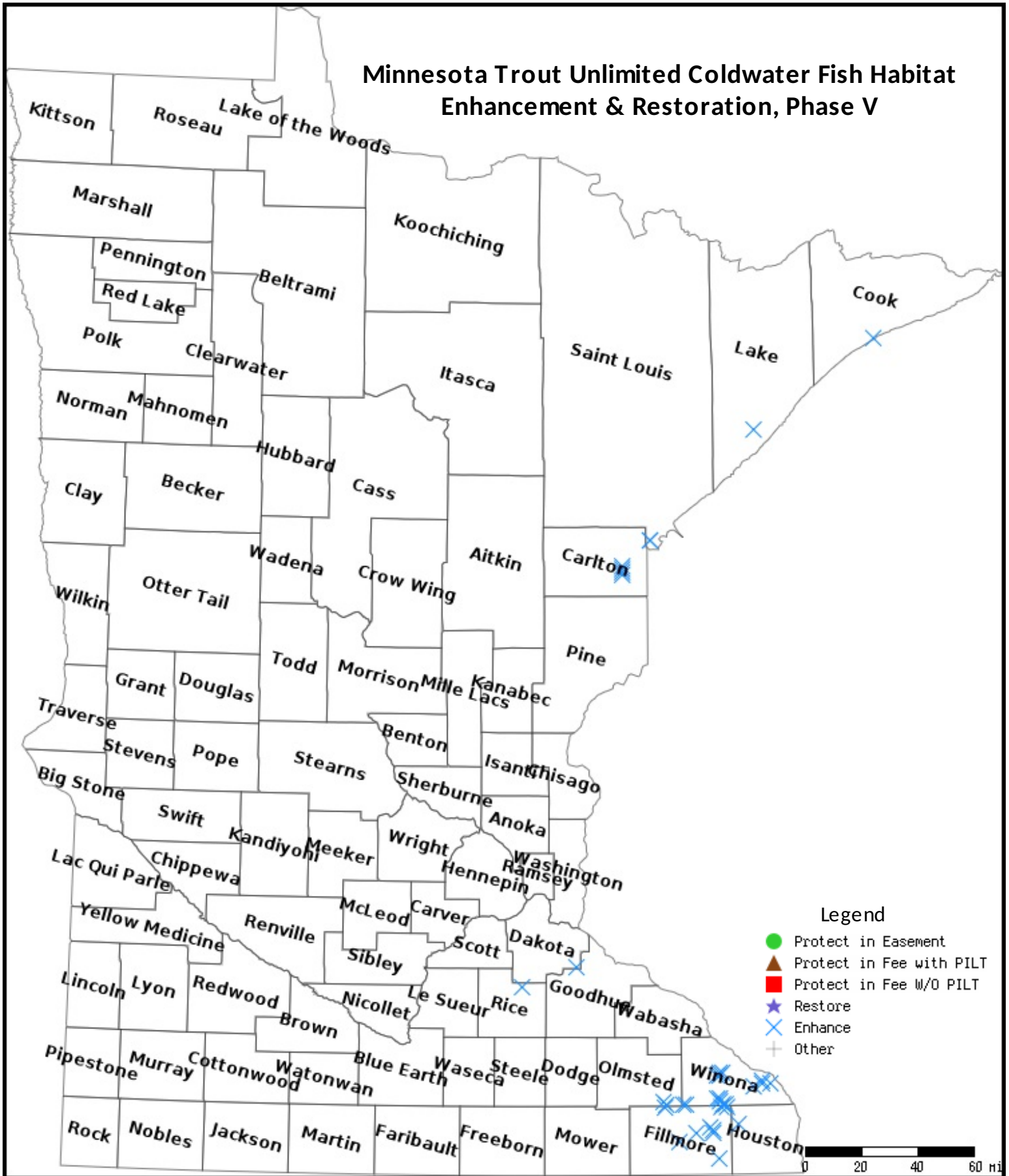
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement & Restoration, Phase V



Data Generated From Parcel List