

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2012 Accomplishment Plan

Date: November 4, 2010

Program Title: Minnesota Forests for the Future (F-01)

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Funds Recommended: \$ 5,409,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2011, Ch. X, Art. X, Sec. X, Subd. X (x): *(to be completed when signed by Governor)*

Abstract:

Project will: Protect approximately 30,700 acres of forest and wetland habitat through working forest easements; acquire public recreational and forest management access; and ensure sustainable forestry.

Program Narrative

Design and Scope of Work

Forest land ownerships changes within recent years, primarily within the industrial forest ownerships, are occurring as the timber industry restructures and looks to obtain value from their land through real estate sales and recreational leases. These sales can result in forest fragmentation or even outright conversion of forest lands, impact public recreational access including recreational trail routes, affect forest management access by public agencies across the impacted lands, degrade wildlife habitat, and decrease the use of sustainable forestry practices.

The current proposal includes 2 project opportunities located across the Northern Forest Section on industrial forest ownerships that have active recreational lease and/or land sales programs. Project 1 proposes to acquire a working forest conservation easement on approximately 8,200 acres of forest and wetlands in Lake County. Project 2 proposes an acquisition to protect approximately 22,500 acres of forests and wetlands in Itasca and Koochiching Counties with working forest conservation easements that would leverage \$1.6+ million from a partnership with the Nature Conservancy.

LSOHC appropriations will target priority projects as determined by the scoring criteria developed in consultation with the Minnesota Forests for the Future Advisory Committee (stakeholder group). Projects may need to be scaled back or phased to accommodate the available funding.

Each of the 2 projects included in this proposal are located within program priority areas as identified by a GIS model that integrates recreational, ecological and economic data.

These projects will address forest fragmentation, habitat degradation, recreational and management access, and sustainable forestry through perpetual conservation easements and fee acquisition that will protect the forest and wetland habitats, restrict forest parcelization and development, provide for public recreational access and public management access, and promote sustainable forest management practices.

The Minnesota Forests for the Future and Federal Forest Legacy Programs have proven to be cost effective programs for protecting private forest land habitat in Minnesota, while also providing public recreational and agency management access and ensuring sustainable forestry. These programs have protected over 254,000 acres to date at an average cost of less than \$300/acre. Over \$24 million in non-state funds have been leveraged for these protection efforts over the past 10 years.

Planning

This project proposal is consistent with the following plans:

- The Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan (p. 130) identifies the protection of large blocks of forest land as a priority. The Plan further recommends the sustainable management of working forest lands in order to protect the forests ability to provide economic, social and environmental benefits.
- The Minnesota Forests for the Future Program – Strategic Report (P. 27 recommendation 5) recommends the protection of large blocks of forest land in northern Minnesota as the highest priority and calls for over 500,000 acres of forest land protection over the next 25 years.
- The Campaign for Conservation Fifty-Year vision (Executive Summary P. 8) identifies the protection of large blocks of contiguous forest as a conservation goal.
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare identifies 171 species in greatest conservation need in the Laurentian Mixed Forest that would benefit from protection, enhancement or restoration activities (<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/nrplanning/bigpicture/cwcs/profiles/lmf.pdf>)

The Minnesota Forests for the Future Program has developed a Geographic Information System-based decision support tool to identify and prioritize parcels critical for protecting large blocks of forest land from parcelization, conversion, and fragmentation. This statewide analysis uses recreational, economic, and ecological data to provide indices of priority forest lands and help guide our project selection process.

Stakeholders involved in the process and supportive of the program include members of the Minnesota Forests for the Future Advisory Committee (local units of government, user groups, non-governmental organizations, timber industry) as well as the Forest Legacy Partnership.

This proposal is consistent with the following LSOHC priorities for the Northern Forest Section:

1. Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas. Portions of propose projects include areas with wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers and spawning areas.

2. Protect forest land through acquisition or easement, to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties. Proposed projects will protect forest land, prevent parcelization and fragmentation and provide management access to public lands.

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

No other constitutional funds will be used for projects included in this request.

Relationship to Current Organizational Budget

This program funding will be supplemental to traditional funding sources, and is of reasonable size given the scale of DNR's recent fiscal year expenditures. Though Outdoor Heritage Funds would be spread out over multiple years, below are approximate Fiscal Year 2009 expenditures (not including Bonding) as an example of what DNR spends in a given year:

Fiscal Year 2009 Approximate Expenditures, not including Bonding funds, were:

DNR - \$200 million

Forestry Division - \$25.5 million

Sustainability and Maintenance

This project proposal includes funding to be placed into an easement monitoring account that will fund ongoing easement management activities (monitoring, record keeping, etc). The State will develop an easement monitoring and management plan for each conservation easement acquired. Conservation easements will be monitored regularly (typically annually).

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Milestone	Date completed
Acquire conservation easement		June 30, 2012
Acquire conservation easement		January 30, 2013
Develop monitoring plans for projects 1, & 2.		June 30, 2013

Attachments (*on spreadsheet workbook – 3 separate tabs*):

- A. Budget
- B. Proposed Outcome Tables
- C. Parcel List

No Map is needed for the accomplishment plan

Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet

Name of Proposal:	Minnesota Forests for the Future
Date:	11/4/2010
Legal Citation / Proposal Number:	F-01

[Link Here to definitions of the budget items below.](#)

Total Amount of Request \$ **5,409,000** *From page 1 on the funding form.*

Personnel

Position breakdown here	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
<i>Project Coordinator</i>	0.5	2	\$ 100,000			\$ 100,000
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
Total	0.5		\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000

Budget and Cash Leverage *(All your LSOHC Request Funds must be direct to and necessary for program outcomes.)*

Please describe how you intend to spend the requested funds.

Budget Item	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Personnel - <i>auto entered from above</i>	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000
Contracts	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT <i>(breakout in table 6 & 7)</i>				\$ -
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT <i>(breakout in table 6 & 7)</i>				\$ -
Easement Acquisition	\$ 5,050,000	\$ 2,250,000	TNC, State Bonding	\$ 7,300,000
Easement Stewardship	\$ 150,000			\$ 150,000
Travel (in-state)	\$ 6,866			\$ 6,866
Professional Services	\$ 90,000			\$ 90,000
DNR Direct Support Services <i>(DNR programs only)</i>	\$ 1,134			\$ 1,134
DNR Land Acquisition Costs				\$ -
Other				
Capital Equipment <i>(auto entered from below)</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Other Equipment/Tools				\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 1,000			\$ 1,000
	\$ 5,409,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ -	\$ 7,659,000

Capital Equipment *(single items over \$10,000 - auto entered into table above)*

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Leverage
<i>Item 1 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 2 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 3 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 4 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 5 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 6 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 7 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 8 enter here</i>		
Total	0	0

Attachment B. Outcome Tables

Name of Proposal:	Minnesota Forests for the Future
Date:	11/4/2010
Legal Citation / Proposal Number:	F-01

Table 1 and Table 3 column totals should be the same AND Table 2 and Table 4 column totals should be the same

If your project has lakes or shoreline miles instead of land acres, convert miles to acres for Tables 1 and 3 using the following conversion:

Lakeshore = 6 acres per lakeshore mile / Stream & River Shore = 12 acres per linear mile, if both sides

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Describe the scope of the project in acres (use conversion above if needed)

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore					0
Protect			30,700		30700
Enhance					0
Total	0	0	30700	0	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

30700

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

30700

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore					\$ -
Protect			\$ 5,409,000		\$ 5,409,000
Enhance					\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,409,000	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 5,409,000

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 5,409,000

Check to make sure this amount is the same as the Funding Request Amount on page 1 of Main Funding Form.

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore						0
Protect					30,700	30700
Enhance						0
Total	0	0	0	0	30700	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

30700

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

30700

Total Acres from Table 1.

30700

These three cells should be the same figure.

Attachment B. Outcome Tables

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore						\$ -
Protect					\$ 5,409,000	\$ 5,409,000
Enhance						\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,409,000	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 5,409,000

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 5,409,000

Check to make sure these amounts are the same as the Funding Request Amount on page 1 of Main Funding Form.

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles

miles of Lakes / Streams / Rivers Shoreline

Table 6. Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in acres)

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability					0
Acquired in Fee w/o State PILT Liability					0
Permanent Easement <i>NO State PILT Liability</i>			7,300,000		7300000
	0	0	7300000	0	

Table 7. Estimated Value of Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in dollars)

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability					\$ -
Acquired in Fee w/o State PILT Liability					\$ -
Permanent Easement <i>NO State PILT Liability</i>			\$ 7,300,000		\$ 7,300,000
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,300,000	\$ -	

Attachment C. Parcel List

Name of Proposal:	Minnesota Forests for the Future
Date:	11/4/2010
Legal Citation / Proposal Number:	F-01

Parcel Name	County	Township	Range	Direction	Section	TRDS	# of acres	Budgetary Estimate (includes administrative, restoration or other related costs and do not include matching money contributed or earned by the transaction)	Description	Activity R=Restore P=Protect E=Enhance	Any existing protection? (yes/no)	Open to hunting and fishing? (yes/no)
Project 1	Lake	53	10				120		Project 1 Lake Co CE	P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	53	11				119			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	54	10				920			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	54	11				1627			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	55	10				1024			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	55	11				4481			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	56	9				864			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	56	10				4607			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	56	11				4528			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	57	8				80			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	57	10				343			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	57	11				694			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	58	7				76			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	58	8				1712			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	59	6				437			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	59	7				3921			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	59	8				2440			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	59	9				238			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	59	11				78			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	60	6				40			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	60	8				1080			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	60	9				280			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	60	10				91			P	no	yes
Lake County	Lake	60	11				1080			P	no	yes
Project 1 Totals							30,880	\$13,500,000	Project 1 Lake Co CE			
<u>PROJECT 1 TOTALS</u>							<u>8,229</u>	<u>\$3,500,000</u>	<u>Project 1 Lake Co CE</u>			
Project 2	Itasca	61	23				5737			P	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Itasca	61	24				1569			P	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Itasca	61	25				1016			P	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Itasca	62	23				1200			P	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Itasca	62	24				1250			P	no	yes

Attachment C. Parcel List

Koochiching Phase 4	Itasca	62	25	240		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Itasca	62	26	1181		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Itasca	62	27	964		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	63	22	325		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	63	26	1131		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	63	27	175		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	63	24	1861		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching			14,000	TNC Match Area	p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	63	22	325		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	63	26	1819		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	64	22	65		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	64	24	1941		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	64	26	240		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	65	24	2023		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	65	25	1615		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	65	26	391		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	66	24	1089		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	Koochiching	66	25	1722		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	St. Louis	65	21	2261		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	St. Louis	66	20	320		p	no	yes
Koochiching Phase 4	St. Louis	66	21	160		p	no	yes
PROJECT 2 TOTALS				22,533	\$3,800,000			
Project 3	Hubbard	140	32	4211	Project 3 hub etal CE & Fee			
	Hubbard	139	32	10008	CE			
	Hubbard	142	32	281	CE			
	Hubbard	141	33	714	CE			
	Cass	138	32	8573	CE			
	Cass	137	32	673	CE			
Hub/Cas;CLW/Wad/Becfee				3024	Fee Portion	p	No	Yes
				27484	28,000 Project 3 Hub etal & Fee	p	No	Yes