

Main Request for Funding Form

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Fiscal Year 2012**

Program or Project Title: Minnesota Forests for the Future

Funds Requested (\$000s)	Funding Request	OHF Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$20,772,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000

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County Location: Lake, Itasca, Koochiching

Ecological Planning Regions:

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

Activity Type:

- Protect
 Restore
 Enhance

Priority Resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
 Forests
 Prairie
 Habitat

Project Abstract

Project will: Protect up to 60,000 acres of forest and wetland habitat through working forest easements and fee acquisition; acquire public recreational and forest management access; and ensure sustainable forestry.

Project 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 3 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 up to 30,000 acres of forest and wetlands in Lake County. Project 2 proposes an acquisition to protect up to 30,000+ acres of forests and wetlands in Itasca and Koochiching Counties with working forest conservation easements that would leverage \$3-5 million from a partnership with the Nature Conservancy. Project 3 proposes up to protect up to 24,000+ acres in Hubbard and Cass Counties with working forest easements and up to 3,000+ acres in fee acquisition in Hubbard, Cass, Clearwater, Wadena, and Becker Counties. Fee acquisitions would be additions to the State Forest System.

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 3 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). Fee acquisitions will be managed in accordance with DNR subsection forest resource management plans.

Types of Projects

Fee Acquisition Projects

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition?

Yes No, please explain not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection?

Yes No, please explain not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Easement Acquisition Projects

Will the eased land be open for public use?

- Yes No, please explain not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Will the conservation easement be permanent?

- Yes No, please explain not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Restoration and Enhancement Projects

Is the activity on permanently protected land and/or public waters?

- Yes No, please explain not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Does the activity take place on an Aquatic Management Area (AMA), Scientific and Natural Area (SNA), Wildlife Management Area (WMA), or State Forests?

- Yes, which ones No, please explain not applicable

If so, please indicate which ones:

Activity	Milestone	Date
<i>Acquire conservation easement project 1 and fee if applicable</i>		June 30, 2012
<i>Acquire conservation easement project 2 and fee if applicable</i>		January 30, 2012
<i>Acquire conservation easement project 3 and fee if applicable: Develop monitoring plans for projects 1, 2 & 3 as needed.</i>		June 30, 2013

Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet

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

Total Amount of Request \$ 20,772,000 *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>Program Coordinator</i>	0.5	2	\$ 103,400			\$ 103,400
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
Total	0.5		\$ 103,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 103,400

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 - auto entered from above	\$ 103,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 103,400
Contracts	\$ 30,000			\$ 30,000
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	\$ 20,050,000	\$ 3,000,000	TNC	\$ 23,050,000
Easement Stewardship	\$ 200,000			\$ 200,000
Travel (in-state)	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000
Professional Services	\$ 378,600			\$ 378,600
DNR Land Acquisition Costs				\$ -
Other				\$ -
Capital Equipment				\$ -
Other Equipment/Tools				\$ -
Supplies/Materials				\$ -
	\$ 20,772,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ 23,772,000

Attachment B. Proposed Outcome Tables

Only enter data in the outlined cells

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			60000		60000
Enhance					0
Total	0	0	60000	0	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

60000

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

60000

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore					\$ -
Protect			\$ 20,772,000		\$ 20,772,000
Enhance					\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,772,000	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 20,772,000

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 20,772,000

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					60000	60000
Enhance						0
Total	0	0	0	0	60000	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

60000

These three cells should be the same figure.

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

60000

Total Acres from Table 1.

60000

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Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore						\$ -
Protect					\$ 20,772,000	\$ 20,772,000
Enhance						\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,772,000	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 20,772,000

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 20,772,000

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 without State PILT Liability					0
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability			60000		60000

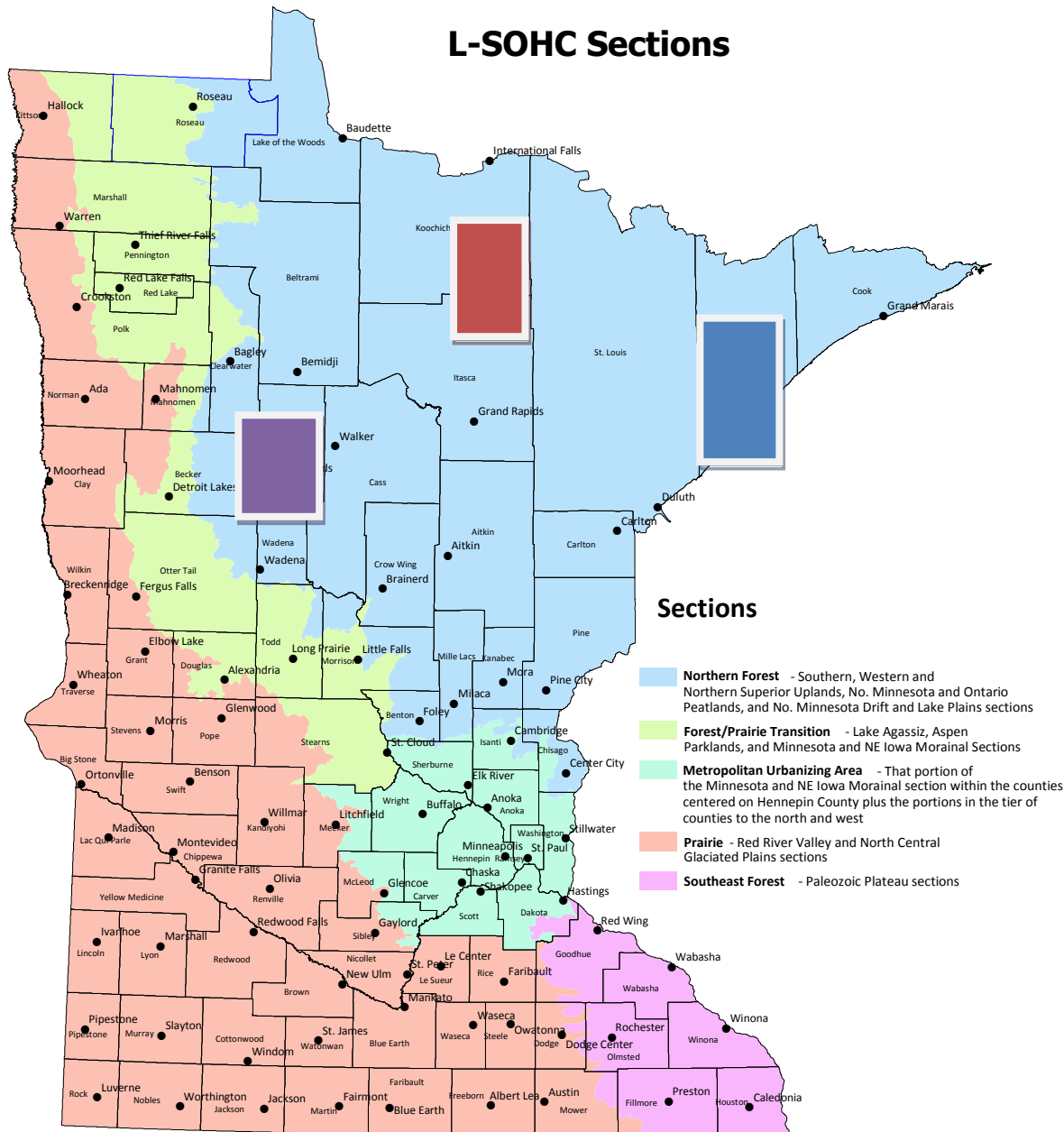
Table 7. Estimated Value of Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in dollars)

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability					\$ -
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability					\$ -
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability			\$ 20,772,000		\$ 20,772,000

Attachment C.

Instructions: Double left click to bring up the map editor. Symbols should be on the left side of the pop-up banner at the top of your screen or at the bottom left depending on your software.

If you can't bring up the interactive map editor: 1) Make a paper copy of the map, 2) By hand place symbols on the map corresponding to the location of the projects in your proposal, 3) Scan the marked map to a pdf, 4) Attach to web form.



Attachment D. Parcel List

Program Title

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		53	11			119					
	Lake		54	10			920					
	Lake		54	11			1627					
	Lake		55	10			1024					
	Lake		55	11			4481					
	Lake		56	9			864					
	Lake		56	10			4607					
	Lake		56	11			4528					
	Lake		57	8			80					
	Lake		57	10			343					
	Lake		57	11			694					
	Lake		58	7			76					
	Lake		58	9			1712					
	Lake		59	6			437					
	Lake		59	7			3921					
	Lake		59	8			2440					
	Lake		59	9			238					
	Lake		59	11			78					
	Lake		60	6			40					
	Lake		60	8			1080					
	Lake		60	9			280					
	Lake		60	10			91					
	Lake		60	11			1080					
Project 1 Totals	Lake						30,880	13,500,000	Project 1 Lake Co. CE	P	No	Yes
Project 2	Itasca		61	23			5736		Project 2 Itasca/Kooch CE	P	No	Yes
	Itasca		61	24			1568					
	Itasca		61	25			976					
	Itasca		62	23			1200					
	Itasca		62	24			1250					

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	Itasca	62	25	240					
	Itasca	62	26	1181					
	Itasca	62	27	964					
	Koochiching	63	22	325					
	Koochiching	63	26	1131					
	Koochiching	63	27	175					
	Koochiching	63	24	1861					
TNC Match area	Koochiching			14,000	TNC Match area	P	No	Yes	
Project 2 Totals				30607	7,272,000	Project 2 Itasca/Kooch CE	P	No	Yes
Project 1& 2 totals					20,772,000				
Project 3	Hubbard	140	32	4211	Project 3 Hub etal CE & Fee	P	No	Y	
	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				
						P	No	Y	
Hub/Cas/CLW/Wad/BecFee				3024	Fee Portion	P	No	Y	
Project 3 Totals				27484	28,000,000	Project 3 Hub etal CE & Fee	P	No	Y