

Main Request for Funding Form
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Fiscal Year 2012

Program or Project Title: Protect (Acquire) Key Forest Habitat Lands – Cass County

Funds Requested (\$000s)	Funding Request	OHF Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$1,064,100	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Manager’s Name: Joshua Stevenson
Organization: Cass County
Street Address: 218 East Washburn Avenue
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County Location: North Central Minnesota – Northern Forest

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 forest wildlife habitat in central Minnesota through fee title acquisition of key forest tracts. Title of lands acquired will be held by Cass County in Fee.

Project Narrative

Design and scope of work

Problem: Central Minnesota, especially the area in Cass County from Brainerd/Baxter to Walker, has and will continue to see some of the fastest human population growth in Minnesota. This growth will lead to increased demands/use of this area, its natural resources and related public land base that needs to support this growth. Development of these parcels has resulted in the loss of Jack Pine barrens in the landscape of southern Cass County. Forest tracts currently undeveloped, held by Potlatch and other private property owners, are currently being sold to private developers. These lands often provide access to existing public lands for resource management, are in holdings in otherwise unfragmented landscapes, create contiguous wildlife corridors, and protect larger blocks of land especially useful for stand level management of habitat.

Opportunity: Key forest tracts (i.e. in-holdings in large public land tracts, management access issues, etc.) are being considered or currently being offered for sale by a large industrial forest owner (Potlatch Corporation) and private property owners in this area. Depressed market conditions and a willingness by current owners to sell at this time is an opportunity that should be addressed now since it is narrow and may close (properties sold) at any time. The strategy is to acquire lands that hold together unfragmented landscapes, avoid incompatible in holding development or creates habitat corridors. The land acquired has existing forest access roads that have been used for management access for years. The sale of these lands to private individuals has already resulted in the loss of access for resource management on public lands. The acquired lands are not being pursued for convenience of management.

The identified parcels play a key role in future management plans of the Jack Pine Barrens including the role of fire as a management tool. The loss of these parcels to private ownership will result in lost access. Management of adjacent public lands will be limited to frozen ground conditions. This will eliminate management tools such as site preparation for Jack Pine plantings and aerial seeding as well as prescribed burns for Jack Pine regeneration. This type of management requires year round access. The acquired lands provide year round management access to existing public lands in the Jack Pine barrens landscape. The acquisition of these lands will provide permanent year round access for forest management as well as protecting habitat in and around the surrounding areas.

The Cass County Forest Resource Management Plan directs the County to acquire lands of this nature whenever possible to protect our management access. The Cass County Comprehensive plan requires no net loss of acres of public land and local unit of government input on all purchases and land sales. This project meets the requirements of both plans and will require stakeholder input as part of the project. The local units of government with the lands to be purchased will be contacted for input before any acquisitions are made. Recent purchases of this nature have been supported by both the County and local units of government. The Cass County Board of Commissioners has a strong history of supporting land sales and acquisitions that have local unit of government support.

Planning

The Cass County Forest Resource Management Plan directs the County to acquire lands of this nature whenever possible. The Cass County Comprehensive plan requires no net loss of acres of public land (Page 34 & 57) (FRMP Page 32) and local unit of government input on all purchases and sales of land. Priorities supported in these plans that are accomplished in this project include: access to inaccessible public land, consolidation of ownership, management for wildlife habitat, and landscape level management between multiple land management agencies. The lands acquired will be open to the public for fishing and the taking of game.

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

The Cass County Land Department has used funds from the LCCMR for this type of activity in the past. Property acquisitions using LCCMR were very successful. With new changes to the use of that fund, it seems that our proposal is most likely to be funded from the LSOHC.

Relationship to Current Organizational Budget

The total value of this project is almost 50% of our annual budget. The entire amount received will be used for acquisition. The amount of money available to the Cass County Land Department for acquisition in the past is directly related to land sale revenue. Land Sales revenue has been down recently and funds to LCCMR are still outstanding pending the sale of land currently available over the counter. Our current staff will use this money to acquire lands in fee following existing procedures. Because our activity in land purchases and sales is currently low due to the depressed land sale market, there will be little or no effect on current duties.

Sustainability and Maintenance

The Cass County Land Department manages all County Administered lands under our Forest Resource Management Plan. This management plan requires that operations are maintained from revenue generated from timber sales. Cass County has a long history of covering our operation costs with timber revenue. The lands acquired will be managed under this same plan. These lands are not eligible for PILT payments. MN Statute 477A.11 defines lands that are eligible as being held by the state in fee or tax forfeited. The acquired lands for this project will be held in fee by Cass County and therefore are not eligible for PILT Payments. There will be no ongoing cost to the State of MN for the acquisition of these lands.

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:

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Milestone	Date
<i>Meet with LUG's and prepare purchase agreements</i>	Local Unit of Government Support and Transparency	Jan-Feb 2012
<i>Contract for appraisals and Acquire Lands in Fee</i>	Use existing staff and contract for services	March – June 2012
<i>Record Deeds</i>	Achieve “no net loss” of public land by adding to current land base	July - 2012

Attachments:

- A. Budget**
- B. Proposed Outcome Tables 1-5**
- C. Map**
- D. Parcel List**

Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet

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

Total Amount of Request \$ 1,064,100 *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>Resource Manager</i>	0.25	1		\$ 18,500	<i>Cass County</i>	\$ 18,500
<i>Land Commissioner</i>	0.25			\$ 18,500		\$ 18,500
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
Total	0.5		\$ -	\$ 37,000	\$ -	\$ 37,000

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 - auto entered from above	\$ -	\$ 37,000	\$ -	\$ 37,000
Contracts				\$ -
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT <i>(breakout in table 6 & 7)</i>				\$ -
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT <i>(breakout in table 6 & 7)</i>	\$ 1,064,100			\$ 1,064,100
Easement Acquisition				\$ -
Easement Stewardship				\$ -
Travel (in-state)				\$ -
Professional Services		\$ 2,000	<i>Cass County</i>	\$ 2,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs				\$ -
Other				\$ -
Capital Equipment				\$ -
Other Equipment/Tools				\$ -
Supplies/Materials				\$ -
	\$ 1,064,100	\$ 39,000	\$ -	\$ 1,103,100

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			539		539
Enhance					0
Total	0	0	539	0	0

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

539

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

539

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore					\$ -
Protect			\$ 1,064,100		\$ 1,064,100
Enhance					\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,064,100	\$ -	-

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 1,064,100

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 1,064,100

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					539	539
Enhance						0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	539

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

539

These three cells should be the same figure.

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

539

Total Acres from Table 1.

539

Attachment B. Proposed Outcome Tables

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore						\$ -
Protect					\$ 1,064,100	\$ 1,064,100
Enhance						\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,064,100	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 1,064,100

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 1,064,100

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			539		539
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability					0

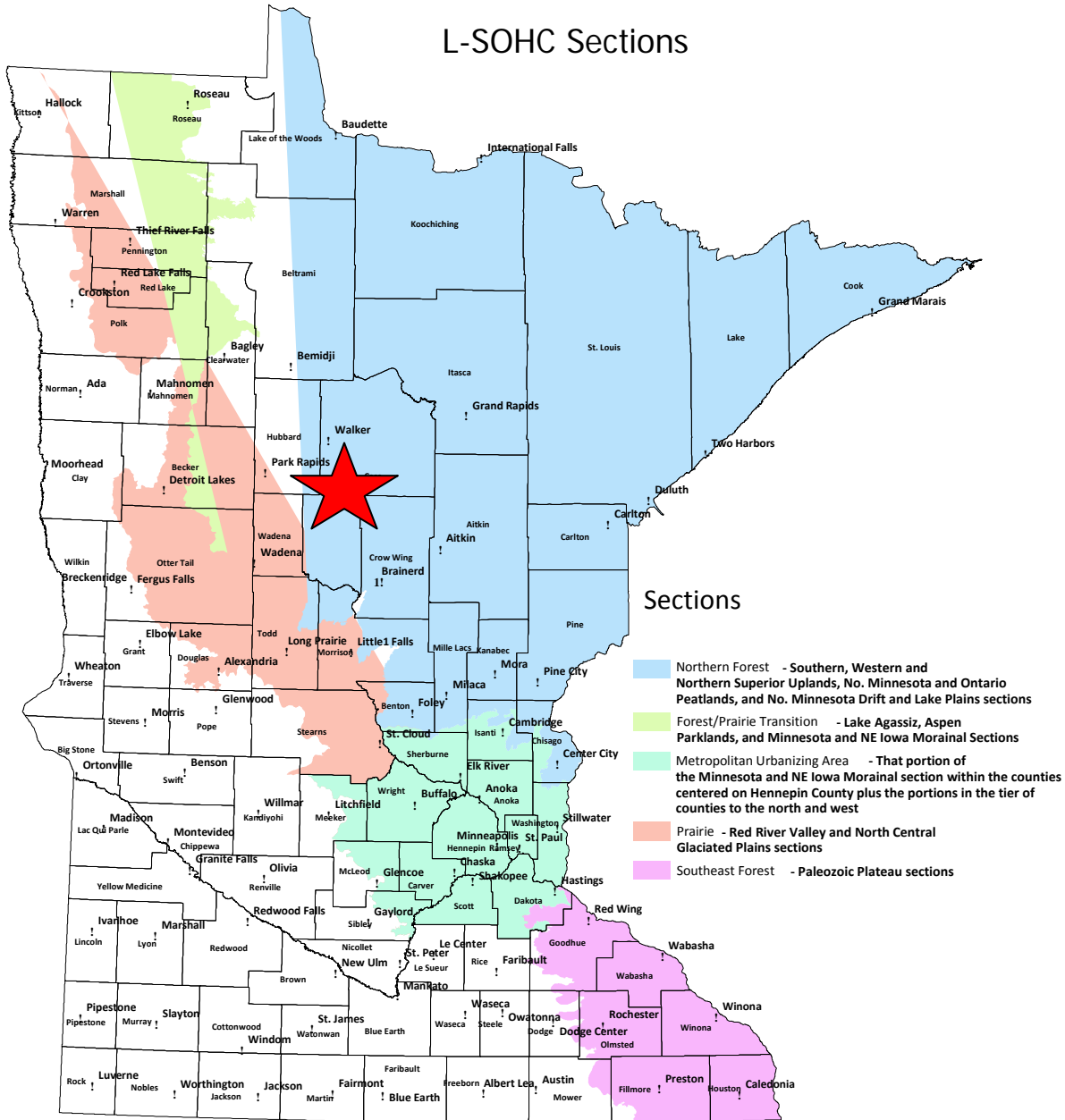
Table 7. Estimated Value of Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in dollars)

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability					\$ -
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability			\$ 1,064,100		\$ 1,064,100
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability					\$ -

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)
Johnson Property	Cass	139	31	2	8	13931208	206	294100	SE¼ and SE¼ of NE¼	P	N	Yes after Purchase
Franklin Property	Cass	134	30	2	18	13430218	173	368700	SW¼	P	N	Yes after Purchase
Goose Lake Trail 40	Cass	140	31	2	34	14031234	40	117300	SW¼ of NW¼	P	N	Yes after Purchase
Hiram 80	Cass	140	31	2	35	14031235	80	196500	S½ of SE¼	P	N	Yes after Purchase
Pine River 40	Cass	140	31	2	36	14031236	40	87500	NW¼ of SW¼	P	N	Yes after Purchase