

Main Request for Funding Form

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

Program or Project Title: Moist Soil Management

Funds Requested (\$000s)	Funding Request	OHF Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$ 443,561	0	0	0

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Organization Web Site: dnr.state.mn.us

County Location: Big Stone, Chippewa, Isanti, Martin, Mille Lacs

Ecological Planning Regions:

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

Activity Type:

- Protect Restore X Enhance

Priority Resources addressed by activity:

- X Wetlands Forests Prairie Habitat

Project Abstract

A temporary moist soil management specialist will conduct pre-design feasibility studies on a minimum of 8 proposals, facilitate completion of 5 pre-construction project designs, and oversee construction of 3 projects.

Project Narrative

Design and scope of work

An estimated 90% of Minnesota's prairie wetlands have been lost, and those that remain are often larger basins that were more difficult to drain. Seasonal wetlands have been particularly hard hit by drainage and invasive plant species such as hybrid cattail and reed canary grass.

Seasonally flooded wetlands are particularly important as duck breeding areas in spring by providing critical invertebrate food sources and isolation for duck pairs. Wet autumns can reflood these areas providing recovering hens and migrating ducks access to abundant seeds of annual wetland plants and invertebrates.

Moist soil management can help replace the nutrition benefits that were lost with the impacts on seasonal wetlands. Intensively managing very shallow areas (less than 12 inches) by flooding in early spring and fall produces the abundant seeds and invertebrates once provided by seasonal wetlands. The moist soil management sites identified in this proposal for design work will enhance wetland habitat complexes when they are constructed by providing many of the same wetland values as seasonal wetlands.

The project sites were proposed by DNR Area Wildlife Supervisors through their respective Regional Wildlife Managers. The proposals were reviewed by the Wetland Wildlife Program Consultant and the Wildlife Operations Consultant prior to inclusion in this proposal.

The proposal elements reflect the strategies of the 2006 Duck Recovery Plan. This plan underwent substantial review by nearly all the major wildlife conservation groups in Minnesota. Stakeholders have been generally supportive of the strategies outlined in the plan, although some have expressed frustration with the long timeline.

Planning

Several recent statewide Minnesota planning efforts have called attention to the dramatic loss in both quantity and quality of wetlands over the last century and a half. *Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, A Fifty-Year Vision* –

Minnesota Campaign for Conservation, Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare, and MN DNR Duck Recovery Plan all recognize the loss of wetlands, particularly temporary and seasonal wetlands, in creating viable wetland habitat complexes that are necessary for improvements in wetland wildlife populations.

The *Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan* identifies habitat loss and degradation as the number one driver of change for wildlife in Minnesota. This Plan specifically recommends fee acquisition for WMAs, protection of shallow lake shoreline, and enhancing shallow lakes, wetlands, and wetland associated watersheds as important strategies.

Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare - Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for species in greatest conservation need has identified significant loss and degradation of habitat as the number one management challenge and one of the principle strategies is to provide protection through selective acquisition of key habitats in each Ecological Section. At least 15 species that rely on seasonal wetlands are listed as species of special concern. Minnesota's *Long Range Duck Recovery Plan* lists the objective of restoring a breeding population of 1 million ducks by 2056. The primary strategy is the protection and restoration of 2 million additional acres of habitat including the restoration of 64,000 wetlands and actively managing 1,800 shallow lakes. A critical element identified by this plan is the need for seasonal wetlands.

This proposal is largely based on the Department of Natural Resources 2006 Duck Recovery Plan. This plan is similar to the Strategic Habitat Conservation model adopted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in that it establishes a statewide duck population goal, identifies the challenges to be met in achieving that goal, proposes specific strategies and objectives for habitat restoration and protection, and selects specific metrics for evaluating progress. In addition LSOHC specifically recognizes the importance of wetland habitat complexes within the Forest Prairie Transition, and Prairie ecological sections.

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

This proposal targets the enhancement of wetland habitat complexes through the development of moist soil management. This management will be conducted by wildlife agencies explicitly for high quality wildlife habitat. The DNR will consult and coordinate with partners to ensure that strategic conservation actions are prioritized within L-SOHC planning sections and that the allocation of available resources is optimized with all available funding sources. Although this work will compliment the goals of other Constitutional Funding, the selection of specific projects is prioritized based on the potential benefits to wildlife rather than consideration of other goals.

Relationship to Current Organizational Budget

Current DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife expenditures for wetland and shallow lake work for wildlife habitat total approximately \$2,360,000 out of a total Division budget of \$33,100,000. The total DNR annual budget approximates \$200,000,000. These figures do not include bonding.

Sustainability and Maintenance

The design component of this proposal will prepare sites for future construction proposals. The management and maintenance of basins with completed construction will fall on existing staff of the Department of Natural Resources. These staff are funded through license fees and legislative appropriations. Periodic enhancements such as invasive species removal, supplemental vegetation planting or water control structure installation and replacements will be accomplished through annual funding requests to a variety of funding sources including, but not limited to, the Game and Fish Fund, bonding, gifts, the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Outdoor Heritage Fund, and federal sources such as North American Wetland Conservation Act grants.

Types of Projects

Fee Acquisition Projects

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition?

Yes No, please explain X not applicable

If no, please explain here:

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

Yes No, please explain X not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Easement Acquisition Projects

Will the eased land be open for public use?

Yes No, please explain X not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Will the conservation easement be permanent?

Yes No, please explain X not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Restoration and Enhancement Projects

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

X 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?

X Yes, which ones No, please explain not applicable

If so, please indicate which ones: Wildlife Management Areas: Dalbo, Lac qui Parle, Mille Lacs, Roseau River, and Timber Lake.

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Milestone	Date
Pre-engineering feasibility	Completion of 8 feasibilities	June 30, 2013
Design Work	Completion of 5 designs	June 30, 2013
Construction	Completion of 3 projects	June 30, 2013

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 \$ 443,561 *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>Moist Soil Specialist</i>	1	2	133,392		\$	133,392
					\$	-
					\$	-
					\$	-
					\$	-
					\$	-
Total			\$ 133,392	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 133,392

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	\$ 133,392	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 133,392
Contracts	149,000			\$ 149,000
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				\$ -
Easement Stewardship				\$ -
Travel (in-state)	18,000			\$ 18,000
Professional Services	98,717			\$ 98,717
DNR Land Acquisition Costs				\$ -
Other				\$ 44,452
Capital Equipment	40,452			\$ 40,452
Other Equipment/Tools	\$ 4,000			\$ 4,000
Supplies/Materials				\$ -
	\$ 443,561	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 443,561

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					0
Enhance	484				484
Total	484	0	0	0	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

484

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

484

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore					\$ -
Protect					\$ -
Enhance	\$ 443,561				\$ 443,561
Total	\$ 443,561	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 443,561

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 443,561

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						0
Enhance				104	380	484
Total	0	0	0	104	380	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

484

These three cells should be the same figure.

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

484

Total Acres from Table 1.

484

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						\$ -
Enhance				\$ 363,720	\$ 79,841	\$ 443,561
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 363,720	\$ 79,841	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 443,561 *These two cells should*

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 443,561 *be the same figure.*

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

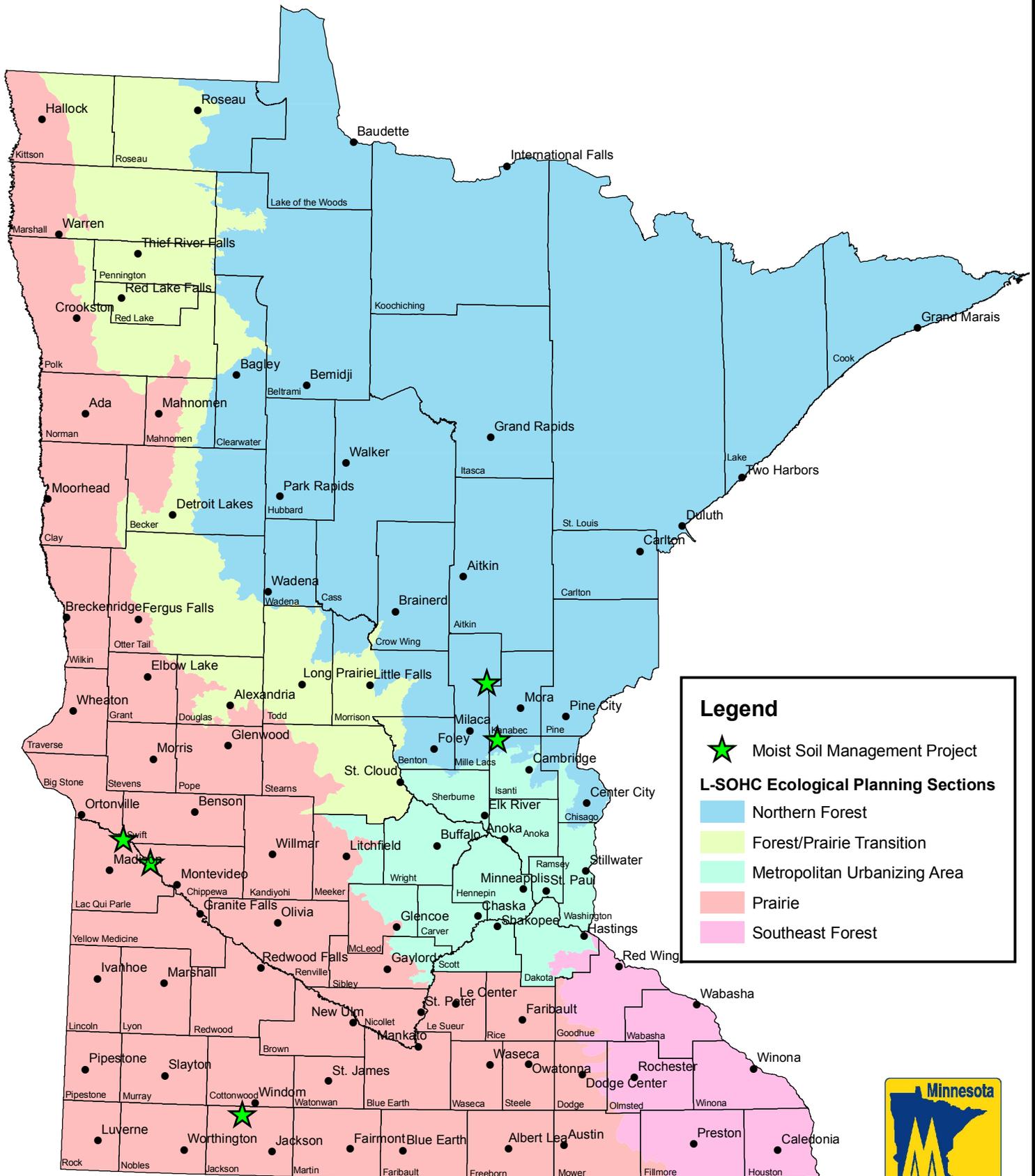
Table 6. Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in acres)

	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					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					\$ -
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability					\$ -

Moist Soil Management



Legend

-  Moist Soil Management Project
- L-SOHC Ecological Planning Sections**
-  Northern Forest
-  Forest/Prairie Transition
-  Metropolitan Urbanizing Area
-  Prairie
-  Southeast Forest



Attachment D. Parcel List

Program Title: Moist Soil Management Parcel list not applicable

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)