

Lake County Forest Habitat and Access Protection Project

**Main Request for Funding Form**

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

Program or Project Title: Lake County Forest Habitat and Access Protection Project

Funds Requested (\$000s)	Funding Request	OHF Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$ 3,460,295	0	0	0

**Manager's Name:** Tom Martinson  
**Organization:** Lake County  
**Street Address:** 601 Avenue  
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**Organization Web Site:** co.lake.mn.us

**County Location:** *Lake County*

**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

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### Lake County Forest Habitat and Access Protection Project

Purchasing scattered Marlow lands amidst Lake County's 155,000 acre FSC certified forest would prevent habitat fragmentation and provide opportunities for landscape scale wildlife habitat, forest enhancement, and public recreational projects.

## Project Narrative

### Design and scope of work

Lake County's tax forfeit public land base has former private industrial forest land scattered throughout it. Prior to the recession and sale of these lands, Lake County and Potlatch managed these lands on a handshake. With a new private owner and increasingly poor economic times, these lands are becoming increasingly hard to economically manage. Lake County has recently had to pay access fees for timber sale access where the access crosses former Potlatch lands, increasing management costs, during a period of low stumpage rates. The purchase of the 4720 acres would solve all of Lake County's timber access problems across Marlow lands. The purchase of the lands would also ensure that these lands would remain as a part of a large working forest and would also prevent fragmentation due to the sale of this land as potential residential properties. As stated by The Nature Conservancy in a conservation easement held on other lands purchased for land consolidation and managed by Lake County, "The Conservation Values of the tax forfeit Forest are threatened by conversion from large blocks of contiguous forest cover to smaller fragments due to subdivision, construction of structures, roads, utilities and other improvements, and non-sustainable forest management practices that degrade natural and long term economic forest conditions." This would include easements across working forest lands and homes among traditional hunting and recreational lands. As a large intact forestry managed land base, landscape scale wildlife habitat and forest enhancement projects would be started with the knowledge that the land base would remain in Forest and that long term forest protection, restoration and enhancement would remain viable. The Lake County Board of Commissioners supports the purchase of these lands as a means to protect our forests, jobs and economy.

## Planning

This project relates to the **Minnesota Conservation and Preservation plan** specifically to **Land use recommendation 9**. The state would be making investments to protect forestland by fee title acquisition.

### **Land use recommendation 9: Assess tools for forest land protection (page 385)**

The state can make a spectrum of investments to protect forestland. Some directly support **permanent protection of forestland**, such as **fee title acquisitions**, conservation easements, and tax policies. Others, such as cost share, forest certification, and forest stewardship planning, support forestland protection indirectly by supporting sustainable management practices.

Lake County's Land Protection purchase fulfills 7 of the 11 LSOHC Section Priorities (Priorities underlined)

### **Forest and Forest Habitat Conservation Opportunities (page 4)**

- Protecting large, contiguous forests through easements or acquisition of private lands that limit access to public lands – This is what Lake County's project will accomplish, protect Lake County's large tax forfeit forested land base by acquisition of private lands.
- Protecting and restoring high ecological value forests, including rare native plant communities, forest habitat for SGCNs ( State Wildlife ... on wildlife species in greatest conservation need ( )), forested riparian areas, old-growth forests, and forest habitat corridors. – As a FSC Certified Managed Forest, Lake County subscribes to MFRC guidelines and FSC's 10 Principles which include the above mentioned forest restoration goals.
- Restoring, maintaining and enhancing existing forest habitats (e.g., North shore hardwood restoration, moose habitat improvement, deer thermal cover) using native species. – Lake County is currently planting White Pine, White Spruce and some White Cedar in our North shore hardwoods with the help of The Nature Conservancy. Lake County has designated the 6,000 acre Clair Nelson Memorial Forest to be managed using Guidelines especially designed to help Moose by providing and protecting feeding areas that are adjacent to thermal cover and riparian areas. Lake County has suggested that areas in the Crosby Manitou Landscape Collaborative, on county land, be managed to bring young stands of cedar back to the North Shore Landscape. The private lands purchased for this project will fall under the same type of management depending on their location within the landscape.
- Enhancing and restoring forested areas from adverse impacts of invasive species (e.g., ash forests from Emerald Ash Borer-EAB). – Lake County has attended DNR EAB meetings and met with Forest Service and DNR Researchers in the field to begin a strategy on addressing the impacts of invasive species before and after their arrival. Lake County staff has been discussing

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what replacement species will appropriately fill the niche if and when the EAB kills all of our Black Ash trees.

- Restoring pine and northern white cedar through appropriate silvicultural techniques, including prescribed fire and browse protection. A Lessard/Sams CPL Grant, Mixed conifer Hardwood Restoration, was granted to Lake County in 2010. Conifers, including White Pine and White Cedar have been planted and will be bud capped two times in the future. Lake County will continue conifer restoration efforts on its current lands and on its future purchased lands if funded for the land purchase.
- Using the Ecological Classification System as an important tool to help maintain and enhance native plant communities. - Lake County has adopted the Ecological Classification System as our tool to manage our Forests. Staff has and is currently attending classes and doing our own plant identification and keying our Native Plant Communities.
- Restoring, maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services in existing forests. – The land purchase would ensure that by consolidating our Forest, protection of ecosystem services, such as maintaining the necessary ecological components for soil productivity or protecting water quality could be restored or will be maintained.

### Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

and Natural Resources Trust Fund (Fund) – The information the County Biological Survey (CBS) finds in Lake County goes into the Natural Heritage Data Base that we use to manage our forest land. The CBS's Outstanding Conservation Value Forests are our method of establishing our High Value Conservation Forests (HVCF) needed for our FSC certification. The Fund supports Lake County's Soil Survey and the Invasive Earthworm Study in Lake County, vital information for sustainable forest management.

#### and Trails Fund

Lake County works closely with the Superior Hiking Trail Association as most of the trail in Lake County is located on tax forfeit land. Lake County works very closely with North Shore State Parks and shares boundaries with all of the Parks. Funding for area trails and State Parks is always a benefit to Lake County when these facilities are an integral part of our landscape

### Relationship to Current Organizational Budget

Lake County could never consider and would never purchase this ecologically and economically important land out of our regular budget.

## Sustainability and Maintenance

Lake County's Forestry Department is funded from the management of its tax forfeit lands. The additional lands purchased with the help of Lessard/Sams Funds will also be managed with the tax forfeit land on a broad landscape management plan. Net proceeds from the management of tax forfeit forest lands are apportioned to Schools and Townships, but also a portion of the revenues is used for the protection, restoration and enhancement of all the lands under Lake county management.

### 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

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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>Purchase of Private Lands</i>		2012
<i>Insert Activity 2 here</i>		
<i>Insert Activity 3 here</i>		

### 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**      \$ 3,460,295 *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>Manager of Programs</i>					\$	-
<i>Admin Asst</i>					\$	-
<i>position 3</i>					\$	-
<i>position 4</i>					\$	-
<i>position 5</i>					\$	-
<i>position 6</i>					\$	-
<i>position 7</i>					\$	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**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
<b>Personnel - auto entered from above</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Contracts</b>			\$	-
<b>Fee Acquisition w/ PILT (breakout in table 6 &amp; 7)</b>			\$	-
<b>Fee Acquisition w/o PILT (breakout in table 6 &amp; 7)</b>	\$ 3,460,295		\$	3,460,295
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>			\$	-
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>			\$	-
<b>Travel (in-state)</b>			\$	-
<b>Professional Services</b>			\$	-
<b>DNR Land Acquisition Costs</b>			\$	-
<b>Other</b>			\$	-
Capital Equipment			\$	-
Other Equipment/Tools			\$	-
Supplies/Materials			\$	-
	\$ 3,460,295	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,460,295

## 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			4720.73		4720.73
Enhance					0
<b>Total</b>	0	0	4720.73	0	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

4720.73

*These two cells should be the same figure.*

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

4720.73

### Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore					\$ -
Protect			\$ 3,460,295		\$ 3,460,295
Enhance					\$ -
<b>Total</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,460,295	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 3,460,295

*These two cells should be the same figure.*

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 3,460,295

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					4720.73	4720.73
Enhance						0
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	4720.73	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

4720.73

*These three cells should be the same figure.*

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

4720.73

Total Acres from Table 1.

4720.73



## 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					\$ 3,460,295	\$ 3,460,295
Enhance						\$ -
<b>Total</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,460,295	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 3,460,295

*These two cells should be the same figure.*

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 3,460,295

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			4720.73		4720.73
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability					0

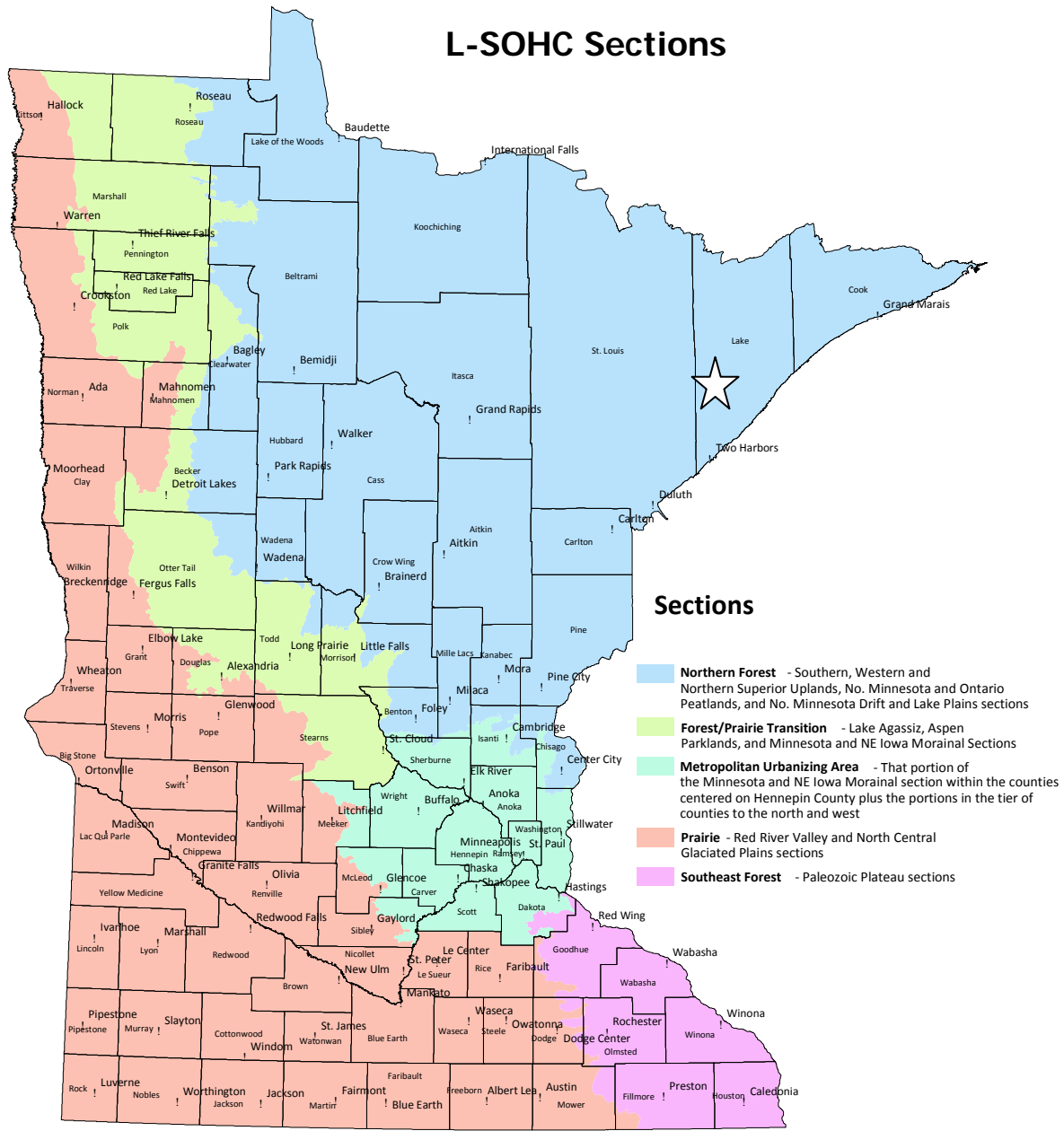
**Table 7. Estimated Value of Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in dollars)**

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability					\$ -
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability			\$ 3,460,295		\$ 3,460,295
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.



**Project Area**

## Attachment D. Parcel List

**Program Title**

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)
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**Parcel Name**

<i>Example Lambertson WMA Addition</i>	<i>Redwood</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>10937213</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>\$5,500,000</i>		<i>P</i>	
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