

**Main Request for Funding Form**

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

**Project Title: Protecting Sensitive Shorelands in North Central Minnesota**

Funds Requested (\$000s)	Funding Request	OHF Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>\$ 2,006</b>	0	0	2,000

**Manager's Name:** Paula West  
**Organization:** Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation  
**Street Address:** PO Box 455  
**City:** Hackensack **State:** MN **Zip:** 56465  
**Telephone:** 218-675-5773 or 218-838-5010 (cell)  
**E-Mail:** info@leechlakewatershed.org  
**Organization Web Site:** www.leechlakewatershed.org

**County Location:** Cass 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**

Twenty to 25 sensitive shoreland parcels in North Central Minnesota will be protected with perpetual conservation easements for long-term protection of fish and wildlife habitat, recreational sustainability, and water quality.

## **Project Narrative**

### **Design and scope of work**

The cold water lakes of Aitkin, Cass, and Crow Wing counties in North Central Minnesota are considered to be some of the most desirable recreational lakes in Minnesota. Over 35% of Minnesota's primary recreational lakes (those classified as general development or recreational development) are located in these three counties. These high quality lakes are biologically important systems that support fish, game and wildlife and have high ecological value to Minnesotans for recreation and the continuation of our state's legacy of high quality water resources. Half of the state's naturally reproducing Muskie lakes are located in Cass County and are the sources of Muskie spawn for stocking in Minnesota and across the United States. The lakes in North Central Minnesota also provide the cornerstone of economic stability for this region. Tourism (collectively over a half billion in annual sales revenue) is a major industry predicated on the enjoyment of high quality lakes.

North Central Minnesota has experienced steady population growth of 25% between 1990 and 2000; state demographers predict up to a 50% additional growth by 2030. As the baby boomers retire and are attracted to the pristine lakes and forests of the region, the future quality of these natural resources is threatened by increasing shoreland development. As shorelines are developed and land is cleared, habitat for fish and wildlife is reduced and in turn fish populations and other wildlife that depend on a healthy shoreland zone will decline. Minnesota DNR studies have estimated that already over 60% of the natural emergent vegetation in Crow Wing County lakes has been removed as a result of shoreline development causing significant reductions in fish and wildlife habitat. Other DNR studies provide scientific evidence that developed shorelines have negative consequences to fish spawning. A Wisconsin DNR study showed that as homes along shorelines become more dense, loons, green frogs, and shoreland bird numbers decline significantly; these populations are indicator species of decreasing habitat. (See the DNR study summaries in the planning section). Additional Minnesota DNR studies indicate that protecting the shoreline zone—the majority of which is on private land—is the essential strategy to maintain our state's fisheries, important waterfowl breeding and feeding areas, and the overall health of our state's aquatic resources.

Some shorelines are more sensitive to the impacts of development. The Minnesota DNR pilot study *Cass County/DNR Intra-Lake Zoning to Protect Sensitive Lakeshores* identified 83 miles of sensitive shoreland on 18 lakes in Cass County, not including Leech Lake. The DNR's definition of sensitive shoreland is: "a geographical area defined by natural and biological features that provides unique or critical ecological habitat. Sensitive areas are significant fish and wildlife habitat areas." Using 13 different parameters, including extensive field surveys over the past

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three years, shorelands were scored for sensitivity to development. On the 83 miles of identified sensitive shoreland in Cass County, 30 bird species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) have been documented, representing nearly one-third of the bird species on the Minnesota SGCN list. Included in the project findings are several Minnesota species that are threatened and of special concern. DNR surveyors have also identified four fish species of greatest conservation need and over 15 species of rare or unique aquatic plants. Using the Cass County data from the sensitive shoreland pilot study, a rapid assessment model is now being developed by the DNR that can be used to determine sensitive shorelands on other lakes throughout Minnesota that need additional protection.

To protect sensitive shorelands in Cass, Crow Wing, and Aitkin Counties from the impacts of future development, the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation proposes the project “Protecting Sensitive Shorelands in North Central Minnesota.” This three-year project will protect over 50,000 feet (9-11 miles) of sensitive shorelands by placing perpetual conservation easements on 20-25 critical and threatened shoreline parcels in North Central Minnesota. The easements will permanently protect naturally vegetated shorelines and wetland and forest land on over 1,200 acres. Using permanent conservation easements is a long-term strategy to protect critical lands and aquatic habitats, recreational opportunities, and water quality that is consistent with the identification of ecologically sensitive lands and recommendations in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (pages 25-92).

In this project, willing landowners will donate the conservation easements and the easement’s associated land value (estimated at \$8 to 10 million dollars collectively). As a financial incentive for the land donation, the associated transaction costs for closing the easement, such as appraisal, surveys, and other professional services along with easement stewardship would be covered with Outdoor Heritage Funds.

While the majority of the easements will be donated, acquisition money has also been included in the project budget to purchase easements (preferably at below market value) on several key parcels where donation of the easement is not preferred.

An example of a potential easement acquisition is a key 436-acre parcel, including 1.5 miles of sensitive shoreland, on Pine Mountain Lake in Cass County. Another target for easement acquisition is six properties in Roger’s Bay (locally known as Miller Bay) on Leech Lake. These parcels are part of a larger protection project of the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation to prevent future development of this largely undeveloped bay, that is the primary location from which the Minnesota DNR obtains Muskie spawn for their Muskie stocking program.

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This project's OHF budget reflects the costs for 20-25 easements for: transaction costs; easement stewardship; landowner outreach; limited easement acquisition (the majority will be donated); personnel; and professional services. The conservation easements will be held by the Minnesota Land Trust or co-held between the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) and the participating counties (Cass, Crow Wing, and Aitkin counties) per MLT's established model with other counties.

While most of the easements will be held solely by MLT, local relationships and situations may indicate a preference for Counties to co-hold with MLT. In this model, MLT has the primary stewardship responsibility for monitoring and management of the easement and shared responsibility for enforcement. Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Cass counties are committed partners in this project because conservation easements are a strategic goal in each of their respective comprehensive county water plans that guide the protection of the county's water resources.

The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation (LLAWF) will provide project management and outreach coordination with land owners, lake associations, counties, and the Minnesota Land Trust, and in-kind office space for MLT staff. The Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will provide technical expertise and staffing for drafting and closing the easements, in conjunction with the Counties where appropriate, and assume management and stewardship responsibilities, including enforcement and defense if necessary. As part of the stewardship obligations of the easements, LLAWF will work with landowners to educate them about best management practices for their shoreline. To maximize the benefits of shoreline protection, LLAWF will also coordinate this project with their conservation partners in the region, including the DNR, Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, the Leech Lake Band of Objibwe, and the Chippewa National Forest. LLAWF will work closely with lake associations and their Sustainability Committees, which LLAWF helped initiate, to identify additional landowners and partner with the local lake associations to build trusting relationships with targeted landowners of sensitive shoreland.

A list of targeted prospective parcels has been identified by Aitkin, Cass, and Crow Wing counties; the parcel summary is listed in Attachment D. Specific parcel numbers are not provided at this time until there is landowner contact. The majority of the Cass County parcels are among the 83 miles of sensitive shorelands in Cass County identified through the DNR pilot sensitive shoreland study. The remaining Cass County parcels and the Crow Wing and Aitkin County parcels were initially identified through a BWSR-funded study of large lakes (over 1,000 acres) in these three counties. The prospective parcels are largely undeveloped shorelines in areas of high-conservation significance determined by visual observation, previous mapping in

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Cass County, and the application of existing data, such as the natural heritage database, Minnesota County Biological Survey biodiversity layer, National Wetland Inventory, and other existing resource data. The DNR rapid assessment model for sensitive shorelands will be used to further analyze the prospective parcels to determine the highest priorities among the targeted pool and to identify additional prospective parcels in each county.

While the majority of these easements will not be open to the public, the public still benefits from the protection of diminishing fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. The public can fish right up to the shores of the protected properties. Further, through landowner contact, MLT and LLAWF will seek opportunities to work with the landowners and other organizations to conduct restoration activities and secure angler access, if appropriate.

This proposal will protect some of North Central Minnesota's most vulnerable shorelands-- one of the most diverse and critically-important habitat types in the state. The shoreline zone (the near shore aquatic area and adjacent shoreland) is important for numerous species, including spawning and feeding areas for fish; breeding, nesting, and feeding areas for waterfowl and other shorebirds; resting areas for migratory waterfowl; and as general habitat for a vast number of other game and non-game species. Because most of the state's critical shoreline zones are found on private lands, conservation easements are the most strategic tool available to permanently protect these resources where the landowner wants to maintain private ownership.

Easements will apply to the entire parcel, not just a buffer strip along the shore. The conservation easements, either donated or acquired, will prohibit land uses or development that could negatively impact the important habitat values of the shoreland and adjacent upland. Under a conservation easement, these protected shorelands will remain ecologically viable and productive for fish, game, and wildlife. In addition, the easements funded by this proposal will protect more than 1,200 acres of high-quality northern forest habitat and numerous wetlands, thus adding to the conservation benefits for the state.

This proposal is a good investment of Outdoor Heritage Funds because:

- 1) The project is predicated on a successful similar pilot project between the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation and Cass County;
- 2) Both the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation and the Minnesota Land Trust have long track records of effective land conservation projects and comply with national standards and practices for land trusts as members of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA);

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- 3) There will be a high return on the investment of public money. This project's outcome will be 20-25 permanent conservation easements on primary recreational lakes protecting 1,200 to 1,500 acres of land, including 9-11 miles (more than 50,000 feet) of sensitive shorelands, in North Central Minnesota. A very-high leverage of private donated land value (\$8-10 million) from willing and engaged landowners to investment of public money is anticipated; approximately 4:1.

### **Planning**

The scientific foundation for the protection of critical shoreland habitat in Minnesota is well established in numerous published resource protection plans and in recent studies by the Minnesota and Wisconsin DNR on the impacts of shoreline development on fisheries and wildlife habitat and reproduction. While this proposal is not specifically based on the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation Model (SHC), the methodology used to determine the targeted parcels for conservation easements is comparable to that model. The sensitive shoreland study by the Minnesota DNR, and the resulting rapid assessment tool to determine additional sensitive shorelands, and the large lake assessments are science-based and incorporate the two fundamental features of the SHC: explicit, measurable objectives and models relating populations to limiting factors to target management and assess its impacts.

The LSOHC statewide priorities addressed in this proposal include, but are not limited to:

- Multiple and enduring conservation benefits;
- Use of a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model;
- Addresses wildlife species of greatest conservation need, Minnesota County Biological survey data, and rare, threatened and endangered species inventories in the decision making;
- Will ensure Minnesotans will continue to have quality fishing, hunting, and other outdoor recreation opportunities, and;
- Targets Minnesota landscapes that have historical value to fish and wildlife.

The Northern Forest Section priority actions addressed in the proposal include:

- Primarily, protection of shoreland on cold water lakes and spawning areas; and
- Protection of forest land through easement.

The direct relationship between this proposal and the State of Minnesota, local governments, and the conservation community's conservation goals are well documented in many plans; a summary of some the most applicable plans follow.

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- ❖ Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan: Recommendation H2, pages 62-67, is titled “Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes” and recommends an “increase in private land protection” using a variety of tools including conservation easements and “target shallow wildlife lakes, natural environment lakes, shallow bays of deep lakes, cold-water/designated trout streams, shoreline associated with critical habitat of warm-water streams.” In addition, recommendation H6 includes “work with private landowners on protection and restoration”, “restore natural features of lakeshore habitats—woody habitat, emergent and floating vegetation, and floating vegetation”, and “address negative effects of docks and surface water use on sensitive shoreland habitats.”
- ❖ L-SOHC Northern Forest Conservation Plan Summary: 25 Year Targets: The habitat protection goals on page 4 list the purchase of conservation easements as an action item to protect shallow and wild rice lakes, cold-water streams, lakes and warm-water streams and rivers, and shallow-semi-permanent marshes and deep marshes and open water. Also on page 4, newly protected shoreline is listed as the priority for the restoration and enhancement of habitat.
- ❖ Minnesota Governor’s Conservation Legacy Council Report 2007: The report, on page 9, discusses the extent and importance of Minnesota’s natural resources, including its vast water resources (11,000 lakes, 90,000 miles of streams, and 9+million acres of wetlands) and its great resource diversity, including 147 native fish species, 84 native mammal species, and 311 native bird species. It also points out that enjoying these resources is part of most Minnesotan’s lives: 29 percent fish, 14 percent hunt, and 30 percent visit a Minnesota state park. On page 10, references are made to the significant economic benefits provided by Minnesota’s natural resources—outdoor recreation is \$4 billion per year, creating 57,000 jobs, and contributing over \$227 million in state taxes. On the same page, degradation of water quality from the effects of land development and loss and degradation of habitat are listed among the greatest threats to Minnesota’s natural resources.
- ❖ Minnesota DNR Long Range Duck Recovery Plan. The Duck Recovery Plan states (page 10) that “over the last 20 years development has increased by over 500% in Minnesota’s lake country, the heart of the Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Joint Venture (UMR/GLJV) management area. More than 10% of the “lake homes” are on shallow, non-fishing lakes. Studies have found an average of a 66% reduction in aquatic vegetation along developed shorelines, which dramatically impacts the carrying capacity of the shoreline for ducks, waterfowl and shorebirds. Counties within the UMF/GLJV are also expected to receive the brunt of a 27% increase in Minnesota’s population over the next 25 years.” Page 3 outlines a plan to focus on using current acquisition and easement programs as a primary strategy of protecting 2 million acres of habitat complexes to sustain duck populations; nearly 60%

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of habitat would remain in private ownership. The shallow bays of lakes in North Central Minnesota, which have characteristics similar to shallow lakes, and abundant wild rice beds throughout the region also provide critical habitat for nesting and feeding by waterfowl.

- ❖ The DNR Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Aquatic Management Area (AMA) Long Range Plans : Both outline the need to protect critical habitat for endangered, threatened, and rare species, protect critical habitat threatened by development or other uses, and public/private collaborative acquisition opportunities. The AMA plan ranks the Northern Lakes ecological region as the highest acquisition index of the nine ranked regions (page 17).
- ❖ Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild & Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife  
Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan focuses on species in greatest conservation need (SGCN), those whose populations are rare, declining, or vulnerable, and their habitat. The plan identifies 292 SGCN. On pages 5 & 6, the plan states "the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) is to conserve quality habitat before restoring habitat that has been lost or degraded. The cost of restoration is many times greater than proactive conservation." On page 37, stabilizing and increasing SGCN populations is one of the three primary goals of the CWCS with a key management strategy to accomplish this goal of focusing efforts where there has been significant loss and degradation of habitat. Page 43 lists purchase of private land (either easement or fee title) for the express purpose of conserving critical natural resources is an important conservation action. On page 173, the Pine Moraines and Outwash Plains ecoregion, including Cass and Crow Wing Counties, shows 88% of the SGCN in this subsection suffer from habitat degradation and 83% from habitat loss; for Aitkin County, located in the Tamarack Lowlands ecoregion, habitat degradation and loss impacts 90% of the SGCN. Aquatic habitats are listed as the key focus for The Leech Lake watershed (including Cass County), which has 690 rare features and 89 SGCN, including several on the federal endangered species list. The watershed contains half of all of Minnesota's naturally reproducing Muskie lakes, and the Chippewa National Forest has the highest number of nesting bald eagles in the lower 48 states. The region targeted in this proposal is one of the most biologically diverse regions in Minnesota.
- ❖ Crow Wing, Aitkin, and Cass County Comprehensive Water Plans: The BWSR-approved Comprehensive Water Plan for each participating county identifies conservation easements as a priority action item to protect water quality and critical shoreline habitats from the impacts of increasing shoreland development. Crow Wing County Water Plan (pages 28,29); Cass County Water Plan (page 9); Aitkin County Water Plan (pages 12,13).
- ❖ Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation's Strategic Plan: 2010-2013: Page 3 of the strategic plan states the goal of increasing the scope of conservation of environmentally sensitive land and shorelands in the Leech Lake watershed, and on page 5, quantifies the goal of protecting at least 10 miles of critical shorelands and 2,000 acres by 2013.



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### **Other Supporting Documentation:**

The Minnesota Forests for the Future Program (MFF), aka Forest Legacy, was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 2008 to identify and protect private, working forests, for their timber/economic values, recreation values, and habitat values using conservation easements, fee title, and other tools. The North Central Landscape 25-Year Forestry Implementation Vision (Minnesota Forest Resources Council Landscape region) states on page 1 that “upland riparian areas are under pressure from residential development and should be given special consideration in future management” and on page 2 targets “development of riparian corridors and shorelands” as the emphasis for forestry management goals.

DNR Studies. Paul Radomski, research scientist for the Minnesota DNR, cited the study *Reed, J.R., and D.L. Pereira. 2009. Relationships between shoreline development and nest site selection by black crappie and largemouth bass. North American Journal of Fisheries Management 29:943-948* as scientific evidence that developed shorelines have negative consequences to fish spawning. Radomski says: “The study shows that black crappies are 5 times less likely to nest near developed shoreline, and largemouth bass are 4 times less likely. Crappies are most likely to nest in stands of emergent vegetation, particularly bulrush. Emergent vegetation is more vulnerable and sensitive to human activities, and this fish habitat is lost with shoreline development. The estimated loss of emergent and floating-leaf coverage from human development for all Minnesota’s clearwater centrarchid–walleye lakes was 20–28%. Shoreline development appears to force largemouth bass to nest significantly deeper. Protection of undeveloped shoreline will have benefits to these two species.”

Wisconsin DNR studies, Meyer et al. 1997, Wisconsin DNR, Woodford and Meyer, 2003, showed that as homes along shorelines become more dense, loons, green frogs, and shoreland bird numbers decline significantly; these populations are indicator species of declining habitat. Christensen et. al 1996 showed there are significantly less fallen trees in the waters along developed shorelines as compared to undeveloped shorelines affecting fish communities for about two centuries.

The Minnesota DNR’s Sensitive Shoreland Identification Project ([.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/sli/index](http://dnr.state.mn.us/eco/sli/index).) was a collaborative project of the DNR and Cass County to identify areas along lakeshores that provide unique and critical ecological habitat using science-based criteria applied to the shorelines of 17 large lakes in Cass County.

“These sensitive areas along the shore or in near-shore areas of the lake are crucial to the health and well-being of fish, wildlife, and native plants. Many fish and wildlife species, including many species of greatest conservation need, are highly dependent on naturally vegetated shorelines as habitat for feeding, resting, and mating and juvenile life stages. Development and land alteration in the immediate shoreland and on the shoreline may have significant negative impacts on these species.” Of the 18 lakes in the study, on average, 38% of the shorelines of those lakes are still undeveloped.

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The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Ecoregional Assessments: In Minnesota, TNC has developed four ecoregional assessments for each of the state's major ecological areas. The purpose of these assessments is to design a portfolio of conservation areas that, with proper management, ensures the long-term survival of the species, communities, and ecological systems within a particular region. In the North Central region, targeted lakes in the Brainerd Lakes and Leech Lake areas have been identified as priority lakes and habitats for conservation potential.

### **Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds**

This L-SOHC proposal is predicated on a smaller-scale pilot project currently funded to Cass County by LCCMR for \$300,000. Cass County, working collaboratively with the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, will place 12-15 conservation easements on sensitive shorelands in Cass County. Landowners will donate conservation easements that will be held primarily by Cass County with the Minnesota Land Trust as an alternative holder if desired by the landowner. The professional services to close the easement will be covered by the grant as a financial incentive and stewardship will be provided. This project just started July 1, 2010, but already there are landowners willing to donate about half of the project's allotted easements. The LCCMR project is likely to be completed in two instead of three years, minimizing any potential project overlap.

The Minnesota Land Trust, a statewide land trust, has done conservation easement work in North Central Minnesota previously with LCCMR recommended funding. However, if this L-SOHC proposal is funded, MLT will not use LCCMR funding in this geography.

Funding by LCCMR of the this public/private partnership conservation model speaks highly of the worthiness of regionally expanding the conservation easement incentives program. The strong interest and willingness by landowners and counties to participate provides assurance that the L-SOHC proposal will be a successful project. Further, the LCCMR and L-SOHC proposed project complement each other for efficient use of public funds.

While protecting natural shorelines has water quality benefits by reducing runoff, the primary goal of this project is preventing further degradation of existing high quality shoreline habitats for fish, game and wildlife. Several of the targeted parcels are adjacent to or near DNR Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs) further leveraging prior state investments. Hence, the Outdoor Heritage Fund is the most appropriate source of funding for this proposal.

### **Relationship to Current Organizational Budget**

Since its formation in 1997, the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation (LLAWF), a 501(c)3 regional land trust, has conserved over 15 miles of shoreland and 2,000 acres of land valued at over \$15 million in the Leech Lake watershed. This land conservation has been achieved primarily through fee title acquisitions, often later conveyed to the Minnesota DNR for permanent management as aquatic management areas (AMAs).

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State funds have not been a traditional source of funding for LLAWF's conservation work. Rather, funding has come from individual donations, private foundations, and land transactions and donations.

Two key goals in LLAWF's Strategic Plan: 2010-2013 are: 1) to increase the scope and focus of conservation of environmentally sensitive land and shorelands; and 2) to promote public awareness and education regarding land conservation and sustainable resource management. Through its past conservation work, LLAWF has developed strong relationships with local government and local shoreland landowners. This proposal will enable LLAWF to work collaboratively and efficiently in partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust to increase the scope of land conservation in the North Central region by using conservation easements as a supplementary tool to accomplish strategic organizational goals.

LLAWF brings local connections, organizational skills, and educational opportunities to mesh with MLT's experience and expertise with conservation easements and stewardship. There are no other local land trusts in North Central Minnesota; hence LLAWF an ideal organization to build the scope of land conservation in the region. In addition, Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Cass counties have a commitment to conservation easements in their water plans, but have limited experience in this area. In these lean economic times with funding challenges for nonprofits and local governments, working collaboratively makes economical sense to accomplish the most effective land conservation.

### **Sustainability and Maintenance**

The Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will be the holder (either solely or co-holder) of all the easements funded under this proposal. With each easement it accepts, MLT simultaneously accepts responsibility to protect that land and its conservation values into the future. The easement stewardship will be conducted according to MLT's adopted and practiced Conservation Easement Stewardship Plan, which has been previously approved by the L-SOHC. Annual monitoring of each easement is the core of the stewardship plan, with enforcement and defense as necessary. An estimated average of \$15,000 per easement for stewardship has been included in this proposal for funding by the OHF; however, the actual easement stewardship fee will be determined specifically for each easement according to MLT's standard stewardship formula.

### **Types of Projects**

#### **Fee Acquisition Projects**

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition?

X  Yes\*                       No, please explain                       not applicable

\*When the easement preference is to be co-held with the County.

If no, please explain here:

**Protecting Sensitive Shorelands in North Central Minnesota**

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

X  Yes                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here:

**Easement Acquisition Projects**

Will the eased land be open for public use?

Yes                      X  No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here: Public access is not likely because the land will still be privately owned; however, we will work with landowners to seek angling access, if appropriate. Anglers can fish near shore from the public waters to take advantage of the fish habitat protection benefits.

Will the conservation easement be permanent?

X  Yes                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here:

**Restoration and Enhancement Projects N/A**

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:

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**Accomplishment Timeline**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
Landowner outreach	Landowners of prospective parcels will be contacted and interest determined in donating a conservation easement.	December 2011
Protect 20-25 properties with conservation easement	Transactions completed.	June 2014
Enforce easements	Effective stewardship	Ongoing

**Attachments:**

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

**Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet**

**Protecting Sensitive Shorelands in North Central Minnesota**

**Total Amount of Request**      \$ 2,006,000 *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>LLAWF Program Manager</i>	0.5	3	\$ 108,000			\$ 108,000
<i>MLT Conservation Specialist</i>	0.75	3	\$ 147,000			\$ 147,000
<i>MLT Conservation Staff(0.25</i>	#### 3		\$ 45,000			\$ 45,000
<i>MLT Attorney (0.25FTE)</i>	#### 3		\$ 60,000			\$ 60,000
<i>DNR Shoreline Specialist</i>		1	\$ 15,000			\$ 15,000
<i>position 6</i>						\$ -
<i>position 7</i>						\$ -
<b>Total</b>			\$ 375,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 375,000

**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
<b>Personnel - auto entered from above</b>	\$ 375,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 375,000
<b>Contracts</b>	\$ 27,000			\$ 27,000
<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>				\$ -
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>	\$ 1,000,000			\$ 1,000,000
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>	\$ 336,000			\$ 336,000
<b>Travel (in-state)</b>	\$ 9,000			\$ 9,000
<b>Professional Services</b>	\$ 255,000			\$ 255,000
<b>DNR Land Acquisition Costs</b>				\$ -
<b>Other</b>				\$ 4,000
Capital Equipment	\$ 1,000			\$ 1,000
Other Equipment/Tools				\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 3,000			\$ 3,000
	\$ 2,006,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,006,000

## 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				1200	1200
Enhance					0
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	1200

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

1200

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

1200

*These two cells should be the same figure.*

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

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore					\$ -
Protect				\$ 2,006,000	\$ 2,006,000
Enhance					\$ -
<b>Total</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,006,000	\$ 2,006,000

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 2,006,000

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 2,006,000

*These two cells should be the same figure.*

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					1200	1200
Enhance						0
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1200

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

1200

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

1200

Total Acres from Table 1.

1200

*These three cells should be the same figure.*

## 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					\$ 2,006,000	\$ 2,006,000
Enhance						\$ -
<b>Total</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,006,000	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 2,006,000

*These two cells should be the same figure.*

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 2,006,000

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**

10 # 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				1200	1200

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

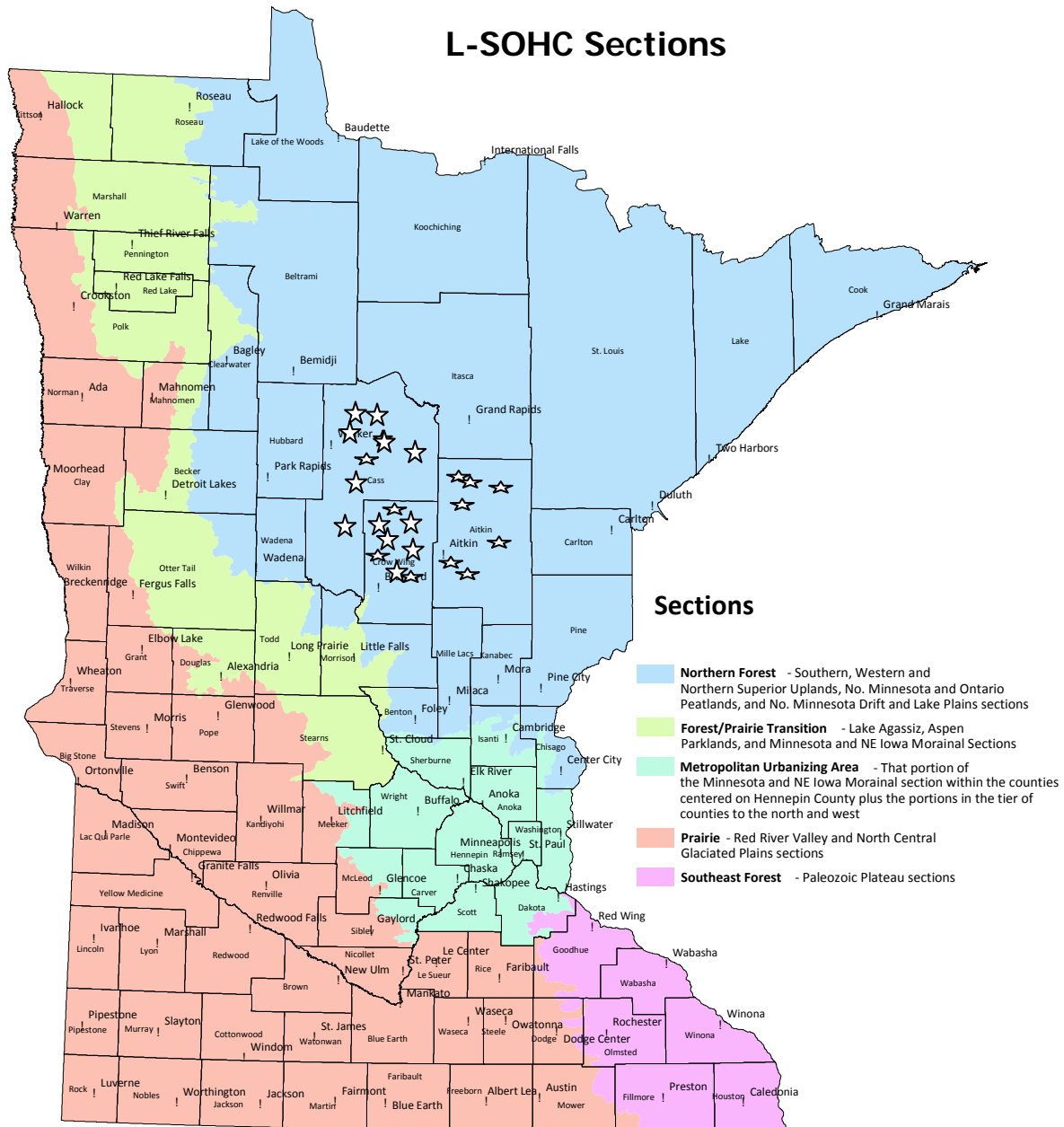
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability					\$ -
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability					\$ -
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability				\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000



## 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

**Protecting Sensitive Shorelands in North Central Minnesota --Targeted Prospective Parcels for Donated and Acquired Conservation Easements**

Parcel Name	County	Township	Range	Direction	Section	TRDS	# of acres	Estimated Cost to OHF*	Assessed Market Value	Description-- Shoreline Length (feet)	Activity R=Restore P=Protect E=Enhance	Any existing protection? (yes/no)	Open to hunting and fishing? (yes/no)	Lake Classification
<b>Conservation Easements/Cass County Targeted Parcel (17) Pool</b>														
Steamboat Lake	Cass	144	31	2	30	14431230	19	\$45,000 per easement	\$784,600.00	1160	p	n	n	GD
Birch Lake (2 parcels)	Cass	140	31	2	24	14031224 14030221	33	\$45,000 per easement	\$160,900.00	2190	p	n	n	GD
Pleasant Lake (3 parcels)	Cass	140	30	2	21 & 33	14030233	155	\$45,000 per easement	\$3,027,100.00	10019	p	n	n	GD
Boy Lake	Cass	142	27	2	21	14227221 14128223	69	\$45,000 per easement	\$924,700.00	3090	p	n	n	GD
Long Lake(3 parcels)	Cass	141	28	2	23 & 27	14128227 1402624 1402625	75	\$45,000 per easement	\$2,629,100.00	6031	p	n	n	RD
Thunder Lake (4 parcels)	Cass	140	26	2	4,5,9	1402629 1333021	642	\$45,000 per easement	\$4,332,500.00	13559	p	n	n	GD
Sylvan Lake (2 parcels)	Cass	133	30	2	1 & 2	1333022 13929222	120	\$45,000 per easement	\$678,400.00	4486	p	n	n	GD
Lake Ada	Cass	139	29	2	22 & 27	13929227	56	\$45,000 per easement	\$840,900.00	4988	p	n	n	RD
<b>Cass County TOTALS</b>							<b>1169</b>		<b>\$13,378,200.00</b>	<b>45523</b>				
<b>Conservation Easements/Crow Wing County Targeted Parcel (12) Pool</b>														
Bay Lake	Crow Wing	45	28	2	15	4528215	10	\$45,000 per easement	\$743,800.00	1191	p	n	n	RD
Big Trout Lake	Crow Wing	137	28	2	23	13728223	47	\$45,000 per easement	\$4,801,300.00	3153	p	n	n	GD
Borden Lake	Crow Wing	44	28	2	15	4428215	67	\$45,000 per easement	\$326,300.00	1363	p	n	n	GD
Cedar Lake	Crow Wing	46	28	2	12	4628212	53	\$45,000 per easement	\$460,500.00	4850	p	n	n	RD
Cross Lake	Crow Wing	137	27	2	31	13727231	15	\$45,000 per easement	\$948,700.00	945	p	n	n	GD
Lake Edward	Crow Wing	135	28	2	11	13528211	34	\$45,000 per easement	\$510,400.00	1514	p	n	n	GD
North Long Lake	Crow Wing	134	28	2	9	1342829	30	\$45,000 per easement	\$219,900.00	1573	p	n	n	GD
Pelican Lake	Crow Wing	136	28	2	27	13628227	60	\$45,000 per easement	\$2,267,300.00	5315	p	n	n	GD
Roosevelt Lake	Crow Wing	138	26	2	4	1382624	29	\$45,000 per easement	\$1,144,700.00	2278	p	n	n	GD
Serpent Lake	Crow Wing	46	28	2	8	462828	7	\$45,000 per easement	\$504,000.00	439	p	n	n	GD
South Long Lake	Crow Wing	44	30	2	13	4430213	43	\$45,000 per easement	\$547,500.00	1699	p	n	n	GD
Whitefish Lake	Crow Wing	138	27	2	7	1382727	30	\$45,000 per easement	\$205,100.00	1385	p	n	n	GD
<b>Crow Wing County Totals</b>							<b>425</b>		<b>\$12,679,500.00</b>	<b>25705</b>				
<b>Conservation Easements/Aitkin County Targeted Parcel (10) Pool</b>														
						4627232								
Farm Island Lake (2 parcels)	Aitkin	46	27	2	32,33	4627233	80	\$45,000 per easement	\$865,000	2300	P	n	n	RD
Farm Island Lake (1 parcel)	Aitkin	45	25	2	5	452525	57	\$45,000 per easement	\$340,000	1400	p	n	n	RD

**Attachment D. Parcel List**

Cedar Lake	Aitkin	46	27	2	7	4627231	48	\$45,000 per easement	\$235,000	1500	p	n	n	RD
Cedar Lake	Aitkin	47	27	2	31	4727231	216	\$45,000 per easement	\$675,000	3200				RD
Gun Lake	Aitkin	48	25	2	17	4825217	42	\$45,000 per easement	\$480,000	1375	p	n	n	RD
Esquagamah Lake	Aitkin	49	26	2	7	492627	80	\$45,000 per easement	\$300,000	1320	p	n	n	RD
Waukenabo Lake	Aitkin	49	26	2	10	4926210	149	\$45,000 per easement	\$525,000	1000	p	n	n	RD
Minnewawa Lake	Aitkin	29	23	2	21	2923221	43	\$45,000 per easement	\$850,000	3300	p	n	n	GD
Round Lake	Aitkin	49	23	2	25	4923225	41	\$45,000 per easement	\$590,000	2100	p	n	n	RD
<b>Aitkin County Totals</b>							<b>756</b>		<b>\$4,860,000</b>	<b>17495</b>				

\*This is an average based on OHF request and number of proposed donated easements (excludes direct acquisition )

**Easement Acquisitions -Prospects**

Pine Mountain Lake	Cass	139	30	2	19	13930219	436	\$500,000	\$800,000	8440	p	n	n	GD
Leech Lake (6 parcels/Miller Bay-Leech Lake)	Cass	142	29	2	31	14229231	18	\$500,000	\$700,000	5000	p	n	n	GD