

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2012 Accomplishment Plan

Date: October 24, 2011

Program Title: DNR Wildlife Management Area Acquisition

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Funds Recommended: \$ \$2,900,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2012, Ch. X, Art. X, Sec. X, Subd. 2 (d): *(to be completed when signed by Governor)*

Abstract: Our program will acquire and develop 706 acres of new Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) lands for public hunting, trapping and compatible outdoor uses consistent with the Outdoor Recreation Act (M.S. 86A.05, Subd.8).

Program Narrative

Design and Scope of Work

Minnesota's population has grown by over 1 million people, to 5.3 million, in the past 20 years and is projected to continue this growth rate for the next 20 years. Thousands of acres of habitat are being converted to intensive commercial, residential, and agricultural development each year. Due to the current recession, land prices have stabilized or declined and a short-term opportunity exists to purchase more value for our expenditures.

Lands acquired will become part of the Outdoor Recreation System (M.S. 86A.06) as WMAs. This project includes the initial land development of each parcel acquired including boundary surveys and signage, well and septic closure, building and dump disposal, restoration of shallow temporary and seasonal wetlands and restoration of bare ground with native vegetation.

Management Areas

This proposal will protect 706 acres of wildlife habitat through acquisition and development as State Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Lands will be acquired and developed within each Ecological Planning Region following general guidelines from the 2002 Citizens' Advisory Committee on WMA acquisition and the 2013 LSOHC Call for Funding Request. This proposal emphasizes WMA protection in the Prairie and Metro/Urban LSOHC planning sections.

WMAs are established to protect those lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and to develop and manage these lands and waters for the production of wildlife, for public hunting, fishing and trapping, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses. While highly successful, the current WMA system does not meet all of the present and future needs for wildlife habitat, wildlife population management, hunter access and wildlife related recreation.

DNR Section of Wildlife uses a geospatial analytical (GIS) based tool to identify the highest priority tracts for potential Wildlife Management Area (WMA) acquisitions. This ensures that funds are used to acquire the effective available land consistent with the statutory purpose of WMAs. This approach uses a quantitative or data based approach to score and rank acquisition proposals based on a set of weighted criteria and creates a standardized method for evaluating proposed acquisitions on a statewide level. Criteria and weights are annually reviewed and adapted to changing conditions and priorities.

The WMA acquisition program is guided by the 2002 Citizens' Committee report. This committee was composed of a diverse group of eleven major stakeholder groups. A master list of potential acquisition opportunities from willing sellers is coordinated with interested stakeholders to eliminate duplication and identify concerns or support. All WMA acquisitions by DNR require approval of the County Board of Commissioners in the county of acquisition.

Planning

Strategic habitat conservation is defined as an iterative process of developing and refining a conservation strategy, making efficient management decisions, and using research and monitoring to assess accomplishments and inform future iterations of the conservation strategy. DNR has implemented a GIS computer model to assess, prioritize and rank individual land parcels using a variety of ecological and functional criteria to ensure that the best available parcels are being considered.

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

Past acquisitions for WMAs have been funded in part by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as part of the Habitat Corridors Partnership.

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 2010 expenditures (not including Bonding) as an example of what DNR spends in a given year:

Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2010, not including Bonding funds

DNR total - \$456 million

Division of Ecological and Water Resources total - \$74.6 million

Division of Fish and Wildlife total - \$90.3 million

Division of Forestry total - \$83.2 million

Sustainability and Maintenance

Ongoing maintenance of WMAs is a core function of DNR Section of Wildlife and will be funded with biennial appropriations from the Game and Fish Fund and the Heritage Enhancement Fund. Periodic enhancements or one time restorations will seek supplemental funding from a variety of funding sources including Outdoor Heritage Funds, Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and state bonding.

Outcomes

Completing the acquisition and protection of available lands within existing Wildlife Management Areas and protecting important wildlife habitat are critical priorities. ultimate outcomes for this program include sufficient habitat to sustain the ecological integrity of the prairie, forest, and wetland landscapes for game and non-game animals and plants as well as increased game populations and hunting opportunities on the parcels managed. This will ultimately create continued public support for natural resource management and wildlife based recreational opportunities. Additional outcomes by planning section follows.

Northern Forest

- ❖ Public access for wildlife and outdoor-related recreation is increased.
- ❖ Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation

Forest/Prairie Transition

- ❖ Habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need is protected.

Southeast Forest

- ❖ Forests and savannas are protected from parcelization and fragmentation and accessible for resource management purposes

- ❖ High priority riparian lands are protected from parcelization and fragmentation

Prairie

- ❖ Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife.
- ❖ Remnant native prairie and wetland are perpetually protected and adequately buffered.
- ❖ Remnant native prairie is part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands.
- ❖ Agricultural lands are converted to grasslands to sustain functioning prairies.

Metro/Urban

- ❖ A network of natural land habitats will connect, making corridors for wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation.
- ❖ Protected habitats will hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Milestone	Date Completed
Fee Acquisition	706 acres acquired	June 30, 2014
Initial site development of acquired acres completed	706 acres developed	June 30, 2017

Attachments (*on spreadsheet workbook – 3 separate tabs*):

- Budget
- Proposed Outcome Tables
- Parcel List

No Map is needed for the accomplishment plan

Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet

Name of Proposal:	DNR Wildlife Management Area Acquisition
Date:	24-Oct-11
	Dennis Simon

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

Total Amount of Request \$ 2,900,000 *From page 1 on the funding form.*

Personnel

Position breakdown here	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash		Total
				Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	
<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>					\$	-
Total	0		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

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		Total
		Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	
Personnel - auto entered from above	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contracts	\$ 141,200			\$ 141,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT (breakout in table 7)	\$ 2,618,555			\$ 2,618,555
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT (breakout in table 7)				\$ -
Easement Acquisition				\$ -
Easement Stewardship				\$ -
Travel (in-state)				\$ -
Professional Services	\$ 128,500			\$ 128,500
Direct Support Services	\$ 1,745			\$ 1,745
DNR Land Acquisition Costs (\$3,500 per acquisition)				\$ -
Other				\$ 10,000
Capital Equipment <i>(auto entered from below)</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Other Equipment/Tools				\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000
	\$ 2,900,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,900,000

Capital Equipment *(single items over \$10,000 - auto entered into table above)*

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Leverage
<i>Truck</i>		
<i>Item 2 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 3 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 4 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 5 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 6 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 7 enter here</i>		
<i>Item 8 enter here</i>		
Total	-	-

Attachment B. Output Tables

Name of Proposal:	DNR Wildlife Management Area Acquisition
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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 Fee		265.7	440		705.7
Protect Easement					0
Protect Other					0
Enhance					0
Total	0	265.7	440	0	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)
Total Acres (sum of Total row)

705.7
705.7 *These two cells should be the same figure.*

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore					\$ -
Protect Fee		\$ 1,743,800	\$ 1,156,200		\$ 2,900,000
Protect Easement					\$ -
Protect Other					\$ -
Enhance					\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ 1,743,800	\$ 1,156,200	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)
Total Dollars (sum of Total row)
Check to make sure this amount is the same as the Funding Request Amount on page 1 of Main Funding Form.

\$ 2,900,000
\$ 2,900,000 *These two cells should be the same figure.*

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore						0
Protect Fee	245.3	80	40	140.4	200	705.7
Protect Easement						0
Protect Other						0
Enhance						0
Total	245.3	80	40	140.4	200	

Total Acres (sum of Total column)
Total Acres (sum of Total row)
Total Acres from Table 1.

705.7
705.7
705.7 *These three cells should be the same figure.*

Attachment B. Output Tables

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore						\$ -
Protect Fee	\$ 1,197,830	\$ 196,905	\$ 135,953	\$ 1,039,549	\$ 329,763	\$ 2,900,000
Protect Easement						\$ -
Protect Other						\$ -
Enhance						\$ -
Total	\$ 1,197,830	\$ 196,905	\$ 135,953	\$ 1,039,549	\$ 329,763	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column) \$ 2,900,000
 Total Dollars (sum of Total row) \$ 2,900,000
 Check to make sure these amounts are the same as the Funding Request Amount on page 1 of Main Funding Form.

These two cells should be the same figure.

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		265.7	440		705.7
Acquired in Fee w/o State PILT Liability					0
Permanent Easement PILT Liability	NO State				0
	0	265.7	440	0	

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

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability		\$ 1,598,555	\$ 1,020,000		\$ 2,618,555	\$ 2,618,555
Acquired in Fee w/o State PILT Liability					\$ -	\$ -
Permanent Easement PILT Liability	NO State				\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ 1,598,555	\$ 1,020,000	\$ -		

FYI: should match total in budget table that is auto entered below

Attachment C. Parcel List

Name of Proposal:

DNR Wildlife Management Area Acquisition

Date:

24-Oct-11

Dennis Simon

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 PF=Protect Fee PE=Protect Easement PO=Protect Other R=Restore E=Enhance	If Easement, what is the easement cost as a % of the fee acquisition?	Any existing protection? (yes/no)	Open to hunting and fishing? (yes/no)
Pelican Lake Tr. 10	Wright	120	24	2	17	12024217	45.30	\$450,000	Pelican Lake has been identified as a high priority area for restoration and lakeshore acquisition by DNR and the USFWS. This parcel would greatly augment Wright County, City of St. Michael, USFWS and DNR efforts to protect Pelican Lake shoreline and buffer human development impacts. This area would be a stand-out area for grassland and wetland habitat development.	PF	No	Yes
Gordie Mikkelson Tr. 1B	Anoka	33	22	2	8	332228	40	\$150,000	20 acres of hay crop and 20 acres woodland. This parcel connects 2 disjunct parcels of the the Gordie Mikkelson WMA and is within the project boundary of this WMA. Purchase of this parcel would eliminate the 1/4 mile distance from the current parking lot to the WMA	PF	No	Yes
Janet Johnson Memorial Tr. 8	Chisago	35	21	2	34	3521234	10.00	\$50,000	Solve neighbor issues and add habitat to this WMA	PF	No	Yes
Kunkel Tr. 30	Mille Lacs	36	27	2	33	3627233	150.00	\$450,000	Of the 161 acres in the acquisition: 50 acres of type 2 wetlands, 60 acres of oak woodlands, 51 acres of upland grass which will be restored to native prairie. Excellent nesting habitat for waterfowl and pheasants. This parcel will also provide access to part of the existing Kunkel WMA that to this date was difficult to obtain. We will be able to manage parcels of land that were inaccessible. Our clientele will not only gain 161 acres of huntable land, but yet another access to one of our largest and most diverse WMAs.	PF	No	Yes
Metro Urban						245.3	\$1,100,000					
Blackhoof River Tr. 12	Carlton	47	17	2	25	4717225	200.00	\$250,000	Parcel contains a hunting cabin and well, it is centrally located in the WMA and includes .92 miles of the Blackhoof River. It is rolling topography made up of aspen/birch forests with some red and white pine	PF	No	Yes
Northern Forest						200.0	\$250,000					
Lac qui Parle Tr. C61	Chippewa	118	42	2	13	11842213	27.00	\$298,555	This is an inholding of the LQP Refuge and important to remove future disturbance. It is a commercial hunt club facility. Buildings & business pose the biggest issues, but a life estate could mitigate this.	PF	No	Yes
Magaksica	Freeborn	102	22	2	13	10222213	7.5	\$50,000	This is for the rounding out of the original Remakel acquisition. The acquisition would be to give better access and prevent development encumbrances on the existing ownership. The landowner is now willing to sell his interest to the state except for the building site. The land is suitable for upland nesting cover and hunting.	PF	No	Yes
Swan Lake Courtland West Tr. 6	Nicollet	110	29	2	30	11029230	105.90	\$635,000	Additional 105.9 acres to existing Courland West Unit (127.4 acres). Provide additional nesting cover to the 10,000 plus acre Swan Lake Complex. Opportunity to restore 5 small seasonally flooded wetlands important to waterfowl during spring migration.	PF	No	Yes
Prairie						140.40	\$983,555					

Attachment C. Parcel List

Name of Proposal:

DNR Wildlife Management Area Acquisition

Date:

24-Oct-11

Dennis Simon

County	Township (25-258)	Range (01-51)	Direction (most parcels are 2 with the exception of some areas)	Section (01 thru 36)	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 PF=Protect Fee PE=Protect Easement PO=Protect Other R=Restore E=Enhance	If Easement, what is the cost as a % of the fee acquisition?	Any existing protection? (yes/no)	Open to hunting and fishing? (yes/no)	
Parcel Name													
Little Elk Tr. 8	Morrison	130	31	2	18	13031218	80.00	\$165,000	High biodiversity intact mesic hardwood forest and wetland. This is an inholding in project boundary. Would provide additional hunting opportunity, and address access issues across WMA (parcel is currently landlocked, requiring access through WMA by annual permit). Purchase of this tract will resolve access issues and prevent the possibility that private landowner will request Township grant permanent access across the WMA. Acquisition will also prevent development of parcel adjacent to existing WMA boundary.	PF		No	Yes
Prairie Transition							80.00	\$165,000					
Whitewater Tr. 4	Winona	108	10	2	17	10810217	40.00	\$120,000	This parcel abuts current WMA lands and would round out the wooded acreage in this area providing habitat for deer, turkey, grouse, and woodcock. This parcel will require no development aside from boundary posting. This land has been selectively harvested and is regenerating to central hardwoods.	PF		No	Yes
Southeast Forest							40.00	\$120,000					
Grand Total							705.70	\$2,618,555					