

Main Request for Funding Form
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Fiscal Year 2013

Program or Project Title: Acquisition: State Forest Land

Funds Requested: \$ 2,110,000

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County Location: *Fillmore, Houston, Wabasha, Winona*

Ecological Planning Regions:

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

Activity Type:

- Protect - Fee Protect - Easement Protect - Other

 Restore Enhance

Priority Resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands Forests Prairie Habitat

Project Abstract

Priority lands will be acquired and developed as State Forests to protect forests, habitat and provide public hunting, trapping and compatible outdoor uses.

Project 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 State Forests. This project includes the initial land development of each parcel acquired including boundary surveys and signage, well and septic closure, building and dump disposal, and restoration of bare ground with native vegetation. This program is supported by all traditional outdoor stakeholders.

Forests

This proposal will protect 880 acres of critical forestland habitat and provide access to over 1,000 acres of State Forest (SF) through fee acquisition.

The Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwoods State Forest (RJ Dorer) in southeast Minnesota is a unique forest biome of rolling hills, goat prairie, and river bottom forest. This forest provides habitat to deer, turkey, rattlesnakes, trout, many migratory birds and flora and fauna of special concern. The state land within the RJ Dorer provides significant outdoor recreational opportunities. To provide public access to all of this forest, 170 private land parcels or easements are needed. To consolidate fragmented state forest, 120 additional private land parcels containing 4700 acres would need to be acquired. This proposal continues the work of acquiring key land parcels from willing sellers. The parcels to be acquired either provide access to large areas of currently inaccessible state land or consolidate fragmented forestland, mostly in connection with streams and rivers. These acquisitions will protect the declining forest base from fragmentation due to development and provide opportunities to further enhance habitat for fish, game and other wildlife.

Parcels were selected from a pool of desirable parcels identified in area land asset management plans. These pool parcels were selected from three classifications; those providing access to state land, those consolidating fragmented state land parcels, and those providing protection of a critical forest habitat. Parcels were further prioritized by the acres accessed, completion of consolidation and values protected. All known stakeholders are supportive of these acquisitions including county boards and forest user groups such as the Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association which has contributed funding for previous acquisitions.

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. The priority setting process for acquiring and protecting state lands described above meets this definition.

Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans

This project will protect habitat in Minnesota. All published resource management and species plans recognize that habitat is critical for the success of Minnesota's fish and wildlife species. Lack of funding is consistently listed in many plans as one of the largest issues limiting the amount of protection that is completed each year.

This project addresses three of the five strategic areas of the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan; Critical Land Protection, Land and Water Restoration and Protection and Sustainability Practices.

H1: Protect priority land habitats (pg 63)

H2: Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes (pg 67)

H3: Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation (pg 74)

LU 8: Protect large blocks of forested land (pg 130)

L10: Support and expand sustainable practices on working forested lands (pg 131)

Other plans that list habitat protection as priorities include:

- The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Strategies #1 and 2.
- Other plans that identify priorities addressed by this proposal include: The Statewide Forest Resources Management Plan, the Richard J. Dorer State Forest Plan, the Land Asset Management Plan for each area, the Southeast Landscape Plan, the Upper Mississippi Forest Plan, the Lower Zumbro Plan and the Vermillion Plan.

This proposal addresses the following LSOHC Section Priorities

Southeast Forest

1. Protect forest habitat through acquisition in fee or easement, to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties.
2. Protect, enhance and restore habitat for fish, game and non-game wildlife in rivers, cold water streams and associated upland habitat.
3. Protect, enhance and restore remnant goat prairies.
4. Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in aerial extent in recent decades.

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:

FY09 Approximate Expenditures (not including Bonding funds):

DNR - \$456 M

FOR Division - \$83.2 M

Sustainability and Maintenance

Long-term, sustainable State Forest land management is accomplished mainly through commercial timber management following the tenants of the Southeast Landscape Plan and guided by Start Forest Resource Management Plans with funds from the DNR Forest Management Investment Account. Significant intermediate or post sale management may also be funded through state bonding.

Outcomes

Short-term – as forest land is acquired, more opportunities for outdoor recreation will be immediately realized with less conflict with private land. The in-holdings in the state forest acquired will reduce the private/state boundary conflicts enabling all users to better understand where state land is available for recreation and other forest uses. This increases citizen satisfaction through improved user experience.

Long-term – critical forest habitat will be protected from development and managed for critical habitat values including healthy lands, waters, habitat and fish populations.

Inputs	Outputs	Outcomes	
		Short-term results	Long-term results
<p>Investment for Acquisition *\$1.6 MM for fee acquisition <u>Capitol</u> *0.1 FTE for acquisition *\$176M for professional services</p> <p>Investment for Development of Acquired Lands *\$210,000 for contract services *\$4600 for support services <u>Capitol</u> *1.2 FTE for development staff</p>	<p>Protect forestland through acquisition or easement, to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties</p> <p>*880 Acres Land Acquired *2 miles of shoreline protected *1 mile of bluff protected *Access 700 acres of existing state land</p>	<p>Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation and accessible for management and recreation *880 acres protected, all connected to existing state forest land *Provides greater access to over 700 acres of existing state forest land Increased availability and improved condition of riparian and bluffland forests and other habitat corridors *2 miles of streams protected *1 mile of bluff protected</p>	<p>Forestlands provide multiple enduring conservation benefits in the face of climate change and other major stressors: *healthy terrestrial and aquatic habitat for fish, game, and other wildlife species *abundant access to forestlands for outdoor recreation *healthy watersheds and clean water *Healthy waters and lands *Increased user satisfaction</p>

Activity Type Detail
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:

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Milestone	Date completed
Acquire land parcels	At least 240 acres of State Forest acquired	June 30, 2014
Acquire land parcels	At least 640 acres of State Forest acquired	June 30, 2015
Initial Site Development Complete	Bare ground vegetated, all non-natural features removed and protection and use management in place on all newly acquired parcels	June 30, 2017

Attachments:

- A. Budget**
- B. Proposed Output Tables 1-5**
- C. Parcel List**

Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet

Name of Proposal:	Acquisition: State Forest Lands
Date:	20-Jun-11
Legal Citation / Proposal Number:	

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

Total Amount of Request \$ 2,110,000 *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>Contract Mgt Spec</i>	0.2	4	\$ 16,231		\$	16,231
<i>Acquisition Spec</i>	0.1	2	\$ 8,115		\$	8,115
<i>Development Field Staff position 4</i>	1	4	\$ 81,154		\$	81,154
<i>position 5</i>					\$	-
<i>position 6</i>					\$	-
<i>position 7</i>					\$	-
Total	1.3		\$ 105,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105,500

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	\$ 105,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105,500
Contracts	\$ 210,000			\$ 210,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT (breakout in table 6 & 7)	\$ 1,613,900			\$ 1,613,900
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT (breakout in table 6 & 7)				\$ -
Easement Acquisition				\$ -
Easement Stewardship				\$ -
Travel (in-state)				\$ -
Professional Services	\$ 176,000			\$ 176,000
DNR Direct Support Services (DNR programs only)	\$ 4,600			\$ 4,600
DNR Land Acquisition Costs				\$ -
Other				\$ -
Capital Equipment <i>(auto entered from below)</i>	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Other Equipment/Tools				\$ -
Supplies/Materials				\$ -
	\$ 2,110,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,110,000

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

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Leverage
<i>Item 1 enter here</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	0	0

Attachment B. Outcome Tables

Name of Proposal:	Acquisition: State Forest lands
Date:	20-Jun-11
Legal Citation / Proposal Number:	

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			880		880
Enhance					0
Total	0	0	880	0	0

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

880

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

880

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore					\$ -
Protect			\$ 2,110,000		\$ 2,110,000
Enhance					\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,110,000	\$ -	\$ -

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 2,110,000

These two cells should be the same figure.

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 2,110,000

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			880			880
Enhance						0
Total	0	0	880	0	0	0

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

880

These three cells should be the same figure.

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

880

Total Acres from Table 1.

880

Attachment B. Outcome Tables

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore						\$ -
Protect			\$ 2,110,000			\$ 2,110,000
Enhance						\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,110,000	\$ -	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column) \$ 2,110,000 *These two cells should be the same figure.*
 Total Dollars (sum of Total row) \$ 2,110,000
 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

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			880		880
Acquired in Fee w/o State PILT Liability					0
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability					0
	0	0	880	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			\$ 1,613,700		\$ 1,613,700
Acquired in Fee w/o State PILT Liability					\$ -
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability					\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,613,700	\$ -	

Attachment C. Parcel List

Name of Proposal: Acquisition: State Forest Lands
Date: 20-Jun-11
Legal Citation / Proposal Number: _____

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)
RJ Dorer SFT addition	Houston	102	4	2	21	10204221	240	\$404,000	Novotny - provides access and reduces state/private boundary	P	no	yes
RJ Dorer SFT addition	Wabasha	110	10	2	18	11010218	115	\$346,000	Tentis - provides access and reduces state/private boundary	P	no	yes
RJ Dorer SFT addition	Houston	104	7	2	33	10407233	45	\$110,000	Paulson-fills in state forest	P	no	yes
RJ Dorer SFT addition	Winona	105	9	2	35	10509235	40	\$98,000	Smith-fills in state forest	P	no	yes
RJ Dorer SFT addition	Fillmore	104	10	2	36	10410236	35	\$86,000	Estby-fills in state forest	P	no	yes
RJ Dorer SFT addition	Houston	103	5	2	19	10305219	40	\$200,000	Yohe-fills in state forest & protects trout stream	P	no	yes
RJ Dorer SFT addition	Houston	103	6	2	24	10306224	34	" "	" "	"	"	"
RJ Dorer SFT addition	Houston	103	5	2	19	10305219	83	\$210,000	Zack - reduces state/private boundary	P	no	yes
RJ Dorer SFT addition	Houston	101	4	2	34	10104234	60	\$180,000	Fink - reduces state/private boundary	P	no	yes
RJ Dorer SFT addition	Winona	106	5	2	7	10605207	40	\$250,000	Mortain-Protects bluff	P	no	yes
RJ Dorer SFT addition	Winona	106	6	2	12	10606212	58	" "	" "			
RJ Dorer SFT addition	Houston	103	7	2	24	10307224	90	\$226,000	Ask - reduces state/private boundary	P	no	yes
								\$2,110,000				