

## Main Request for Funding Form

### Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2014 / ML 2013 Proposal

**Program or Project Title:** Minnesota Forests for the Future/State Forests

**Funds Requested:** \$13,085,000

**Manager's Name:** David Schuller

**Title:** Lands Program Coordinator

**Organization:** DNR - Forestry

**Street Address:** 500 Lafayette Road

**City:** St. Paul, MN 55304

**Telephone:** 651-259-5255

**E-Mail:** david.schuller@state.mn.us

**Organization Web Site:**

**County Locations:** Carlton, Cass, Cook, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Itasca, Kooch, Lake, Mille Lacs, Pine, Sherburne, St. Louis, Wabasha, and Winona.

#### Ecological Planning Regions:

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Southeast Forest

#### Activity Type:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

#### Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest

### Abstract

Protect up to 22,000 of acres of forest habitat with working forest easements and fee purchases in northern, transition and southeast forest regions. Protection will reduce forest parcelization and fragmentation, improve forest habitat, enhance public recreational access and support forestry jobs.

### Activity Detail

### Design and Scope of Work

Working forests provide clean water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and economic stability to rural Minnesota. These benefits are threatened by development on private and industry lands scattered throughout state forests. This fracturing of forest land disrupts wildlife, threatens clean water, limits recreational opportunities, reduces management efficiencies and threatens the stability of the timber industry. This proposal seeks funding to capitalize on opportunities to protect working forests through acquiring in holdings that currently fracture the continuity of the forest ecosystem and acquiring conservation easements that protect working forests from development and other incompatible uses. Through these acquisitions critical access for recreation and management to non-accessible state lands will also be achieved.

This proposal continues the successful Forests for the Future and other programs that have protected large blocks of forest land habitat resulting in landscape-scale forest conservation across the northern forest section. This proposal also accelerates protection of the fragile driftless area contained in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwoods State Forest in southeast Minnesota. All acquisitions will capitalize on emerging opportunities from willing sellers. The Minnesota Forest for the Future Program uses a Geographic Information System-based decision support tool to identify and prioritize parcels critical for protecting large blocks of forest land from parcelization, conversion, and fragmentation. This statewide analysis uses recreational, economic, and ecological data to provide indices of priority forest lands.

This proposal seeks to protect up to 22,000 acres of forest habitat including 3,000 acres of forest habitat through fee acquisition and over 18,000 acres of forest habitat through conservation easements. In the process, these projects will protect several miles of stream (including several stretches of designated trout streams and trout stream tributaries), river and lake shoreline including portions of a wild rice lake, extensive areas of intact forested wetlands and enhance forest habitat.

Enhancement efforts are planned that will include reforestation and establishing other vegetation on newly acquired properties that are in the greatest threat of erosion that would affect water quality and the ability to reestablish forest habitat.

## Planning

### **MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities**

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- LU6 Reduce Upland and gully erosion through soil conservation practices
- LU8 Protect large blocks of forest land
- LU10 Support and expand sustainable practices on working forested lands

### **Plans Addressed**

- Driftless Area Restoration Effort
- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework
- State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare
- Minnesota Forests for the Future Strategic Plan

## **LSOHC Statewide Priorities**

- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Are able to leverage effort and/or other funds to supplement any OHF appropriation
- Allow public access. This comes into play when all other things about the request are approximately equal
- Address conservation opportunities that will be lost if not immediately acted on
- Restore or enhance habitat on state-owned WMAs, AMAs, SNAs, and state forests
- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model
- Address wildlife species of greatest conservation need, Minnesota County Biological Survey data, and rare, threatened and endangered species inventories in land and water decisions, as well as permanent solutions to aquatic invasive species
- Provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities
- Ensures activities for "protecting, restoring and enhancing" are coordinated among agencies, non profits and others while doing this important work

## **LSOHC Forest Prairie Transition Section Priorities**

- Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

## **LSOHC Northern Forest Section Priorities**

- Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas
- Protect forestland through acquisition or easement to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties
- Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

## **LSOHC Southeast Forest Section Priorities**

- 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
- Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

## **Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds**

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Clean Water Fund

## **Accelerates or Supplements Current Efforts**

This proposal continues current efforts to protect forest lands by addressing new, unfunded opportunities to acquire critical forest habitat from new willing sellers. Past funding through Outdoor Heritage and other funds have realized over 3,100 acres of fee title acquisition of forest land in holdings toward a statewide goal of

80,000 acres and over 340,000 acres of working forest conservation easements toward a statewide goal of 500,000 acres.

## Sustainability and Maintenance

Consolidating and providing access to state forest land will reduce future management costs. This proposal requests funds for acquisition and initial enhancement of forest lands which do not require future maintenance costs. This proposal requests funds for easement stewardship that will support ongoing easement monitoring and management.

*Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition? - Yes*

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

*Is this land open for hunting and fishing? - Yes*

State Forests are open for hunting and fishing, no variation from State of Minnesota regulations is needed.

*Will the eased land be open for public use? - Yes*

Working forest easements will be open to public recreation use and include access for hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, birdwatching and other similar uses.

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

## Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Acquire lands in fee title	06/30/2016
Acquire conservation easements on working forests	06/30/2016
Enhance acquired fee title lands subject to erosion or other environmental damage	06/30/2018

## Outcomes

### Programs in the northern forest region

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation
- Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species
- Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors
- Landlocked public properties have increased access for land managers
- Public access to private forest lands for hunting and fishing

### Programs in forest-prairie transition region

- Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors

## **Programs in southeast forest region**

- High priority riparian lands, forestlands, and savannas are protected from parcelization and fragmentation
- Landlocked public properties have increased access for land managers
- Remnant goat prairies are perpetually protected
- Rivers, streams, and surrounding vegetation provide corridors of habitat
- Stream to bluff habitat restoration and enhancement will keep water on the land to slow runoff and degradation of aquatic habitat

## Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$13,085,000

### Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$120,000	\$40,000	-	\$160,000
Contracts	\$600,000	\$100,000	-Bonding	\$700,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$5,650,000	\$0	-	\$5,650,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$6,000,000	\$0	-	\$6,000,000
Easement Stewardship	\$200,000	\$0	-	\$200,000
Travel (in-state)	\$10,000	\$0	-	\$10,000
Professional Services	\$400,000	\$20,000	General Fund-	\$420,000
Direct Support Services	\$100,000	\$0	-	\$100,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$5,000	\$0	-	\$5,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Total	\$13,085,000	\$160,000	-	\$13,245,000

### Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Project coordinator	0.60	2.00	\$120,000	\$40,000	USFS Federal FLP	\$160,000
Total	0.60	2.00	\$120,000	\$40,000	-	\$160,000

### Capital Equipment

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Total	\$0	\$0	-	\$0

## Output Tables

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	2,985	0	2,985
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	18,500	0	18,500
Enhance	0	0	600	0	600
Total	0	0	22,085	0	22,085

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$6,076,000	\$0	\$6,076,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$6,404,000	\$0	\$6,404,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$605,000	\$0	\$605,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$13,085,000	\$0	\$13,085,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	120	925	0	1,940	2,985
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	18,500	18,500
Enhance	0	0	400	0	200	600
Total	0	120	1,325	0	20,640	22,085

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$580,000	\$3,214,000	\$0	\$2,282,000	\$6,076,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,404,000	\$6,404,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$403,000	\$0	\$202,000	\$605,000
Total	\$0	\$580,000	\$3,617,000	\$0	\$8,888,000	\$13,085,000

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles

0 miles



## Parcel List

### Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

### Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Carlton

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Fond du Lac 1	04920213	80	\$90,000	No	Full	Full
Fond du Lac 2	049192N	80	\$50,000	No	Full	Full

Cass

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Pillsbury	13530236	80	\$200,000	No	Full	Full

Cook

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Pat Bayle	06301201	40	\$95,000	No	Full	Full

Fillmore

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD6E	10410236	35	\$95,000	No	Full	Full

Goodhue

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD3W	11214224	40	\$175,000	No	Full	Full

Houston

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD1F	10104234	60	\$250,000	No	Full	Full
RJD4A	10307224	91	\$300,000	No	Full	Full
RJD9N	10204221	240	\$450,000	No	Full	Full

Itasca

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Big Fork	150252N	1,040	\$980,000	No	Full	Full
Bowstring 1	14526202	120	\$110,000	No	Full	Full
Bowstring 2	14626224	240	\$350,000	No	Full	Full

Golden	05424218	34	\$120,000	No	Full	Full
MFF CE Big Fork	061232N	0	\$0	No	Full	Full
MFF CE Big Fork	061242N	0	\$0	No	Full	Full
MFF CE Big Fork	061252N	0	\$0	No	Full	Full
MFF CE Big Fork	061262N	0	\$0	No	Full	Full
MFF CE Big Fork Totals	NNNAN	8,500	\$1,900,000	No	Full	Full

#### Kooch

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Pine Island	15325206	40	\$15,000	No	Full	Full

#### Lake

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MFF CE Lake Co Phase 2	058082N	0	\$0	No	Full	Full
MFF CE Lake Co Phase 2	056112N	0	\$0	No	Full	Full
MFF CE Lake Co Phase 2	056102N	0	\$0	No	Full	Full
MFF CE Lake Co Phase 2	056092N	0	\$0	No	Full	Full
MFF CE Lake Co Phase 2	055112N	0	\$0	No	Full	Full
MFF CE Lake Co Phase 2	055102N	0	\$0	No	Full	Full
MFF CE Lake Co Phase 2 Totals	NNNaNN	10,000	\$4,600,000	No	Full	Full

#### Mille Lacs

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Rum River 1	03926202	40	\$175,000	No	Full	Full
Rum River 2	04027210	60	\$240,000	No	Full	Full

#### Pine

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
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St. Croix	04216232	80	\$260,000	No	Full	Full
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#### Sherburne

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Sand Dunes 1	03427225	40	\$90,000	No	Full	Full
Sand Dunes 2	03427224	80	\$575,000	No	Full	Full

#### St. Louis

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Kabetogama	06419202	4	\$7,000	Yes	Full	Full

#### Wabasha

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD10	11011223	120	\$350,000	No	Full	Full
RJD5H	109132N	200	\$600,000	No	Full	Full

#### Winona

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD2S	10509235	38	\$180,000	No	Full	Full
RJD7M	10606212	40	\$95,000	No	Full	Full
RJD8W	10605216	62	\$125,000	No	Full	Full

### Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

### Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

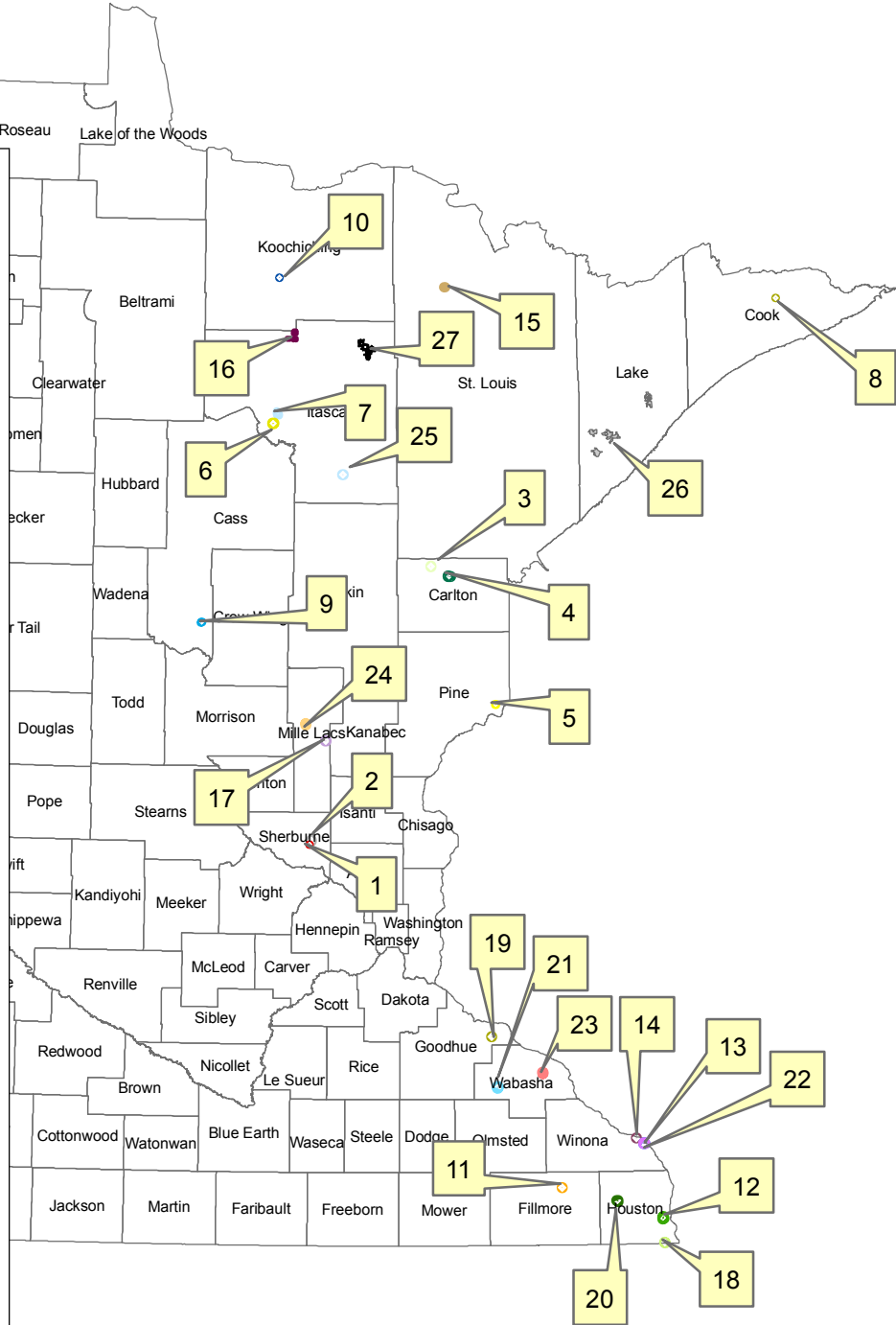
No parcels with an other activity type.

# Proposed Acquisition Locations

OHF FY14 - State Forest

## Legend

- 1- Sand Dunes 1
- 2- Sand Dunes 2
- 3-Fond du Lac 1
- 4-Fond du Lac 2
- 5- St. Croix
- 6- Bowstring 1
- 7- Bowstring 2
- 8- Pat Bayle
- 9- Pillsbury
- 10- Pine Island
- 11-RJD6E
- 12-RJD9N
- 13-RJD2S
- 14-RJD7M
- 15-Kabetogama
- 16- Big Fork
- 17- Rum River 1
- 18- RJD1F
- 19- RJD3W
- 20- RJD4A
- 21- RJD5H
- 22- RJD8W
- 23- RJD10
- 24- Rum River 2
- 25- Golden
- 26- MFF CE Phase 2
- 27-Big Fork CE
- Counties



0 20 40 80 120 160  
Miles

Schuller 6/21/12

# Forest Legacy Projects Northern Forest

## Legend

- Lake County Phase 2 - Proposed OHF
- Big Fork - Proposed OHF
- Lake County Phase 1 -in progress -OHF
- Brainerd Lakes Phase 1
- Brainerd Lakes Phase 2
- Claire Nelson Memorial Forest
- Koochiching 1
- Koochiching 2&3
- Koochiching 4 - OHF
- LaMinora - OHF
- Moose Mountain
- Stanley Creek
- Sugar Hills
- Upper Mississippi Forest - UPM Blandin - OHF
- Checkerboard Fee - OHF

