

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Laws of Minnesota 2015 Accomplishment Plan



**Date:** October 16, 2014

**Program or Project Title:** Southeast Forest Habitat Enhancement

**Funds Recommended:** \$ 910,000

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**Legislative Citation:**

**Appropriation Language:**

**County Locations:** Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona.

**Regions in which work will take place:**

- Southeast Forest

**Activity types:**

- Enhance

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Forest

### Abstract:

Blufflands forest habitat is threatened by invasive species and succession to less desirable northern hardwoods. This project combines invasive species removal and mast-producing hardwood tree planting and post-harvest release.

### Design and scope of work:

Many forest stands in Southeast MN are losing their hard mast component and converting to less desirable northern hardwoods, such as maple-basswood. Non-native species such as buckthorn and honeysuckle are also invading these stands. Oak and other mast-producing species are difficult to regenerate naturally, especially with the advanced age of many of these stands (65% of stands are over normal rotation age), so augmenting regeneration through invasive species removal and planting is required for success. Additionally, it is beneficial to conduct stand improvement activities in recently established stands to improve the stand's mast-producing species composition and condition by removing undesirable competing species, allowing favored species room to grow. Benefits to wildlife include promoting desirable species establishment and growth that also increase mast production of remaining trees, resulting in diverse forests that provide habitat and hard mast food sources for a variety of wildlife. Creating and managing younger stands will help to address age-class imbalances, and create more resilient stands to withstand threats such as insects, disease, and climate change. Stands will be selected for planting from the pool of stands on the annual stand exam list from the Blufflands/Rochester Plateau Section Forest Resource Management Plan that include the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area,

Rochester Area State Wildlife Management Areas, and Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest. Stands selected for release will be identified from regeneration checks of stands harvested within the past 10-15 years. This project will receive financial support (\$5,000/yr. for 4 years) from both the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association.

## Crops:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **No**

## How does the request address MN habitats that have: historical value to fish and wildlife, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories:

The southeast forest is unique, largely untouched by recent glaciers that covered most of MN. There remains a legacy of hardwood forests and striking topographic relief that provides habitat worthy of protection. The value of hard mast for wildlife is widely known. Oak and walnut forests provide browse, nest and den sites, and acorns are one of the most important food items in the diets of a wide variety of game animals, such as white-tailed deer, squirrels, raccoons, foxes, wild turkeys, and wood ducks, as well as mice, voles, woodpeckers, crows, and jays. SE MN hardwood forests and woodlands support 30 species of wildlife of greatest conservation need, and 49 rare, threatened, and/or endangered plants and animals.

## What is the nature of urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:

SE MN forests are losing their oak and walnut component, and regeneration is difficult due to invasive species and advanced age. Blufflands/Rochester Plateau SFRMP 10-year stand exam list provides the opportunity to identify stands in need of invasive species removal and planting prior to harvest to ensure successful regeneration.

## Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

Blufflands/Rochester Plateau SFRMP has assessed forest conditions, developed strategic direction and desired future composition goals on DNR lands, and selected forest stands to be visited and potentially treated over the 10-year planning period to implement the strategic direction and goals.

## Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- LU10 Support and expand sustainable practices on working forested lands

## Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- A Vision for Wildlife and Its Use -- Goals and Outcomes 2006-2012
- Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans

## Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

### Southeast Forest:

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

## Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

## How does this proposal accelerate or supplement your current efforts in this area:

Current funding for forest development work has been sporadic and inadequate to meet the continuous need for planting and release to ensure the successful regeneration of mast producing hardwoods to provide high quality wildlife habitat.

## Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
FY2012	State Bonding	\$80,320
FY2013	State Bonding	\$187,687
FY2014	State Bonding	\$64,827

## How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

Planted stands will be monitored for success with regular regeneration surveys at year 1, 5, and 10, and will receive additional silvicultural treatment as necessary. Released stands 10-15 years post harvest should be "free to grow."

## Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2017-2020	DNR funding	regeneration checks of first year plantings	follow-up treatment as need and funding allows	
2021-2024	DNR Funding	5-year regeneration checks of plantings	follow-up treatment as need and funding allows	
2026-2030	DNR Funding	10-year regeneration checks of plantings	follow-up treatment as need and funding allows	

## Activity Details:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program - **Yes**

Is the activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 - **Yes (WMA, State Forests)**

## Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Inter-disciplinary review of stands on annual exam list, stands are site-visited, and appropriate stands for supplemental planting and/or invasives removal are selected.	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
Trees are ordered and planted	2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Invasive species removal	2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Regeneration harvest	2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
Release of mast trees 10–15 years after previous regeneration efforts	2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
1-year regeneration checks of planted sites	2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 6/30/2020

## Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

## Outcomes:

### Programs in southeast forest region:

- Healthier populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species Southeast Minnesota forests will be enhanced to provide biologically diverse wildlife habitat for both desirable game species and endangered, threatened, special concern, and species of greatest conservation need, providing multiple conservation benefits in the face of climate change, invasive species, and other major stressors, and increased satisfaction from hunters and other recreational users. Wildlife populations and hunter satisfaction will be monitored.

# Budget Spreadsheet

*Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan*

**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount**

Reduced the amount of acres to be treated.

**Total Amount of Request: \$ 910000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	\$603,000	\$40,000	NWTF, MDHA	\$643,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$52,000	\$0		\$52,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$255,000	\$0		\$255,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$910,000	\$40,000		\$950,000

Amount of Request: \$910,000

Amount of Leverage: \$40,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 4.40%

## Output Tables

**Table 1a. 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	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	2,800	0	2,800
Total	0	0	2,800	0	2,800

**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	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$910,000	\$0	\$910,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$910,000	\$0	\$910,000

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	2,800	0	0	2,800
Total	0	0	2,800	0	0	2,800

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$910,000	\$0	\$0	\$910,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$910,000	\$0	\$0	\$910,000

**Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$325	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$325	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

## Parcel List

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

### Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

#### Fillmore

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Rochester Area State Wildlife Management Areas, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest	10309216	0	\$0	Yes

#### Goodhue

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Rochester Area State Wildlife Management Areas, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest	11215212	0	\$0	Yes

#### Houston

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Rochester Area State Wildlife Management Areas, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest	10307211	0	\$0	Yes

#### Olmsted

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Rochester Area State Wildlife Management Areas, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest	10513211	0	\$0	Yes

#### Wabasha

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest, Whitewater State Wildlife Management Area, Rochester Area State Wildlife Management Areas	10910215	0	\$0	Yes

#### Winona

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Whitewater State Wildlife Management Area, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest, Rochester Area State Wildlife Management Areas	10810235	0	\$0	Yes

### Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

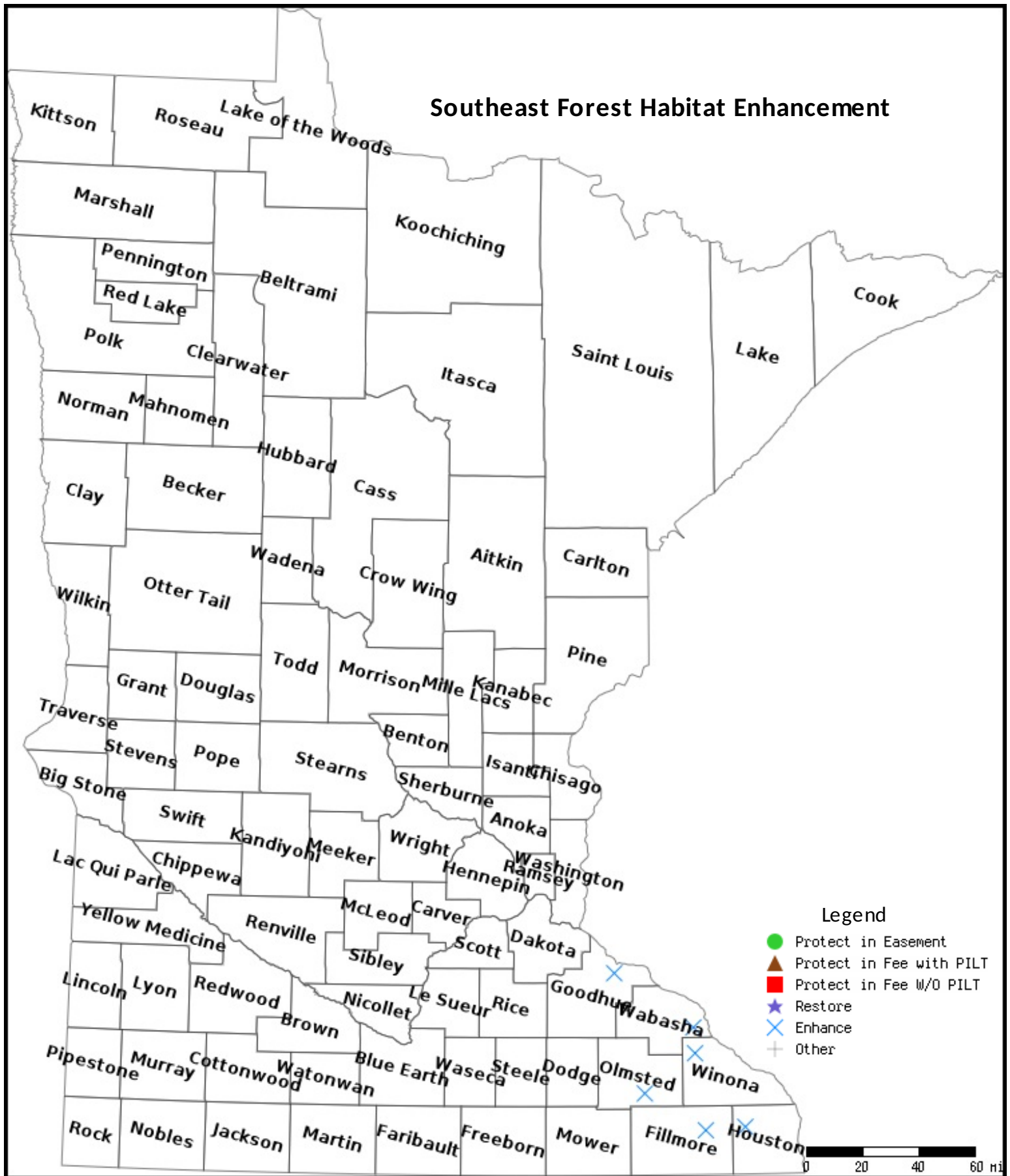
#### Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

### Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

# Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List