

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2017 / ML 2016 Request for Funding



Date: June 04, 2015

Program or Project Title: Minnesota Forests for the Future Phase IV

Funds Requested: \$8,486,000

Manager's Name: Richard F. Peterson

Title: Forest Legacy Coordinator

Organization: MN DNR Forestry

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County Locations: Lake

Regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest

Abstract:

Project will protect approximately 15,500 acres of forest, wetland, and shoreline habitats in northeastern Minnesota with a permanent conservation easement that provides recreational and management access, ensures sustainable forestry, and prevents parcelization and fragmentation of large, contiguous forest blocks.

Design and scope of work:

The Northern Forest Section contains large blocks of forest habitat interspersed with lakes, streams and wetlands that comprises some of the most biologically complete and important systems in the state for fish, game and wildlife. Forest land ownerships changes across the northern forest within recent years, primarily within the industrial forest ownerships, are occurring as the timber industry restructures and looks to obtain value from their land through real estate sales and recreational leases. These sales can result in forest parcelization and fragmentation or even outright conversion of forest lands which can produce significant impacts to forest, wetland and aquatic habits. In order to protect this rich mosaic of habitats, provide recreational and management access, and ensure sustainable forestry practices, the DNR proposes to implement Phase 4 of its Minnesota Forests for the Future Program to protect important northern forests and the associated aquatic and wetland habitats. This project will build on the successes of Phases 1, 2 & 3 of this program which has protected nearly 210,000 acres of working forests, thousands of acres of intact wetlands and many miles of shoreline on lakes, streams and rivers across the north with 100% public access on the lands protected. This project will address goals identified in several statewide plans including the Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework, the Aquatic Area Management Program, and the Minnesota Forests for the Future Strategic Plan and many other state priorities.

In phase four of the program, Minnesota DNR will permanently protect approximately 15,500 acres of mixed conifer forest, deciduous forests and wetlands with a perpetual conservation easement that includes protection of nearly 1.5 miles of shoreline on 3 wild rice lakes, and approximately 14 stream miles along several state designated trout streams, trout stream tributaries, and other streams and rivers. The proposed project parcels are located within both the North Shore Highlands and the Toimi Uplands Subsections both of which contain important forests, wetlands, rivers and lakes that provide habitat for numerous Species in Greatest Conservation Need including several rare plants and a rare butterfly species that have been documented from the property. Over half of the proposed project parcels are located within areas designated as high or moderate biodiversity significance by the Minnesota County Biological

Survey. These parcels are also located in two Audubon Important Bird Areas which have some of the highest numbers of breeding bird species in the state including those for warbler species.

The program will target an industrial ownership located in northeastern Minnesota whose property adjoins and is commingled with thousands of acres of other public forests including those owned and managed by the state, Lake County and the Superior National Forest. The DNR will seek a bargain sale from this landowner which would reduce the cost of acquiring the easement.

Outcomes from this project include: 1) The protection and perpetuation of abundant and healthy terrestrial and aquatic habitats for fish, game, and other wildlife species including such iconic northern forest species as moose, gray wolf, ruffed grouse, forest birds and Canada lynx; 2) Increased access to forest lands and streams, rivers and lakes for outdoor recreation including fishing and hunting; 3) Maintaining healthy watersheds and clean water by protecting those critical shorelines and adjoining uplands; 4) Ensuring sustainable forestry practices through Forest Stewardship Plans and the application of best management practices.

Conservation easements secured under this program will be perpetual and will prevent the destruction and fragmentation of forestland while also protecting the aquatic habitats and shorelines from damaging activities. The easement will prohibit land uses and activities not consistent with the protection and conservation of the forest, the aquatic habitats and wetlands. The easement will provide public access to the entire property for outdoor recreation purposes including hunting, fishing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, bird-watching and similar activities. All easements acquired and managed by DNR Forestry under the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program will be monitored annually by the Division of Forestry and enforced as needed to protect the habitat and other conservation values of the easement property.

Proposed activities under this project include:

- 1) Drafting and completing a perpetual conservation easement.
- 2) Documenting property conditions with a Baseline Property Report.
- 3) Developing a Forest Stewardship Plan for the property that will guide the landowner's forest management activities in a way that protects and conserves the forest habitat, riparian and aquatic features, and other important conservation features.
- 3) Preparing an easement monitoring plan for the property.
- 4) Transferring funds to the dedicated monitoring account for the perpetual monitoring and enforcement of the property.

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 project area provides a wide diversity of habitats to many fish, game and non-game wildlife species found in northeastern Minnesota including moose, gray wolf, black bear, Canada lynx, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, waterfowl, forest songbirds, and trout and other fish. With over 7,500 feet of shoreline on wild rice lakes, 7 miles of trout streams and over 6 miles of other streams and numerous wetlands the project area provides the critical shoreland habitats that are essential to many fish and wildlife populations. The project area lies in the transition area between the conifer dominated boreal forests of the north and deciduous forest to the south that together with the array of streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands provides a rich mosaic of habitats that support these species. Over 80 species in greatest conservation need are known or predicted to occur in either the North Shore highlands and/or Toimi Uplands landscapes and several rare species are located on the property including five plants (Lapland buttercup, Clustered Bur-reed, Wool grass, Pale Manna Grass, & Torrey's Manna-grass) and one animal (Nabokov's Blue butterfly). Over half the project area is identified by the MCBS as high/moderate sites of biodiversity significance.

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

Forest land divestiture by corporate owners is increasing across the state leading to forest conversion, parcelization and fragmentation of large forest blocks and loss of public access and management access to publicly owned lands. Recent real estate sales by this owner have resulted in the divestiture of several thousand acres.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

Land proposed for protection have been identified through GIS modeling analysis that incorporated multiple criteria to identify the highest priority private forest lands for permanent conservation. The criteria focus on conserving lands that provide habitat and other environmental benefits, outdoor recreation opportunities including hunting & fishing, and which support sustainable forestry.

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

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- LU8 Protect large blocks of forest land

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Minnesota DNR AMA Acquisition Plan
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Northern Forest:

- Provide access to manage habitat on landlocked public properties or protect forest land from parcelization and fragmentation through fee acquisition, conservation or access easement

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

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

The Minnesota Forests for the Future Program together with the Federal Forest Legacy Program have proven to be cost effective programs for protecting and conserving Minnesota's private forests, while also providing public recreational access for hunting and fishing as well as agency management access while also ensuring sustainable forestry. Working forest easement in Minnesota have protected 351,000 acres to date in Minnesota at an average cost of less than \$300/acre with nearly 40% of project dollars coming from federal or private sources. This project moves us closer to our goal of protecting up to 500,000 acres of strategically located, working forests across the state for their multiple public benefits of habitat, recreational and management access and timber and other economic values.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2010	The Conservation Fund	\$9,750,000
2010	Reinvest in Minnesota	\$328,631
2012	The Nature Conservancy	\$1,437,900
2012	Reinvest in Minnesota	\$229,100
2012	State Capital Bonding	\$231,551

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

All lands protected through permanent conservation easements will be sustained through standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship that have been developed and implemented in the forest easement program over the past 15 years. Our easement stewardship program incorporates annual landowner meetings, annual on-site monitoring of all properties, records management, responding to landowner inquiries, tracking ownership changes and addressing and resolving easement violations. Funding for the easement stewardship is included in the current proposal. Stewardship funds will be transferred to the designated easement stewardship account and interest earned from the account will fund the annual stewardship and monitoring work for the easement. All easements will have baseline property reports, forest stewardship plans and easement monitoring plans prepared prior to closing of the project.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
June 30, 2019 or at easement completion	OHF	Transfer stewardship funds to dedicated stewardship account per OHF appropriation and accomplishment plan.	Develop Forest Stewardship Plan prior to closing	Develop Baseline Property Report and Easement Monitoring Plan prior to closing
Annually, Perpetually	OHF - Easement Monitoring Account	Monitor easements annually and enforce easement terms	Annual landowner meetings and on-site visits to easement property.	Review forest management activities annually and review & update Forest Stewardship Plans periodically.

Activity Details:

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

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

The property will be open for public hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, nature observations, and similar outdoor activities. Snowmobiling on established GIA snowmobile trails.

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

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Acquire Conservation Easement	June 30, 2018
Develop Monitoring Plan and dedicate easement stewardship funds	June 30, 2018
Monitor easements annually and enforce easement terms	Annually, perpetually

Federal Funding:

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

Outcomes:

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation *This project will permanently protect over 15,500 acres of northern forest habitats and approximately 15.2 miles of undeveloped shoreline on 3 wild rice lakes, designated trout streams and trout stream tributaries, and other streams, thereby preventing habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and associated degradation of waters and wetlands.*

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$8,486,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Contracts	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$8,300,000	\$0		\$8,300,000
Easement Stewardship	\$60,000	\$0		\$60,000
Travel	\$3,000	\$0		\$3,000
Professional Services	\$75,000	\$0		\$75,000
Direct Support Services	\$6,100	\$0		\$6,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$1,900	\$0		\$1,900
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$8,486,000	\$0	-	\$8,486,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Coordinator	0.10	2.00	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Total	0.10	2.00	\$20,000	\$0	-	\$20,000

Amount of Request: \$8,486,000

Amount of Leverage: \$0

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%

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	15,500	0	15,500
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	15,500	0	15,500

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	\$8,486,000	\$0	\$8,486,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$8,486,000	\$0	\$8,486,000

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	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	15,500	15,500
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	15,500	15,500

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	\$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	\$8,486,000	\$8,486,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,486,000	\$8,486,000

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	\$547	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$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	\$547
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Lake

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Finland Phase 2	05311108	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05311121	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05311130	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05410106	39	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05410115	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05410118	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05410128	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05411124	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05411125	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511101	275	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511103	237	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511105	117	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511107	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511111	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511112	280	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511114	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511118	79	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511119	229	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511122	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511124	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511133	230	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05511136	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05609103	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05609107	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05609110	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05609115	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05609118	305	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05609119	160	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05609120	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05609121	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610101	160	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610102	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610103	366	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610104	284	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610108	120	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610109	360	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610110	400	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610111	520	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610113	360	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610114	400	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610115	360	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610118	39	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610119	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610121	200	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610122	200	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610123	120	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610124	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610125	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610126	240	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610127	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610130	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610132	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05610133	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611102	372	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611103	246	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611110	200	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611111	400	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611113	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611114	120	\$0	No	Full	Full

Finland Phase 2	05611115	360	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611121	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611122	280	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611124	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611125	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611127	160	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611128	320	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611129	77	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611130	33	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611131	480	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611132	400	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611133	360	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611134	320	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611135	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05611135	200	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05711109	120	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05711110	100	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05711111	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05711112	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05711113	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05711115	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05711128	120	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05807107	76	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05808105	240	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05808108	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05808109	160	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05808112	240	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05808118	149	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05906104	159	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05906105	199	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05906107	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05907111	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05907112	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05907114	200	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05907115	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05907123	360	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	05907124	200	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	06006126	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	06006130	80	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	06006133	40	\$0	No	Full	Full
Finland Phase 2	06006135	40	\$0	No	Full	Full

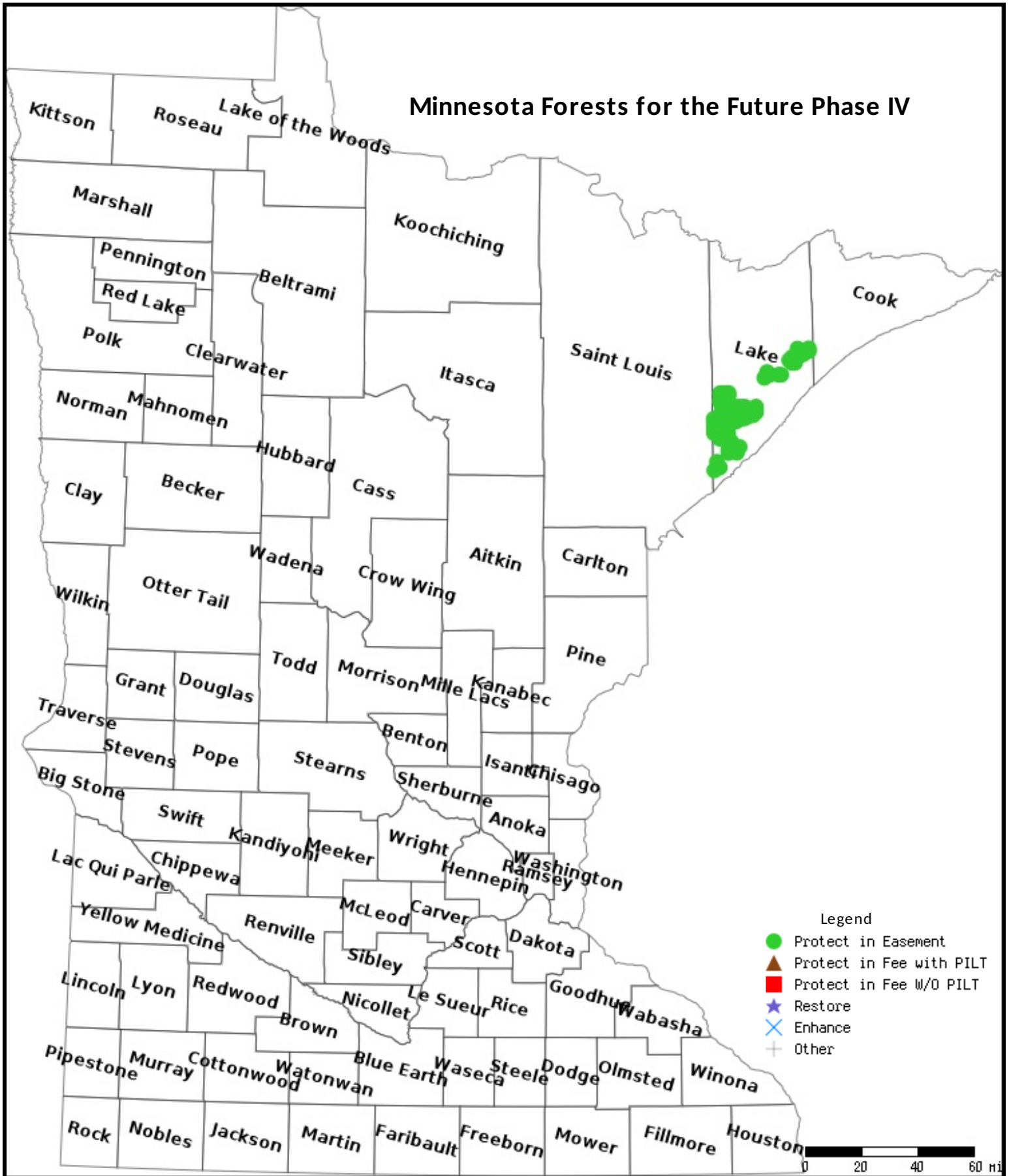
Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List

Marlow Conservation Easement DRAFT NOT PUBLIC

