

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2017 / ML 2016 Request for Funding



Date: June 04, 2015

Program or Project Title: State Forest Acquisitions Phase III

Funds Requested: \$4,648,000

Manager's Name: Robert Milne
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County Locations: Aitkin, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Hubbard, Wabasha, Wadena, and Winona.

Regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Southeast Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest

Abstract:

Acquire and protect more than 1,700 acres of forest wildlife habitat and connective corridors. These acquisitions will reduce fragmented forest habitat, protect critical watersheds and improve habitat management opportunities.

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.

This proposal will directly protect approximately 1400 acres of critical forestland habitat and provide connective corridors to State Forest (SF) through fee and permanent access easement acquisition. The strategy is to acquire parcels that will reduce owner fragmentation across the landscape. Parcels have been identified in area land asset management plans and fall into three classifications; those providing protection of a critical forest habitat, those consolidating fragmented forest habitat, and those providing permanent connectivity to state land for habitat management. This proposal continues the work of acquiring key land parcels from willing sellers.

The forested parcels provide critical habitat for deer, turkey, many migratory birds and flora and fauna of special concern. These acquisitions will protect the declining forest base from fragmentation due to development and will also provide opportunities to further enhance habitat for fish, game species and other non-game wildlife.

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. All known stakeholders are supportive of these acquisitions including county boards and forest user groups such as Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, and the Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association which have contributed funding for previous acquisitions. We coordinate efforts with these groups to develop complimentary proposals that prevent duplication and

enhance outcomes. Specific organizations and letters of support are available upon request.

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:

In the southeast forest the Richard J.Dorer Memorial Hardwoods State Forest (RJ Dorer) 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 parcels to be acquired will provide connections with streams and rivers, consolidate fragmented forestland, and provide connective corridors to large areas of currently inaccessible state land.

As private land in-holdings become available in the northern forests, acquisition of these lands will restore historical large blocks of forested habitat which will protect the declining forest base from fragmentation. Therefore, this will reduce development within the forests and provide opportunities to further enhance habitat for fish, game and other wildlife.

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

Land prices have stabilized and a short-term opportunity continues to exist to purchase more land value for our expenditures. This window of opportunity is quickly closing as the real estate market continues its recovery.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

The planning model used for parcel selection is based on three metrics: acres of critical habitat protected, miles of boundary reduced and acres of existing state land accessed. Parcels of land with willing sellers that meet one or more of these metrics have been selected and prioritized.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- LU8 Protect large blocks of forest land

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Driftless Area Restoration Effort
- 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

Southeast Forest:

- 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

Relationship to other funds:

- General Fund

\$120,000 for .4 FTE and misc costs to manage the project over 4 years are paid by the general fund.

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

This next phase of this project continues and accelerates a renewed effort to protect critical habitat and watersheds in southeastern Minnesota made possible with Phase I & II funding from OHF in ML2011 and ML2014. The goal of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwoods State Forest, initiated over 50 years ago was to protect watersheds, habitat, goat prairies and forests on the highly erodible soils of southeastern Minnesota through the establishment and expansion of a state forest. Sporadic funding over the years has yielded 49,000 acres protected in state forest. Phases one and two of this project have protected, or are expected to protect an additional 600 acres of forest habitat in southeast Minnesota toward a goal of protecting 4700 acres for consolidation, plus 170 parcel of protected corridors. This phase of the project, along with partner projects will bring us over half way to this goal.

Additionally, renewed efforts in northern Minnesota to reduce fragmentation and acquire connective corridors within the state forests continues to add protection to those areas from further development.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
FY05	RIM	120000
FY06	Bonding	2500000

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

Lands acquired in this project become part of the Minnesota State Forest system. This project is very sustainable as management costs are reduced by the project through improved access for habitat management and consolidation of existing state forest lands. Funding for management comes from the Forest Management Investment Account of the Natural Resources Fund, funded by timber sales revenue from the existing portions of the state forest.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2021	Natural Resource Fund - FMIA	Manage forests to maximize forest health and wildlife benefits consistent with guidance documentation.	Maintain boundaries	Monitor and manage public use.

Activity Details:

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

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition - **No**

Local government approval is not required, however, it is the policy of the DNR to notify county boards of all acquisitions prior to closing for their information and to solicit comments and concerns.

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing - **No**

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion - **Yes**

All land acquired for state forest purposes is open for hunting and fishing.

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Acquire 1400 acres of forest habitat and connective corridors.	June 2020

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 *Forest habitat is protected from parcelization and fragmentation and*

accessible for resource management purposes. Protection from parcelization and fragmentation is measured by the miles of state/private boundary reduced by the acquisition. The goal of this project is a reduction by 3.5 miles.

Programs in southeast forest region:

- *Forestlands and savannas are protected from parcelization and fragmentation and accessible for resource management purposes. Forest and savanna habitat are protected from parcelization and fragmentation and accessible for resource management purposes. Protection from parcelization and fragmentation is measured by the miles of state/private boundary reduced by the acquisition. The goal of this project is a reduction by 3.0 miles. Protected corridors are measured by acres of existing state land made accessible.*

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$4,648,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$144,000	\$120,000	General Fund	\$264,000
Contracts	\$200,000	\$0		\$200,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$4,000,000	\$0		\$4,000,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$280,000	\$0		\$280,000
Direct Support Services	\$24,000	\$0		\$24,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$4,648,000	\$120,000	-	\$4,768,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
PRO	0.25	4.00	\$120,000	\$0		\$120,000
R3 Staff	0.05	4.00	\$24,000	\$0		\$24,000
Acquisition Coordinator	0.40	4.00	\$0	\$120,000	General Fund	\$120,000
Total	0.70	12.00	\$144,000	\$120,000	-	\$264,000

Amount of Request: \$4,648,000

Amount of Leverage: \$120,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 2.58%

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	1,395	0	1,395
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1,395	0	1,395

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	\$4,648,000	\$0	\$4,648,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$4,648,000	\$0	\$4,648,000

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	1,085	0	310	1,395
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	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1,085	0	310	1,395

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	\$3,858,000	\$0	\$790,000	\$4,648,000
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$3,858,000	\$0	\$790,000	\$4,648,000

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	\$3,332	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$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	\$3,556	\$0	\$2,548
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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

Aitkin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Rice River	04623226	13	\$36,000	No	Full	Full

Fillmore

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD-Fillmore 2	10408222	160	\$480,000	No	Full	Full
RJD-Watson Crk	10310220	63	\$189,000	No	Full	Full

Houston

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD-Jefferson	10104202	60	\$180,000	No	Full	Full
RJD - Jefferson 4	10104234	60	\$200,000	No	Full	Full
RJD-Money Crk	10407228	40	\$120,000	No	Full	Full
RJD-Reno	10204221	240	\$720,000	No	Full	Full

Hubbard

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
PBSF - Steamboat 1	14232218	160	\$400,000	No	Full	Full
PBSF - Steamboat 2	14232217	80	\$120,000	No	Full	Full
PBSF - Steamboat 3	14232219	40	\$60,000	No	Full	Full

Wabasha

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD-Krueger	11010218	93	\$280,000	No	Full	Full
RJD-Zumbro Bottoms	11011223	91	\$279,000	No	Full	Full
RJD-Zumbro Falls	10913217	100	\$300,000	No	Full	Full

Wadena

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Huntersville - CW River 1	13833231	17	\$100,000	No	Full	Full

Winona

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD-Preston Valley	10809225	13	\$40,000	No	Full	Full
RJD-Trout Valley 2	10809204	30	\$90,000	No	Full	Full
RJD-Trout Valley 3	10809209	53	\$160,000	No	Full	Full

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

Goodhue

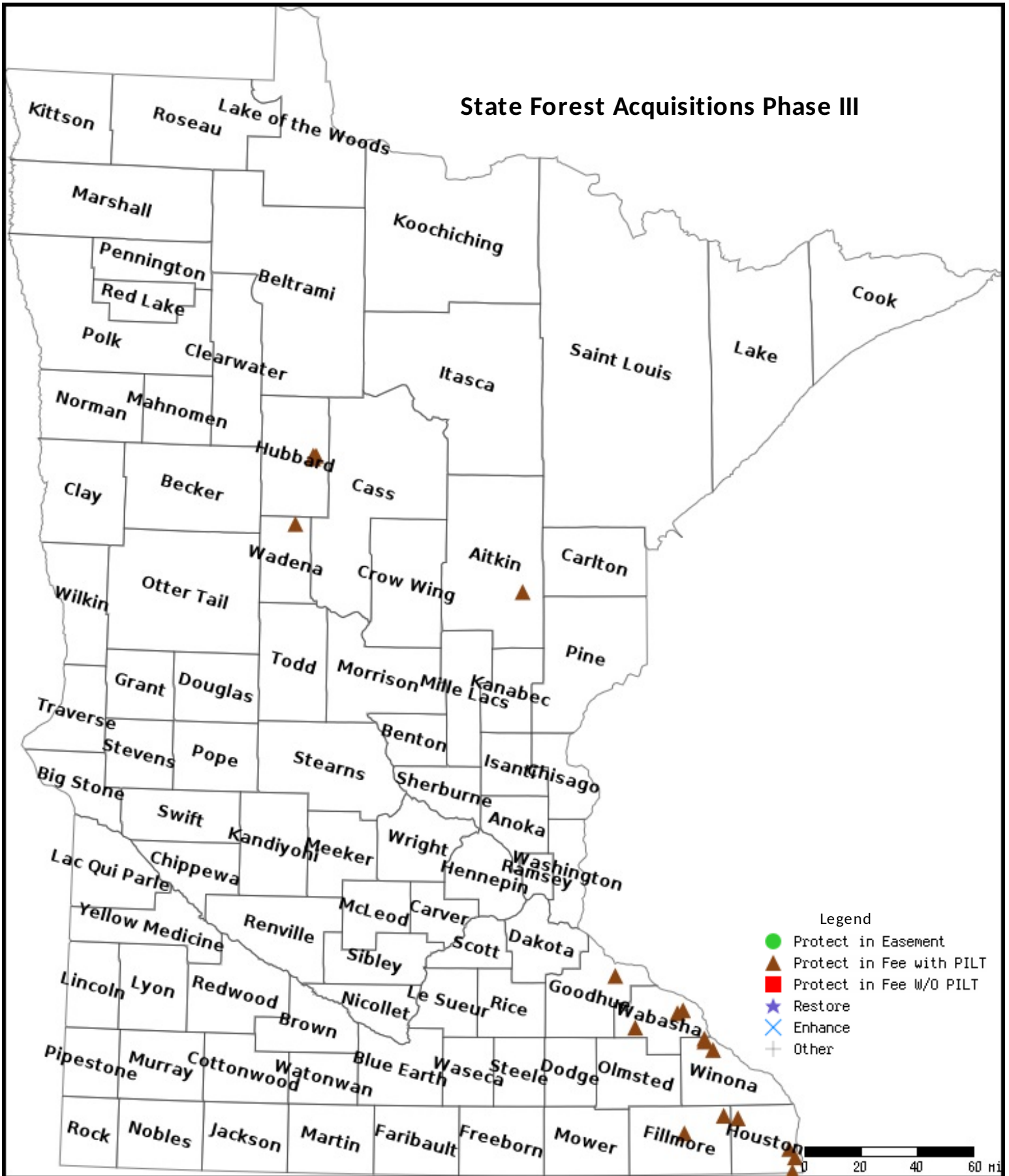
Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	# Bldgs?	Bldg Improve Desc	Value of Bldg	Disposition of Improvements
RJD-Hay Creek	11214218	82	\$246,000	1	Outbuilding to be removed	\$10,000	Remove

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

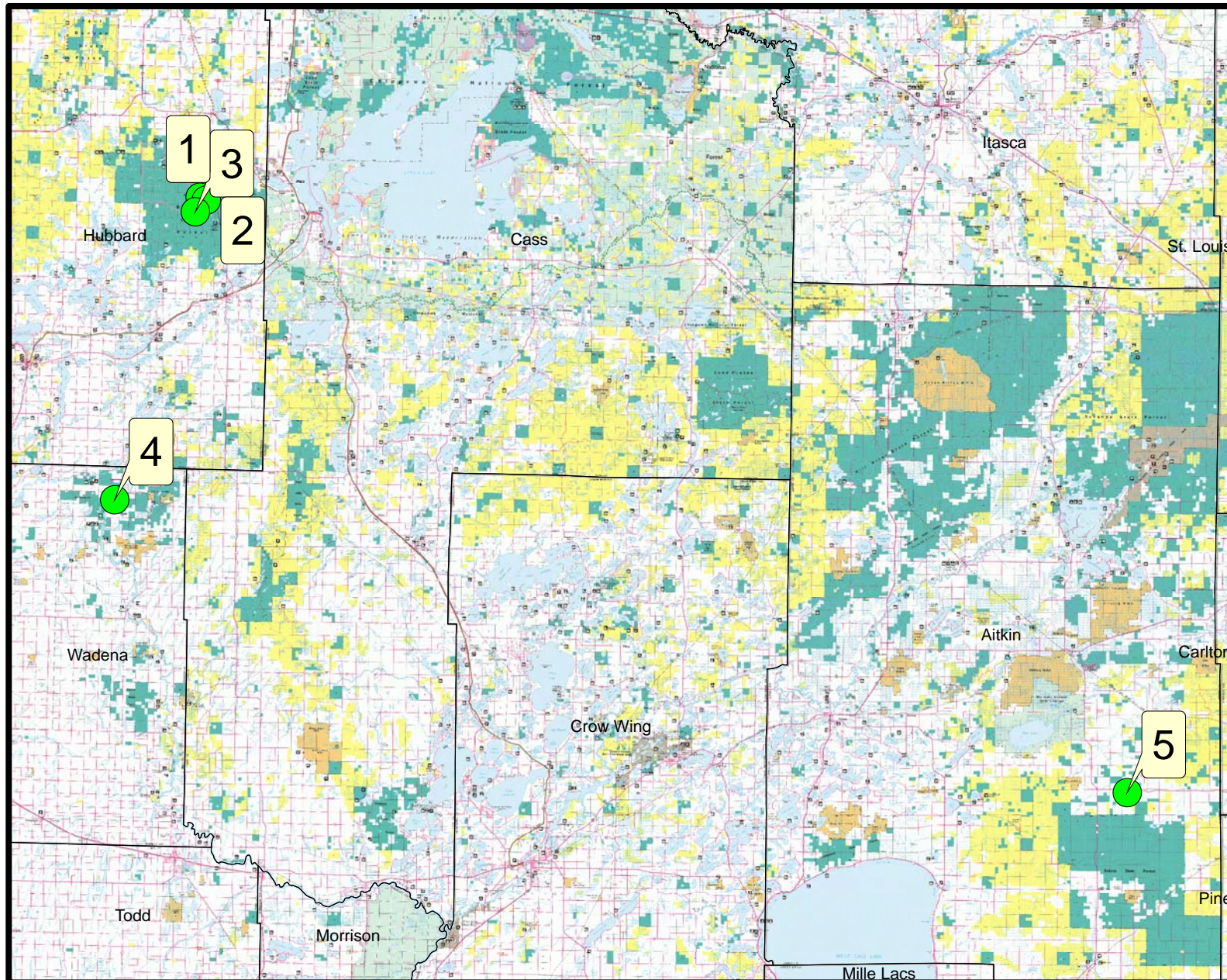
State Forest Acquisitions Phase III



Data Generated From Parcel List

LSOHC 17 - State Forest Acquisition Parcels

Northern Forests



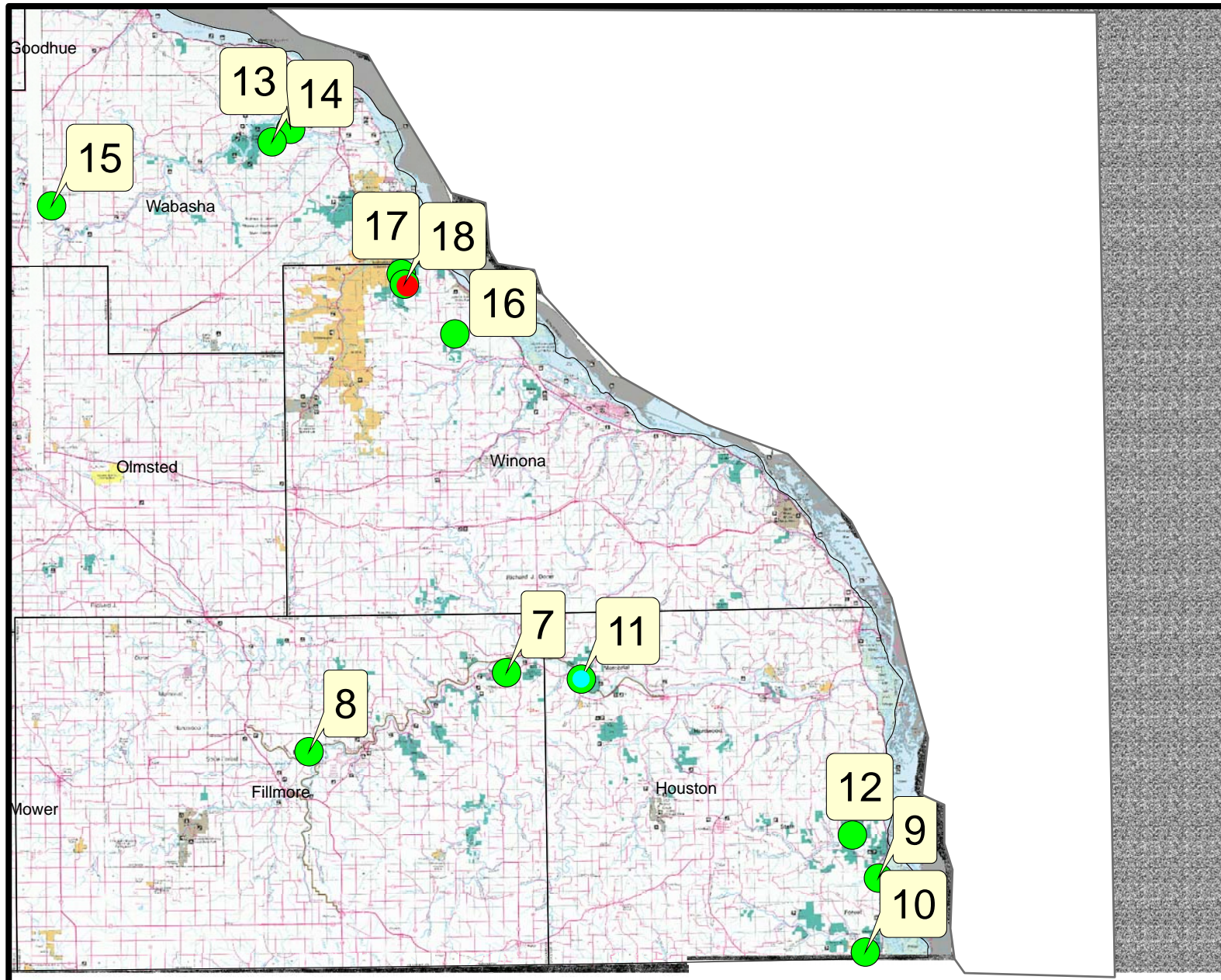
1. PBSF Steamboat 1
2. PBSF Steamboat 2
3. PBSF Steamboat 3
4. Huntersville - SW River 1
5. Rice River



Milne June 4, 2015

LSOHC 17 - State Forest Acquisition Parcels

Southeastern Forests - RJ Dorer Memorial Hardwoods State Forest



- 6. Hay Creek
- 7. Fillmore 2
- 8. Watshon Creek
- 9. Jefferson
- 10. Jefferson 4
- 11. Money Creek
- 12. Reno
- 13. Krueger
- 14. Zumbro Bottoms
- 15. Sumbro Falls
- 16. Preston Valley
- 17. Trout Valley 2
- 18. Trout Valley 3



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