

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2017 Accomplishment Plan



Date: October 18, 2016

Program or Project Title: State Forest Acquisition, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Forest - Phase IV

Funds Recommended: \$ 1,000,000

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Legislative Citation: ML 2017, Ch. X, Art. X, Sec. X

Appropriation Language:

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

Regions in which work will take place:

- Southeast Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest

Abstract:

This project will protect and enhance high priority habitat in fee for the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Forest in southeast Minnesota. This will include enhancing mixed deciduous forest lands through silvicultural practices and control of invasive species. The project will also provide additional opportunities for hunting in an area of the state where public hunting opportunities are limited. All projects will be done in accordance with the state forest land asset plans, RJ Dorer State Forest Plan and the SE MN Driftless Project Map.

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 continue to be converted to intensive commercial, residential, and agricultural development each year.

This proposal will directly protect and provide public hunting opportunities to approximately 300 additional acres of critical forestland habitat and provide connective corridors to State Forest (SF) through fee 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 as well as provide additional public hunting opportunities with the region.

This project includes the initial land development of each parcel acquired including boundary surveys and signage, well and septic closure, building and dump disposal. Steps will be taken to restore lands to oak savanna and mixed deciduous forests and control the spread of terrestrial invasive species.

This project includes all of the following activities: initial site reviews, negotiations with sellers, appraisals, environmental reviews and acquisition of fee title. All land will be open for public hunting and fishing.

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, 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.

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 program:

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Driftless Area Restoration Effort
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:

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

Describe the relationship of the funds:

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

How does this program include leverage in funds or other effort to supplement any OHF appropriation:

The leverage funds indicated provide acquisition coordination and support from the General fund.

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
2022	Natural Resource Fund - FMIA	Manage forests to maximize forest health and wildlife benefits consistent with guidance documentation.	Maintain boundaries	Monitor public use and address any issues.

Activity Details:

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

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

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

Local government approval is not currently required for such acquisitions, 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 (where applicable).

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of Minnesota

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

These are private lands which are currently only open to the private landowner's personal use. Farm machinery, logging equipment, hiking, personal ATV use. These are currently not open as public trails or roads.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition - **Yes**

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

The Richard J. Dorer State Forest is classified as Limited for Motor vehicle use and any lands acquired would come under this classification.

- Highway licensed vehicles are allowed on signed forest roads, unless posted closed.

- Off-highway vehicles, defined as All-terrain vehicles/Off-highway motorcycles (ATVs/ORVs/OHMs), MAY OPERATE on signed roads and trails.

- ATV travel off of signed motor vehicles trails or forest roads is PROHIBITED in the Richard J. Dorer State Forest.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

There may be access trails developed for logging use, but generally, these will not be maintained for long term access.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

MNDNR has a monitoring and reporting plan in place that involves the Divisions of Forestry, Parks and Trails and Enforcement. This includes annual spring (and other wet season) closures, reporting issues and enforcing actions when necessary.

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Acquire 300 acres of state forest inholdings	June 2021

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/1/2020

Federal Funding:

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

Outcomes:

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 7.0 miles. Protected corridors are measured by acres of existing state land made accessible.*

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

This program will still focus on the most critical habitat lands and will landowners, but what is protected is greatly reduced. We will also not use funding for additional personnel costs.

Total Amount of Request: \$ 1000000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$120,000	General Fund	\$120,000
Contracts	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$896,900	\$0		\$896,900
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$100,000	\$0		\$100,000
Direct Support Services	\$3,100	\$0		\$3,100
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	\$1,000,000	\$120,000		\$1,120,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Division Coordinator	0.40	4.00	\$0	\$120,000	General Fund	\$120,000
Total	0.40	4.00	\$0	\$120,000		\$120,000

Amount of Request: \$1,000,000

Amount of Leverage: \$120,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 12.00%

DSS + Personnel: \$3,100

As a % of the total request: 0.31%

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program:

DNR Direct and Necessary Cost calculator - subtractive model.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

All personnel costs are being covered by the state General fund.

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	300	0	300
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	300	0	300

Table 2. Total 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	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
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	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000

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	300	0	0	300
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	300	0	0	300

Table 4. Total 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	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
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	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000

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	\$3333	\$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	\$3333	\$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	\$0	\$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	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
RJD-Rushford Village 1	10408220	35	\$47,000	Yes

Houston

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
RJD-Jefferson 1	10104232	20	\$23,500	Yes
RJD-Reno	10204221	45	\$62,000	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Fillmore

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD-Amherst	10309227	12	\$40,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Chatfield Township	10310220	25	\$55,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Fillmore 2	10408222	160	\$480,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Norway	10308205	80	\$240,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Preble 1	10208207	45	\$125,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Preble 2	10208208	13	\$40,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Preble 3	10208208	20	\$50,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Preston	10310202	40	\$120,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Preston 1	10310202	80	\$240,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Preston 2	10310203	40	\$120,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Preston 3	10310203	68	\$190,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Preston 4	10310211	80	\$240,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Watson Crk	10310220	63	\$189,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Goodhue

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD-Wells Crk	11214224	40	\$120,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Houston

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD-Crooked Creek 1	10204235	100	\$300,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Houston 2	10306230	320	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Jefferson	10104202	60	\$180,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD - Jefferson 4	10104234	60	\$200,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Money Crk	10407228	40	\$120,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Olmsted

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD-Pleasant Grove	10513214	43	\$125,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Wabasha

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD-Krueger	11010218	93	\$280,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Watopa 1	10910218	80	\$240,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Watopa 2	10910222	108	\$300,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Zumbro Bottoms	11011223	91	\$279,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Zumbro Falls	10913217	100	\$300,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Winona

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD-Green Field 1	10809225	90	\$250,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Pine Crk	10509235	28	\$84,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Preston Valley	10809225	13	\$40,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Trout Valley 2	10809204	30	\$90,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Trout Valley 3	10809209	53	\$160,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

Fillmore

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	# Bldgs?	Bldg Improve Desc	Value of Bldg	Disposition of Improvements
RJD-Preble 4	10209209	317	\$1,000,000	1	Building to be removed	\$10,000	

Goodhue

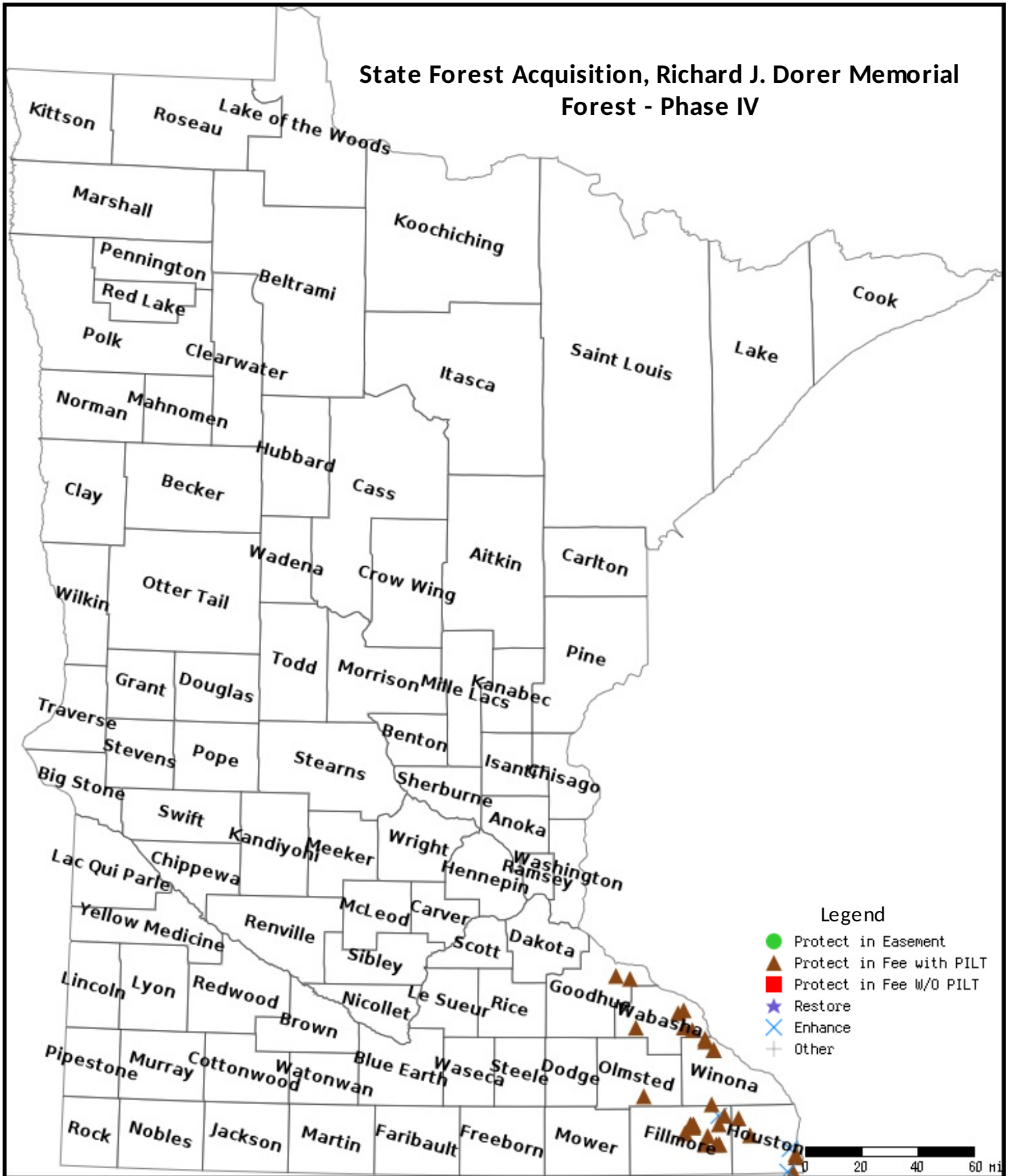
Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	# Bldgs?	Bldg Improve Desc	Value of Bldg	Disposition of Improvements
RJD-Hay Creek	11214218	82	\$246,000	1	Outbuilding to be removed	\$10,000	

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

State Forest Acquisition, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Forest - Phase IV



Data Generated From Parcel List

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Comparison Report

Program Title: 2017 - State Forest Acquisition, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Forest - Phase IV

Organization: MN DNR Forestry

Manager: Robert Milne

Budget

Requested Amount: \$7,000,000

Appropriated Amount: \$1,000,000

Percentage: 14.29%

Budget Item	Total Requested		Total Appropriated		Percentage of Request	
	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Appropriated Amount	Anticipated Leverage	Percentage of Request	Percentage of Leverage
Personnel	\$100,000	\$120,000	\$0	\$120,000	0.00%	100.00%
Contracts	\$150,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$6,300,000	\$0	\$896,900	\$0	14.24%	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Professional Services	\$420,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	23.81%	-
Direct Support Services	\$9,300	\$0	\$3,100	\$0	33.33%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Capital Equipment	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Total	\$7,000,000	\$120,000	\$1,000,000	\$120,000	14.29%	100.00%

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

This program will still focus on the most critical habitat lands and will landowners, but what is protected is greatly reduced. We will also not use funding for additional personnel costs.

Output

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	2,300	300	13.04%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	55	0	0.00%

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	6,849,100	1,000,000	14.60%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	150,900	0	0.00%

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	2,300	300	13.04%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	55	0	0.00%

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	0	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	6,849,100	1,000,000	14.60%
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	-
Enhance	150,900	0	0.00%