# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2018 / ML 2017 Request for Funding

Date: June 17, 2016

Program or Project Title: State Forest Acquisition, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Forest - Phase IV (FA07)

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY

Funds Requested: \$7,000,000

Manager's Name: Robert Milne

Title: Forestry Lands Program Consultant

Organization: MN DNR Forestry Address: 500 Lafayette Road City: St. Paul, MN 55155-0044 Office Number: 651-259-5270 Email: bob.milne@state.mn.us

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

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

• Southeast Forest

#### Activity types:

- Enhance
- Protect in Fee

#### Priority resources addressed by activity:

• Forest

#### Abstract:

This project will protect and enhance high priority habitat in fee and easement 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 2300 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

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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.

Enhancement plans and invasive control activities will be coordinated through the DNR silviculture and invasive species programs on 100 acres of marginal agricultural lands. Additional TIS preventive measure will be taken by installing boot brush and information kiosks in strategic locations on OHF acquired or donated lands in the RJ Dorer State Forest.

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

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

## Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

### Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

This project is supports Goal 1, Objective 1 of the Minnesota Forest Resource Council Southeast Landscape Plan with focus areas of acquiring high priority sites to protect native plant communities with public acquisition Direct resources toward native plant communities on public lands in priority complexes for invasive species management, prescribed burns, and regeneration. Additionally, it advances the MN DNR's Conservation agenda by providing more opportunities in SE Minnesota.

This also supports the Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework Priority actions in the Southeast Forest section by protecting forest habitat, providing access for management of landlocked public properties and restoring forest-based wildlife habitat.

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

#### Southeast Forest:

Protect forest habitat though acquisition in fee or easement to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to
access and manage landlocked public properties

Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

This program will protect lands by incorporating them right into the long established state forest system. These specific lands will be part of the Richard J. Dorer forests was established 55 years ago in southeast MN as a memorial to pioneers and veterans.

Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

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.

How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species:

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.

### Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

#### Ovenhire

Ovenbirds (Seiurus aurocapilla) are found in upland forests statewide; typically in relatively mature forest but can also be found in younger forests. Deciduous, mixed coniferous-deciduous, and coniferous forests may be suitable. Ovenbirds nest on the ground in leaf litter. This species has been identified as a priority species to monitor, as an indication of the health of mature forest uplands, within the area represented by the LSOHC Northern Forest planning section. While territories vary in size and may overlap, an average of 10 pairs for every 10 hectares may be translated to roughly 16 pairs for every 40 acres.

#### White-tailed deer

White-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) use a wide variety of forested habitats, are found throughout Minnesota, and are an important game species in the state. Deer have also been suggested as potential ecological indicators for forest systems. In the 33 forested deer permit areas for which deer densities are estimated, covering most of the LSOHC Northern Forest section, the six-year average (2010-2015) for pre-fawn deer densities across all deer permit areas is 13 deer per square mile of land (excluding water). This translates to 0.02 deer (pre-fawning) per acre of forest land habitat or roughly 1 deer (pre-fawning) for every 50 acres of land. On average, densities within the Forest/Prairie Transition, Metropolitan Area, and Southeast Forest LSOHC planning sections will be higher than those in the Northern Forest. Note that pre-fawn estimates provide an indication of deer numbers when they are at their seasonal low (spring).

#### **Outcomes:**

#### Programs in southeast forest region:

• Forestlands and savannas are protected from parceliazation 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.

## 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:

ĺ	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.	IMaintain holindaries	Monitor public use and address any issues.

# What is the degree of timing/opportunistic 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. Also, landowner's generally make quick decisions on the sale of their property. Having the funds available provides more opportunity with willing landowners.

# How does this proposal 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.

## Relationship to other funds:

• Not Listed

#### Describe the relationship of the funds:

Not Listed

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

	Appro priatio n Year	Source	Amount		
	FY05	RIM	120000		
ſ	FY06	Bonding	2500000		

## **Activity Details**

## Requirements:

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 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

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 (State Forests)

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

#### Land Use:

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

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.

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 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 2300 acres of state forest inholdings	June 2121
Enhance 100 acres of degraded forest habitat	June 2121
Terrestrial Invasive Species Control on 100 acres of land	June 2121
Install 20 boot brush kiosks at access points to forest	June 2121

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## **Budget Spreadsheet**

#### Total Amount of Request: \$7,000,000

#### **Budget and Cash Leverage**

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$100,000	\$120,000	General Fund	\$220,000
Contracts	\$150,700	\$0		\$150,700
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$6,300,000	\$0		\$6,300,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Pro fessio nal Services	\$420,000	\$0		\$420,000
Direct Support Services	\$9,300	\$0		\$9,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$7,000,000	\$120,000	-	\$7,120,000

#### Personnel

Position	FTE	Over#ofyears	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Land Program Consultant	0.40	4.00	\$0	\$120,000	General Fund	\$120,000
Program Staff	0.10	2.00	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
R3 Staff	0.25	4.00	\$80,000	\$0		\$80,000
Total	0.75	10.00	\$100,000	\$120,000	-	\$220,000

#### Capital Equipment

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Boot Brush Kiosks	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Total	\$20,000	\$0	-	\$20,000

Amount of Request: \$7,000,000

Amount of Leverage: \$120,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 1.71%

DSS + Personnel: \$109,300

As a % of the total request: 1.56%

Easement Stewardship: \$0

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -%

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

Utilizing the DNR's Direct and Necessary Cost Calculator - Additive Model.

Does the amount in the contract line include R/E work?

Yes. 100%

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

Managing this project is part of the forestry lands program consultant's position and general fund dollars will contribute to this.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes

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Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the "economy of scale" and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:

Most administrative fees are similar regardless of the size land transaction. A higher percentage will be spent on administrative fees if we receive reduced funding and only have the ability to purchase smaller tracts of land.

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## **Output Tables**

## Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Туре	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Pro tect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	2,300	0	2,300
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	55	0	55
Total	0	0	2,355	0	2,355

## Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Туре	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$6,849,100	\$0	\$6,849,100
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pro tect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$150,900	\$0	\$150,900
Total	\$0	\$0	\$7,000,000	\$0	\$7,000,000

## Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Туре	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SEForest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	2,300	0	0	2,300
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	55	0	0	55
Total	0	0	2,355	0	0	2,355

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

Туре	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SEForest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$6,849,100	\$0	\$0	\$6,849,100
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	\$150,900	\$0	\$0	\$150,900
Total	\$0	\$0	\$7,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,000,000

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

Туре	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$2,978	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pro tect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$2,744	\$0

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Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Туре	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SEForest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$2,978	\$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	\$2,744	\$0	\$0

#### Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

## **Parcel List**

#### Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:

Most parcels have previously 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. The highest priority parcels are those with critical forest habitat that also consolidate state ownership within the defined Richard J. Dorer boundaries.

This proposal continues the work of acquiring key land parcels from willing sellers.

## Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

#### **Fillmore**

Name	T RDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
RJD-Rushford Village 1	10408220	35	\$47,000	Yes

#### Houston

Name	T RDS	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	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD-Amherst	10309227	12	\$40,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
RJD-Chatfield Fownship	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	EstCost	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
RJD-Reno	10204221	240	\$720,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

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## Olmsted

Name	T RDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
RJD-Pleasant Grove	10513214	43	\$125,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

#### Wabasha

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

## Goodhue

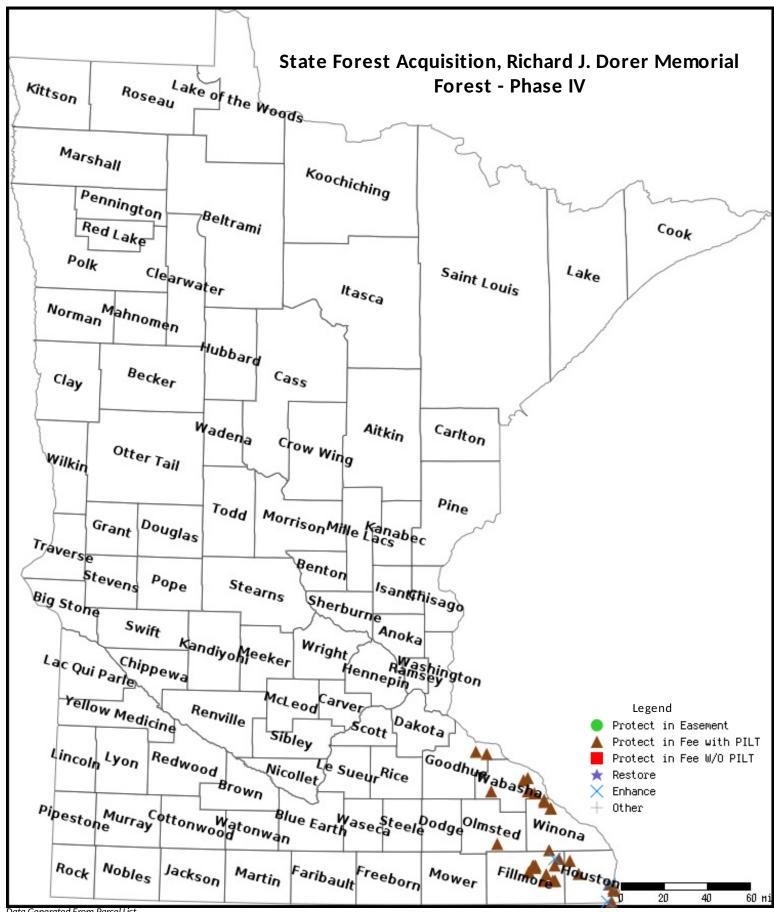
Name	T RDS	Acres	EstCost	#Bldgs?	Bldg Imrpove Desc	Value of Bldg	Disposition of Improvements
RJD-Hay Creek	11214218	82	\$246,000	1	Outbuilding to be removed	\$10,000	Remove

## **Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity**

No parcels with an other activity type.

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## **Parcel Map**



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# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council



# FY17 – State Forest Acquisition – Phase IV Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwoods Forest

**Abstract:** Protect, and enhance high priority habitat for the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Forest in southeast Minnesota. This will include enhancement of 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.

**Total Project Goal** = 4700 acres to consolidate state forest in SE Minnesota to improve critical habitat and forest access. Phase IV, if fully funded, will bring us almost half-way to this goal.

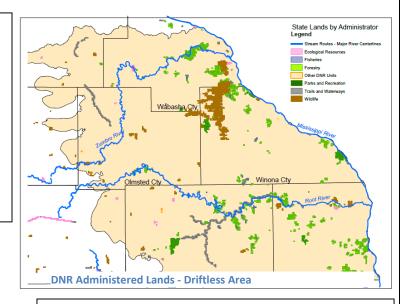
#### **Benefits of the Richard J. State Forests:**

- Forested habitat
- Recreation bird watching, horseback riding, mountain biking,
- Water management
- Forest products

#### Consolidating state forest lands:

- Wildlife mobility move to and from critical forest habitat types
- User experience -Better access and less private landowner conflicts
- · Less demand on local infrastructure





#### Facts of the Richard J. Dorer State Forest:

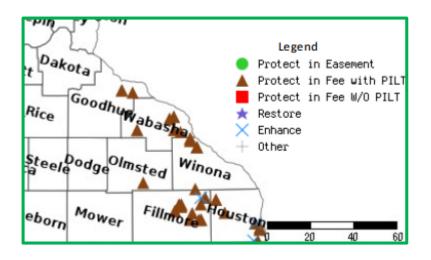
- DNR owns 45,000 acres out of 1 million covered by the forest (<3.5% of gross ownership).
- Created in 1961 RJD is 55 years old.
- Specific conservation goals in creating the RJD forest included: Improved wildlife habitat, prevention of erosion, stability of streams, and timber production.
- Memorial to pioneers and veterans.
- The forest includes bluffs of the Great River Road of the Mississippi River and a number state water trails. <u>Cannon River</u>, <u>Mississippi</u> <u>River</u>, <u>Root River</u>, <u>Whitewater River</u>, and <u>Zumbro River</u> state water trails are within the forest's boundaries.

#### Potential challenges of this project include:

- Offers rejected setting back the timeline, requiring amendments to substitute other priority parcels.
- Additional surveys setting back the timeline and increasing professional services costs.
- Title issues (multiple landowners) set back timeline and increase costs.

## Phase IV Fund Request: \$7,000,000

## Phase IV - ML 17 Fund Request



**Boot Brush Kiosk and Sign** 





128 Acres protected along the Zumbro River, ML2011 Funded Project

## Funds Requested: \$7,000,000

- Requested Budget:
  - Fee Acquisition \$6,300,000
  - Enhancement Contracts \$150,900
  - •Capital Equipment Boot Brush Kiosks \$20,000
  - Professional Services Appraisals, Title work, Research, Survey & Negotiations - \$420,000
  - Direct Support Services Business & Financial work to manage the grant -\$9,100
- •Priorities based on Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest Plan that identifies priority parcels for acquisition, based on whether the acquisition:
  - Protects critical forest habitat.
  - •Provides public <u>access</u> to existing state forest land.
  - <u>Consolidates</u> forest land, reducing state/private boundary and forest fragmentation.
- •Coordinate efforts with TNC and other partners to protect forest habitat in southeast Minnesota.

## Expected Outputs & Outcomes -

benefits/metrics:

- Protection of:
  - Additional 2300 acres of southeast Minnesota forest habitat.
  - 4 miles of river & stream shoreline.
- <u>Public access</u> to 3200 acres of existing state land: Enhancing forest user experience.
- Management efficiency and improved public use from reduction in state/private boundaries by 8 miles.
- Forest Fragmentation Reduction by 3% in RJ Dorer forest: Improving wildlife habitat.

