

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2018 / ML 2017 Request for Funding



Date: June 20, 2016

Program or Project Title: Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project - Phase II (HA03)

Funds Requested: \$8,998,500

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County Locations: Aitkin, Beltrami, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, and Morrison.

Regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Prairie

Abstract:

The Mississippi Headwaters Board will work with the Board of Water & Soil Resources, The Trust for Public Land, headwaters counties, and Soil & Water Conservation Districts to protect and preserve targeted habitat in high quality shoreland areas and provide access on the Mississippi River, headwater's reservoirs, and connecting corridor tributaries through fee title acquisitions. Easements will be administered in target areas to protect habitat and shoreland areas.

Design and scope of work:

The Mississippi River is known as "America's River." It is the largest river in North America, and provides drinking water, industry, and recreation for millions of people, and is the embodiment of Minnesota's outdoor traditions. Strategic and well placed public ownership is essential to maintaining the hunting, fishing, and game habitat along the Mississippi River. Public lands adjacent to private property are in danger of losing habitat connectivity because of the continued development pressures on private lands which result in further fragmentation. Land accessibility to these lands is essential to ensuring high quality, memorable experiences while hunting and fishing within the Mississippi River Corridor. Riparian corridors and tributaries are of particular value to resident and migrating wildlife populations, providing connectivity to multiple habitat types.

As loss of habitat in western Minnesota and the Dakotas occurs, and climate change causes the drying up of existing wetlands, the Mississippi flyway will take on a more important role. The Mississippi flyway is the longest migration route of any in the western hemisphere, and is well timbered and watered to afford ideal conditions to support migrating birds. The Mississippi Headwaters supports more than 350 species of animals, mammals, and birds and is an important national treasure which must be preserved.

The Mississippi Headwaters Board will use targeted fee title land acquisitions and permanent conservation easements to accomplish

the goals of this proposal. All fee title acquisitions will be approved by the local governmental unit and the Mississippi Headwaters Board where the property exists. The Mississippi river and its connecting tributaries and headwaters lakes are essential to wildlife, bird, and waterfowl transportation and sustainability. The Mississippi Headwaters Board will work with The Trust for Public Land to protect the priority lands using fee title acquisitions; and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the counties of Clearwater, Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Morrison to implement the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program through the Board of Water and Soil Resources to gain permanent conservation easements. Fee title acquisitions will protect against fragmentation of forest land, and provide access to existing public land. Parcels identified as potential fee title acquisitions on the Mississippi River are shown on the attached map. The Mississippi Headwaters Board will administer, provide updated reports to the council, coordinate efforts, and develop a consistent process that utilizes county support to ensure that the program and spirit of this proposal is met. The Department of Natural Resources or individual counties will hold the fee title acquisitions, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources will hold the permanent easements. A local Project Technical Committee will review and rank potential acquisitions and easements.

Local support was obtained by the MHB counties writing resolutions of support for this program. Various conservation partnerships were formed with The Trust for Public Land and the 8 local Soil & Water Conservation Districts to also help implement this program at the field level.

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

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Plan
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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

This program will advance the indicators by preventing fragmentation of forested land and allow access or better access to landlocked parcels through a fee title acquisition program. Both permanent easements and fee title acquisitions will protect shoreland and provide critical habitat for game and non game species and prioritize the Mississippi River and the natural values that exist there. It will protect migrating waterfowl and related species to increase migratory and breeding success. It will also identify and promote protection of critical habitat for flora and fauna on public and private lands minimizing duplicative efforts. The program will also protect threatened or endangered species that exist in the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Forest / Prairie Transition:

- Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

Northern Forest:

- Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

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:

Multiple benefits can be obtained where the water and land meet to preserve an outdoor heritage for generations to come . This program will build resilience into the Mississippi River system to protect against fragmentation and parcelization, and to protect the various aquatic and terrestrial species that use the river as a travel corridor. As fee title acquisitions are obtained, measurable results as to population increases and densities will be given to help tell the story how the conservation legacy is unfolding. By utilizing permanent conservation easements and acquisitions, along with science based tools that allow us to target the best areas for habitat; we will be able to sustain a permanent conservation legacy for us to enjoy now, and for our children to appreciate from generation to generation.

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:

This proposal emphasizes high quality, riparian tracts adjacent to public land to target the best land suitable for habitat protection.

Zonation modeling that was developed by the North Central Conservation Roundtable (NCCR) helps prioritize fish and wildlife habitat along with water quality benefits to be utilized on a ranking sheet to help locate areas that provide the best fish, wildlife, and game habitat. The NCCR is a group of non-governmental organizations, state and local agencies that meet quarterly to coordinate and develop strategy for the protection of land in North Central Minnesota. The Mississippi Headwaters sub-watershed prioritization model will be utilized to identify adjacent public land and access. This land that is targeted next to adjacent public land will help expand the corridors and complexes that currently exist through an organized method.

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:

The areas targeted by this proposal will strategically protect the habitat and connectivity for fish and game using permanent conservation easements and fee title acquisition to target riparian forest, wetland complexes, tributary confluences, and wild rice communities along the Mississippi river, headwater's reservoirs, and connecting corridors and tributaries. Land conversion and forest fragmentation have a threat on habitat, corridor connectivity, and aquatic function on both land and water in this area. This proposal will specifically protect habitat for the Blanding's Turtle, Gray wolf, Red Shoulder hawk, and the Northern Long Eared Bat.

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

Much of this forested corridor provides habitat for white-tailed deer, Golden-winged Warblers, and Ovenbirds populations. 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. 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. Golden-winged Warblers are often associated with shrubland habitat and regenerating forests. More current research indicates a variety of forest habitats are required by Golden-winged Warblers. While territories vary in size, an average of 4 pairs for every 10 hectares, may be translated to roughly 6 pairs for every 40 acres. Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) are found in upland forests statewide; typically in relatively mature forest but can also be found in younger forests. 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.

Outcomes:

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors *An increase of lineal shoreland habitat permanently protected by easement or fee acquisition. An increase in the percent (%) of minor watersheds habitat being permanently protected.*

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Rivers and streams provide corridors of habitat including intact areas of forest cover in the east and large wetland/upland complexes in the west *An increase of lineal shoreland habitat permanently protected by easement or fee acquisition. An increase in the percent (%) of minor watersheds habitat being permanently protected.*

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

Once a RIM easement is acquired, BWSR is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring into perpetuity. The BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry-out oversight, monitoring and inspection of its conservation easements. Easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted and partners' staff document findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified. Perpetual monitoring and stewardship costs have been calculated at \$6,500 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship cover costs of the SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and any enforcement necessary.

The non-governmental organizations will transfer all fee title lands to the Dept. of Natural Resources or county for permanent stewardship. Lands acquired by counties will be managed utilizing individual county land management plans, and lands acquired by the DNR will be required to develop a management plan consistent with their division.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2020	OHF	Work with landowners and agencies to determine interest and develop long term habitat priorities.	Utilize RIM program and work with BWSR to acquire, maintain, and monitor easements.	Perform on-site inspections for 5 consecutive years, and every 3 years thereafter.
2020	OHF	Work with landowners to determine interest and develop long term game, hunting and fishing priorities.	Work with Trust for Public Land to acquire parcels for fee title acquisitions.	Follow monitoring guidelines established by the DNR or Counties (depending on ownership) to monitor acquired parcels.

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

The Mississippi River is the dominant river in the lakes tourism industry. This area is experiencing development pressure at the lake and Mississippi River level, and forest fragmentation from the economic decline of the timber industry.

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

The Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) is a Joint Powers Board formed in 1980 to preserve the wild and scenic values of the Mississippi river. This proposal, coordinated and administered by the Mississippi Headwaters Board, will bring together state agencies, local governmental units, Comprehensive Water Plans, county government, Land Resource Plans, and nongovernmental organizations to provide a consistent and coordinated approach to permanent habitat preservation. Since 2003, the MHB has leveraged almost \$11 million worth of in-kind support for their work on the Mississippi River.

Relationship to other funds:

- Clean Water Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

The MHB has been successful in gaining and utilizing the Clean Water Fund to address water quality issues to compliment this habitat effort. They have currently secured with partners 3 Clean Water Fund grants totaling \$322,000. This allowed them to assess the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River to develop habitat and water quality strategies, and develop and organization campaign to address the issues identified.

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

Not Listed

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 - **Yes**

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

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

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 - **Yes**

Explain

The primary purposes of WMAs are to develop and manage for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife.

Lands proposed to be acquired as WMAs may utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated - **No**

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

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

Land conveyed to the Dept. of Natural Resources or counties will fall under management plans that allow for hunting and fishing opportunities.

Will the eased land be open for public use - **No**

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:

Informal trails on private property are typically used for personal access for hunting, fishing. Informal trails on Potlatch property are a remnant of forestry practices.

Roads or trails are typically excluded from easement areas if they serve no beneficial purpose to easement maintenance, monitoring, or enforcement. This question is being answered with utmost flexibility in absence of a LSOHC definition of trails and specified trail types (permanent or temporary, beneficial for maintenance, animal trails, etc.).

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

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

Land that is in an easement will be maintained by the landowner, and will be involved in a scheduled monitoring program by the County Soil & Water Conservation District. Land that is fee title acquired by the Dept. of Natural Resources will follow typical DNR management rules and monitoring plan. Land acquired by the county will follow a maintenance and monitoring plan developed by specific county forest resource plans.

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve program that has over 6,500 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms.

Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) easement program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

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:

On easements, though uncommon, there could be a potential for new trails may be developed, if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (e.g. firebreaks, berm maintenance, etc). This question is being answered with utmost flexibility in absence of a LSOHC definition of trails and specified trail types (permanent or temporary, beneficial for maintenance, animal trails, etc.). No new trails are planned for fee acquisitions.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve program that has over 6,500 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms.

Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) easement program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

Lands acquired by counties will be managed utilizing individual county land management plans, and lands acquired by the DNR will be required to develop a management plan consistent with their division.

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Partners- Landowner negotiations, due diligence, acquire land and convey to State or County	6/30/20
SWCDs- Complete conservation easements applications	6/30/20
BWSR- Process and acquire easements through the RIM program.	6/30/20
DNR, Counties- Acquire and manage land for habitat	6/30/20
MHB- Coordination, administration, reporting	6/30/20

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$8,998,500

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$720,400	\$191,000	Private	\$911,400
Contracts	\$116,000	\$0		\$116,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$4,400,000	\$0		\$4,400,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$500,000	\$0		\$500,000
Easement Acquisition	\$2,587,000	\$0		\$2,587,000
Easement Stewardship	\$214,500	\$0		\$214,500
Travel	\$19,900	\$0		\$19,900
Professional Services	\$110,000	\$0		\$110,000
Direct Support Services	\$118,900	\$118,900	Private	\$237,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$100,000	\$0		\$100,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$4,900	\$0		\$4,900
Supplies/Materials	\$6,900	\$0		\$6,900
DNR IDP	\$100,000	\$0		\$100,000
Total	\$8,998,500	\$309,900	-	\$9,308,400

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection and Legal Staff	1.30	3.00	\$398,000	\$191,000	Private	\$589,000
Program Coordinator	1.00	3.00	\$208,900	\$0		\$208,900
Grant Administration	0.30	3.00	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Program Management	0.15	3.00	\$45,000	\$0		\$45,000
Easement processing	0.30	3.00	\$58,500	\$0		\$58,500
Total	3.05	15.00	\$720,400	\$191,000	-	\$911,400

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	TPL	\$398,000	\$191,000	Private	\$589,000
Contracts	TPL	\$50,000	\$0		\$50,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	TPL	\$4,400,000	\$0		\$4,400,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	TPL	\$500,000	\$0		\$500,000
Easement Acquisition	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	TPL	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Professional Services	TPL	\$110,000	\$0		\$110,000
Direct Support Services	TPL	\$118,900	\$118,900	Private	\$237,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	TPL	\$100,000	\$0		\$100,000
Capital Equipment	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	TPL	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
DNR IDP	TPL	\$100,000	\$0		\$100,000
Total	-	\$5,788,900	\$309,900	-	\$6,098,800

Personnel - TPL

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection and Legal Staff	1.30	3.00	\$398,000	\$191,000	Private	\$589,000
Total	1.30	3.00	\$398,000	\$191,000	-	\$589,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	MHWB	\$218,900	\$0		\$218,900
Contracts	MHWB	\$0	\$0		\$0

Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	MHWB	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	MHWB	\$0	\$0	\$0
Easement Acquisition	MHWB	\$0	\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	MHWB	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	MHWB	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Professional Services	MHWB	\$0	\$0	\$0
Direct Support Services	MHWB	\$0	\$0	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	MHWB	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Equipment	MHWB	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	MHWB	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	MHWB	\$0	\$0	\$0
DNR IDP	MHWB	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	-	\$223,900	\$0	- \$223,900

Personnel - MHWB

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Coordinator	1.00	3.00	\$208,900	\$0		\$208,900
Grant Administration	0.30	3.00	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Total	1.30	6.00	\$218,900	\$0	-	\$218,900

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	BWSR	\$103,500	\$0		\$103,500
Contracts	BWSR	\$66,000	\$0		\$66,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	BWSR	\$2,587,000	\$0		\$2,587,000
Easement Stewardship	BWSR	\$214,500	\$0		\$214,500
Travel	BWSR	\$4,900	\$0		\$4,900
Professional Services	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	BWSR	\$4,900	\$0		\$4,900
Supplies/Materials	BWSR	\$4,900	\$0		\$4,900
DNR IDP	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	-	\$2,985,700	\$0	-	\$2,985,700

Personnel - BWSR

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.15	3.00	\$45,000	\$0		\$45,000
Easement processing	0.30	3.00	\$58,500	\$0		\$58,500
Total	0.45	6.00	\$103,500	\$0	-	\$103,500

Amount of Request: \$8,998,500

Amount of Leverage: \$309,900

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 3.44%

DSS + Personnel: \$839,300

As a % of the total request: 9.33%

Easement Stewardship: \$214,500

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 8.29%

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

Based on TPL's federal reimbursement rate.

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

N/A

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental? - Yes

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging:

N/A

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

The Trust for Public Land has committed to contributing staff fringe costs and on half of its DSS as leverage for this proposal.

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

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:

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally for the most part. Program management costs would be the exception, due to program development & oversight remaining somewhat consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

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	1,478	0	1,478
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	167	0	167
Protect in Easement	0	0	1,320	0	1,320
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	2,965	0	2,965

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	\$5,284,700	\$0	\$5,284,700
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$653,500	\$0	\$653,500
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$3,060,300	\$0	\$3,060,300
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$8,998,500	\$0	\$8,998,500

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	100	0	0	1,378	1,478
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	167	167
Protect in Easement	0	100	0	0	1,220	1,320
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	200	0	0	2,765	2,965

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	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,984,700	\$5,284,700
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$653,500	\$653,500
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,760,300	\$3,060,300
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$8,398,500	\$8,998,500

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	\$3,576	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$3,913	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$2,318	\$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	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,617
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,913
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,263
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

400

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:

Parcels for easement and fee title acquisition will use the easement and fee title acquisition ranking sheets in the attachment section of the proposal to rank and score parcels. These two ranking sheets will be filled out separately by a technical committee member, and then the group will convene regularly to discuss ranking and scoring. BWSR includes a statement about how parcels are selected and/or supplies a copy of signup criteria, when applicable. They do not identify easement parcels on a proposal, since the proposal requests funding for a program rather than a list of already identified projects.

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?
Mississippi River, Aitkin	04727224	247	\$300,000	No	Full	Full
Verdon Township	05124222	158	\$640,000	No	Full	Full

Beltrami

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Frohn	14632223	168	\$670,000	No	Full	Full
Wolf	14632236	460	\$2,000,000	No	Full	Full

Clearwater

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Mississippi River, Iron Springs Bog SNA	14436233	60	\$200,000	No	Full	Full

Crow Wing

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Mississippi River, Baxter	13329223	600	\$1,800,000	No	Full	Full
Mississippi River, Buffalo	04431203	500	\$2,000,000	No	Full	Full
Mississippi River, Crow Wing State Forest North	04729220	159	\$500,000	No	Full	Full
Mississippi River, Crow Wing State Forrest South	04730225	358	\$700,000	No	Full	Full
Rabbit Lake Township	04728219	73	\$300,000	No	Full	Full

Hubbard

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
LaSalle Creek SNA	14435235	350	\$800,000	No	Full	Full
Schoolcraft River AMA	14533219	130	\$400,000	No	Full	Full

Morrison

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Morrison Monahan	04232210	40	\$160,000	No	Full	Full

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

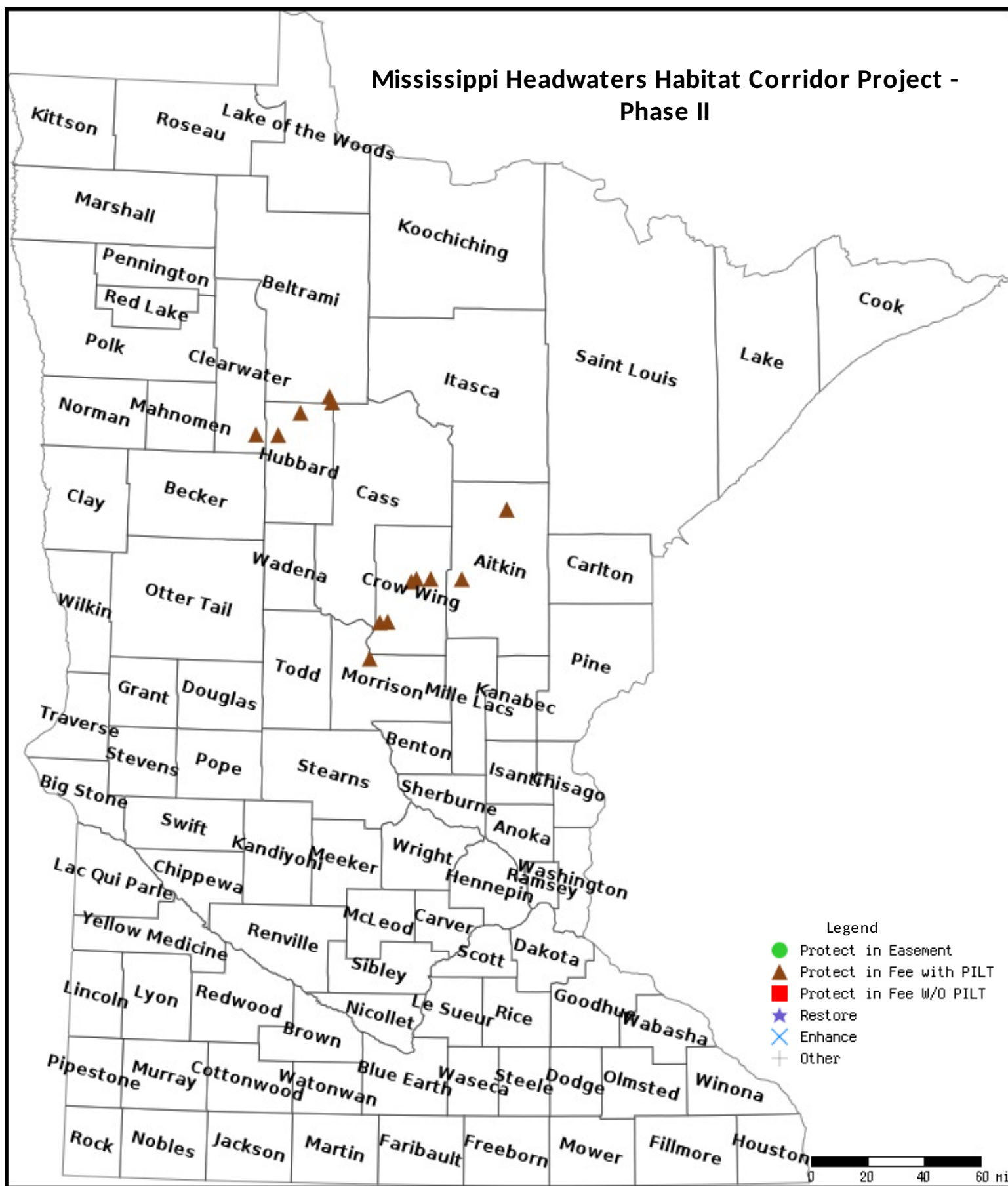
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project - Phase II



Data Generated From Parcel List



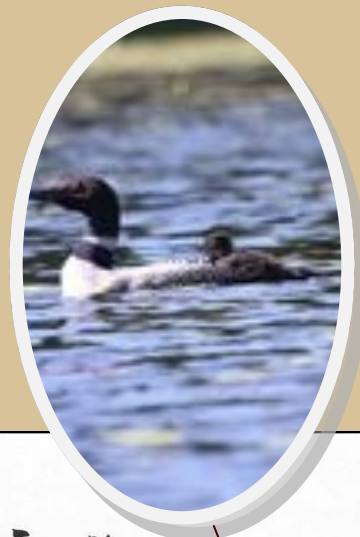
HA03 Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project



The **Mississippi Headwaters Board** is an eight-county (Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, and Morrison) joint-powers board united in 1980, with the signing of the Joint Powers Agreement. It was duly authorized by the Minnesota legislature in 1981 to preserve and protect the outstanding and unique natural, scientific, historical, recreational, and cultural values of the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River. (MN Stat. 103F.361. Subd. (1) and (2). MN Stat. 103F.361-377.

Priorities:

- The acquired parcels or easements must meet the Mississippi Headwaters Board natural value criteria of identifying and promoting protection of critical habitat flora and fauna as described in the Mississippi Headwaters Board Comprehensive Management Plan.
- The acquired parcels or easements will be **targeted** toward the Mississippi River; **precise** in protecting wildlife habitat on public lands; and **provide** multiple benefits such as hunting, fishing, and outdoor heritage opportunities.
- Acquisition and easement priorities will focus on parcels that provide access and are adjacent to existing County, State, and Federal public lands along the Mississippi River, headwaters reservoirs, and tributaries to increase habitat and corridor connectivity.
- Parcels will be ranked by technical committee, and brought before the Mississippi Headwaters Board for final approval.



The Mississippi River in North Central Minnesota

- Contains more than 350 species of animals, mammals, and birds.
- Is the flyway for neotropical birds and waterfowl.
- Over 16% of all the land in MN resides in the 8 MHB Counties.



Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Proposal- Easement Ranking sheet

<u>Score</u>	<u>Max Score</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Guidelines:</u>
	30	# Feet of Shoreline	5 points for minimal river frontage on the Mississippi River, headwaters Lakes/resevoirs, tributaries. (<500ft) 10 points for at least 500 - 999 feet of shoreland on the Mississippi River, headwaters Lakes/resevoirs, tributaries. 15 points for 1,000 - 2,000 feet of shoreland on the Mississippi River, headwaters Lakes/resevoirs, tributaries. 20 points for 2,000 - 3,000 feet of shoreline on the Mississippi River, headwaters Lakes/resevoirs, tributaries. 30 points for more than 3,000 feet of shoreland on the Mississippi River, headwaters Lakes/resevoirs, tributaries.
	15	% of Tract Developable	1-15 points base on the proportion of the tract that is developable (10%=1.5pts)
	10	Wetland fringe width	1-10 points based on the distance between upland & the bank/water (0'=10pts, 300'=0pts, -1pt/30' wet)
	20	Urgency	Property opportunity is likely to be lost if we do not act quickly
	25	Professional Judgement	0-20 Points based on Landowner actively managing their land & Riparian/Streamshore Needs
	15	Adjoining Applications	15 points for land adjoining another application
	20	Adjoining Public Land	up to 20 points for land adjoining public land on the Mississippi River, headwaters Lakes/resevoirs, and tributaries.
	10	Habitat Value	1-10 points based on the habitat value of the property, uniqueness, and lack of existing development and shoreline alterations. County biological survey, Zonation
	10	% of Parcel/Tract	1-10 points based on the proportion of the parcel enrolled (10% = 1 pt)
	10	% Forest of the parcels	1-10 points based on the proportion of parcel that is forest and/or perennial grass (10% = 1 pt)
	15	Minor Watershed Risk Classification of MHB or County Waterplan	1-15 Points for Classification Enhancement and Protection. Less points for Villigance. Additional points for moving that needle.
	20	Bargain Sale/Leverage	1-20 Points based on percent discount or other funds leveraged

200 TOTAL GROSS SCORE

*Other factors may raise or lower the priority of a parcel

ACQUISITION RANKING Criteria - Mississippi Headwaters Board Habitat Corridor Project:	CRITERIA TOTAL (MAX)	SCORING VALUE	SCORING DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
1. Habitat				
a. Decision Support Tools – Priority will be given to parcels that compliments or supports other decision support tools and plans. NCCR zonation modeling tool		10 5 3	parcel is in a protection priority of 90 - 100% parcel is in a protection priority of 75 - 89% parcel is in a protection priority of 20%-74%.	
MHB sub-watershed prioritization tool.		3 5 10	50% of land in catchment is protected 40 - 49% of land in catchment is protected. 0 - 39% of land in catchment is protected.	
b. Forested - Forest and perennial grasses are present. GIS photo interpretation.		1 5 10 15	1 - 25 % parcel is forested 26 - 50 % parcel is forested 51 - 75 % parcel is forested 76 - 100 % parcel is forested	
c. Proximity to Miss. River – Higher priority will be given to parcels that are in the priority areas (Mississippi River, headwaters reservoir, or connecting corridors and tributaries).		40 20	Adjacent to M.R., provides frontage and access from the river Other priority areas.	If a parcel crosses through more than one zone it will receive the value of the zone that is measured from the Mississippi River to where the closest parcel lot line begins.
d. Habitat Quality - high biodiversity on parcel is favored.		10	high biodiversity	County Biological Survey is used in determining biodiversity.
e. Adjacency to Conservation Lands - Priority will be given to parcels that enhance wildlife or fisheries corridors. Adjacent: lying near, close, or contiguous; adjoining; neighboring:		30 = adjacent or connect 0 = not adjacent	Adjacent or connect to protected land.	
	Habitat Total (115)			
2. Public Access				
a. Access - Priority will be given to parcels that provide or protect access to public lands. GIS photo interpretation. Improved access.		40	Property improves access to other public land	
	Access Total (40)			
3. Parcel Size and Cost. Emphasis will be given to larger landholdings that can be acquired more efficiently and cost effectively.				
a. Larger Parcels. - Higher priority will be given to larger parcels with opportunity for more significant benefits relative to administrative costs. GIS measuring.		20 20	Parcel is 160 acres or more Parcel has 1000 feet of frontage or more	
b. Bargain sale or leveraged funding - Owner agrees to take a reduced cost on acquisition by donating, reducing price of parcel or leveraging other funds.		10		
	Size/Bargain Total (50)			
5. Other Contributing Factors. The following secondary criteria should also be considered in prioritizing and selecting parcels.				
c. Support and Collaboration – MHB Board and county board are involved and favor protection of the parcel.		Yes No		A "No" by the county board in this area stops the process.
b. Professional Judgement - Takes into account feet of shoreline, amount of habitat features- 4 season access, development potential, T&E species, leveraging, landowner rediness.	maximum total up to 30 points	30		
	Cont. Factors Total (30)			
	GrandTotal			