

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2016 Accomplishment Plan



Date: June 30, 2016

Program or Project Title: Protect (Acquire) Key Forest Habitat Lands in Cass County - Phase VII

Funds Recommended: \$ 500,000

Manager's Name: Joshua Stevenson
Title: Land Commissioner
Organization: Cass County
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Legislative Citation: ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(f)

Appropriation Language: \$500,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Cass County to acquire land in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Cass

Regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest

Abstract:

Project will protect forest wildlife habitat in central Minnesota through fee title acquisition of key forest tracts. Title of lands acquired will be held by Cass County in fee.

Design and scope of work:

Problem: Central Minnesota, especially the area in Cass County from Brainerd/Baxter to Walker, has and will continue to see some of the fastest human population growth in Minnesota. This growth will lead to increased demands/use of this area, its natural resources and related public land base that needs to support this growth. Development of these parcels has resulted in the loss of Jack Pine barrens and forested lakeshore in the landscape of southern Cass County. Forest tracts currently undeveloped, held by private property owners, are currently being sold to private developers. These lands often provide access to existing public lands for resource management, are in holdings in otherwise unfragmented landscapes, create contiguous wildlife corridors, and protect larger blocks of land especially useful for stand level management of habitat.

Opportunity: Key forest tracts (i.e. in-holdings in large public land tracts, management access issues, etc.) are being considered or currently being offered for sale by private property owners in this area. Depressed market conditions and a willingness by current owners to sell at this time is an opportunity that should be addressed now since it is narrow and may close (properties sold) at any time. The strategy is to acquire lands that hold together unfragmented landscapes, avoid incompatible in holding development or creates habitat corridors. The land acquired has existing forest access roads that have been used for management access for years. The sale of

these lands to private individuals has already resulted in the loss of access for resource management on public lands. The acquired lands are not being pursued for convenience of management.

The identified parcels play a key role in future management plans of the Jack Pine Barrens and Forest Lakeshore including the role of fire as a management tool. The loss of these parcels to private ownership will result in lost access. Management of adjacent public lands will be limited to frozen ground conditions. This will eliminate management tools such as site preparation for Jack Pine plantings and aerial seeding as well as prescribed burns for Jack Pine regeneration. This type of management requires year round access. The acquired lands provide year round management access to existing public lands in the Jack Pine barrens landscape. The acquisition of these lands will provide permanent year round access for forest management as well as protecting habitat in and around the surrounding areas.

The Cass County Forest Resource Management Plan directs the County to acquire lands of this nature whenever possible to protect our management access. The Cass County Comprehensive plan requires no net loss of acres of public land and local unit of government input on all purchases and land sales. This project meets the requirements of both plans and will require stakeholder input as part of the project. The local units of government with the lands to be purchased will be contacted for input before any acquisitions are made. Recent purchases of this nature have been supported by both the County and local units of government. The Cass County Board of Commissioners has a strong history of supporting land sales and acquisitions that have local unit of government support.

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:

This request is targeting land that has been historically open to public hunting and fishing or land that has been used to access public land that has been open to public hunting and fishing. The request also targets lands with a high potential for rare, threatened and endangered species. These species include but are not limited to the Northern Long Eared Bat and the Blanding's Turtle.

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

Forest land conversion to center pivot agriculture use has created a urgent need for public funds to purchase strategic parcels. The parcels acquired will protect shallow water aquifers, wildlife habitat, and rare, threatened and endangered species that rely on forest habitat.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

The science based planning and evaluation model used for selecting parcels comes from our Forest Resource Management Plan. We select parcels based on location, access, habitat, and the support of local units of government.

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:

- Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans
- Cass County Forest Resource Management Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Northern Forest:

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

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

Describe the relationship of the funds:

Not Listed

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

The total value of this project is almost 50% of our annual budget. The entire amount received will be used for acquisition. The amount of money available to the Cass County Land Department for acquisition in the past is directly related to land sale revenue. Land Sales revenue has been down recently and funds to LCCMR are still outstanding pending the sale of land currently available over the counter. Our current staff will use this money to acquire lands in fee following existing procedures. Because our activity in land purchases and sales is currently low due to the depressed land sale market, there will be little or no effect on current duties.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2010-2014	Cass County	\$185,000 - Staff Time

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

The Cass County Land Department manages all County Administered lands under our Forest Resource Management Plan. This management plan requires that operations are maintained from revenue generated from timber sales. Cass County has a long history of covering our operation costs with timber revenue. The lands acquired will be managed under this same plan. These lands are not eligible for PILT payments. MN Statute 477A.11 defines lands that are eligible as being held by the state in fee or tax forfeited. The acquired lands for this project will be held in fee by Cass County and therefore are not eligible for PILT Payments. There will be no ongoing cost to the State of MN for the acquisition of these lands.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2017	Cass County	Forest Inventory Update	Update the 10 year work plan	
2020	Cass County	Manage Timber under current 10 year work plan		
2025	Cass County	Plant Trees as needed		

Activity Details:

If funded, this proposal 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 - **Yes**

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 Cass County Administered Land is open to public hunting, fishing, and taking of game.

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:

Forest trails are native surface and are used for the primary purpose of supporting short-term forest management activities. The allowable uses can be found in the forest roads section of the Cass County Forest resources Management Plan.

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

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

Road and trail maintenance is done on an as needed basis while monitoring is completed by staff foresters.

Will new trails or roads be developed as a result of the OHF acquisition - **No**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Contract for Appraisals	August 2016
Meet with LUGs and prepare purchase agreements	January 2017
Title Opinions from County Attorney	February 2017
Record Deeds	Summer 2017

Date of Final Report Submission: 8/1/2017

Federal Funding:

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

Outcomes:

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Landlocked public properties have increased access for land managers *We measure this outcome by the number of miles of public property line that are eliminated, the number of land locked public land acres that are opened to the public, and the number of acres of public land that are opened for year round management access.*

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

The reduced appropriation recommendation will result in a reduction of acres protected.

Total Amount of Request: \$ 500000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$18,000	Cass County	\$18,000
Contracts	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$500,000	\$0		\$500,000
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
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	\$500,000	\$18,000		\$518,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Land Commissioner	0.25	7.00	\$0	\$18,000	Cass County	\$18,000
Total	0.25	7.00	\$0	\$18,000		\$18,000

Amount of Request: \$500,000

Amount of Leverage: \$18,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 3.60%

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	377	0	377
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	377	0	377

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SEForest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	377	377
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	377	377

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SEForest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$1326	\$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	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1326
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

.15

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

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Cass

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Bullmoose 40	13831228	40	\$37,000	No	Full	Full
Carder 160	14030235	160	\$260,000	No	Full	Full
Fairview 97	13430218	97	\$155,200	No	Full	Full
Nelson 40	13331201	40	\$63,100	No	Full	Full
Powers 40	13930215	40	\$55,000	No	Full	Full

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

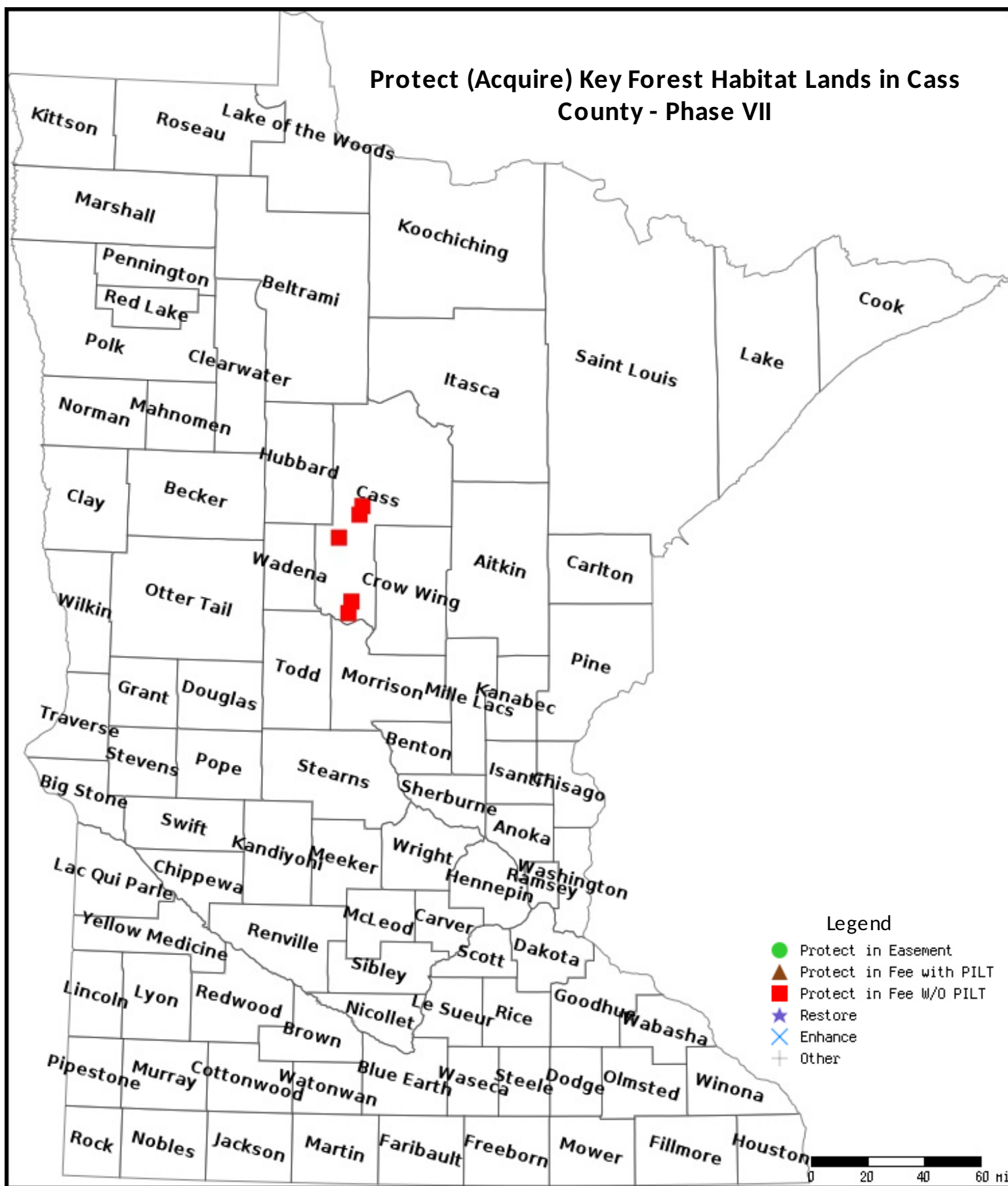
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

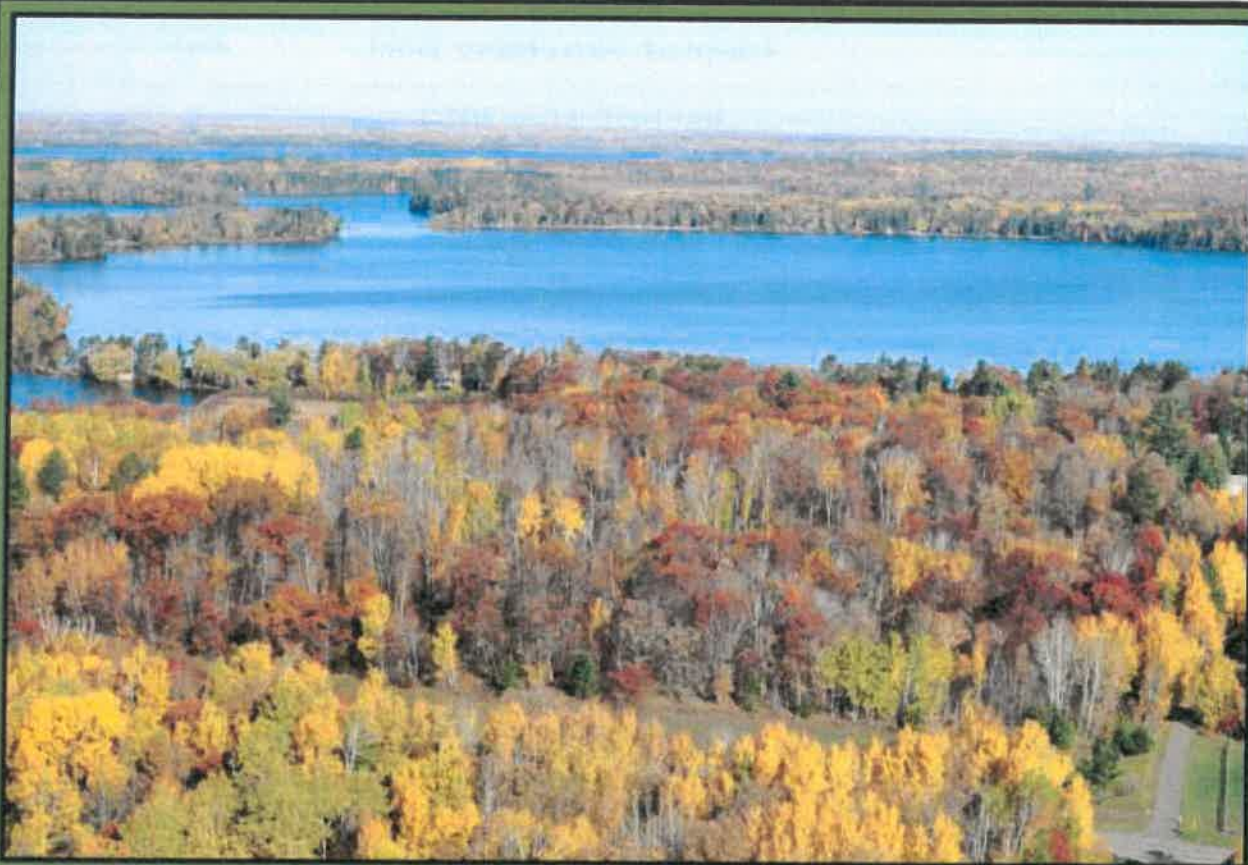
No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Protect (Acquire) Key Forest Habitat Lands in Cass County - Phase VII



Data Generated From Parcel List



Cass County Forest Resources Management Plan



May 2010



Cass County Long Range Resource Management Plan

Adopted: November 2003

Revised: May 2010

Cass County Board

Jim Demgen, District 1

Robert Kangas, District 2

Jeff Peterson, District 3

James Dowson, District 4

Dick Downham, District 5

Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Cass County Soil & Water Conservation District Board

Thomas Kuschel, District 1

Kenneth LaPorte, District 2

James Ballenthin, District 3

J. David Harder, District 4

Willard Pehling, District 5

Land & Forestry Department Staff

Joshua Stevenson, Land Commissioner

Patrick Bundy, Forest Resource Manager

Jerry Lamon, Forest Resource Manager

Erik Lindquist, Forest Resource Manager

Amy Rand, Forest Resource Manager

Elissa Pickar, Forest Resource Manager

Kimberly Wells, Forest Resource Manager

Prepared by Consultant Team of:

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Chapter 8.0 Recreation Facilities and Trails

8.1. Assessment

Cass County is meeting its obligation to provide recreational opportunities on its land base by managing the land in a manner that encourages and supports dispersed recreation (e.g., hunting, hiking, wildlife watching, etc.). Outside of trails, the County does not intend to create recreational facilities such as picnic grounds, parks, campgrounds, or boat accesses.

Travel on recreational trails will be a major activity across County lands. While the County does not intend to construct the trails, it will make its land base available to agencies such as the MnDNR and organized user groups to locate and develop appropriate trails on its land. The County will work with user groups, the DNR, and affected property owners on planning for future trails. In general, the County will encourage user groups to prepare comprehensive trail system plans so that the County, MnDNR and others can evaluate an entire system of trails, even if development occurs a segment at a time. The County will take action to insure that established recreational corridors are protected and to assist in the acquisition of land for future corridors.

Probably the most contentious issue regarding recreation concerns motorized trails, especially non-winter travel by ATVs, motocross bikes, and off highway vehicles. Currently, 89% of the County's land is open for motorized uses on trails; only 11% is designated solely for non-motorized recreational use. Current policy prohibits driving on- or off-road vehicles on County administered land within 50 feet of a lake, river, or type 1-8 wetland except while on a designated forest road or trail.

The State has three classifications of its forest for motorized recreation. "Closed" areas prohibit all forms of motorized uses. On lands designated "managed" motor vehicles may operate on forest roads and trails unless they are posted and designated closed. On lands designated "limited" motor vehicles may operate only on those roads and trails that are specifically designated open to such uses. Recent state legislation prohibited off trail travel on state forests except for specified purposes during selected times of the year including building hunting stands, trapping, retrieving downed big game, and conducting forest management activities.

Activities in the Spider Lake area, on State and County land, raised many issues over motorized recreational uses on forest lands. As a result, sections of this area have been designated "limited" while others retain the "managed" status. Cass County will continue to adjust its designations in this area to insure consistency.

Trails

Trails are a major recreational feature on Cass County's tax forfeited lands. The Land Department directly develops and maintains some systems while others are developed and maintained by private or public entities with County cooperation.

- 433.6 miles of Grant-in-Aid snowmobile trails managed by Cass County.
- 40.7 kilometers of cross country ski trails: Cut Lake trail (16.5 km); Hiram trail (8.0 km); Washburn Lake (22 km) and, Deep Portage (18.2 km – managed jointly

by Deep Portage and Land Department). These trails also serve as mountain bike trails in the summer.

- The County has no restrictions on horseback riding on any County Forest Roads or trails. Currently there are several miles of posted horse trails that are maintained by the Cass County Land Department in cooperation with local users. These trails are not designated and do not require a permit to use.
- 20 miles of designated hunter walking trails. All cross country ski trails are also hunter walking trails (non-motorized). Further, except for designated use by hunters with disabilities, most of Deep Portage is set aside for non-motorized trail use. Approximately 28,000 acres lie within these various non-motorized areas; this is 11% of the entire tax forfeited land base or 15% of the forested lands.

For current maps of trails, readers should visit Cass County's website (<http://www.co.cass.mn.us>) and click on the maps button. This will direct users to an interactive mapping program through which trails can be identified. Interested people can also contact the Land Department for printed maps.

There is a need to develop an officially designated system of trails for all terrain vehicles (ATVs). This will involve designation and upgrading of existing trails and may include construction of new ones. As state legislation and rules for State lands unfold, it likely will be necessary for the County to increase the number of trails which are designated and signed for specific types of recreational uses.

The development of new trails or expansion / redevelopment of existing ones will be done with several guidelines in mind. First, the County will require the active participation of affected user groups and, preferably, the sponsorship of a local club. Second, wherever possible, trails will be designed to be year-round and support multi-use. Third, trails are to be designed to avoid or at least minimize use of road rights-of-way and to eliminate back-tracking. Fourth, permanent protection of trail corridors and critical segments will be sought.

Recreational Trail Policy

1. The County will use its land base to help establish, promote, manage and retain recreational trail corridors in Cass County.
2. All officially recognized forest roads and trails on tax forfeited lands that are designated by the County Board will be signed as appropriate.
3. All designated forest roads and recreational trails on County administered lands are considered open to motorized recreational vehicles unless specifically posted closed. "Posted closed" includes such measures as signage, gating, and placement of boulders, earth, and other natural materials to indicate that passage by motorized vehicles is clearly prohibited. The big game exemption applies to these trails and licensed hunters are encouraged to use them while pursuing big game. Cass County will work with the State and Federal land managers to secure consistent use designations to avoid conflict and confusion.
4. Off trail motorized travel across County administered tax forfeited lands is prohibited. All motorized recreational vehicles must stay on existing roads and trails in accordance with use designations. In response to unauthorized off trail or cross country travel, the Land Department, with County Board consent, will post areas closed as a tool to limit resource damage.
5. Motorized recreation scramble areas (e.g., hill climbs, mud runs, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for public forest lands and are not to be allowed.

6. The design and development of recreational trails will involve user groups, the general public, public and private landowners potentially affected by a trail, and local units of government where the trails are located.
7. While priority is given to forest management activities, good faith efforts will be made to adjust schedules and procedures so as to avoid or minimize conflicts with recreational uses, including use of trails.
8. Requests for Designation of County Administered Land will require local unit of government consent. The Cass County Land Department has created a template of land use designations for discussion that was drafted considering historic use, neighboring public land designations, soils, existing resources, wetlands, and forest covertype. This template will be used for reference. Designations will be brought to the County Board for consideration after the following criteria has been reached.
 - Local units of government need to provide written consent with the proposed routes or areas of limitations. This includes permission from all road authorities where either road right of way or road surface is required. This will avoid County approval on a route that a township or city does not condone. If we require local units of government to approve the plan first, the County will not be pushing a specific route or area on a local unit of government.
 - Routes and areas of limitations must follow the existing draft management plan that was produced during the public review process for the East Central Trail designations. This map was created by professionals with the intent of protecting the resource and to avoid landowner conflicts. If the proposed route or area of limitations is outside those recommendations, specific mitigation measures must be identified to ensure the resource is being protected and that all affected private property owners have been notified and agree to the use of their property for this purpose.
 - Designated trails across County Administered Land need to be under the Grant In Aid system (GIA) or maintained by the State of Minnesota. This will not only provide a means of liability protection for the County but will also provide the club or requesting party an additional source of funding for maintenance and signs. All recommendations from the County should require GIA status within a specific time period as a condition of the conditional use permit or recreational trail permit.
 - Funding for maintenance and construction of the trail or area of limitation signage must be identified by the party requesting the designation or trail permit. The Cass County Land Department currently spends money on designated GIA trails only if there is a benefit to resource management. All other funds are currently coming from GIA funds or local clubs.
 - An enforcement plan must be identified by the party requesting the permit. This should include existing programs like trail ambassadors and required ordinances from local units of government to use road surfaces or right of ways for trail connections when needed. The trail proposals and areas of limitations should be as self sufficient as possible given the current limitations on laws and regulations from both the State of Minnesota and existing local ordinances. If a new ordinance is required to help police the proposed trail or area of limitation, it should come from a local unit of government below the County with an enforcement plan. This again will not require the County to force trail routes, areas of limitations, and regulations on a local unit of government.

Chapter 9.0 Forest Roads

9.1. Assessment

Cass County administered land contains over 1,000 miles of forest roads whose purpose is to provide access to the land for management purposes. While portions of some of the roads also serve as recreational trails, they are distinguished from recreational trails by their use as forest roads for the purpose of resource management.

Forest roads on County administered land can be found at various stages of development and maintenance depending upon location and successional stage of the surrounding resource. This reflects the intended use of the road and level of its construction and maintenance.

In addition, forest roads on County administered lands are considered open to use to motorized recreational vehicles unless specifically posted closed. When persistent damage to the resource occurs from unauthorized use, access is controlled through gates and/or rocks and berms with County Board consent. The reasons for controlling access along a road include:

- Prevent dumping of garbage and demolition waste;
- Allow for successful seeding of trails;
- Protect hunter walking trails;
- Protect road bed of newly constructed trails;
- Restrict motorized traffic on cross country ski/mountain bike trails; or
- Prevent erosion on access roads traversing highly erodible soils.

Some control gates are permanent such as those on hunter walking trails and on ski / mountain bike trails. Gates installed for the protection of new seeding or newly created road beds are moveable and are reused. Gates on trails that need seasonal protection such as for the prevention of erosion are open when weather or road conditions permit.

The current system of forest roads (including public roads that abut tax forfeited land) provide direct access to 90,500 acres of tax forfeited land (land that lies within 600 feet of the road); this is 36% of the total amount of tax forfeited land.

As noted earlier, the county has identified non-motorized trail areas (i.e., County tax forfeited lands accessed by forest roads that are gated, barricaded or otherwise identified as not being accessible to motorized recreation vehicles). Approximately 28,000 acres lie within these non-motorized areas; this is 11% of the entire tax forfeited land base.

Wherever possible, the County cooperates with other landowners on the development and maintenance of forest access roads. The intent is to minimize the number of roads while insuring adequate access.

The County does not plan to develop new major maintained-class forest roads. Additional non-maintained-class roads may be needed for future management activities.

Forest Roads and Trails Policy

1. All forest roads will be designed and built in accordance with "best management practices" regarding location, terrain, water quality and quantity, visual qualities, and the like.

2. Road development and improvement will be coordinated between the Land Department and affected property owners to maximize safety, minimize conflicts, reduce costs, and encourage appropriate cooperative development and use.
3. All forest roads are considered open to motorized travel unless posted closed with County Board consent.
4. Roads will restrict access with County Board consent for any one or more of the following reasons: Prevent dumping of garbage and demolition waste; Allow for successful seeding of trails; Hunter walking trails; Protect road bed of newly constructed trails; Restrict motorized traffic on cross country ski/mountain bike trails; Prevent erosion on access roads traversing highly saturated or erodible soils.
5. All forest roads and trails will be inventoried, mapped using geographic positioning systems (GPS) technology or air photos during forest inventory updates.
6. Forest roads and trails will be signed regarding their designated use.
7. Relative to potential impacts on wetlands due to forest road construction, the County's policy is:
 - Additional fill placed in wetlands for any reason, including road construction, requires mitigation and replacement.
 - Roads must be built and maintained for forest uses only.
 - Trail Designation cancels all exemptions from wetland requirements.
 - Easements providing access to private property cancels all exemptions from wetland requirements.
 - Grant-in-Aid Trail grants on corridors cancels all exemptions from wetland requirements.
 - Existing wetland crossings are to be maintained "as is" with no expansion of the current footprint within a wetland.

9.2 Procedures

The Land Department has adopted procedures addressing roads and trails. These procedures are amended from time to time. Readers are directed to the Land Department website for the latest versions (www.co.cass.mn.us/land/land_home.html).

Chapter 10.0 Habitat

10.1. Assessment

Cass County has a long history of considering habitat values in its overall management programs. One member of the Land Department staff is designated as a wildlife specialist.

In 1998 the MnDNR published the County Biological Survey for Cass County.¹¹ This report presents an extensive examination of rare and critical biotic communities and individual species (plants, animals, insects). The detailed information concerning locations of particular specimens is not part of the public record but is accessible by County staff as it undertakes site-specific work.

Rare, Endangered or Species of Special Concern

The County Biological Survey revealed a number of plants and animals that are rare, endangered, or of special concern for which management practices should be adopted. Table 9 lists rare plants tracked by the state's Natural Heritage Information System and sensitive species being tracked by the Chippewa National Forest. Table 10 lists rare animals documented from or potentially occurring in Cass County.

Table 9: Rare Plants Being Tracked in Cass County by State Legal Status		
Habitat	Name	Status
Open Water	Myriophyllum tenellum (Water milfoil)	NS
	Nymphaea tetragona (a type of water lily)	
	Potamogeton vaseyi (Vasey's pondweed)	SC
Littoral Aquatic	Cladium mariscoides (Twig rush)	SC
	Eleocharis olivacea (Olivaceous spikerush)	T
	Eleocharis pauciflora	
	Eleocharis quinqueflora var. fernaldii (Few-flowered spikerush)	SC
	Najas gracillima (Slender naiad)	SC
	Sparganium glomeratum (Clustered bur-reed)	SC
	Utricularia gibba (Humped bladderwort)	NS
	Utricularia purpurea (Purple-flowered bladderwort)	SC

¹¹ Minnesota Biological Survey. 1998. Cass County biological survey 1992-1995. Biological Report No. 59. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. 325 pp.