



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Minnesota Forests for the Future Phase VI  
Laws of Minnesota 2018 Accomplishment Plan

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### General Information

**Date:** 12/30/2021

**Project Title:** Minnesota Forests for the Future Phase VI

**Funds Recommended:** \$1,473,000

**Legislative Citation:** ML 2018, Ch. 208, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 3(c )

**Appropriation Language:** \$1,473,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire lands in fee and to acquire easements for forest, wetland, and shoreline habitat through working forest permanent conservation easements under the Minnesota forests for the future program according to Minnesota Statutes, section 84.66. A conservation easement acquired with money appropriated under this paragraph must comply with Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 13. The accomplishment plan must include an easement monitoring and enforcement plan. Of this amount, up to \$25,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. A list of permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the final report.

**Additional Legislative Changes:** ML 2021, First Sp Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 10 Carryforwards (a) The availability of the appropriations for the following projects is extended to June 30, 2022: (5) Laws 2018, chapter 208, article 1, section 2, subdivision 3, paragraph (c), for Minnesota Forests for the Future - Phase VI;

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Christine Ostern

**Title:** Forest Legacy Coordinator

**Organization:** MN DNR Forestry

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### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Sherburne, Rice, Morrison, Itasca, Hubbard, Benton, Lake and Crow Wing.

**Eco regions in which work will take place:**

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Metro / Urban
- Prairie

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Forest

**Narrative****Abstract**

The Minnesota Forests for the Future Program will use \$1.473 million to protect 630 acres with permanent conservation easements and 590 acres in fee title in the northern forest region. While the program focuses on forest protection, surrounding areas of wetland and grasslands will be included in biologically and habitat rich forest/wetland complexes. Conservation easement acquisition will focus on tracts near or adjacent to our Phase V tracts. Fee title acquisitions target priority inholdings and access parcels within State Forests. The project will prevent habitat loss and fragmentation and will promote healthy and diverse forests and wetlands.

**Design and Scope of Work**

The Hardwood Hills and Rum River Project Area is a landscape of forests, extensive wetlands, riparian habitat and open waters. Over 217 species of greatest conservation need are known to occur within this region including many disturbance sensitive species such as red-shouldered hawks. Portions of this landscape have been identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as sites of statewide biodiversity significance on the basis of the number of rare species, the quality of the native plant communities, size of the site, and context within the landscape. This landscape is extremely vulnerable to development. Between 2008 and 2013, more than 260,000 acres of forest, wetland, and grassland in the Upper Mississippi River Basin were converted to other uses, with a significant portion occurring within the project area. If unprotected, the long term integrity of the forest and wetland habitats will be compromised by future development activities that could convert and fragment habitat and threaten water quality. This project will focus on protection efforts in strategic locations to ensure that forests remain undeveloped, with connections maintained between forests and wetlands across the landscape. Songbirds, timber wolves, black bear, deer, bobcat, beaver, wood duck, mallard, woodcock and many other game and non-game species will benefit from protection.

Conservation Easements: Phase VI of the Forests for the Future Program (MFF) will focus on priority tracts within Morrison County and will complement other conservation work in-progress (MFF Phase V) and already completed in the region (Army Compatible Use Buffers) to protect and conserve forests and wetlands for fish, game and wildlife and water quality benefits. MFF conservation easements will result in permanent protection while maintaining the land in private ownership and on the tax rolls. Landowners will be responsible for managing the properties under the guidance of a state-approved forest stewardship plan. Key habitats protected include upland

deciduous and conifer forests, non-forested wetlands (shrub swamps), open wetlands, and lake, stream and river shorelines.

Fee Title Acquisition: Fee acquisition will protect at-risk forest parcels in the Badoura and Paul Bunyan State Forests, consolidate and link State owned parcels, and provide management and public recreational access. These parcels are currently owned by Potlatch and are scheduled for sale in the near future if state acquisition doesn't occur. This proposal will enhance previous conservation protection efforts (Pinelands Sands 1-OHF2014) in this area.

This project is being done in partnership and cooperation with many federal, state, local and private agencies engaged in conservation and protection efforts in and around Morrison County including the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, Morrison County SWCD, Mississippi Headwaters Board and the Conservation Fund.

The Nature Conservancy of Minnesota has committed to providing match funds up to 10% of total project costs.

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

Target habitats of our proposal included upland conifer forests, upland hardwood forests, non-forested (shrub) wetlands, open peatlands and stream and lake shoreline. Protection of these parcels will provide critical habitat for game species including upland birds (turkey, woodcock, ruffed grouse), white-tailed deer, black bear, and waterfowl as well as songbirds and other non-game wildlife species.

Wild rice shoreland provides important habitat for wetland dependent wildlife species in Minnesota and is especially important for migrating and breeding waterfowl. More than 17 species of wildlife listed as Species in Greatest Conservation Need use wild rice areas for breeding, migration and foraging including common loon, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, American bittern, least bittern, red-necked grebe, sora rail, Virginia rail, yellow rail, black tern, rusty blackbird, sedge wren, lesser scaup, northern pintail, and American black duck.

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

This program uses the Minnesota County Biological Survey (including identified sites of biodiversity significance), GIS analysis tools, and priority scoring and ranking to identify lands for protection to create forest/wetland habitat complexes and connecting corridors. In addition, we consult with and cooperate with local and regional watershed and landscape planning efforts such as the The Nature Conservancy's Multiple Benefits Analysis, Camp Ripley Area Landscape Stewardship Plan, and the Sentinel Landscape Plan.

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

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

## Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

## Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

### 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

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

## Does this program include leveraged funding?

-

## Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2010	The Conservation Fund	\$9,750,000
2010	RIM Critical Habitat Match	\$328,631
2012	The Nature Conservancy	\$1,437,900
2012	RIM Critical Habitat Match	\$229,100
2012	State Capital Bonding	\$231,551
2015	RIM Critical Habitat Match	\$100,000

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

All lands protected through permanent conservation easements will be sustained through standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship that have been developed and implemented in DNR's forest easement program over the past 18 years. Our easement stewardship program incorporates annual landowner meetings, annual on-site monitoring of all properties, response to landowner inquiries, tracking ownership changes and addressing and resolving easement violations.

Funding for easement stewardship is included in the current proposal. Stewardship funds will be transferred to the designated stewardship account and interest earned from the account will fund annual stewardship and monitoring work for the easements. All easements will have baseline property reports, forest stewardship plans and easement monitoring plans prepared prior to closing of the project. Future forest and wildlife management activities will be guided by a DNR-approved Forest Stewardship Plan. The Forest Stewardship Plan provides direction and guides the sustainable management activities that are consistent with protecting habitat and other resource values of the property.

Fee lands acquired will become part of the Minnesota State Forest system. Fee acquisitions increase management efficiency through improved access for habitat management and consolidation of existing state forest lands. Funding for management comes from the Forest Management Investment Account.

### Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
For easement project: June 30, 2021 or upon completion of the project.	OHF	Transfer stewardship funds to dedicated stewardship account per accomplishment plan and OHF appropriations.	Develop easement stewardship plans prior to closings.	Develop baseline property reports and easement monitoring plan prior to closing.
For easement project: Annually/perpetually	OHF-Permanent Easement Account	Monitor easements annually and enforce easement terms.	Annual landowner contacts and on-site monitoring.	Review forest and wildlife habitat management activities annually and review and update Forest Stewardship Plans periodically.
For fee project: June 30, 2021 or upon completion of the project.	Natural Resource Fund - FMIA	Manage forests to maximize forest health and wildlife benefits consistent with guidance documents.	Maintain boundaries.	Monitor public use and address any issues.

### Activity Details

#### Requirements

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

Yes

**Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition?**

No

**Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:**

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 (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?**

Yes

**Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) free of any other permanent protection?**

Yes

**Who will manage the easement?**

DNR Division of Forestry will manage the easement.

**Who will be the easement holder?**

Minnesota DNR Division of Forestry will be the holder.

## Land Use

**Will there be planting of 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

**Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:**

All fee land acquisitions will be managed by the Division of Forestry consistent with State Forest policies and will be open for hunting and fishing following completion.

**Who will eventually own the fee title land?**

DNR Division of Forestry will own and administer the fee title land.

**Will the eased land be open for public use?**

No

**Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?**

Yes

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

Forest Access Roads and Trails: These roads and trails have been developed and are maintained to provide ongoing access for forest and wildlife management activities on the properties. On fee lands, roads and trails will provide both public recreational access and management access to State Forest Lands.

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

Yes

**How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?**

Maintenance of forest access roads and trails will be the responsibility of the landowner, either private landowners or State Forest administrator. Monitoring of roads and trails will be conducted as part of the annual easement monitoring of the eased properties. 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 enforcement actions when necessary.

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

Yes

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

In a few cases additional and temporary forest access roads and trails will be established as needed. They will provide temporary or, sometimes, permanent access for forest and wildlife management activities.

**How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?**

Maintenance of forest access roads and trails will be the responsibility of the landowner. Monitoring of roads and trails will be conducted as part of the annual easement monitoring of the easement properties.

## Timeline

<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
Acquire conservation easements.	June 30, 2021
Develop conservation easement monitoring plans, forest stewardship plans, and dedicate easement stewardship.	June 30, 2021
Acquire fee title acquisitions	June 30, 2021

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 11/01/2022

**Budget**

*Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan.*

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$28,000	-	-	\$28,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$730,000	\$150,000	The Nature Conservancy	\$880,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$630,000	-	-	\$630,000
Easement Stewardship	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Travel	\$3,000	-	-	\$3,000
Professional Services	\$51,000	-	-	\$51,000
Direct Support Services	\$4,300	-	-	\$4,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$1,700	-	-	\$1,700
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,473,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	-	<b>\$1,623,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Forest Legacy Coordinator	0.1	3.0	\$28,000	-	-	\$28,000

**Amount of Request:** \$1,473,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$150,000

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 10.18%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$32,300

**As a % of the total request:** 2.19%

**Easement Stewardship:** \$25,000

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 3.97%

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

Fewer acres will be protected and no restoration will be accomplished on protected tracts. Focus will be on at risk fee parcels and highest priority conservation easement parcels. Federal funding through the Federal Forest Legacy Program may be sought to provide additional protection funding.

**Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:**

The Nature Conservancy has committed a 10% cash match for this project.



## Easement Stewardship

**What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?**

## Travel

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

-

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

**I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:**

No

## Direct Support Services

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

The DNR Direct and Necessary cost calculator - subtractive model - was used to determine the shared support services amount.

## Federal Funds

**Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?**

No

Output Tables**Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	590	0	590
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	630	0	630
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,220</b>

**Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$775,000	-	\$775,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$698,000	-	\$698,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,473,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,473,000</b>

**Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	590	590
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	630	630
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,220</b>

**Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$775,000	\$775,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	\$698,000	\$698,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,473,000</b>	<b>\$1,473,000</b>

**Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$1,313	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$1,107	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

**Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$1,313

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	\$1,107
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

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

## Outcomes

### Programs in the northern forest region:

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *This project will permanently protect approximately 1220 acres with fee title acquisition (590 acres) and perpetual conservation easements (630 acres) . The project would protect the property's conservation values - its plants, animals, natural communities and wildlife habitats found in the forests, wetlands, and shorelines of the property by permanently restricting specified land uses such as development, subdivision, land conversion or other activities that would damage those features. The project will prevent habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and associated habitat degradation and will promote healthy and diverse forests, keep water clean and help maintain healthy wildlife populations.*

## Parcels

*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.*

### Parcel Information

#### Sign-up Criteria?

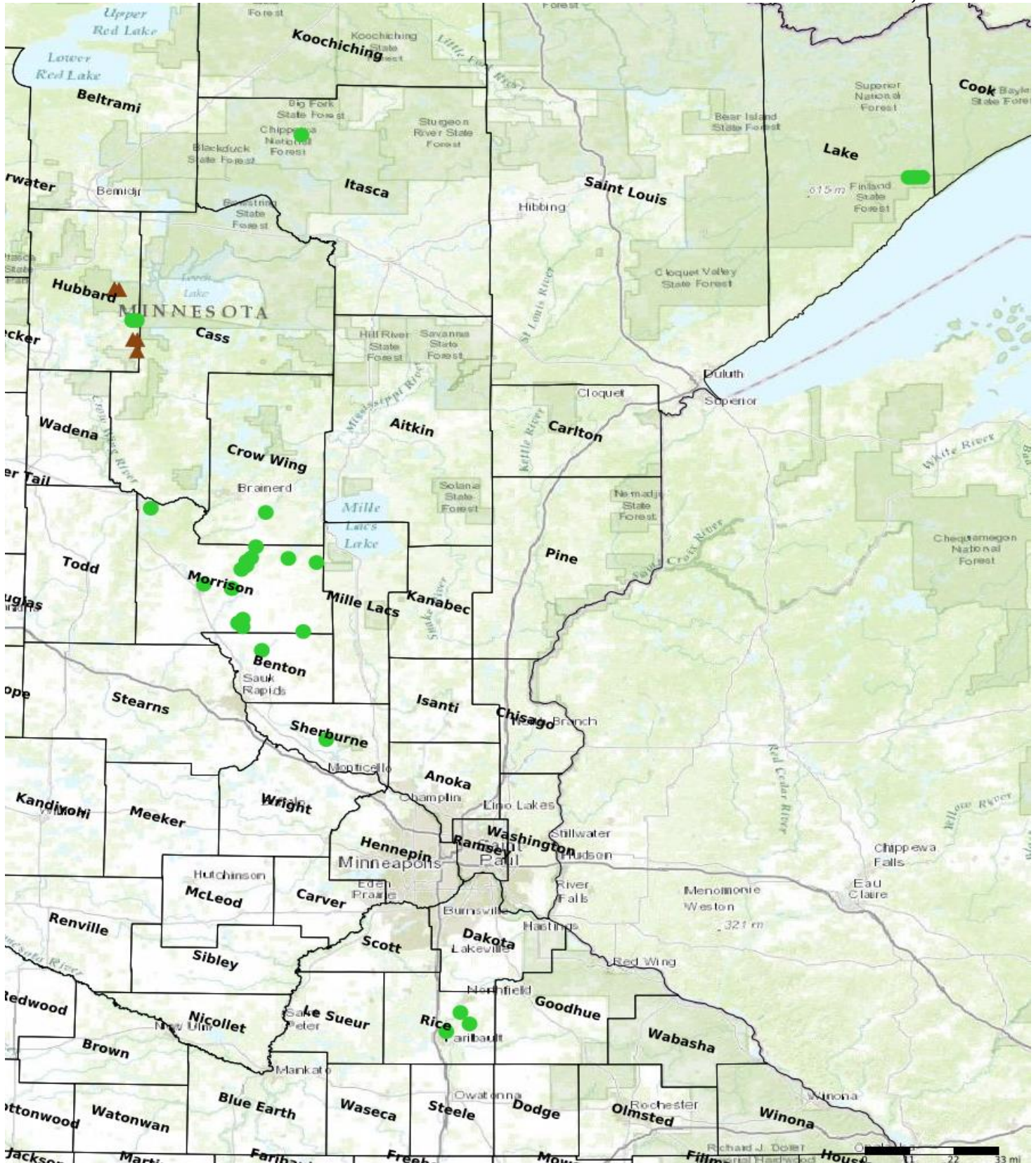
No

**Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:**

### Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Benton - Rice Club	Benton	03830228	65	\$0	No
Crow Wing 1	Crow Wing	04430224	135	\$0	No
Steamboat 2	Hubbard	14232218	40	\$0	No
Steamboat 2	Hubbard	14232218	40	\$0	No
White Oak Sec 23	Hubbard	14032223	275	\$0	No
Steamboat 2	Hubbard	14232217	40	\$0	No
Hubbard 2	Hubbard	13932201	347	\$0	No
Shingobee - Hudson	Hubbard	14132226	115	\$0	No
Shingobee - Bayman	Hubbard	14132225	370	\$0	No
Shingobee - Arnold	Hubbard	14132226	50	\$0	No
Steamboat 2	Hubbard	14232218	40	\$0	No
White Oak Sec 24	Hubbard	14032224	200	\$0	No
Hubbard 1	Hubbard	14232218	240	\$0	No
Steamboat 2	Hubbard	14232218	40	\$0	No
Steamboat 2	Hubbard	14232217	40	\$0	No
Itasca - Appलगren	Itasca	14926223	150	\$0	No
Moose Creek	Lake	05806205	380	\$0	No
Moose Creek	Lake	05806204	560	\$0	No
Moose Creek	Lake	05806203	48	\$0	No
Moose Creek	Lake	05806206	212	\$0	No
Morrison 15	Morrison	04132226	200	\$0	No
Morrison - Rice Club	Morrison	03931226	290	\$0	No
Morrison - Rice Club	Morrison	03931222	190	\$0	No
Morrison - Reimer	Morrison	03929236	60	\$0	No
Morrison - Parent	Morrison	04230229	130	\$0	No
Morrison - Kuske	Morrison	04130206	125	\$0	No
Morrison 22	Morrison	04131235	112	\$0	No
Morrison 12	Morrison	03931214	360	\$0	No
Morrison 13	Morrison	04130206	120	\$0	No
Morrison 14	Morrison	13331233	590	\$0	No
Morrison 18	Morrison	04229223	1,320	\$0	No
Morrison 19	Morrison	04228226	667	\$0	No
Morrison 17	Morrison	04230203	400	\$0	No
Morrison 21	Morrison	04230229	140	\$0	No
Morrison 16	Morrison	04230221	960	\$0	No
Morrison 20	Morrison	04230232	160	\$0	No
Morrison 23	Morrison	04131235	195	\$0	No

Rice - O'Connor	Rice	11020220	70	\$0	No
Rice - Book	Rice	11120226	18	\$0	No
Rice - Cederberg	Rice	11019207	28	\$0	No
Sherburne - Just	Sherburne	03428223	17	\$0	No



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- + Other

**Parcel Map**  
**Minnesota Forests for the Future Phase VI**  
**(Data Generated From Parcel List)**

