

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2020 Accomplishment Plan



Date: June 18, 2020

Program or Project Title: DNR Forest Habitat Enhancement

Funds Recommended: \$ 1,773,000

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Legislative Citation: ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 3(d)

Appropriation Language: \$1,773,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources to restore and enhance wildlife habitat in the northern forest region in wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, aquatic management areas, and state forests. A list of proposed land restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Carlton, Cass, Chisago, Clearwater, Cook, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pine, Roseau, St. Louis, Todd, and Wadena.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Enhance
- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Habitat
- Wetlands

Abstract:

Minnesota's iconic northern forest habitats, along with their interlaced wetlands and brushlands, are in need of management for the future due to stressors such as invasive species and climate change. This request will enhance and restore up to 3,250 acres of habitat in the Northern Forest Region on WMAs, AMAs, State Forests, and SNAs to increase forest health and resilience, and ultimately wildlife populations, through activities of a roving crew over three years. DNR's conservation Agenda, and Wildlife Action, Forest Action, SNA Strategic Land Protection and SFRMP Plans, will guide operations to ensure strategic, targeted work.

Design and scope of work:

Northern Minnesota's forest habitats include towering pines, dense aspen, spruce bogs, and oak with broad arching branches, with rivers, lakes, sedge meadows, and brushlands intermixed. These habitats are home to a wide array of wildlife, including species in greatest conservation need such as moose, sharp-tailed grouse, American woodcock, and the black-throated blue warbler. They also provide clean water, outdoor recreation and products, sequester carbon, and support local communities. However, our forests face increasing stress from invasive species, climate change, lack of management, conversion, and fragmentation. If we are to address these

stressors, and sustain the health of forest habitats on state lands which DNR is entrusted to steward for Minnesota citizens and the multiple benefits they provide, we must begin now to support management activities that are above and beyond normal timber harvest. For example, timber harvest can create a wildlife opening, however other management such as periodic mowing is needed to maintain it.

This request seeks funding to enhance and restore up to 3,250 acres of habitat over three years on WMAs, AMAs, State Forests, and SNAs in the Northern Forest Region. Strategic and targeted work will be accomplished through the added capacity of a roving habitat crew modeled after the successful crews in the remainder of Minnesota. The crew will conduct activities which support healthy, diverse and resilient habitats, allowing the habitats to better withstand stressors, and address the need to complete small or unique projects for which vendors are lacking. Activities may include invasive species control; firebreak development and maintenance, and prescribed burns in fire-dependent forests, brushlands and wetlands which have lacked management; wildlife opening maintenance; tree removal, girdling, brush mowing/shearing, and support of conservation grazing in openland and brushland habitats; tree planting and protection to reforest and restore habitats, add conifer to the landscape, provide thermal cover, diversify forests, and address ash stand management; tree release, such as enhancing oak management for mast production; forest regeneration site prep; seed and acorn collection; restoration site prep; broadcasting and drilling of seed; stream bank stabilization; ditch closure; and dike removal to enhance forest wetlands. A majority of the projects will occur on State Forests and WMAs which are all open to public access for a wide range of outdoor recreational activities including hunting.

Enhancement and restoration activities will be guided by DNR's Conservation Agenda, Wildlife Action Plan, Forest Action Plan, SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan, and Section Forest Resource Management Plans. A DNR team of Fish and Wildlife, Forestry, and Ecological and Water Resources staff will request projects that meet plan and program priorities from state land managers, prioritize and select projects, develop a schedule, annually evaluate accomplishments and the budget, adapt, and seek additional projects as needed. The Ruffed Grouse Society will provide financial support of \$6,500 over the three year period.

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:

The Northern Forest Region, or Laurentian Mixed Forest Province, is home to over 170 species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). Habitats with significant value in this region on state lands that will be managed with the above listed activities, and some of the SGCN which depend upon them, include -

- brushlands (as noted in the LSOHC 25 year vision) - sharp-tailed grouse, moose, northern harrier, short-eared owl, loggerhead shrike, meadowlark, bobolink
- upland deciduous forest - American woodcock, northern goshawk, black-throated blue warbler, wood turtle, four-toed salamander, ovenbird, boreal owl
- lowland deciduous forest - red-shouldered hawk, cerulean warbler, prothonotary warbler
- upland conifer forest - evening grosbeak, spruce grouse, black-backed woodpecker, smoky shrew, boreal chickadee, heather vole, Canada lynx
- lowland conifer forest - great gray owls, boreal chickadee, northern bog lemming, Connecticut warbler, olive-sided flycatcher
- wetland - American bittern, upland sandpiper, yellow rail, sedge wren, Nelson's sparrow

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

DNR's Conservation Agenda, Wildlife Action Plan, Forest Action Plan, SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan (along with specific site management plans), and Section Forest Resource Management Plans, which will guide activities, were developed using the best information and science to identify goals and strategies, a wildlife action network, conservation focus areas, priorities for conserving biodiversity, and direction and desired future composition goals for state lands.

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

- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- LU10 Support and expand sustainable practices on working forested lands

Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- DNR Forest Action Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:

Northern Forest:

- Restore and enhance habitat on existing protected properties, with preference to habitat for rare, endangered, or threatened species identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey

Relationship to other funds:

- Ruffed Grouse Society

Describe the relationship of the funds:

Not Listed

Does this program include leverage in funds:

Yes

The Ruffed Grouse Society will contribute \$6,500 over the three year period.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose:

This request would fund implementation of forest habitat enhancement projects that would not occur without the appropriation.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2017	Forestry - Bonding, Forest Management Investment Account (FMIA), General Fund (GF), Heritage Enhancement Fund (HEF); Wildlife - G & F; Eco/Waters - ENRTF	\$1,935,633
2018	Forestry - Bonding, FMIA, GF, HEF; Wildlife - G & F; Eco/Waters - ENRTF	\$2,987,990
2019	Forestry - FMIA, GF, HEF; Wildlife - G & F; Eco/Waters - ENRTF (pending)	\$937,676

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

We will select and implement projects to achieve high quality and enduring benefits. Projects have variable lifespans depending on project type, weather and other environmental conditions. Many of the projects are meant to endure for decades, at which point, regular forest management activity through harvest will renew the habitat in a sustainable manner. DNR staff will monitor them to ensure that follow up maintenance and enhancement occur as needed. If continued added capacity is needed to sustain projects and health of habitats, potential funding avenues include, but are not limited to, Game and Fish Funds, bonding, FMIA, Heritage Enhancement Funds, special projects funds for SNAs, and volunteers. These state dollars provide a unique opportunity to potentially match federal funds for similar projects on private lands, such as through the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Annually	HEF, FMIA, G & F, OHF, ENRTF	Invasive species monitoring	Follow up treatments as needed	
Every 4-7 years	G & F, OHF, ENRTF	Prescribed fire and shearing/mowing	Repeat management as needed	
At 1, 5 and 10 years	FMIA, G & F, OHF, ENRTF	Tree planting and release, and restoration monitoring	Follow up treatment as needed	

Activity Details:

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

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

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program - **Yes**

Is the activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 - **Yes (WMA, SNA, AMA, State Forests)**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Project team requests projects from state land managers, and reviews, prioritizes and schedules projects.	Spring 2020
Hire roving crew staff, secure equipment, and begin training.	Summer 2020
Start habitat enhancement and restoration projects.	Fall 2020
First annual evaluation by project team of projects, budget, and schedule. Additional projects requested. Projects continue.	Summer 2021
Second annual evaluation by project team. Additional projects requested. Projects continue.	Summer 2022
Forest habitat enhancement and restoration projects completed.	Summer 2023

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/1/2025

Federal Funding:

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

Outcomes:

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species *Northern Minnesota forests will be enhanced to provide biologically diverse wildlife habitat for both desirable game species and endangered, threatened, special concern, and species of greatest conservation need, providing multiple conservation benefits in the face of climate change, invasive species, and other major stressors, and increased satisfaction from hunters and other recreational users. Wildlife populations and hunter satisfaction will be monitored.*

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

A smaller roving crew of four staff will be hired for a length of three years vs. eight staff for five years.

Total Amount of Request: \$ 1773000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$1,000,000	\$0		\$1,000,000
Contracts	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$293,100	\$0		\$293,100
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$89,100	\$0		\$89,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$61,000	\$0		\$61,000
Supplies/Materials	\$329,800	\$6,500	Ruffed Grouse Society	\$336,300
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$1,773,000	\$6,500		\$1,779,500

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
4 Roving Habitat Crew Members	4.00	3.00	\$1,000,000	\$0		\$1,000,000
Total	4.00	3.00	\$1,000,000	\$0		\$1,000,000

Amount of Request: \$1,773,000

Amount of Leverage: \$6,500

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.37%

DSS + Personnel: \$1,089,100

As a % of the total request: 61.43%

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

The DNR's Direct and Necessary (D&N) calculator was used. It was created for LSOHC/OHF and LCCMR/ENTRF proposals.

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:

All activities related to travel for the Roving Crew are placed in the travel line. These include basic mileage and lodging, as well as equipment rentals and leases, etc.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

As a conservation organization, the Ruffed Grouse Society, is supportive of sustaining forest health and forest wildlife habitat. They will provide \$6,500 over the three year period for project supplies and materials.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	112	0	112
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	2,683	0	2,683
Total	0	0	2,795	0	2,795

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$69,900	\$0	\$69,900
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$1,703,100	\$0	\$1,703,100
Total	\$0	\$0	\$1,773,000	\$0	\$1,773,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	112	112
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	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	2,683	2,683
Total	0	0	0	0	2,795	2,795

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$69,900	\$69,900
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	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,703,100	\$1,703,100
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,773,000	\$1,773,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$624	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$635	\$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	\$624
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$635

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

Parcel List

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Aitkin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	04724203	0	\$0	Yes

Becker

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	14037218	0	\$0	Yes

Beltrami

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	14932205	0	\$0	Yes

Benton

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	03628215	0	\$0	

Carlton

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	04819213	0	\$0	Yes

Cass

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	14228221	0	\$0	Yes

Chisago

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	03722225	0	\$0	Yes

Clearwater

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	14537210	0	\$0	Yes

Cook

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	06201206	0	\$0	Yes

Crow Wing

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	13527209	0	\$0	Yes

Hubbard

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	14233231	0	\$0	Yes

Isanti

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	03725210	0	\$0	Yes

Itasca

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	05725206	0	\$0	Yes

Kanabec

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	04024215	0	\$0	Yes

Koochiching

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	15425201	0	\$0	Yes

Lake

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	05908217	0	\$0	Yes

Lake of the Woods

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	16033234	0	\$0	Yes

Mahnomen

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	14339203	0	\$0	Yes

Mille Lacs

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	04026220	0	\$0	Yes

Morrison

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	04131229	0	\$0	Yes

Otter Tail

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	13637202	0	\$0	Yes

Pine

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects that meet plan and program priorities will be solicited.	04120201	0	\$0	Yes

Roseau

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	16237220	0	\$0	Yes

St. Louis

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	06117210	0	\$0	Yes

Todd

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	13132204	0	\$0	Yes

Wadena

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Habitat management projects will be solicited.	13634227	0	\$0	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

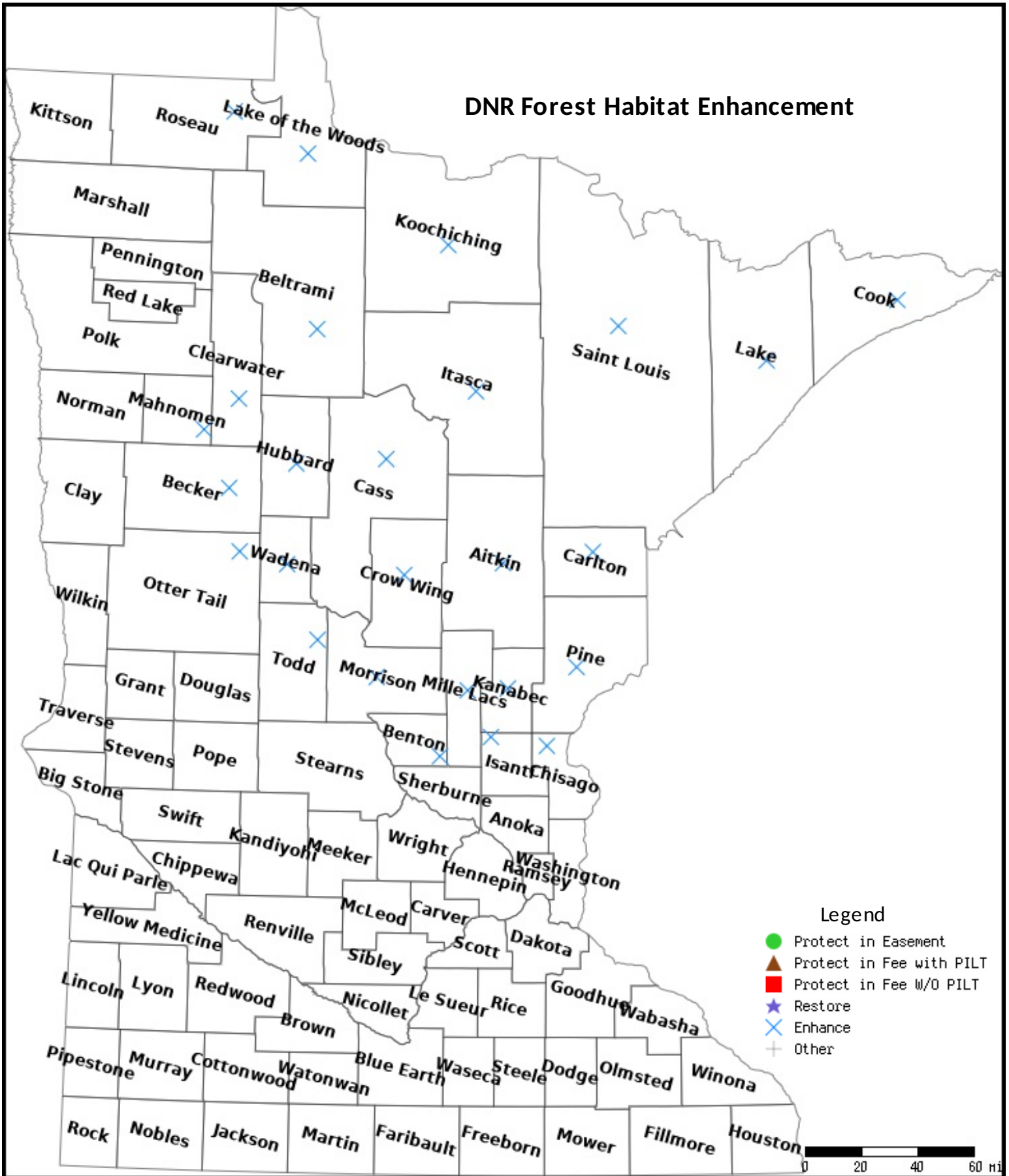
Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List