



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2021 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 12/11/2020

Project Title: Targeted RIM Easement & Acquisition to the Parcel Level Pine & Leech Watersheds Phase II

Funds Recommended: \$1,609,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2021, Ch. XX, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd.

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Melissa Barrick

Title: District Manager

Organization: Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District

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Location Information

County Location(s): Cass and Hubbard.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Hubbard, Crow Wing, and Cass County Land Departments and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) will partner to acquire 300 acres (public access) and place easements on 240 acres of private high-quality forest, wetlands, and shoreline in the Northern Forest Ecological Section. This project is integrating county land management goals and parcel selection into the 75 percent protection watershed goal (Phase 1 Watershed Grant). Development trends pose a serious threat to, wild rice, Golden-winged Warbler, Northern Long-eared Bat, Blanding Turtle, and over 107 unique, rare, endangered, and threatened species that live in uplands, lowlands, and mature forest of these counties.

Design and Scope of Work

This project will focus on Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) conservation easements and acquisitions adjacent to county land on targeted private forest and wetlands within the Leech Lake River and Pine River Watersheds. These watersheds contain:

- 1,250 lakes, which covers 354 square miles
- 88 lakes with High to Highest Outstanding Biological Significance (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources MN DNR)
- 92 wild rice lakes and over 29 cisco lakes
- Property values surrounding these high-quality lakes and streams are worth over 10 billion dollars
- 262,300 acres of county managed land that is open to the public for hunting and fishing

In 2010, Peter Jacobson, MN DNR, published cisco lakes research and prioritized 50 cisco lakes as a high priority to protect. The MN DNR Fisheries identified a strong correlation between lake water quality that sustains fish populations and maintaining 75 percent forest cover in a specific watershed.

2018- 2019, the Leech Lake River and Pine River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans pinpointed private land easements and acquisitions as a key component to these watersheds thriving. Private land adjacent to county forest land and waterbodies are prime targets for: forest fragmentation, first and second-tier development, damaged aquatic habitat, and an increase in buildings, homes, and roads.

In 2019, watershed partners took the protection framework methodology called RAQ (Riparian, Adjacent, Quality) and applied RAQ to the RIM easement program to filter 320,000 acres down to 2,280 acres within the Leech Lake River and Pine River Watersheds.

This project will build off the 2020 Lessard Sam's Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Grant and will meld the county land prioritization process for acquisition with the RAQ scoring to provide more opportunity for the County and SWCD to reach 75 percent watershed protection goal.

County land management plans prioritize parcels to consolidate of county ownership to enhance management, increase wildlife habitat protection, and increase public access for recreational opportunities like hunting and fishing. These parcels have been integrated into the Leech Lake River and Pine River watershed RAQ framework. This project will dovetail County Land Department acquisition of 300 acres with Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Easements of 240 acres. This project will be successful because of the parcel scoring system used to integrate upland and aquatic habitat protection, a clear set goal for each sub-watershed of 75 percent protection, methodology to track progress, well-trained staff that are excellent at communication with the landowner, and lessons learned from past easement programs.

The Pine River and Leech Lake River Watersheds include some of the best lakes and fisheries within the lower 48 States. The Tourism industry of Hubbard, Cass, and Crow Wing Counties generates over \$399 million in gross sales

per year (Minnesota Explore 2018). Private lands within those watersheds need prioritized protection strategies to ensure that the habitat stays intact and maintain wildlife corridors, gives Minnesotans additional opportunities for fishing and hunting, and protects the local tourism economy and tax base of Leech Lake River and Pine River Watersheds.

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?

The MN DNR rare species guide indicates that Leech Lake and Pine River Watersheds contain over 108 rare species from fish, invertebrates, plants, reptiles, and mammals. These species depend on the fringe wetlands, forested corridors, high quality lakes, and shoreland vegetative habitat. Recently, the Northern Long-eared Bat was added to federally threatened species list. The MN DNR and US Fish and Wildlife Service identified over 11 townships in Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard Counties that contain mature roost trees for the Northern Long-eared Bat. Approximately, 230 mature roost trees were identified in Minnesota and 30 percent of the trees were located in Hubbard, Cass and Crow Wing Counties.

Wild rice grows in a complex of shallow lakes, rivers, and shallow bays of deeper lakes and provides some of the most important habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife species in Minnesota. Wild rice habitat is especially important to Minnesota's migrating and breeding waterfowl. More than 17 species of wildlife listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) use wild rice areas as habitat for breeding, migration, and/or foraging. They include: 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.

Blanding Turtles need both upland and wetlands to complete their life cycle. Their habitats, calm shallow water bodies (type 1-3 wetlands) are important amphibian and invertebrate breeding grounds, also an important food source for the Blanding Turtle. They nest in open grassy or brushy sandy upland on undeveloped land.

The MN DNR identified the Golden-winged Warbler as a SGCN whose population declined by 60 percent across the United States and Canada. These critical upland, lowland, and mature forest habitats support over 47 percent of this species global population. This bird is a Minnesota's Icon and symbol of private land stewardship.

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 project will utilize science-based targeting RAQ scores to expand habitat corridors on private lands and develop larger public habitat complexes that will be open to the public for fishing and hunting. RAQ Tool scores individual private parcels as the following:

- Riparian parcels adjacent to priority water resources (1-3 points)
- Adjacency is whether it is next to existing state, county, or federal land (1-3 points)

- Quality is the locally determined value of the land (1-3 Points), which can include a number of criteria, such as trout/cisco lakes, wild rice, old growth forests, MN DNR phosphorus sensitivity, rare species, biodiversity, and groundwater recharge.

Staff cross referenced County Land Department acquisition priorities with the RAQ scoring and identified 16 parcels as high priority for the land departments to acquire. To date, partners have mapped and utilized RAQ scoring for 62,000 private parcels within Leech Lake River and Pine River Watersheds.

The RAQ method also includes databases, landowner outreach tables, rare and unique species, cisco and wild rice lakes, and an achievable target percent of land protected for each subwatershed. This data targets RIM Easements and acquisitions to the parcel level and ensures that public dollars are spent on the best parcels for habitat value and building of large publicly owned habitat complexes. This methodology is proven through Phase I LSOHC grant and Clean Water Fund RIM Easement Program. SWCD will work with landowners to enroll them in the RIM program with BWSR. The County Land Departments will work with landowners and Northern Waters Land Trust to complete the land acquisitions. Crow Wing SWCD has utilized this methodology and has protected over 12 miles of shoreline and 1,245 acres of habitat. Cass County Land Department has been very successful at the land consolidation approach with past LSOHC grants. This project will integrate this process for an entire comprehensive watershed approach.

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

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- LU8 Protect large blocks of forest land

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

- Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans
- National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

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

Does this program include leveraged funding?

No

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain 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 funding is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

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

BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement of RIM easements into perpetuity. BWSR partners with SWCDs to monitor and inspect all RIM easements. SWCD complete the following:

- Easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years.

- On-site inspections are performed every three years.
- 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.

The County Land Department manage all County Administered lands under their Forest Resource Management Plans. 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 the Counties 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.

This management plan requires that operations are maintained from revenue generated from timber sales. The Counties have a long history of covering our operation costs with timber revenue. The lands acquired will be managed under this same plan.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2022	County Land Department	Manage land as part of County management plan	-	-
2022	Easements Monitoring Funds	SWCDs inspect easements	Onsite inspections	SWCDs reports inspections to BWSR

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Yes

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**

Yes

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?

The SWCD and BWSR will work together to establish the easement. Once the easement is established landowner will follow the management plan developed for the easement.

Who will be the easement holder?

The easement will be held through the Minnesota RIM program (the State of Minnesota holds the easement)

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

We anticipate to complete approximately four easements for a total of 240 acres.

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 new acquisitions will follow the county land department management plan that does allow access for hunting and fishing.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

- County

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

- County Forest

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

We anticipate to acquire six different parcels for a total of 251 acres.

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:

RIM Easements:

This appropriation is funding a program that will have a parcel list identified at a later time. Roads or trails are typically excluded from the easement area if they serve no beneficial purpose to easement maintenance, monitoring, or enforcement. Existing trails and roads are identified during the easement and acquisition process. Some roads and trails, such as agricultural field accesses, are allowed to remain.

County Land Acquisition:

The roads and trails are native surface and were built for forest management purposes or recreational

access. All forest roads are considered open to motorized travel unless posted closed with County Board consent. Motorized and non-motorized use is allowed. The roads and trails policy can be found in the County Forest Resources Management Plan.

http://cms4.revize.com/revize/casscounty/document_center/land/Forest_Resources_Management_Plan.pdf

<https://www.crowwing.us/261/Forest-Management>

http://cms6.revize.com/revize/hubbardcounty/document_center/Natural%20Resource%20Management/2002%20Forest%20Resources%20Management%20Plan.pdf

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

Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

The County Land Department manage all County Administered lands under their Forest Resource Management Plans. 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 the Counties 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.

This management plan requires that operations are maintained from revenue generated from timber sales. The Counties have a long history of covering our operation costs with timber revenue. The lands acquired will be managed under this same plan. Each county will follow their county board approved management plan:

http://cms4.revize.com/revize/casscounty/document_center/land/Forest_Resources_Management_Plan.pdf

<https://www.crowwing.us/261/Forest-Management>

http://cms6.revize.com/revize/hubbardcounty/document_center/Natural%20Resource%20Management/2002%20Forest%20Resources%20Management%20Plan.pdf

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:

RIM Easements:

Though uncommon, there could be a potential for new minimal use trails, if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (e.g. firebreaks, berm maintenance, etc). Unauthorized trails identified during the monitoring process are in violation of

the easement.

County Land Acquisition:

The roads and trails are native surface and were built for forest management purposes or recreational access. All forest roads are considered open to motorized travel unless posted closed with County Board consent. Motorized and non-motorized use is allowed.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

RIM Easements:

The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the BWSR RIM Reserve Program that has over 7,000 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first five years and then every third year after that. BWSR, in-cooperation with SWCD, implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms. Under the terms of the 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.

County Land Acquisition:

County Land Departments will follow the County Board approved forest management plan to manage the land once the land is acquired. Counties are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council under Smartwood to manage timber following best management practices. Collectively, these land departments manage over 500,000 acres of forest land. They are well suited to maintain these additional acres long term.

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?

No

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?

Yes

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Contract with Northern Waters Land Trust for County Land Acquisitions	2021
Outreach to landowners for easements and acquisitions with mailing	2021
Rank Score Applications/Inter-agency Team Meetings	January -March 2022
SWCDs work with landowners and BWSR to complete RIM Easement	2021-2024
Northern Land and Water Trust work with landowners to begin acquisition process	2021-2024
County Board and Townships approve acquisitions	2022-2024
Crow Wing SWCD will coordinate projects between counties, SWCDs, Northern Waters Land Trust, and BWSR.	2021-2024

Date of Final Report Submission: 07/31/2024

Budget

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

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$152,000	-	-	\$152,000
Contracts	\$33,400	-	-	\$33,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$764,000	-	-	\$764,000
Easement Acquisition	\$436,900	-	-	\$436,900
Easement Stewardship	\$26,000	-	-	\$26,000
Travel	\$3,000	-	-	\$3,000
Professional Services	\$162,000	-	-	\$162,000
Direct Support Services	\$25,900	-	-	\$25,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,400	-	-	\$1,400
Supplies/Materials	\$4,400	-	-	\$4,400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,609,000	-	-	\$1,609,000

Partner: SWCD

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$95,000	-	-	\$95,000
Contracts	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$764,000	-	-	\$764,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Professional Services	\$162,000	-	-	\$162,000
Direct Support Services	\$13,000	-	-	\$13,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$4,000	-	-	\$4,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,065,000	-	-	\$1,065,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Outreach	0.1	3.0	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Admin	0.19	3.0	\$70,000	-	-	\$70,000

Partner: BWSR

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$57,000	-	-	\$57,000
Contracts	\$8,400	-	-	\$8,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$436,900	-	-	\$436,900
Easement Stewardship	\$26,000	-	-	\$26,000
Travel	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$12,900	-	-	\$12,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,400	-	-	\$1,400
Supplies/Materials	\$400	-	-	\$400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$544,000	-	-	\$544,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Esmt Processing	0.1	3.0	\$21,000	-	-	\$21,000
Program Mgmt	0.1	3.0	\$36,000	-	-	\$36,000

Amount of Request: \$1,609,000

Amount of Leverage: -

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%

DSS + Personnel: \$177,900

As a % of the total request: 11.06%

Easement Stewardship: \$26,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 5.95%

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

This project reduced number parcels for acquisition and for easements.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

The Cass and Hubbard Counties will not receive PILT payments for the land acquisition. The counties are agreeing to long term maintenance of these properties.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

No

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

SWCD Contract line:

Hubbard and Cass SWCD for RIM Easement Outreach (\$25,000)

BWSR contract line: SWCD MJPA, \$2000 for staff time to complete each easement.

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?

We anticipate six parcels for fee title acquisition.

Easement Stewardship

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

Perpetual monitoring and enforcement 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.

Travel

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

No

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

The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs for mileage and food.

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

Yes

Direct Support Services

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

SWCD and BWSR calculates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?

Signs, posts and hardware for staking the easement boundaries.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	60	-	120	120	300
Protect in Easement	48	-	96	96	240
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	108	-	216	216	540

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$209,400	-	\$418,800	\$418,800	\$1,047,000
Protect in Easement	\$112,400	-	\$224,800	\$224,800	\$562,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$321,800	-	\$643,600	\$643,600	\$1,609,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	300	300
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	240	240
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	540	540

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$1,047,000	\$1,047,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	\$562,000	\$562,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	\$1,609,000	\$1,609,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$3,490	-	\$3,490	\$3,490
Protect in Easement	\$2,341	-	\$2,341	\$2,341
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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State	-	-	-	-	\$3,490

PILT Liability					
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	\$2,341
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

4 miles

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *The outcomes will be measured by:*

Number of acres protected for easements and acquisitions

Miles of Shoreline protected

percent of land protected increased in a specific subwatershed correlating to the comprehensive watershed management plans for Leech Lake River and Pine River.

<https://www.crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/17315/Pine-River-One-Watershed-One-Plan-Final-Pan?bidId=> pages 144-146

http://cms4.revize.com/revize/casscounty/document_center/esd/waterplan/LLRCWMPFinal_2019-03-11.pdf

pages 126-127

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:

RIM Easements:

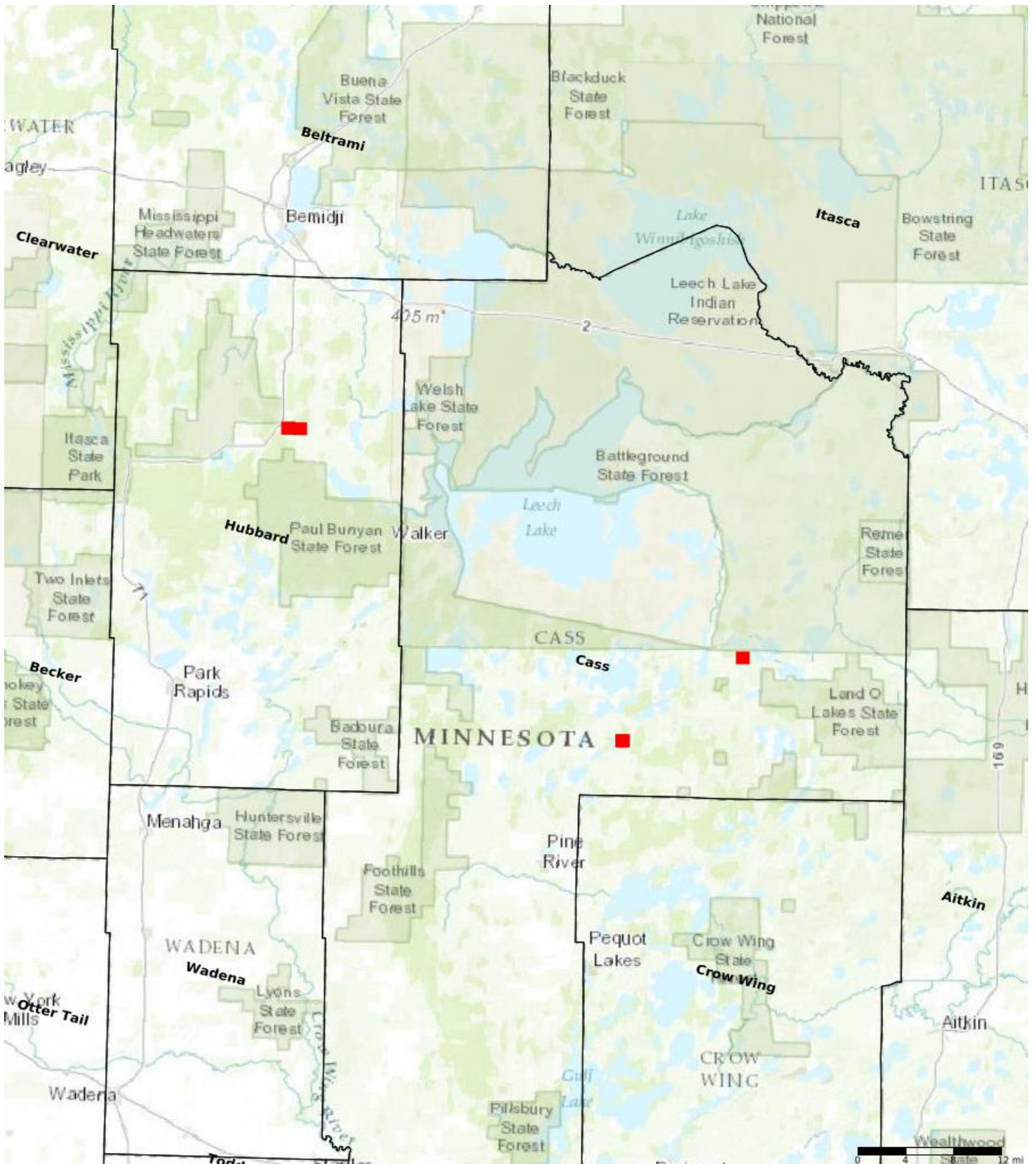
The Pine RIM Easement Source Water Protection sheet is attached as an example of the scoring sheet that will be used to rank RIM Easements. Once the grant is awarded we will develop a scoring sheet for both the Leech and Pine River Watersheds. All parcels are mapped and ranked according to the RAQ Methodology.

County Acquisitions:

All parcels are mapped and ranked according to the RAQ Methodology and integrate the County Land Departments priorities. All parcels were selected by the County Land Department as high priority to enhance county land management goals. Cass and Hubbard Counties are added to the parcel list. Crow Wing County had a top 10 list that is attached.

Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Whitnah	Cass	13928207	54	\$145,000	No
Whitnah	Cass	13928207	39	\$65,000	No
Whitnah	Cass	13928207	38	\$63,500	No
Wheeler	Cass	14027202	19	\$42,500	No
Drack	Hubbard	14333203	40	\$75,000	No
Drack	Hubbard	14333204	40	\$70,000	No
Drack	Hubbard	14333204	40	\$45,000	No



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

Parcel Map
Targeted RIM Easement & Acquisition to the Parcel
Level Pine & Leech Watersheds Phase II
(Data Generated From Parcel List)



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2021 - Targeted RIM Easement & Acquisition to the Parcel Level Pine & Leech Watersheds Phase II

Organization: Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District

Manager: Melissa Barrick

Budget

Requested Amount: \$3,864,000

Appropriated Amount: \$1,609,000

Percentage: 41.64%

Item	Total Requested		Total Appropriated		Percentage of Request	
	Requested	Leverage	Appropriated	Leverage	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	\$200,000	-	\$152,000	-	76.0%	-
Contracts	\$717,000	-	\$33,400	-	4.66%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,500,000	-	\$764,000	-	50.93%	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,341,000	-	\$436,900	-	32.58%	-
Easement Stewardship	\$52,000	-	\$26,000	-	50.0%	-
Travel	\$8,000	-	\$3,000	-	37.5%	-
Professional Services	-	-	\$162,000	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$33,000	-	\$25,900	-	78.48%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$4,000	-	\$1,400	-	35.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	\$9,000	-	\$4,400	-	48.89%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$3,864,000	-	\$1,609,000	-	41.64%	-

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

This project reduced number parcels for acquisition and for easements.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	550	300	54.55%
Protect in Easement	480	240	50.0%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$2,313,000	\$1,047,000	45.27%
Protect in Easement	\$1,551,000	\$562,000	36.23%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	550	300	54.55%
Protect in Easement	480	240	50.0%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$2,313,000	\$1,047,000	45.27%
Protect in Easement	\$1,551,000	\$562,000	36.23%
Enhance	-	-	-

Aquatic & Terrestrial Habitat

Goal:

- Complete 15 BWSR RIM Easements on private Lands protect over 480 acres
- Increase county land habitat complexes by acquiring 550 acres & additional opportunity for hunting & fishing



Woodlands are giant water filters
Forests and well vegetated lands serve as a giant natural sponge, filtering and retaining storm water. The root system and vegetative base of woodlands protect both groundwater and surface water.



Land use affects water quality
The "Disturbance" of land has an effect on its ability to slow down and filter storm water runoff. As woodlands are developed or converted to crop or pasture lands the soil loses its ability to retain and filter water.



25%

The tipping point for water quality
Studies show that when more than 25% of the forest within a watershed is converted to other land uses, the water quality, begins to decline. Much of the decline is due to greater amounts of phosphorus entering the water.



75%

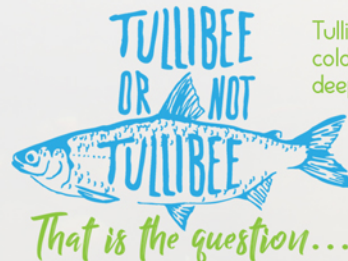
The protection goal is 75%
Because of water quality decline at 25% land disturbance, the protection goals for a watershed are then 75%. If this land percentage can be maintained, a certain quality of water can usually be reached.

Measure Success:

Protect 75% of the forested land within the minor watershed from land conversion or development.



We need to protect priority lakes and increase permanent protection funding for the iconic symbols of Minnesota's natural heritage... our lakes!



Tullibee are only found in clean, cold, well oxygenated & often deep waters.

Because of their habitat requirements they are fantastic "measuring sticks" for water quality.

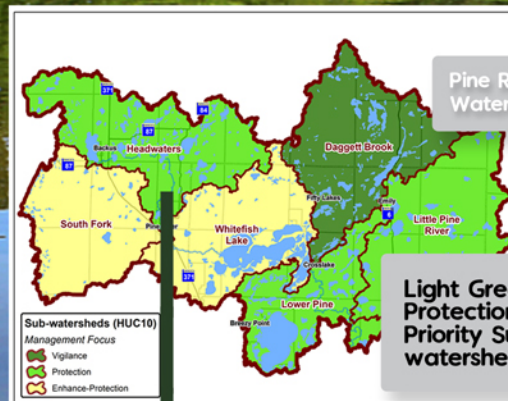


36% of Minnesota's forests are private, they are 100% essential for clean water!

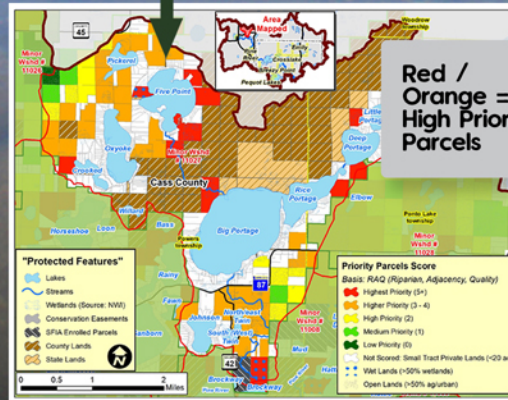
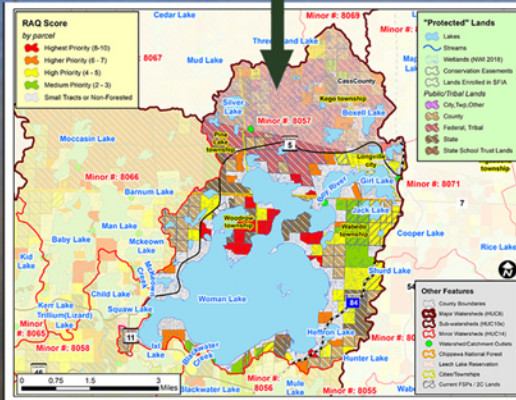
Integrated County Land Management Watershed Approach

Prioritization by Watershed:

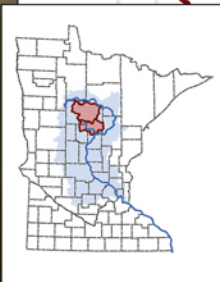
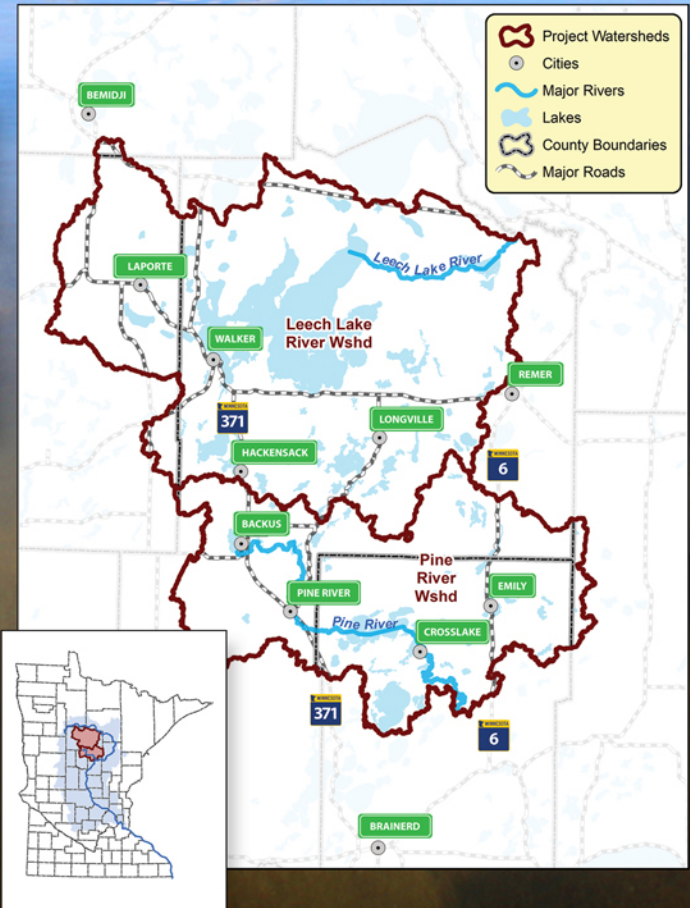
- Cisco Lakes, Wild Rice Lakes, Lakes of High/Outstanding Biodiversity
- "Protection" Watersheds (< 75% Protected: source One Watershed One Plan, DNR Landscape Stewardship Plan)



Light Green = Protection Priority Sub-watershed



Red / Orange = High Priority Parcels



RAQ Scoring Method Targets to the Private Parcel:

- R = Riparian to Lake or Stream
- A = Adjacent to Public Lands (for larger habitat blocks)
- Q = Quality (High or Outstanding Terrestrial Biodiversity/DNR Wildlife Action Plan, Trout, Native, Muskie, Wild Rice, Old Growth Forests, + other locally important features)