

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Fiscal Year 2022 / ML 2021 Request for Funding



Date: May 28, 2020

Program or Project Title: Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project- Phase 5 (HA05)

Funds Requested: \$6,912,100

Manager's Name: Tim Terrill  
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County Locations: Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, and Itasca.

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

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition

### Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

### Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Habitat

### Abstract:

In Phase 5, The Mississippi Headwaters Board in partnership with The Trust for Public Land and BWSR assisted by 8 County SWCDs will permanently protect an additional 2,875 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat along the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River, its major tributaries, and 9 headwaters lakes. Phases 1-3 have already protected 3,441 acres and 31 miles of shoreland using fee title acquisitions and conservation easements on priority lands to create/expand protected contiguous aquatic and wildlife habitat corridors and reduce forest fragmentation to benefit fish, game and non-game wildlife, and migratory waterfowl.

### Design and scope of work:

Phase 5 will continue to address current and anticipated habitat protection opportunities along the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River Headwaters, its major tributaries and 9 headwaters lakes. To date, 3,441 acres and 31 miles of river shoreland have been permanently protected to benefit aquatic habitat, provide food and shelter for migratory waterfowl along the Mississippi Flyway, and create and enhance protected habitat corridors for game and non-game wildlife. Additionally, forest fragmentation that is detrimental to habitat protection has been reduced; public recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, and passive recreation have been enhanced; and clean drinking water ensured for millions of Minnesotans. There is urgency to fund Phase 5 since Phases 1-3 are spent or committed to fee title acquisitions and easement projects that will protect an additional 1,000 acres and 6 miles of shoreland. There is a waiting list of 20+ landowners interested in easement participation with Phase 4 funding available on July 1, 2020.

The Mississippi River is home to a variety of game fish and its adjacent lands are home to 350+ species of animals and birds, including many species of greatest concern. Because quality privately owned lakeshores are already developed, pressure is building for development along the river corridor as people seek to live and recreate near water. This leads to fragmentation of forests that threatens habitat and water quality. Public lands adjacent to private property are in danger of losing habitat connectivity as private lands are increasingly developed resulting in destruction of wild rice beds, disruption of aquatic and upland habitat and fragmentation

of forestlands, grasslands, and wetlands that dominate the headwaters.

The Mississippi Headwaters Board administers and coordinates the project. The Trust for Public Land acquires fee-title to priority lands and conveys permanent ownership to a public entity (state or local government). BWSR in partnership with 8 Soil and Water Conservation Districts completes RIM conservation easements on parcels that have been identified and prioritized through a science-based selection process. A Technical Team of project partners, DNR and BWSR representatives, and The Nature Conservancy review and approve all projects using a ranked evaluation of habitat qualities, urgency for protection, and adjacency to public or already protected lands, a factor that is important to increasing protected habitat corridors. Strong local government involvement is unique to this project. For fee-title acquisitions, county boards are notified early to seek approval and before closing on an acquisition the Board is again asked for final approval. Education sessions on easements have been conducted informally with county commissioners. This process has enhanced local government support and trust which has contributed to the project's success.

For additional project support, BWSR has provided \$1 million of Clean Water Funds for RIM easement acquisition recognizing multiple benefits for habitat and water quality are the outcome of permanent land protection. This funding will be used according to the same prioritization and ranking criteria as OHF-funded easements to increase protection in the Mississippi Headwaters.

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

The science-based targeting described below utilizes the Minnesota Wildlife Action Network's GIS data to identify priority areas within the minor watershed of the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River or along major tributaries that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need and/or are threatened and endangered. The targeting also considered specific areas of species richness and/or biodiversity importance and areas where aquatic and terrestrial habitats have been compromised. These identified areas are the priority focus in selecting parcels for land protection.

The Wildlife Action Network was developed to help implement the 2015-2025 MN Wildlife Action Plan. Species of greatest conservation need are defined as native animals, fish, non-game and game species whose population is rare, declining, or vulnerable to decline along with species for which Minnesota has stewardship responsibility. The decline or endangerment of these species are sentinels of habitat decline, loss, and fragmentation that will ultimately affect the sustainability of populations of more common species of fish, game, and non-game wildlife in the Mississippi headwaters. In the State Wildlife Action Plan: 2015-2023 some of the most critical and/or important species (common name used) related to the purpose of this project and its geographic focus include, but are not limited to: Blandings Turtle; Gray wolf; Red Shouldered Hawk; Golden-winged Warbler; Common Loon; Trumpeter Swan; Northern Long Eared Bat; white-tailed jackrabbit, Canada Lynx, American badger, multiple species of shrew and mouse; Northern Goshawk; Boreal Owl; Northern Pintail; Evening Grosbeak; Spruce Grouse; American Kestrel; Red-headed Woodpecker; Spotted Salamander, Pickerel Frog; Sand Darter fish; Longnose Sucker; Shortjaw Cisco; Red-necked Grebe; Sora, Virginia, and Yellow Rail; American and Least Bittern and others.

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

There are landowners waiting to enroll in this program when additional funding is available, but their priorities can change over time. Investing public dollars now will insure a strong Minnesota Outdoor Legacy for future generations. The Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project is an important opportunity to protect some of Minnesota's most treasured fish and wildlife species and insure continued, high quality recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, trapping and passive recreation, such as bird watching, canoeing and hiking. As lakes have become fully developed, the pressure to develop lands along the Mississippi River, its tributaries, and land in close proximity to the river has increased as people seek to live and recreate on or near water. This results in fragmentation of forests, brushlands within forests, and shoreland vegetation along with a decline in wetlands, grasslands, and managed forests. Ultimately the sustainability of associated fish and wildlife populations is impacted.

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

The minor watershed of the Mississippi Headwaters (from Itasca State Park to the southern border of Morrison County) includes 7,000+ privately owned parcels greater than 20 acres, which is the minimum project size. Large complexes and corridors of public land and/or privately protected land adjacent to public land provide the essential elements of good habitat continuity as defined by the National Wildlife Federation: food, water, a place to raise their young, and different types of wildlife cover. This project focuses on creating/expanding large, contiguous wildlife habitat complexes by protecting (in fee title or easement) those parcels providing the highest opportunity for fish and wildlife habitat protection and continued forest integrity.

A science-based parcel screening tool—RAQ—is used to identify the highest priority privately owned lands that will create or enhance large protected habitat corridors and complexes. The RAQ tool scores private, forested parcels 20 acres or larger in the following

manner: "R" ranks whether the parcel is riparian--next to the Mississippi river, a tributary, or a lake. "A" ranks the parcel's adjacency to existing state, county or federal land. "Q" ranks habitat quality using a number of existing data sets including the Minnesota Biological Survey, Minnesota Wildlife Action Network priorities, DNR areas of outstanding or high biodiversity, priority waterfowl lakes, DNR rare species and old growth forest data, and Audubon's important bird areas. The Nature Conservancy's multi-benefits, science-based analysis of the Upper Mississippi River Basin that identifies priority lands for protection is also considered in selecting priority parcels for conservation.

The highest value a parcel can have with the RAQ scoring is 10. Parcels with a RAQ scoring of 6 or better were identified as priority prospects for land protection, essentially narrowing the prospects from over 7,000 parcels to a more manageable priority of approximately 1,000 parcels and 300 landowners. The Trust for Public Land and the 8 SWCDs are conducting outreach to these priority landowners to ensure the highest quality habitat is protected and habitat complexes will exist for the future sustainability of critical fish and wildlife populations.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes

## **Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:**

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

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

The Mississippi Headwaters Comprehensive Plan has two primary goals: 1) Identification of, management and possible acquisition of critical shorelands of the river and headwaters lakes in public or private ownership; and 2) the recreational use of the river and adjacent public lands. A key indicator in the plan is: "the river's natural values are protected or enhanced by providing information and data to promote the protection of habitat areas, use of forestry goals, and the preservation of existing natural values."

Primary indicators within the Outdoor Heritage Fund Plan to be addressed are "enhancing the overall protection of the long-term health of the land and its ecosystems and biological diversity." Specific indicators that will be met include: increasing the amount of acres of permanently protected terrestrial habitat, both public and private, through fee-title acquisition and conservation easements; preventing further losses of managed forests; and the protection of physical aquatic habitats.

## **Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:**

### **Forest / Prairie Transition:**

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

### **Northern Forest:**

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

## **Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:**

The Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project (Phases 1, 2, & 3) has already produced a significant conservation legacy of permanently protected fish, game and non-game wildlife habitat and prevented the loss of forest integrity through the completed protection of 3,441 acres of upland habitat and 31 miles of shoreland. By the end of 2020, another 1,000 acres and 6 miles of shoreland will be permanently protected when projects currently in process are completed. Phase 4 funding beginning July 1, 2020 will protect a targeted 1,450 acres of protected habitat and 10+ miles of shoreland while Phase 5 now proposed will protect an additional 2,875 acres and 8 miles of shoreland to add to Minnesota's conservation legacy. To date, this project has exceeded its projected goals by over 200%. Permanently protecting critical lands helps build resilience into the Mississippi River Headwaters system to protect against fragmentation of forests and shorelines and ensure quality habitat (aquatic and terrestrial) and population sustainability for fish, game and non-game wildlife, and migratory waterfowl along with enhanced recreational opportunities for all Minnesotans.

## **Relationship to other funds:**

- Clean Water Fund

**Describe the relationship of the funds:**

BWSR has provided \$1 million of Clean Water Funds for RIM easement acquisition recognizing multiple benefits for habitat and water quality are the outcome of permanent land protection. While not being used as direct leverage, this funding will be used according to the same selection and ranking criteria as OHF-funded easements to increase habitat and water quality protection in the Mississippi Headwaters.

The Mississippi Headwaters Board, a 8-county joint powers board formed in 1980 to preserve the wild and scenic values of the Mississippi River, has been successful is obtaining Clean Water Legacy Funds to address water quality issues in the 8-county headwaters region. While these funds have not been used directly for the Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project, the benefits of water quality programs compliment this project because where there are water quality benefits there are also concurrent benefits for fish and wildlife habitat.

**Does this program include leverage in funds:**

Yes

The Trust for Public Land is providing a private match of half of their direct services cost and all travel costs. RIM acquisition credits will be used if applicable to a specific fee-title acquisition project.

**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 is not supplanting or a substitution for any previous Legacy funding used for the same purpose.

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

Not Listed

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

For conservation easements recorded through this project, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring into perpetuity. They partner with the Soil and Water Conservation District in the county where the easement is recorded to carry-out the oversight and monitoring of the conservation easements. Easements are inspected annually for the first five years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections and compliance checks are performed and reported to BWSR every three years. If a violation is noted, a non-compliance procedure is initiated. Stewardship money is appropriated to cover ongoing BWSR oversight, SWCD monitoring, and enforcement actions, if needed. Trust for Public Land is responsible for the fee-title acquisitions in this project. They acquire the land with Outdoor Heritage Funds and then transfer ownership to the applicable public entity—either the MN DNR or a local government for permanent ownership and stewardship. The lands are then managed consistent with the public entity's land management policies.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2021-2025	OHF	Work with project partners and landowners to determine RIM conservation easement interest and develop a long-term fish and game habitat protection priorities	Work with BWSR and County SWCDs to conduct landowner outreach and acquire conservation easements	BWSR and SWCDs will perform ongoing on-site inspections and monitoring and enforce conditions of the recorded easement into perpetuity
2021-2025	OHF	Work with project partners and landowners to determine interest in a fee-title acquisition and seek state or local government permanent land ownership.	The Trust for Public Land will acquire parcels for fee-title acquisition (with or without PILT) and transfer to the appropriate public entity.	Permanent public entity owners of acquired lands (state or local government) will follow the monitoring and land management policies of their organization.
2021-2025	OHF	Work with project partners to determine fish and game habitat protection priorities; develop tools for prioritizing lands for acquisition (fee title or easement); and develop/maintain trusting relationships with local government for program support.	The Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) provides project coordination among project partners and other supporting organizations, including responsibility for status reports, outreach assistance to SWCDs, developing prioritization tools for project selection, facilitation of regular meetings of the Project Technical Committee to review and approve participating landowner projects, and project representation to regional conservation collaborative efforts. MHB also promotes ongoing relationships and training as needed for the 8 Headwaters County Boards.	

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

Much of Mississippi River corridor is forested providing habitat for white-tailed deer, Golden-winged Warblers, and Ovenbirds populations. Whitetailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) use a wide variety of forested habitats, are found throughout Minnesota, and are an important game species in the state. In the 33 forested deer permit areas for which deer densities are estimated, covering most of the LSOHC Northern Forest section, the six-year average (2010-2015) for pre-fawn deer densities across all deer permit areas is 13 deer per square mile of land (excluding water) . This translates to 0.02 deer(pre-fawning) per acre of forest land habitat or roughly 1 deer (prefawning) for every 50 acres of land. Golden-winged Warblers ( species of greatest concern) are often associated with shrub land habitat and regenerating forests. More current research indicates a variety of forest habitats are required by Golden-winged Warblers (a matrix of shrubby wetlands and uplands, regenerating forests, and mature forests). While territories vary in size, an average of 4 pairs for every 10 hectares , may be translated to roughly 6 pairs for every 40 acres. Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) are found in upland forests statewide; typically found in a relatively mature forest but can also be found in younger forests. While territories vary in size and may overlap, an average of 10 pairs for every 10 hectares may be translated to roughly 16 pairs for every 40 acres.

## Activity Details

### Requirements:

If funded, this proposal 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**

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

### Land Use:

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

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

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

Land acquired by The Trust for Public Land and conveyed to the MN DNR or a local government will fall under the specific entity's management plans that allow for public hunting and fishing opportunities.

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

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **No**

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:

For conservation easements, there could be a potential for new trails to be developed (though uncommon) if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (i.e. firebreaks, berm maintenance, etc.). TPL is not aware of any trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list nor are any new trails planned.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

Land that is in easement will be maintained by the landowner and will be enrolled in a scheduled monitoring program by the County Soil & Water Conservation District under supervision of BWSR. Land that is acquired by fee-title will follow the land maintenance and monitoring plans of the public entity that has final ownership--either the MN DNR or a local government.

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this proposals funding and availability? - **No**

Explain how, when, and source of the R/E work:

Not Listed

## Land Use:

Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC? - **Yes**

## Past appropriations and spending to date:

Apprp Year	Approp Amount Received	Approp Amount Spent to Date	Leverage as Reported in AP/th>	Leverage Realized to Date	Total Acres Affected in AP	Total Acres Affected to Date	Program Complete and Final Report Approved?
ML 16	3150000	3112400	188700	178000	830	1478	Program complete; final report has not been submitted
ML 17	2396000	1480100	83800	45100	732	1315	Program not complete; one year extension requested due to COVID
ML 18	2998000	876800	19600	0	855	648	Program not complete
ML 20	3695000	0	81000	0	0	0	Legislative approval ML 20; funds available July 1, 2020

## Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
TPL does landowner outreach, negotiates with committed landowners, seeks final ownership (state or local government), see approval from local government, conducts due diligence on the property, acquires property, conveys to final landowner.	2025
SWCDs do landowner outreach according to established parcel priorities, works with landowner to submit easement application and complete the easement, records the final easement.	2025
BWSR approves and processes landowner applications that have been approved by the Project Technical Committee, responsible for ongoing monitoring of completed easements. diligence,	2025; stewardship ongoing
MHB provides project administration and coordinator, assists with parcel prioritization tool and outreach, does project reporting.	2025
Under contract to BWSR, SWCDs do annual monitoring of acquired easements.	Ongoing
Final owners (state or LGU) of acquired fee-title lands do ongoing maintenance and monitoring of lands according to their respect management policies.	Ongoing

# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$6,912,100**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$462,600	\$0		\$462,600
Contracts	\$195,000	\$0		\$195,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$3,065,000	\$100,000	RIM	\$3,165,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$205,000	\$0		\$205,000
Easement Acquisition	\$2,235,200	\$0		\$2,235,200
Easement Stewardship	\$325,000	\$0		\$325,000
Travel	\$5,300	\$5,000	private	\$10,300
Professional Services	\$120,000	\$0		\$120,000
Direct Support Services	\$89,200	\$58,100	private	\$147,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$80,000	\$0		\$80,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$7,500	\$0		\$7,500
Supplies/Materials	\$2,300	\$0		\$2,300
DNR IDP	\$120,000	\$0		\$120,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,912,100</b>	<b>\$163,100</b>	-	<b>\$7,075,200</b>

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Administrator	0.10	4.00	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Protection & Legal Staff	0.32	3.00	\$154,000	\$0		\$154,000
Program Management	0.35	4.00	\$154,000	\$0		\$154,000
Easement Processing	0.64	3.00	\$134,600	\$0		\$134,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>\$462,600</b>	<b>\$0</b>	-	<b>\$462,600</b>

## Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	MHB	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Contracts	MHB	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	MHB	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	MHB	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	MHB	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	MHB	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	MHB	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	MHB	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	MHB	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	MHB	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	MHB	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	MHB	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	MHB	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	MHB	\$0	\$0		\$0
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	-	<b>\$60,000</b>

## Personnel - MHB

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Administrator	0.10	4.00	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	-	<b>\$20,000</b>

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	TPL	\$154,000	\$0		\$154,000
Contracts	TPL	\$50,000	\$0		\$50,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	TPL	\$3,065,000	\$100,000	RIM	\$3,165,000



Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	TPL	\$205,000	\$0		\$205,000
Easement Acquisition	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	TPL	\$0	\$5,000	private	\$5,000
Professional Services	TPL	\$120,000	\$0		\$120,000
Direct Support Services	TPL	\$58,100	\$58,100	private	\$116,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	TPL	\$80,000	\$0		\$80,000
Capital Equipment	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	TPL	\$120,000	\$0		\$120,000
Total	-	\$3,852,100	\$163,100	-	\$4,015,200

### Personnel - TPL

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection & Legal Staff	0.32	3.00	\$154,000	\$0		\$154,000
Total	0.32	3.00	\$154,000	\$0	-	\$154,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	BWSR	\$288,600	\$0		\$288,600
Contracts	BWSR	\$105,000	\$0		\$105,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	BWSR	\$2,235,200	\$0		\$2,235,200
Easement Stewardship	BWSR	\$325,000	\$0		\$325,000
Travel	BWSR	\$5,300	\$0		\$5,300
Professional Services	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	BWSR	\$31,100	\$0		\$31,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	BWSR	\$7,500	\$0		\$7,500
Supplies/Materials	BWSR	\$2,300	\$0		\$2,300
DNR IDP	BWSR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	-	\$3,000,000	\$0	-	\$3,000,000

### Personnel - BWSR

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.35	4.00	\$154,000	\$0		\$154,000
Easement Processing	0.64	3.00	\$134,600	\$0		\$134,600
Total	0.99	7.00	\$288,600	\$0	-	\$288,600

Amount of Request: \$6,912,100  
Amount of Leverage: \$163,100  
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 2.36%  
DSS + Personnel: \$551,800  
As a % of the total request: 7.98%  
Easement Stewardship: \$325,000  
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 14.54%

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

BWSR calculates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done. DSS requested by The Trust for Public Land is based upon their federal rate, which has been approved by the DNR; 50% of TPL's DSS costs are requested from the OHF grant, 50% is contributed as leverage.

**What is included in the contracts line?**

MHB contact funding is for a Project Coordinator and Outreach Assistant. BWSR contract is for easement processing. TPL contract funds are for potential site clean-up and initial restoration activities.

**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:**

None

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

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

TPL: One-half of Direct Support Services cost and all in-state travel costs are provided as privately funded leverage. Additionally, TPL will attempt to leverage fee-acquisition with partial donations of the appraised value of parcel(s).

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

**Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the "economy of scale" and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:**

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally. Program administration and coordination would remain relatively the same over the four years regardless of the amount of the appropriation.

**What is the 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 covers costs of the SWCD regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and any enforcement necessary.

**Has funding for these positions been requested in the past? - Yes**

**Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?**

For MHB, the FTE listed for project administration is consistent with funds spent in the appropriations completed and those in process; contract project coordination is provided by the same contractor and is consistent with what has been spent in the past. Only funds needed to ensure program success are spent. For TPL the FTEs listed in the proposal are an estimate of the personnel time required to produce the grant deliverables put forward in this proposal. An array of staff draw from these funds for legal work, negotiating with landowners, crafting of acquisition documents, coordinating with agency partners, and managing the grant. We use only those personnel funds necessary to achieve the goals of the grant. For BWSR, this is Phase 5 of an ongoing program; these funds will pay for staff time spent on new easements associated with this phase.

**What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?**

4 acquisitions closed and investigation of 4 prospects.

## 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	820	0	820
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	55	0	55
Protect in Easement	0	0	2,000	0	2,000
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	2,875	0	2,875

**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	\$3,642,100	\$0	\$3,642,100
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$240,000	\$0	\$240,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$3,030,000	\$0	\$3,030,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$6,912,100	\$0	\$6,912,100

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	820	820
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	55	55
Protect in Easement	0	50	0	0	1,950	2,000
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	50	0	0	2,825	2,875

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,642,100	\$3,642,100
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$240,000	\$240,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,955,000	\$3,030,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$6,837,100	\$6,912,100

**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	\$4,442	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$4,364	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$1,515	\$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	\$4,442
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,364
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,515
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers*

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

8 miles of Mississippi River, major tributary, or headwaters lake shoreline

I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

# Outcomes

## **Programs in the northern forest region:**

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation *Forestlands protected are measured in the number of acres of forestland protected by either fee-title or easement and miles of protected forested shorelands. For fee-title acquisitions, the evaluation is in the ongoing maintenance of the forest according to the final owner's (state or local government) management plans and continued monitoring. For conservation easements, a management plan is part of the easement. Once recorded, BWSR with assistance from the County SWCD does annual monitoring to insure the management plan is not being violated.*

## **Programs in forest-prairie transition region:**

- Rivers and streams provide corridors of habitat including intact areas of forest cover in the east and large wetland/upland complexes in the west *Forestlands protected are measured in the number of acres of forestland protected by either fee-title or easement and miles of protected shoreland. For fee-title acquisitions, the evaluation is in the ongoing maintenance of the forest and shoreland according to the final owner's (state or local government) management plans and continued monitoring. For conservation easements, a management plan is part of the easement. Once recorded, BWSR with assistance from the County SWCD does annual monitoring to insure the management plan is not being violated.*

## Parcel List

**Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:**

Parcels were selected based on one or a combination of the following sources: the GIS-science based screening for priority parcels, county land department requests, DNR interest in WMA for State Forest additions or acquisitions, and landowner interest.

### Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

### Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

#### Aitkin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Aitkin Lake	05023217	151	\$850,000	No	Full	Full
Big Sandy	05023229	283	\$900,000	No	Full	Full
Big Sandy River	04824201	189	\$380,000	No	Full	Full
World WMA Addition	04924203	391	\$860,000	No	Full	Full

#### Cass

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Leech River	14327204	214	\$300,000	No	Full	Full
Leech River	14426213	105	\$160,000	No	Full	Full

#### Crow Wing

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Brainerd Forest	13427204	28	\$130,000	No	Full	Full
CrowWing County Forest Addition	04729219	22	\$75,000	No	Full	Full
Gilbert Lake AMA Addition	13428228	65	\$800,000	No	Full	Full
Indian Jack WMA Addition	13626234	35	\$130,000	No	Full	Full
Mississippi River-Buffalo North	04431203	782	\$3,128,000	No	Full	Full
Mississippi River-Buffalo South	04431203	171	\$680,000	No	Full	Full

#### Hubbard

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
LaSalle Creek SNA	14435235	350	\$800,000	No	Full	Full

#### Itasca

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Bass Brook WMA Addition	05526213	46	\$184,000	No	Full	Full
La Prairie	05525226	115	\$460,000	No	Full	Full

### Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

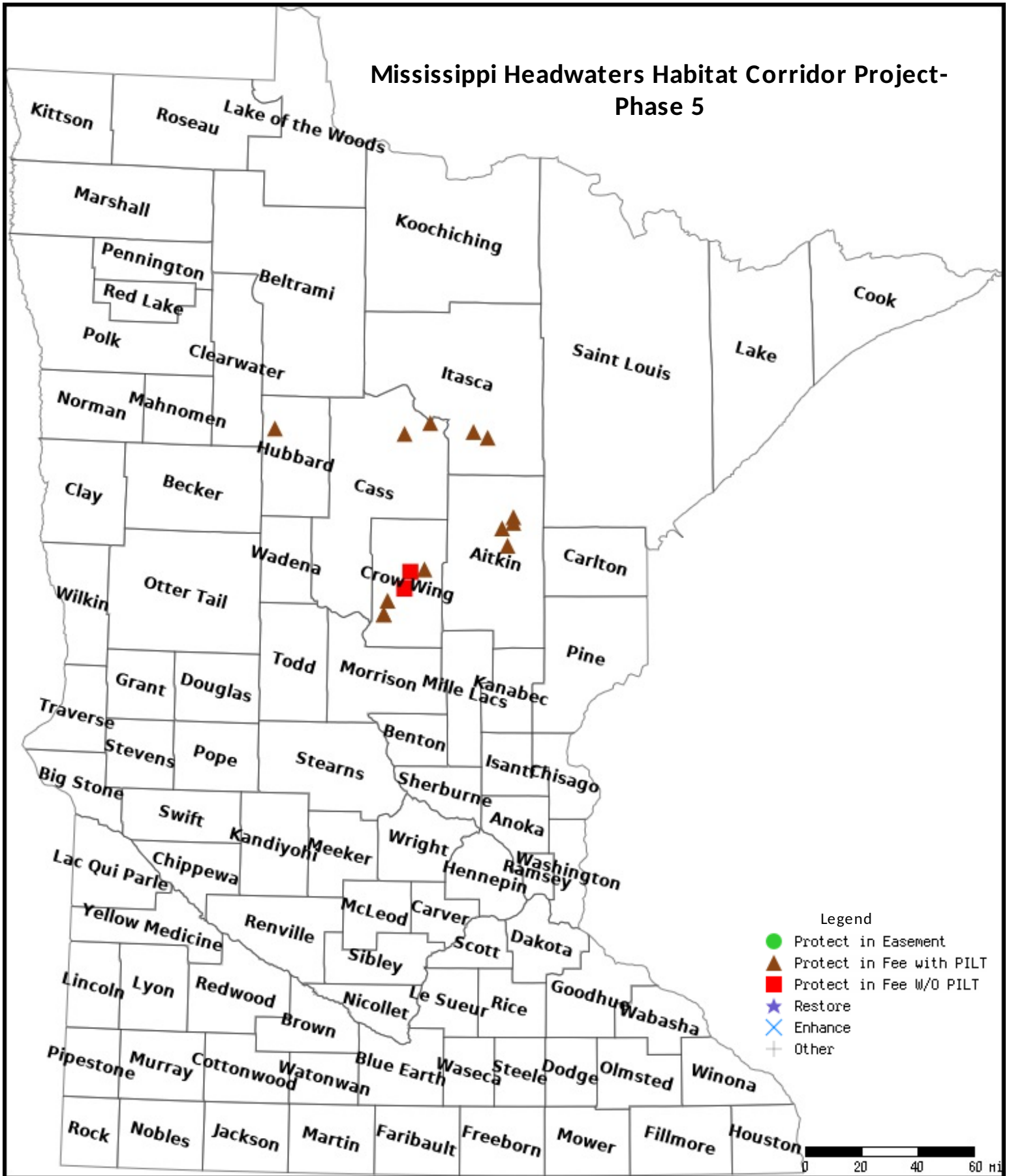
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

### Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

# Parcel Map

## Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project- Phase 5



Data Generated From Parcel List



# Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project– Phase V HA05 Request: \$6,912,100

## Phase 5 Program Goals/Focus:

- Phase 5 will permanently protect more than **8 miles** of critical shorelands and **2,875 acres** of high quality forested wildlife habitat along the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River, its major tributaries and headwaters lakes/reservoirs for the benefit of fish, game and non-game wildlife, and migratory waterfowl.
- Achieve permanent land conservation via fee title acquisition and RIM conservation easements to create and expand contiguous habitat protection corridors and complexes, protect critical fish habitat, and reduce forest fragmentation.
- Enhance public recreational opportunities—fishing, hunting, trapping, and passive recreation—along the project corridor.
- Focus on priority parcels identified using a GIS science-based

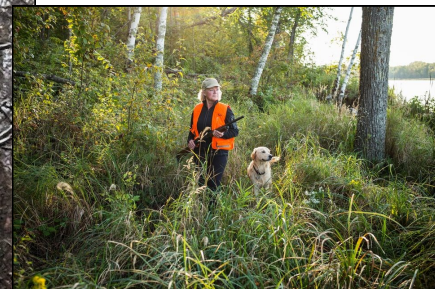
## Partners

- Mississippi Headwaters Board
- The Trust for Public Land
- BWSR and 8 Headwaters County SWCDs
- With stakeholder support from:  
The MN DNR  
The Nature Conservancy



## Accomplishments To Date Phases 1-3:

- ⇒ Permanent protection completed for 3,441 acres and 31 miles of shoreline.
- ⇒ Two additions to a state forest, two additions to a county forest, creation of a new 300+ acre WMA, and 20 RIM conservation easements.
- ⇒ Projects that are in process or committed will protect an additional 1,000 acres and 8 miles of shoreline.
- ⇒ When completed, Phases 1-3 will exceed AP acreage goals by over 200%. Phase 4 funding will be available on July 1, 2020.





## Why permanently protect critical shorelands and create contiguous habitat complexes?

- Game and non-game wildlife have four basic habitat needs that are provided through contiguous permanently protected habitat complexes: 1) cover against predators; 2) water; 3) places to raise their young; and 4) adequate area to move around during varied life stages.
- Migratory waterfowl need food and cover along the Mississippi Flyway.
- As lakes have become increasingly developed, there is more development pressure on or near the river, its tributaries, and headwaters lakes/reservoirs, which can cause fragmentation of critical habitats such as forests, shorelands, grasslands, and wetlands.
- Shoreland and upland conservation reduce habitat fragmentation and ensure critical aquatic and upland habitat for healthy fish and wildlife populations.

This map is an example of how fee title acquisitions(2) and conservation easements (2) secured in this project worked together to create a large permanently protected habitat complex in Crow Wing County. The SFIA and state land across the river provides additional habitat protection.

This habitat complex now provides 1,672 acres of contiguous and protected upland habitat and >9 miles of protected river shoreland.

Mississippi Headwaters Habitat		
Corridor Project		
Appropriations to Date		Amount Remaining
ML 16	\$3,150,000	Closed out June 30, 2019; final report pending.
ML 17	\$2,396,000	>85% spent or obligated to projects
ML 18	\$2,998,000	
ML 20	\$3,695,000	Approved, available July 1, 2020.

