

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Fiscal Year 2022 / ML 2021 Request for Funding



**Date:** May 28, 2020

**Program or Project Title:** DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition, Phase XIII (PA01)

**Funds Requested:** \$4,500,000

**Manager's Name:** Jay Johnson

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**County Locations:** Chisago, Crow Wing, Fairbault, Kandiyohi, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Stearns, Watonwan, and Yellow Medicine.

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

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie

### Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

### Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie

## Abstract:

Acquire approximately 750 acres of high priority habitat for designation as Wildlife Management Area or Scientific and Natural Area in the LSOHC Prairie, Forest/Prairie Transition, and Northern Forest Planning Sections emphasizing Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan and Conservation That Works, 3.0 WMA and AMA Acquisition & Management Strategic Plan guidance, and coordination with partners. All lands will be open for public hunting and fishing (a limited number of SNA's are proposed for limited hunting for instance archery only or hunting but no trapping).

## Design and scope of work:

Approximately 750 acres of wildlife habitat will be protected through fee title acquisition and development as Wildlife Management Areas or Scientific & Natural Areas. While no match is indicated in this proposal, Outdoor Heritage appropriations to DNR for WMA and SNA acquisitions have historically been enhanced through donations, Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match, and Surcharge (a \$6.50 surcharge on small game license sales to be used in part for land acquisition).

Wildlife Management Areas. WMAs protect lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and develop and manage these lands and waters for public hunting, fishing and trapping, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses such as wildlife watching and hiking.

While highly successful, the current WMA system does not meet all present and future needs for wildlife habitat, wildlife population management, hunter access, and wildlife related recreation. This is notably true in the LSOHC Prairie Planning Section where public ownership in many counties is 2 percent or less. DNR Section of Wildlife uses a GIS-based tool to identify the highest priority tracts for potential WMA acquisitions. This quantitative approach scores and ranks acquisition proposals based on a set of weighted criteria and creates a standardized method for evaluating proposed acquisitions on a statewide level.

Criteria and weights are periodically reviewed and adapted to changing priorities. This ensures funds that are used to acquire lands align with DNR strategic priorities and support the 2002 Citizens' Committee report and the Conservation That Works, 3.0 WMA and AMA Acquisition & Management Strategic Plan for WMA acquisition.

Potential acquisition opportunities from willing sellers are coordinated with stakeholders and partners to eliminate duplication and identify concerns and support. Coordinating with partners has been successful to ensure we are working cooperatively and on priority parcels.

Scientific & Natural Areas. The SNA Program will increase public hunting and fishing opportunities while protecting sites with outstanding natural values. Protection is targeted at high priority areas identified in the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan with emphasis on prairie core areas identified in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan. A quantitative system scores and ranks acquisition proposals based on a weighted set of six criteria. Priority is given to sites of high and outstanding biodiversity significance by the Minnesota Biological Survey, high quality native plant communities and habitat for endangered and threatened species. Larger parcels which adjoin other conservation lands, improve habitat management, are under imminent threat and are partially donated are also rated highly.

Properties acquired through this appropriation require County Board of Commissioners' written approval in the county of acquisition, will be designated as WMA or SNA through a Commissioner's Designation Order, brought up to minimum DNR standards, and listed on the DNR website. Basic site improvements will include boundary and LSOHC acknowledgement signs and may include any necessary site cleanup and parcel initial development.

### **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:**

Potential acquisitions for WMAs and SNAs are objectively scored for their wildlife habitat value. The DNR uses weighted criteria and prioritizes high scoring parcels for acquisition. For example, candidates for WMAs score higher with a prairie grouse lek, in a pheasant habitat complex, presence of shallow lakes, and occurrence of deer wintering areas; candidates for WMAs and SNAs score higher which contain threatened, endangered, and other rare species and species of greatest conservation need and which are high quality native plant communities which support wildlife. As a focus on native prairie protection, parcels with native prairie are prioritized.

Native plant communities with exceptional value as wildlife habitat to be protected through this proposal include Southern dry prairie, dry sand-gravel prairie, mesic prairie, dry hill prairie, northern wet prairie, mesic brush prairie, wet seepage prairie, Southern drymesic oak hickory woodland, mesic hardwood forest, wet forest, forest and open rich peatlands, northern jack pine/black spruce woodland, and other priority plant communities.

The following species of greatest conservation need and rare species targeted in this proposal include but are not limited to: mammals – white-tailed jackrabbit, prairie vole, harvest mouse, northern grasshopper mouse, and western harvest mouse; birds – bobolink, grasshopper sparrow, oven bird, chestnut-collared longspur (endangered), upland sandpiper, American bittern, marbled godwit, Nelson's sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, black-throated blue warbler, red-shouldered hawk, Loggerhead shrike, cerulean warbler; reptiles/amphibians - wood turtle (threatened) and mudpuppy; Topeka shiner; invertebrates – regal fritillary, Dakota skipper, Iowa Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Pawnee Skipper, Poweshiek skipper, leadplant flowermoth, phlox moth, and plants/trees – small white lady's-slipper and Western prairie fringed orchid, slender naiad, butternut.

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

This proposal aims to place under permanent protection key habitat types currently facing a range of urgent threats in Minnesota, from development to degradation. Once a state with more than 18 million acres of native prairie, Minnesota has less than two percent remaining.

Each year native prairie is lost to agriculture, development, degradation due to invasive species, and retiring CRP acres further reduce grassland habitat. There is no better time than now to protect what remains of North America's most endangered habitat type.

Furthermore, protection of quality native forest and woodland habitat is also needed to sustain those populations of game and non-game wildlife species, and species in greatest conservation need whose primary threat is destruction of habitat.

### **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 DNR uses GIS-based scoring systems to objectively rank potential acquisitions and develop statewide priority lists.

These systems incorporate scientific data giving priority to locations within and that add to: 1) an important habitat corridor or complex (such as identified by the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Pheasant Action Plan, SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan, and the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan), 2) native plant communities and sites of outstanding and high biodiversity significance mapped by Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), and 3) parcels that adjoin existing units or other conservation lands.

In addition, scoring takes into account habitat containing endangered, threatened, and other rare species, watershed/wetland qualities as well as habitat management considerations and suitability for public access, hunting and fishing.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation

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

- Minnesota DNR Scientific and Natural Area's Long Range Plan
- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

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

The Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan effectiveness measures (p. 44) of acres of native prairie, grassland and wetland protected will be directly achieved through this proposal which will also increase protection of lands that achieve the Plan's ecosystem measures (p.47-48) of increasing populations of breeding mallards, greater prairie-chicken, meadowlark, sedge wren, prairie butterflies, and native prairie orchids, increased harvest of ring-necked pheasant, and stabilizing or increasing native plant diversity and condition, and wetland quality.

The SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan (name of the current MN DNR SNA Long Range Plan) strategies (p.26) will be advanced to target protection of areas of greatest biodiversity significance, rare native plant communities, and habitat containing populations of rare species (i.e. endangered and threatened species) as well as larger parcels which are part of interconnected conservation lands, called Conservation Opportunity Areas. These are primary characteristics given priority in acquisitions through this proposal.

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

#### **Prairie:**

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

#### **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:**

WMAs and SNAs are permanently in state ownership for public use and are managed in perpetuity to provide habitat for wildlife, fish, and game, including controlling the introduction and spread of invasive species.

Acquisitions are primarily targeted to parcels in the Prairie Region which protect remnant native prairie and those that protect upland/wetland habitat complexes. Priority is given to acquisitions that will permanently protect high quality native prairie in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan's Prairie Core areas which provide habitat for rare (including endangered and threatened) wildlife and plants as well as habitat for prairie chicken, pheasant and deer.

In the Northern Forest Region, acquisitions are targeted to parcels which protect forest from parcelization and fragmentation. The proposed acquisition would protect lands that have outstanding or high biodiversity significance including old growth forest and undeveloped high quality shorelines.

In the Forest Prairie Transition Region, acquisition is targeted to protect woodland and wetland complexes, and aspen parklands, that provide critical habitat for game & non-game wildlife.

### Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

#### Describe the relationship of the funds:

During some years, the DNR also receives Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund (ENRTF) appropriations for SNA acquisition. Usually, different projects are funded with each type of fund with priority given to expending the oldest appropriations first on eligible parcels. However, acquisition of some large parcels are made possible by using a combination of funds (such as OHF and ENRTF).

### Does this program include leverage in funds:

Yes

Historically, Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations to DNR for WMA and SNA acquisitions have been matched by land owner donations of value, Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match, and Surcharge (a \$6.50 surcharge on small game license sales to be used in part for land acquisition). The amount of match has varied with each appropriation. While no leverage is being listed in this proposal, we anticipate this trend will continue and OHF dollars will be matched by the other funding sources listed above.

Some of the landowners that sell to the State do so out of a conservation ethic and are willing to donate value. In prioritizing parcels that have similar habitat value, a landowner willing to donate value will be the priority. Our practice is to inform all landowners of the appraised value of their respective property. It is up to them if they want to donate a portion of the value.

### 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 an acceleration of the DNR WMA and SNA acquisition program work to a level not attainable but for the appropriation.

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

| Appropriation Year | Source              | Amount    |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 2009               | WMA RIM CHM         | 3,072,138 |
| 2012               | SNA RIM CHM         | 720,000   |
| 2013               | WMA Surcharge       | 1,500,000 |
| 2014               | WMA Bonding RIM CHM | 2,000,000 |
| 2014               | WMA Surcharge       | 1,860,000 |
| 2014               | SNA ENRTF           | 2,348,300 |
| 2015               | WMA Surcharge       | 1,615,000 |
| 2015               | WMA ENRTF           | 400,000   |
| 2015               | SNA ENRTF           | 2,348,300 |
| 2016               | WMA RIM CHM         | 2,548,300 |
| 2016               | WMA Surcharge       | 1,561,913 |
| 2009               | SNA ENRTF           | 1,026,000 |
| 2016               | SNA RIM CHM         | 400,000   |
| 2017               | WMA RIM CHM         | 591,400   |
| 2017               | WMA Surcharge       | 750,000   |
| 2017               | SNA ENRTF           | 10,400    |
| 2018               | WMA RIM CHM         | 1,740,800 |
| 2018               | WMA Surcharge       | 750,000   |
| 2018               | SNA ENRTF           | 1,500,000 |
| 2019               | WMA RIM CHM         | 855,000   |
| 2019               | WMA Surcharge       | 450,000   |
| 2019               | SNA ENRTF           | 1,940,000 |
| 2010               | WMA Bonding         | 500,000   |
| 2019               | SNA RIM CHM         | 45,000    |
| 2010               | WMA RIM CHM         | 2,308,358 |
| 2010               | SNA ENRTF           | 471,400   |
| 2011               | WMA Surcharge       | 1,830,000 |
| 2011               | WMA WMA CHM         | 824,259   |
| 2011               | SNA ENRTF           | 679,600   |
| 2012               | WMA RIM CHM         | 864,750   |

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

According to WMA/AMA Directive on development standards, WMAs are developed to at least minimum standards within two years of acquisition for facility and habitat development that will provide basic asset preservation, public access and safety, environmental and cultural resource protection and soil and water resource conservation. Initial development efforts can extend 2-3 years beyond the "minimum standard" time table to establish high quality native plant communities. All new WMA acquisitions require a WMA Initial Development Plan (IDP) be completed by the Area Wildlife Supervisor responsible for land management and approved by the Region.

SNAs have similar standards with site specific work being directed by each site's Adaptive Management Plan. As part of the state outdoor recreation system, ongoing maintenance will be accomplished through routine management activities accomplished by our network of DNR offices. Periodic enhancements will be accomplished by staff, CCM crews, temporary project staffing, through vendor contract or by volunteers if appropriate.

Long-term management costs (e.g., invasive species treatments, prescribed fire, and monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination funding sources, including, but not limited to the Game and Fish Fund, ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund, federal grants, and small game surcharge.

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

| Year            | Source of Funds                      | Step 1  | Step 2                              | Step 3 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 2023            | Outdoor Heritage, ML21               | Boundary survey, parking area development, boundary signs and other sign posting                                    | Additional initial site development |        |
| 2025            | Outdoor Heritage, ML21               | Initial habitat development, native vegetation established, invasive species control, wetlands restored (as needed) |                                     |        |
| 2026 and beyond | Game and Fish Fund, Surcharge, other | Ongoing management to DNR standards for WMA and SNA units   |                                     |        |

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

### PRAIRIE

Pheasant-By looking at the ratio of CRP acres in Minnesota to pheasant harvest, we estimate that three acres of grassland habitat has the "potential" to produce one harvested pheasant rooster.

Bobolink and Grasshopper Sparrow-The breeding territory size of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows is 1.7 and 2.1 acres respectively in high quality habitat in Wisconsin. If all of the habitat was occupied, a 100 acres of habitat could potentially hold approximately 60 and 48 pairs of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows respectively.

Monarch Butterfly-Research from the University of Minnesota has shown that it takes approximately 30 milkweed plants result in one monarch butterfly contributing to the overwintering Mexican population. Grasslands can have between 100-250 milkweed stems per acre. An acre of restored or enhanced grassland could potentially contribute 3 to 8 monarchs to the population.

### FOREST

Ovenbird-An average of 16 pairs for every 40 acres may be expected in high quality forest habitat.

White-tailed deer- The pre-fawn deer densities across forested deer permit areas is 13 deer per square mile of land (excluding water) . This translates to 0.02 deer per acre of forest land habitat or roughly 1 deer (pre-fawning) for every 50 acres of land. On average, densities within the Forest/Prairie Transition LSOHC planning section will be higher than those in the Northern Forest.

### FOREST PRAIRIE TRANSITION

Bobolink, grasshopper sparrow, ovenbird, and white-tailed deer (as listed above).

## 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 - **No**

Some lands proposed for acquisition may contain a portion of protected land. In these cases, we will appraise protected acres separately and seek to have that value donated or pay for them using non-OHF funds.

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 - **Yes**

Explain

The primary purposes of WMAs are to develop and manage for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To

fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife.

Lands proposed to be acquired as WMAs may include initial development plans to utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest to prepare the seedbed for native seed planting. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5% ), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources.

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

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

All WMA lands to be acquired will be open for hunting and fishing with no variations from State of Minnesota regulations.

All SNAs acquired with this funding would be open to the most appropriate types of hunting for the particular parcels. Priority will be given to acquiring lands to be open to all hunting, trapping and fishing.

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 - **No**

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this proposals funding and availability? - **Yes**

## 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? |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 2009       | 3913000                | 3911700                     | 0                              | 427600                    | 800                        | 810                          | yes   |
| 2009       | 2900000                | 2898900                     | 0                              | 1736700                   | 700                        | 734                          | yes   |
| 2010       | 3194900                | 2966300                     | 0                              | 521900                    | 830                        | 1243                         | yes   |
| 2010       | 988000                 | 958000                      | 0                              | 900                       | 404                        | 397                          | yes   |
| 2010       | 1000000                | 970000                      | 0                              | 172600                    | 319                        | 350                          | yes   |
| 2011       | 3931000                | 3152800                     | 0                              | 944000                    | 1336                       | 1110                         | yes   |
| 2012       | 2900000                | 2878500                     | 0                              | 445200                    | 706                        | 640                          | yes   |
| 2013       | 4940000                | 4783400                     | 0                              | 593400                    | 2068                       | 2566                         | yes   |
| 2014       | 8145000                | 8036800                     | 0                              | 3047300                   | 1113                       | 1734                         | no  |
| 2015       | 4570000                | 4215900                     | 0                              | 483500                    | 910                        | 1929                         | no  |
| 2016       | 3250000                | 3045700                     | 0                              | 369400                    | 600                        | 655                          | no  |
| 2017       | 4437000                | 3343200                     | 0                              | 212000                    | 960                        | 917                          | no  |
| 2018       | 2786000                | 544200                      | 0                              | 0                         | 470                        | 158                          | no  |
| 2019       | 2519000                | 54200                       | 0                              | 0                         | 400                        | 0                            | no  |

## Accomplishment Timeline

| Activity  | Approximate Date Completed |
|---|----------------------------|
| Acquire in fee 750 acres for designation as Wildlife Management Areas and Scientific and Natural Areas                            | 6/30/2025                  |
| Develop acquired lands to minimum WMA/SNA standards including signage, parking areas, and native vegetation planting if necessary | 6/30/2029                  |

# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$4,500,000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

| BudgetName                 | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total       |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Personnel                  | \$112,500     | \$0                  |                 | \$112,500   |
| Contracts                  | \$120,000     | \$0                  |                 | \$120,000   |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT    | \$3,702,300   | \$0                  |                 | \$3,702,300 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT   | \$0           | \$0                  |                 | \$0         |
| Easement Acquisition       | \$0           | \$0                  |                 | \$0         |
| Easement Stewardship       | \$0           | \$0                  |                 | \$0         |
| Travel                     | \$15,000      | \$0                  |                 | \$15,000    |
| Professional Services      | \$330,000     | \$0                  |                 | \$330,000   |
| Direct Support Services    | \$20,200      | \$0                  |                 | \$20,200    |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$0           | \$0                  |                 | \$0         |
| Capital Equipment          | \$0           | \$0                  |                 | \$0         |
| Other Equipment/Tools      | \$0           | \$0                  |                 | \$0         |
| Supplies/Materials         | \$200,000     | \$0                  |                 | \$200,000   |
| DNR IDP                    | \$0           | \$0                  |                 | \$0         |
| Total                      | \$4,500,000   | \$0                  | -               | \$4,500,000 |

## Personnel

| Position                    | FTE  | Over # of years | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total     |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| SNA Acquisition Coordinator | 0.10 | 3.00            | \$30,000      | \$0                  |                 | \$30,000  |
| Regional SNA Specialist     | 0.11 | 3.00            | \$22,500      | \$0                  |                 | \$22,500  |
| WMA Acquisition Coordinator | 0.25 | 3.00            | \$60,000      | \$0                  |                 | \$60,000  |
| Total                       | 0.46 | 9.00            | \$112,500     | \$0                  | -               | \$112,500 |

Amount of Request: \$4,500,000

Amount of Leverage: \$0

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.00%

DSS + Personnel: \$132,700

As a % of the total request: 2.95%

Easement Stewardship: \$0

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -%

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

Direct Support Services is determined using the standard DNR Direct & Necessary Cost Calculator. Landowner payments and real estate transaction costs are deleted from the top before other parts of the calculator are applied.

## What is included in the contracts line?

Includes anticipated needs related to habitat and site development to bring newly acquired parcels up to MN DNR WMA/SNA standards.

## 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:

Approximately 90% is fleet charges for equipment such as tractors, mowers, etc needed for initial site development of acquired parcels.

## 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:

Historically, Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations to DNR for WMA and SNA acquisitions have been leveraged by land owner donations of land value, Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match, and Small Game License Surcharge funding. While no leverage is being listed in this proposal, we anticipate this trend will continue.

**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:**

If project was scaled either up or down, outputs and budget line items would scale in direct proportion to the change. The possible exception would be personnel. While personnel would be scalable it might not be scalable in direct proportion to the change.

**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?**

The WMA and SNA programs retain the same staff for current and future projects. We are able to manage personnel costs over multiple years and projects through our expense coding process. Staff are provided specific funding strings and activity codes related to each project. Reports are produced monthly allowing project management staff to review expenses for accuracy.

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

5-10

## 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 | 45       | 500      | 205    | 0        | 750   |
| 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        | 0     |
| Total                                    | 45       | 500      | 205    | 0        | 750   |

**Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?**

| Type                                     | Native Prairie |
|--|----------------|
| Restore                                  | 0              |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0              |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability  | 0              |
| Protect in Easement                      | 0              |
| Enhance                                  | 0              |
| Total                                    | 0              |

**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 | \$315,000 | \$3,330,000 | \$855,000 | \$0      | \$4,500,000 |
| 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      | \$0         |
| Total                                    | \$315,000 | \$3,330,000 | \$855,000 | \$0      | \$4,500,000 |

**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           | 120            | 0         | 450     | 180             | 750   |
| 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       | 0               | 0     |
| Total                                    | 0           | 120            | 0         | 450     | 180             | 750   |

**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         | \$630,000      | \$0       | \$3,105,000 | \$765,000       | \$4,500,000 |
| 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         | \$0             | \$0         |
| Total                                    | \$0         | \$630,000      | \$0       | \$3,105,000 | \$765,000       | \$4,500,000 |

**Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type**

| Type                                     | Wetlands | Prairies | Forest  | Habitats |
|--|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Restore                                  | \$0      | \$0      | \$0     | \$0      |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$7,000  | \$6,660  | \$4,171 | \$0      |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability  | \$0      | \$0      | \$0     | \$0      |
| Protect in Easement                      | \$0      | \$0      | \$0     | \$0      |
| Enhance                                  | \$0      | \$0      | \$0     | \$0      |

**Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section**

| Type                                     | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | Northern Forest |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|
| Restore                                  | \$0         | \$0            | \$0       | \$0     | \$0             |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$0         | \$5,250        | \$0       | \$6,900 | \$4,250         |
| 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     | \$0             |

*Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers*

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

0

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:

- Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species *Acres of habitat acquired that support endangered, threatened and special concern species and Species in Greatest Conservation Need. Species lists (and numbers where available) of those species observed or documented.*

### Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need *Acres of habitat acquired that support nesting and migratory habitat and upland birds and Species in Greatest Conservation Need. Species lists (and numbers where available) of those species observed or documented.*

### Programs in prairie region:

- Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife *Acres of grassland/wetland habitat complexes acquired that support upland game birds, migratory waterfowl, big-game, and unique Minnesota species (e.g. endangered, threatened, and special concern species and Species in Greatest Conservation Need). Species lists (and numbers where available) of those species observed or documented.*

## Parcel List

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

The DNR uses GIS-based scoring systems to objectively rank potential acquisitions and develop statewide priority lists.

These systems incorporate scientific data giving priority to locations within and that add to: 1) an important habitat corridor or complex (such as identified by the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Pheasant Action Plan, SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan, and the new Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan), 2) native plant communities and sites of outstanding and high biodiversity significance mapped by Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), and 3) parcels that adjoin existing units or other conservation lands.

In addition, scoring takes into account habitat containing endangered, threatened, and other rare species, watershed/wetland qualities as well as habitat management considerations and suitability for public access, hunting and fishing.

### Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

### Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

#### Chisago

| Name                 | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost  | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing?       |
|----------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| Franconia Bluffs SNA | 03319203 | 82    | \$350,000 | No                   | Full     | Not Applicable |

#### Crow Wing

| Name                   | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost  | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|------------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Mille Lacs Moraine SNA | 04428221 | 240   | \$800,000 | No                   | Full     | Full     |

#### Fairbault

| Name            | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost    | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing?       |
|-----------------|----------|-------|-------------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| Drake Woods SNA | 10127208 | 300   | \$2,000,000 | No                   | Limited  | Not Applicable |

#### Kandiyohi

| Name                  | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost  | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing?       |
|-----------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| Regal Meadows WMA tr3 | 12233206 | 62    | \$225,000 | No                   | Full     | Not Applicable |
| Ringo Nest WMA tr4b   | 12134231 | 36    | \$161,000 | No                   | Full     | Not Applicable |

#### Lyon

| Name             | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost  | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing?       |
|------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| Amiret WMA tr9   | 11040205 | 83    | \$415,000 | No                   | Full     | Not Applicable |
| Clifton WMA tr5A | 11140207 | 75    | \$450,000 | No                   | Full     | Not Applicable |

#### Murray

| Name                  | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost  | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|-----------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Chanarambie Creek SNA | 10543202 | 100   | \$700,000 | No                   | Full     | Full     |

#### Pipestone

| Name               | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost    | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing?       |
|--------------------|----------|-------|-------------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| Prairie Coteau SNA | 10844228 | 200   | \$1,400,000 | No                   | Full     | Not Applicable |

## Stearns

| Name                    | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost  | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing?       |
|-------------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| Wendel Tamarack Bog SNA | 12529220 | 300   | \$700,000 | No                   | Full     | Not Applicable |

## Watsonwan

| Name                | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost  | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing?       |
|---------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------------|
| W.R. Taylor WMA tr4 | 10630219 | 71    | \$490,000 | No                   | Full     | Not Applicable |

## Yellow Medicine

| Name                     | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost    | Existing Protection?                            | Hunting? | Fishing?       |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|-------------|---|----------|----------------|
| Mound Spring Prairie SNA | 11546218 | 160   | \$800,000   | No  | Full     | Not Applicable |
| Penthole WMA tr5 & 7     | 11446216 | 155   | \$425,000   | Yes, A portion of parcel is in a USFWS easement | Full     | Not Applicable |
| Rock Valley Prairie SNA  | 11438230 | 150   | \$1,000,000 | No  | Full     | Not Applicable |

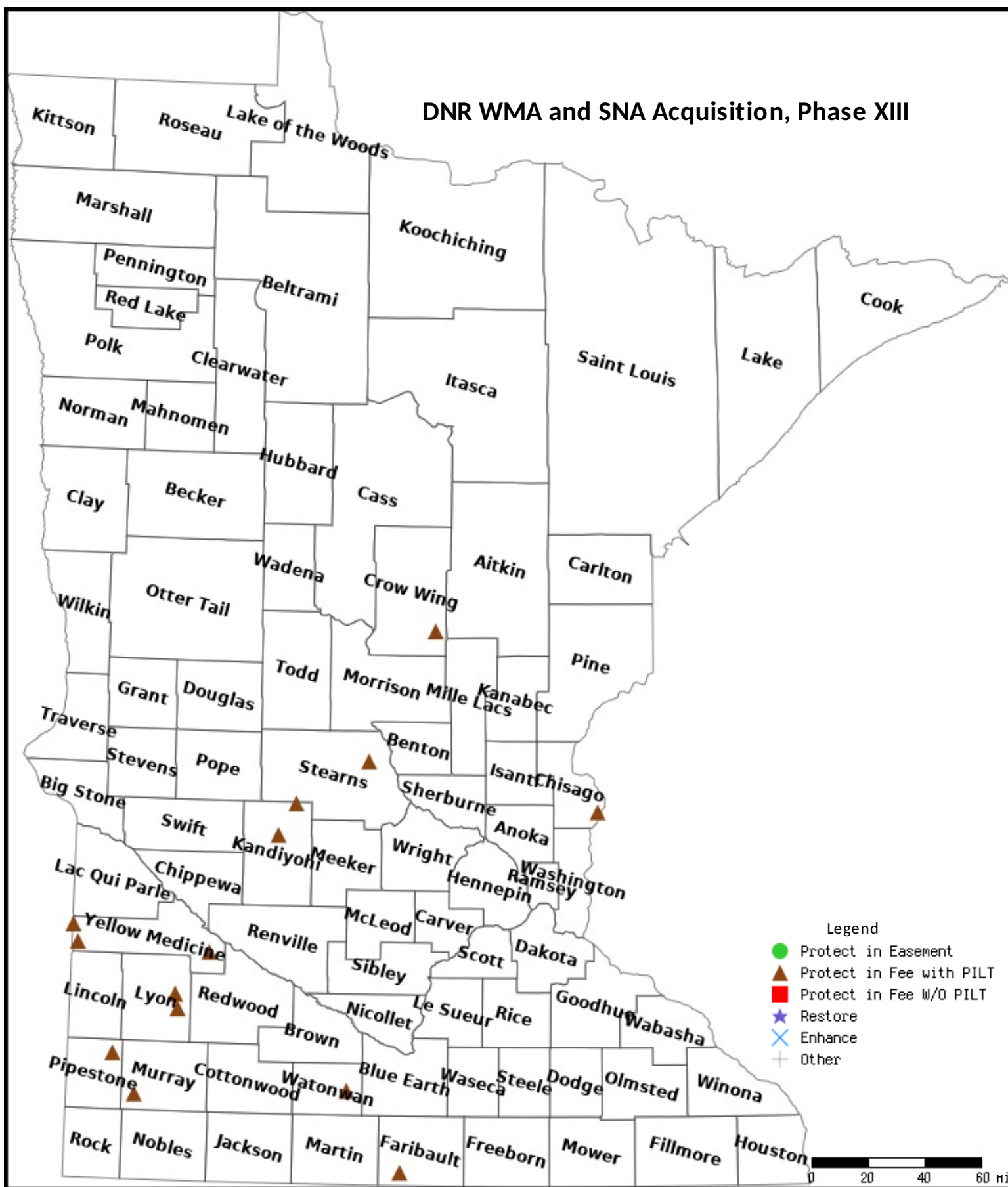
## Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

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

# DNR Wildlife Management Area and Scientific & Natural Area Acquisition: Phase XIII

**\$4.5M request to add 750 acres to the State WMA/SNA system**

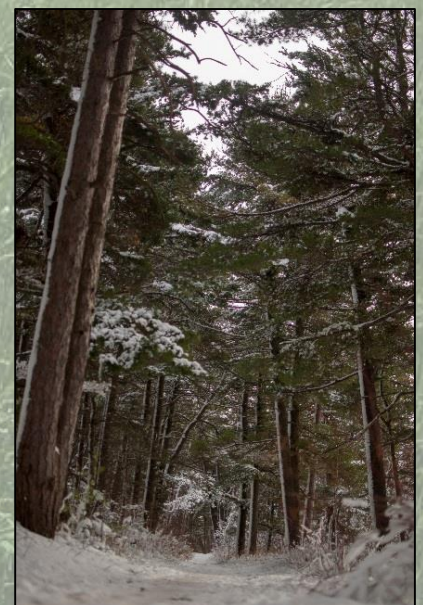
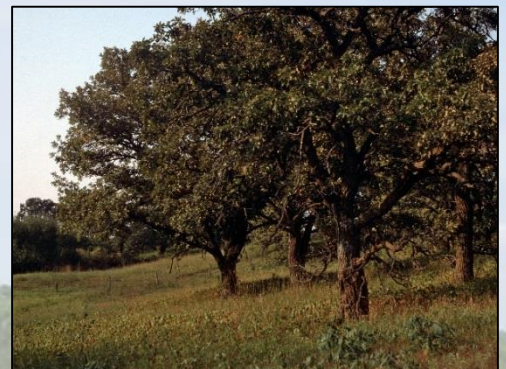
**Through OHF we've protected over 12,600 acres of critical habitat since 2009.**

## **WMA Focus**

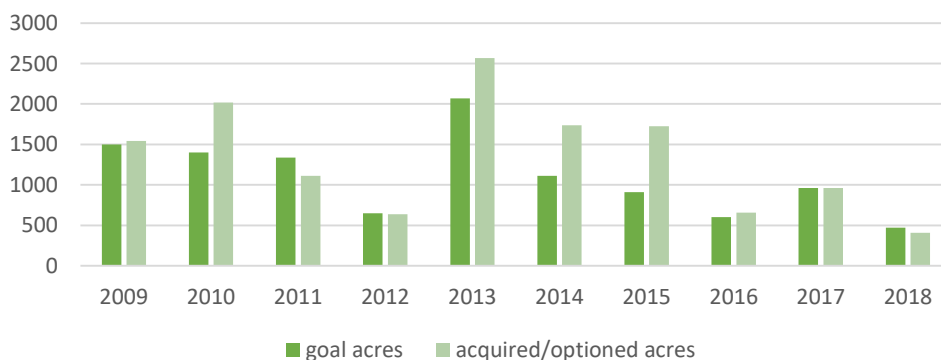
- We acquire and protect high quality grassland/wetland habitat complexes
- We strive to connect high quality habitat complexes to create habitat corridors that benefit grassland/wetland wildlife and pollinators
- We prioritize parcels that provide multiple ecosystem benefits

## **SNA Focus**

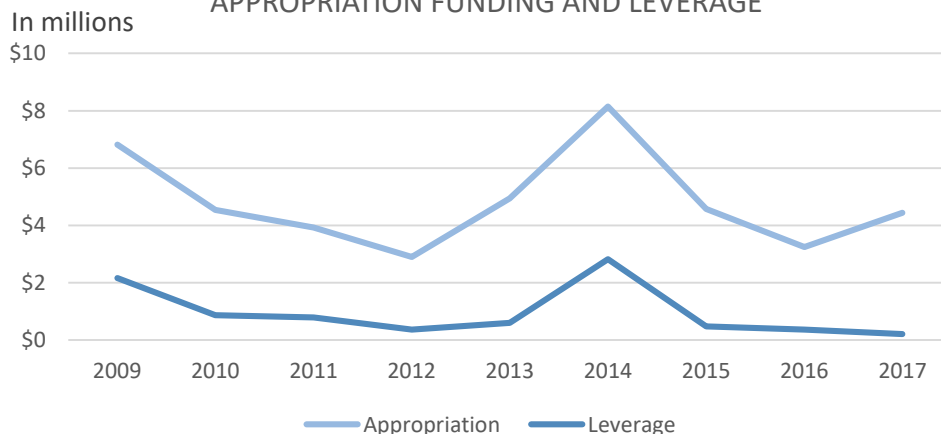
- We acquire and protect high-quality native plant communities including prairie, wetlands, woodlands, and forest
- We protect habitats for species in the greatest conservation need
- We protect parcels of biodiversity significance



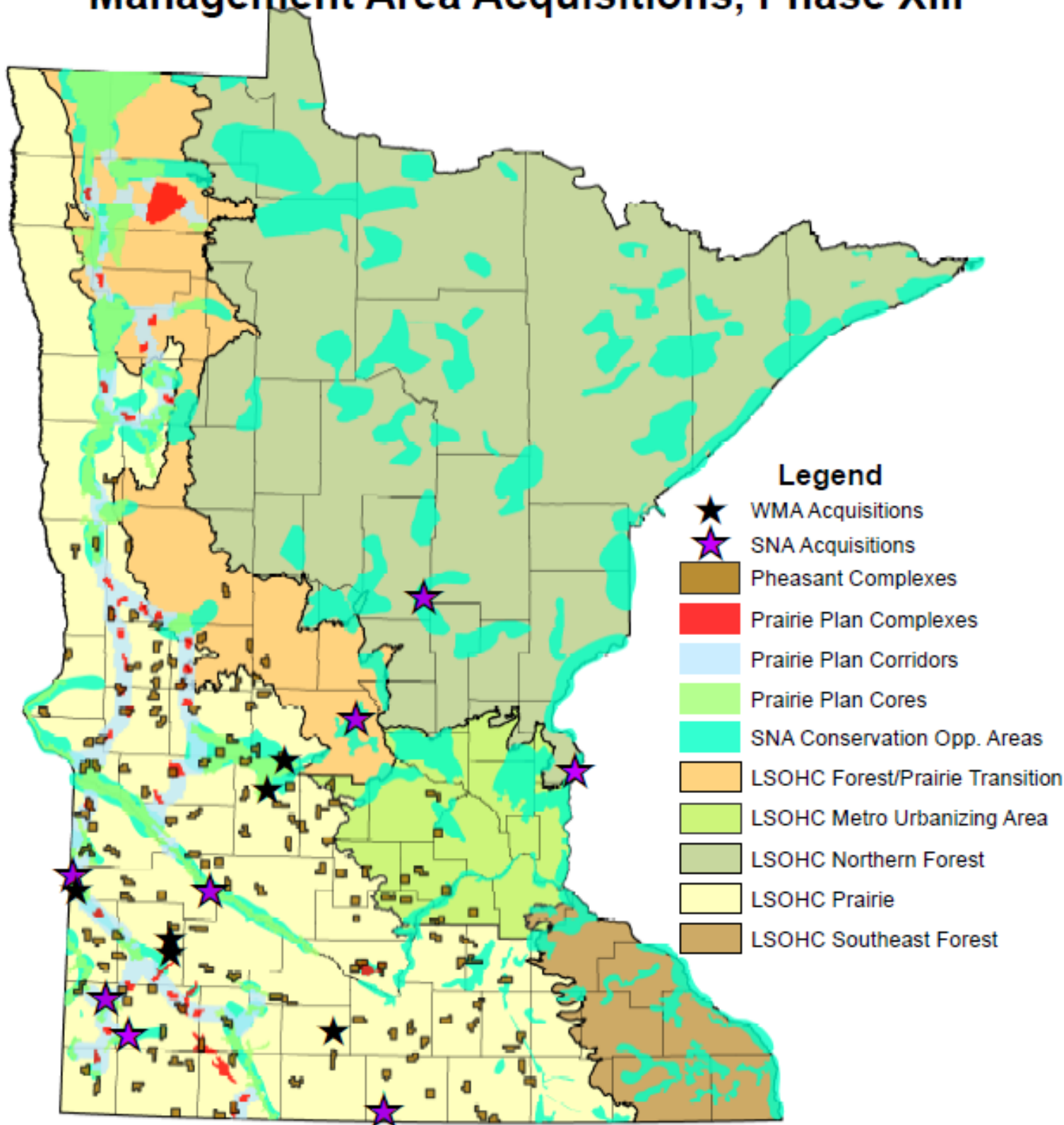
GOAL VS. ACQUIRED/OPTIONED ACRES



APPROPRIATION FUNDING AND LEVERAGE



# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Fiscal Year 2022/ML2021 - Proposed Parcel List DNR Scientific and Natural Areas and Wildlife Management Area Acquisitions, Phase XIII



0 20 40 80 120 160  
Miles

**mi** DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

Note: This map shows the approximate relative location of property boundaries and other features but was not prepared by a professional land surveyor. This map is provided for informational purposes only and may not be sufficient or appropriate for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.