



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR IDP Coordinator

Laws of Minnesota 2022 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 02/06/2023

Project Title: DNR IDP Coordinator

Funds Recommended: \$123,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2022, Ch. 77, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 6(c)

Appropriation Language: \$123,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an initial development plan coordinator position to coordinate, manage, and report on the initial development, restoration, and enhancement of fee title acquisitions in wildlife management areas and aquatic management areas that were acquired with money from the outdoor heritage fund.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jennifer Olson

Title: Initial Development Plan Coordinator

Organization: MN DNR

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Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Other : Coordinate partners and internal DNR staff on all new parcels to be transferred to/ acquired by DNR with OHF funding

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat
- Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

Provide coordination with all partners and fund tracking on all OHF funded acquisitions that are to be transferred to or acquired directly by DNR, where IDP (Initial Development Plans) have been developed and approved by both partners and DNR. This currently includes 47 open appropriations and 120 parcels of land. Ensure funds are spent appropriately and parcels meet minimum standards to support public use upon entry into the intended public land system.

Design and Scope of Work

This appropriation will be used to coordinate and approve the Initial Development Plans (IDP) and IDP funding that originate from fee title acquisition Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife (FAW) implements FAW Directive Number 070605 – Development Standards for Wildlife Management Area and Aquatic Management Areas – through the Initial Development Plan process. Development standards meet user expectations on newly acquired property, including boundary identification, access and habitat development.

To meet FAW Directive 070605, all fee title acquired parcels must have an Initial Development Plan approved before the parcel conveys to the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife. The IDP form is completed by DNR staff for DNR led acquisitions and with conservation partner input and approval on partner led acquisitions. The Initial Development Plan covers administrative compliance requirements such as cultural resource reviews from the State Historic Preservation Office, Natural Heritage Database review of documented rare species and natural plant communities, engineering, public water permits, ditch and county approvals, landowner agreements, etc. Facility development needs are considered including a boundary survey, posting/fencing, DNR wood routed sign, other informational signs, access, parking lots, well sealing, structure demolition, and site cleanup.

Initial habitat restoration activities may include prairie grassland, forest/wood cover, and/or wetland depending upon site needs. This may include, but is not limited to, converting cropland to prairie with seed or ecotypes native to Minnesota, removing invasive species, breaking and abandoning existing wetland tiles, all to improve habitat for fish and wildlife. The Initial Development Plan serves as the restoration and management plan, as required by Minnesota Statute 97A.056, subd 13 (c) and (d) for all lands restored or acquired using Outdoor Heritage Funds. Area Wildlife Managers, Regional Wildlife Managers, and conservation partners engage in discussions on what resources, timelines, capabilities and expertise are available in each project area. After such discussions, it may be determined a DNR IDP Use of Funds release is needed from partner led OHF appropriations in order to complete the approved IDP tasks. Estimated DNR IDP funds are identified in the Accomplishment Plan budget on partner led acquisitions. DNR IDP funds are released to the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife. DNR staff are responsible for completing the IDP tasks approved and identified with the Use of Funds. For DNR led acquisitions, IDP funds are identified and in the contracts, supplies and/or travel budget table. It is the responsibility of the DNR Initial Development Plan position to approve, manage, coordinate and oversee the timely and efficient spending of IDP funds for both DNR led and partner led acquisitions.

Currently, there are seven conservation partners engaged in fee title acquisitions. The number of conservation

partners may or may not change over time.

- 1) The Conservation Fund
- 2) Ducks Unlimited
- 3) Fox Lake Conservation League
- 4) The Nature Conservancy
- 5) Northern Waters Land Trust
- 6) Pheasants Forever
- 7) Trust for Public Land

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?

All work within this plan are on newly acquired and protected lands. These habitats will be protected, restored and/ or enhanced in perpetuity by becoming part of the public land system.

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:

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. The DNR works with Partners to identify those parcels best suited for acquisition by Partners or DNR and this position serves to coordinate the efforts on all parcels after the acquisition.

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

- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

- Minnesota DNR Scientific and Natural Area's Long Range Plan
- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

This position is funded at 0.8 FTE through OHF and 0.2FTE with DNR dedicated funding.

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 proposal supplements investments made by OHF appropriations, with support for restorations, enhancements and facility work on newly acquired parcels. It would not be needed at this level but for the many acquisition appropriations of state land with multiple partners and DNR Division staff.

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

A new request for funding will be submitted to support appropriations, as long as state land acquisition appropriations are funded through OHF, involving both partners and DNR.

How will the program directly involve, engage, and benefit BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and diverse communities:

This position will serve all partners equally without bias. Partnerships with all conservation-focused groups will be encouraged, regardless of race, religion or identity.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Yes

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?

Yes

Explain what will be planted:

This proposal may include initial development plans or restoration 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. In these restorations, non neonicotinoid treated seed and no herbicides other than glyphosate would be used.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2023	

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated to acquire land in fee may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:

- (1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2026;
- (2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this act is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2030;
- (3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2027;
- (4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
- (5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

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

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$113,800	\$30,000	Traditional funding	\$143,800
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$9,200	-	-	\$9,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$123,000	\$30,000	-	\$153,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
IDP Coordinator	0.8	1.25	\$113,800	\$30,000	Traditional funding	\$143,800

Amount of Request: \$123,000

Amount of Leverage: \$30,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 24.39%

DSS + Personnel: \$123,000

As a % of the total request: 100.0%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

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

The number of years will be reduced to fit within the funding that is recommended.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

This position will work on non-OHF, agency priority projects and has been allocated 0.2 FTE of traditional DNR funding to accommodate those needs and projects.

Personnel

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?

Funding was awarded within the DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition, Phase XI, ML 2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd, 2(a)

Direct Support Services

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

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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

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	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
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 PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Other ~ *To coordinate on all IDP work with partners, to make sure that all minimum standards on new OHF-acquired parcels are being met.*

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: