



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

ML 2022 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/03/2021

Proposal Title: Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase 7

Funds Requested: \$9,591,400

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Tim Terrill

Title: Executive Director

Organization: Mississippi Headwaters Board

Address: 322 Laurel St., Suite 11

City: Brainerd, MN 56401

Email: timt@mississippiheadwaters.org

Office Number: 218-824-1189

Mobile Number: 507-923-7167

Fax Number:

Website: <http://mississippiheadwaters.org>

Location Information

County Location(s): Hubbard, Crow Wing, Aitkin 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

Narrative

Abstract

In Phase 7, The Mississippi Headwaters Board in partnership with The Trust for Public Land and BWSR assisted by 7 County SWCDs will permanently protect an additional 3,850 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat along the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River, its major tributaries, and 9 headwaters lakes. Previous phases have already protected 4,130 acres and 34 miles of shoreland using fee title acquisitions and conservation easements to create or expand permanently protected aquatic and upland wildlife habitat corridors. This on-going work benefits fish, game and non-game wildlife, migratory waterfowl and reduces forest fragmentation.

Design and Scope of Work

This Phase will continue to address current and anticipated aquatic and upland habitat protection opportunities along the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River, its major tributaries, Headwaters lakes and other high quality habitat complexes in Headwaters counties. To date, 4,130 acres and 34 miles of shoreland have been permanently protected to benefit aquatic habitat, provide food and shelter for migratory waterfowl along the Mississippi Flyway, and to 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 protected for millions of Minnesotans. There is urgency to fund this phase because previous phases through ML 20 are spent or committed to fee title acquisitions and easement projects that will protect an additional 1,700 acres and 7+ miles of shoreland. Fee-title acquisitions in process and landowners interested in easements will utilize the ML 21 appropriation when available on July 1, 2021.

The Mississippi River--Gichi-ziib in Ojibwe meaning "big river"-- is home to a variety of game fish and its adjacent lands are home to 350+ species of animals and birds, including most of the endangered and threatened species in Minnesota. Migratory waterfowl depend on the river for food and shelter along the Mississippi Flyway. 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.

As a partnership, 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); and BWSR in partnership with 7 Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation Districts completes RIM conservation easements on parcels that have been identified and prioritized through a science-based selection process described below. A Technical Team of project partners along with DNR, BWSR, and The Nature Conservancy staff 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 expanding 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 County 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 this Project's ongoing success.

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 County Biological Survey; DNR Biodiversity rankings, rare species and old growth forest data; the Minnesota Wildlife Action Network's GIS layers and species information, and other habitat parameters to identify priority areas of significant value for fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need and/or are threatened and endangered within the minor watershed of the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River or along major tributaries. 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; Shortjaw Cisco, Common Loon, Trumpeter Swan, Spruce Grouse, Northern Long Eared Bat, Red-necked Grebe, Red Shouldered Hawk, Golden-winged Warbler, White-tailed jackrabbit, Canada Lynx, American badger, multiple species of shrew and mouse, Northern Goshawk, Boreal Owl, Northern Pintail, Evening Grosbeak, American Kestrel, Red-headed Woodpecker, Spotted Salamander, Pickerel Frog, Sand Darter fish, Longnose Sucker, 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 (400 miles from Itasca State Park through 8 counties 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. These elements are: food, water, a place to raise young, and different types of wildlife cover for various life stages. This project focuses on creating and expanding protected wildlife habitat complexes/corridors through fee-title acquisition for public ownership or easements on 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 headwaters lake. “A” ranks the parcel’s adjacency to existing public land (state, county or federal). “Q” ranks habitat quality using the Minnesota County Biological Survey and a number of existing data sets as described above. County land department priorities for forest management and The Nature Conservancy's multi-benefits, science-based analysis of the Upper Mississippi River Basin are also considered in selecting priority parcels for permanent land 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 7 SWCDs are conducting outreach to these priority landowners to ensure the highest quality aquatic and upland habitats are protected in large habitat complexes for the future sustainability of critical fish and wildlife populations and migrating waterfowl along the Mississippi Flyway.

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

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

Which two 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:

To date, this project has exceeded its projected goals by over 250% demonstrating that significant and permanent conservation has and will be accomplished with continued LSOHC support. Past and projected land conservation targets privately owned parcels adjacent to existing public lands to create and enhance large protected habitat complexes and helps to insure no net loss of forestland. Permanently protecting critical aquatic and upland habitats helps build resilience into the Mississippi River Headwaters system to protect against fragmentation of forests and shorelines and to ensure quality habitat (aquatic and terrestrial) and population sustainability for healthy fish, game and non-game wildlife, and migratory waterfowl along with enhanced recreational opportunities for all Minnesotans. The Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project's success to date is demonstrated by the completed protection of 4,130 acres of upland habitat and 34 miles of shoreland. When projects currently in process are completed another 1,700 acres and 7 miles of shoreland will be permanently protected. Funding beginning July 1, 2021 will protect a targeted 1,250 acres of protected habitat and 6 miles of shoreland. This Phase 7 will protect an additional 3,850 acres and 7+ miles of shoreland to add to Minnesota's conservation legacy.

What other fund may contribute to this proposal?

- N/A

Does this proposal include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

The Trust for Public Land is providing a private match of half of their direct support services costs and all travel costs. RIM funding and land value donations are anticipated on several parcels.

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

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
ML20	CWF RIM Buffer Funds for easements	1,000,000

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 (BWSR) 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.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2022-2026	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
2022-2026	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.
2022-2026	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 indicator species such as white-tailed deer, Golden-winged Warblers, and Ovenbirds. Whitetailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) use a wide variety of forested habitats, are found throughout Minnesota. They 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 (pre-fawning) for every 50 acres of land. Golden-winged Warblers (species of greatest conservation need) 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 they 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.

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

In the past, this program has not specifically involved BIPOC and/or diverse communities largely due to concerns about the language of the constitutional amendment specifying that these funds “may be spent only to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish and game.” However, some of our partner organization's other focuses and programs funded through different sources, do specifically involve, engage, and benefit BIPOC and diverse communities.

There are significant benefits for all Minnesotans, including BIPOC and diverse communities, when land is protected through fee-title acquisition and becomes managed as public land accessible to all. In particular, public land provides an opportunity for those who do not have access or resources to connect with private natural lands, whether that be for hunting, fishing, hiking, or other outdoor recreational pursuits. Conservation easements also benefit all Minnesotans. They help to keep our air and water clean, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and conserves the biological diversity that is important to all of Minnesotan's public resources.

Furthermore, if allowed by the LSOHC to expand the scope of project activities, a more thorough community engagement process could be incorporated in the project's work, specifically focusing on BIPOC and diverse communities. Moving forward, we look forward to continuing this important work in a way that more directly, and authentically, engages diverse communities and partners in an equitable and just manner.

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

Land Use

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

No

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?

No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?

Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:

N/A

Will the eased land be open for public use?

No

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?

Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

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.).

For prospective acquisitions, there is an existing segment of a snowmobile trail that bisects the Dahler Lake parcel, which we anticipate would continue to be used as a snowmobile trail once acquired. The Laden Lake parcel has existing former logging trails which DNR Forestry would manage in accordance with current DNR Forestry practices.

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

Yes

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.

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.). No new trails are planned on prospective acquisitions, but if new trail segments or alignments are added on county owned lands, there would be a "no net gain of trails." In other words, if a new trail segment was created an equal amount of preexisting trail would be restored to natural habitat.

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.

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

No

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

While no specific R/E work is anticipated; after land acquired in fee is conveyed to the MN DNR, initial restoration activities may occur as part of the DNR IDP plan.

Other OHF Appropriation Awards

Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC?

Yes

Approp Year	Approp Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Leverage Reported in AP	Leverage Realized to Date	Acres Affected in AP	Acres Affected to Date	Complete/Final Report Approved?
20	\$3,695,000	\$10,200	\$81,000	\$5,000	1,467	0	No
18	\$2,998,000	\$2,007,600	\$19,600	\$14,000	855	938	No
17	\$2,396,000	\$2,299,900	\$83,800	\$82,146	732	1,694	No
16	\$3,150,000	\$3,112,400	\$188,700	\$177,964	830	1,478	Yes

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
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.	2026
SWCDs do landowner outreach according to established parcel priorities, works with landowner to submit easement application and complete the easement, records the final easement.	2026
BWSR approves and processes landowner applications that have been approved by the Project Technical Committee, responsible for ongoing monitoring of completed easements. diligence,	2026; stewardship ongoing
MHB provides project administration and coordination, assists with development of parcel prioritization tools and outreach, convenes the Technical Review Committee, and does project reporting.	2026
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

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$442,700	-	-	\$442,700
Contracts	\$176,000	-	-	\$176,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	-, RIM, private	\$6,000,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$1,000,000
Easement Acquisition	\$2,301,400	-	-	\$2,301,400
Easement Stewardship	\$299,000	-	-	\$299,000
Travel	\$5,300	\$5,000	-, Private	\$10,300
Professional Services	\$110,000	-	-	\$110,000
Direct Support Services	\$87,200	\$57,400	-, Private	\$144,600
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$60,000	-	-	\$60,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$7,500	-	-	\$7,500
Supplies/Materials	\$2,300	-	-	\$2,300
DNR IDP	\$100,000	-	-	\$100,000
Grand Total	\$9,591,400	\$1,062,400	-	\$10,653,800

Partner: TPL**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$160,000	-	-	\$160,000
Contracts	\$50,000	-	-	\$50,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	RIM, private	\$6,000,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$1,000,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	\$5,000	Private	\$5,000
Professional Services	\$110,000	-	-	\$110,000
Direct Support Services	\$57,400	\$57,400	Private	\$114,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$60,000	-	-	\$60,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	\$100,000	-	-	\$100,000
Grand Total	\$6,537,400	\$1,062,400	-	\$7,599,800

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection & Legal Staff	0.31	3.0	160000	-	-	\$160,000

Partner: MHB**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Contracts	\$34,000	-	-	\$34,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$54,000	-	-	\$54,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Administrator	0.1	4.0	20000	-	-	\$20,000

Partner: BWSR**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$262,700	-	-	\$262,700
Contracts	\$92,000	-	-	\$92,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$2,301,400	-	-	\$2,301,400
Easement Stewardship	\$299,000	-	-	\$299,000
Travel	\$5,300	-	-	\$5,300
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$29,800	-	-	\$29,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$7,500	-	-	\$7,500
Supplies/Materials	\$2,300	-	-	\$2,300
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$3,000,000	-	-	\$3,000,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
BWSR Easement Staff	0.83	4.0	262700	-	-	\$262,700

Amount of Request: \$9,591,400

Amount of Leverage: \$1,062,400

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 11.08%

DSS + Personnel: \$529,900

As a % of the total request: 5.52%

Easement Stewardship: \$299,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 12.99%

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

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

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?

Yes

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well. However, not exactly proportionately as program development and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well. However, not exactly proportionately as program development and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

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?

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 7 of an ongoing program; these funds will pay for staff time spent on new easements associated with this phase.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

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

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?

2 acquisitions closed and investigation of 2-3 prospects.

Easement Stewardship

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

An estimated 46 easements (1850 acres) will be completed with this funding as requested. Easement stewardship has been calculated per 46 easements. 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.

Travel

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

No

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

None

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

Yes

Direct Support Services

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

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.

Other Equipment/Tools

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

Signage for completed projects,

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	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	1,680	0	1,680
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	320	0	320
Protect in Easement	0	0	1,850	0	1,850
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	3,850	0	3,850

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$5,518,400	-	\$5,518,400
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	\$1,046,000	-	\$1,046,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$3,027,000	-	\$3,027,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	\$9,591,400	-	\$9,591,400

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	1,680	1,680
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	320	320
Protect in Easement	0	50	0	0	1,800	1,850
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	50	0	0	3,800	3,850

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	-	-	-	-	\$5,518,400	\$5,518,400
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$1,046,000	\$1,046,000
Protect in Easement	-	\$80,000	-	-	\$2,947,000	\$3,027,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	\$80,000	-	-	\$9,511,400	\$9,591,400

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$3,284	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	\$3,268	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$1,636	-
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	-	-	-	-	\$3,284
Protect in Fee w/o State	-	-	-	-	\$3,268

PILT Liability					
Protect in Easement	-	\$1,600	-	-	\$1,637
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

7+ miles

Outcomes

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 of ongoing maintenance of the forest and shoreland will be 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 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 of ongoing maintenance of the forest according will be measured by 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.*

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

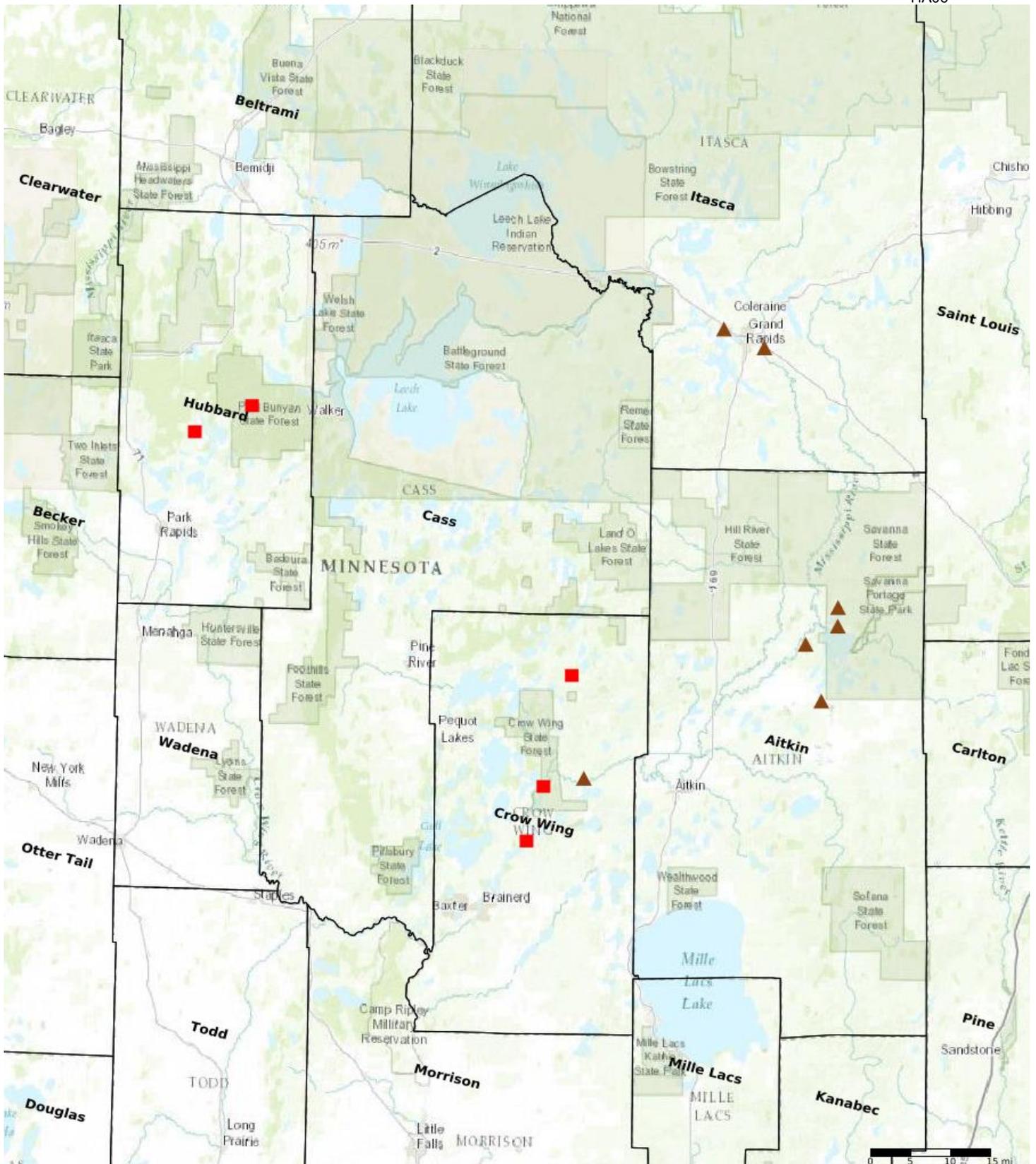
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

Parcels were selected based on one or a combination of the following sources: the GIS-science based RAQ screening for priority parcels as explained earlier in the proposal; county land department requests; DNR interest in WMA creation/expansion or State Forest additions or acquisitions; and landowner interest.

Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Big Sandy	Aitkin	05023229	283	\$900,000	No
Aitkin Lake	Aitkin	05023217	151	\$850,000	No
Big Sandy River	Aitkin	04824201	189	\$380,000	No
Wold WMA Addition	Aitkin	04924203	391	\$860,000	No
Crow Wing County Forest Addition	Crow Wing	04729219	22	\$75,000	No
Dahler	Crow Wing	13726204	1,280	\$1,920,000	No
Indian Jack WMA Addition III	Crow Wing	13626234	35	\$160,000	No
Brainerd Forest	Crow Wing	13427204	28	\$130,000	No
Hubbard County Forest Addition	Hubbard	14234234	280	\$560,000	No
Laden Lake	Hubbard	14233214	2,540	\$5,000,000	No
La Prairie	Itasca	05525226	115	\$460,000	No
Bass Brook WMA Addition	Itasca	05526213	46	\$184,000	No



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

Parcel Map
Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project
Phase 7
(Data Generated From Parcel List)



Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project– Phase 7 Request: \$ 9,591,400

Program Goals/Focus:

- This Phase will permanently protect more than **7 miles** of critical aquatic habitat and **3,850 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 along the Mississippi Flyway.
- Achieve permanent land conservation via fee title acquisition and RIM conservation easements to create and expand 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.

Partners

- Mississippi Headwaters Board
- The Trust for Public Land
- BWSR and 7 Headwaters SWCDs
- With stakeholder support from:
The MN DNR
The Nature Conservancy



Accomplishments To Date:

- ⇒ Permanent habitat protection completed on 4,130 acres and 34 miles of shoreline.
- ⇒ Two additions to a state forest, 2 additions to a county forest, creation of a new 300+ acre WMA; 1 addition to an existing AMA; 1 addition to an existing WMA, and 24 RIM conservation easements.
- ⇒ Projects that are in process or committed will protect an additional 1,700 acres and 7+ miles of shoreline.
- ⇒ To date, the Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project has exceeded AP acreage goals by over 250%.

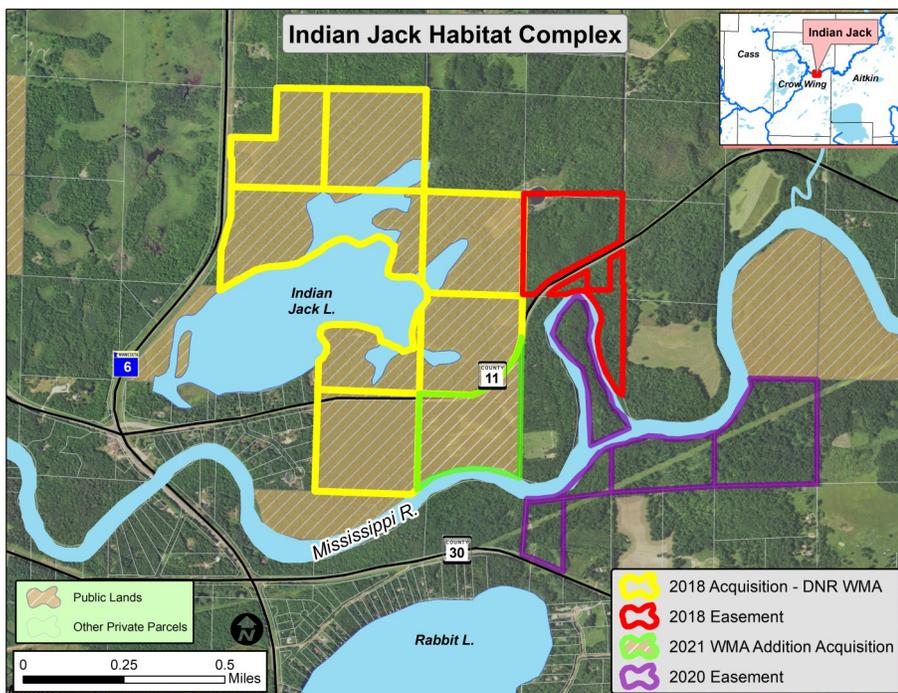


Why permanently protect critical shorelands and create contiguous habitat complexes?

- Game and non-game wildlife have four basic habitat needs that are provided through permanently protected habitat complexes: 1) cover against predators; 2) water; 3) places to raise their young; and 4) adequate space to move around during varied life stages.
- Migratory waterfowl need food and cover along the Mississippi Flyway.
- Fish populations need healthy shorelines and high quality water along with safe spawning areas.
- 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 ensures critical aquatic and upland habitat for healthy fish and wildlife populations.

This map is an example of fee-title acquisitions and conservation easements purchased by this project adjacent to public land to create a large, contiguous and permanently protected habitat complex in Crow Wing County.

The Indian Jack Habitat Complex was created with a new WMA (264 acres), a WMA addition (35 acres), and 2 conservation easements (104 acres) combined with adjacent public land (190 acres) to form a permanently protected habitat complex spanning 594 acres, 2.5 miles of lake shoreland, and 3 miles of river shoreland.



Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project		
Appropriations to Date		Amount Remaining
ML 16	\$3,150,000	Closed out June 30, 2019; final report approved.
ML 17	\$2,396,000	>95% spent or obligated to projects
ML 18	\$2,998,000	
ML 20	\$3,695,000	To date, 9 easements, one acquisition in process.
ML 21	\$2,901,000	Approved for funding on 7/1/2021; landowners in cue.

