



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions

ML 2023 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/24/2022

Proposal Title: Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions

Funds Requested: \$674,300

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jennifer Olson

Title: Initial Development Coordinator

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Northern Forest
- Southeast Forest
- Metro / Urban
- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Narrative

Abstract

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently partners with seven non-governmental organizations to strategically acquire new fee title land from willing sellers that meets state land-management goals. A detailed set of criteria is used to determine whether a proposed acquisition meets DNR goals. With every fee title land acquisition that is conveyed to the DNR, core functions make sure the parcel is legally acquired and meets minimal development standards for public access and cultural resource protection. These core functions will be covered in a single OHF administrative appropriation thereby replacing the multiple partner released funds to DNR.

Design and Scope of Work

Currently, seven conservation related non-governmental organizations coordinate and communicate with the Minnesota DNR to strategically acquire fee title land from willing sellers. The seven NGOs include: 1) Pheasants Forever, 2) Ducks Unlimited, 3) Trust for Public Land, 4) The Nature Conservancy, 5) Northern Waters Land Trust, 6) The Conservation Fund, and 7) Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. Some of the parcels being acquired by these NGOs will be conveyed to the Minnesota DNR to become part of the state's Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Aquatic Management Area (AMA), Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) and/or State Forest system.

It is the DNR's responsibility to ensure the state's interests are protected against future liabilities. Real estate professionals in the DNR Land and Mineral Division review every partner-led acquisition that is conveyed to the DNR to ensure the appraisal is up to state standards, the land survey is up to state standards, the title review is up to state standards, along with reviewing any agreements or encumbrances that run with the land (drainage, access, Conservation Reserve Program, etc.). Every partner-led acquisition being conveyed to the DNR also has property taxes, deed taxes and recording fees that are paid out of the partner-led Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation. The time spent paying, reviewing and managing partner conveyed acquisitions is included in DNR Land Acquisition Costs in the OHF budget table.

Within the Division of Fish and Wildlife (FAW), an approved Initial Development Plan (IDP) is required for all land acquisitions, regardless of whether they are being acquired by DNR or one of our partners. The IDP is intended to identify the needs and funding source to develop a piece of property to the minimum standards (FAW Directive #070605 – Development Standards for WMA/AMAs). An approved IDP must be in place before a parcel is conveyed to FAW. For purposes of this proposal, only the core IDP functions DNR is best positioned to complete are proposed here:

- Cultural resource review – Compliance with the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act and Minnesota Historic Sites Act (MN Statutes 138.40 and 138.655)
- Boundary posts – purchased by DNR in large orders, freight cost savings for delivery to Area offices
- DNR signs and hardware (DNR metal and wood routed signs, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.) – sign specifications required, have to wait until parcel conveys to DNR before signs are installed
- Grazing fence, if needed
- Access/parking lots – constructed to a sufficient standard to minimize future maintenance costs (geotextile fabric, posts, gates, gravel thickness, approach, culvert, etc.)

This proposal would eliminate individual Use of Funds from partner NGOs and replace with one OHF appropriation to cover all DNR Land Acquisition Costs and core DNR IDP activities. We propose the new single appropriation will pay for DNR acquisition costs and DNR IDP costs immediately, regardless of the appropriation year the acquisition

originated in. Parcel lists would be maintained by the partners in their direct OHF appropriations. Use of Funds letters would be required from partners that wish DNR to complete habitat related IDP work.

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?

N/A

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 is an administrative efficiency improvement. If funded, this single appropriation would fund the DNR acquisition costs and DNR IDP core activities for all partner-led acquisitions. It would eliminate the administrative burden of multiple Use of Funds letter from partners, and multiple accounts that have to be setup by the DNR Grants Unit to cover the same costs. If funded, the appropriation would be immediately available for new partner-led acquisitions, regardless of the appropriation year the acquisition originated in. There would be no delay waiting for partner Use of Funds letters. Currently, DNR acquisition and IDP staff track and manage approximately 50 partner-led accounts. If funded, this would allow partners to close their direct acquisition OHF grants much faster. The appropriation funds would be available for up to three years, if needed. An annual administrative proposal would ensure funds are available and overlapping to cover these core DNR functions.

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:

N/A

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

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

Which two other plans are addressed in this proposal?

- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda
- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

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

This administrative proposal would address the goal, strategy and recommendation in the following two plans: Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda (2015-2025): Goal 4 - Operational Excellence. Strategy - "Employ adaptive management practices. Practice adaptive management, learning as we go, to respond to rapid and long-term changes, new insights, and unanticipated events, while delivering safe, effective and efficient work processes." Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years (2002-2052): Statewide recommendation - "The Division of Wildlife [old name] needs to work collaboratively with other agencies and units of government, public and private partners, legislators, landowners, and citizens to seek additional, creative funding to implement the recommendations in this report AND find ways to expedite the WMA land acquisition process."

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

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:

N/A

What other fund may contribute to this proposal?

- N/A

Does this proposal include leveraged funding?

No

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

This request is for work related to OHF fee title acquisition appropriations given to non-governmental organizations. It would not be implemented but for these appropriations. If funded, these costs would no longer be accounted for in partner direct OHF appropriations.

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

According to DNR Fish and Wildlife Directive #070605 - Development Standards for WMA/AMAs - Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs) will be 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. Funding for minimum development should be included with the acquisition funding. WMA/AMAs acquired through donation from conservation organizations may obligate the Division to significant initial development costs to develop the unit to the minimal standards. These donations are above and beyond the Division's traditional acquisition activity.

Long term maintenance and habitat management costs on WMA/AMAs are covered by a combination of funding sources including, but not limited to, Game and Fish funds, Heritage Enhancement funds, small game Surcharge funds, RIM funds, Outdoor Heritage Funds, federal grants, etc.

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

N/A

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

DNR's OHF projects aim to serve all Minnesotans. At the same time, we are bringing more focus in all our work to BIPOC and diverse communities. The Minnesota DNR has adopted advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) as a key priority in its 2020-22 strategic plan. The plan focuses on increasing the cultural competence of our staff, creating a workforce that is reflective of Minnesota, continuing to strengthen tribal consultation and building partnerships with diverse communities.

The OHF funds high quality habitat projects that provide ecosystem services like clean water and carbon

sequestration that support environmental justice. OHF also supports public access and recreational opportunities on these lands. OHF projects and outcomes benefit BIPOC and diverse communities through recreational opportunities that are close-to-home, culturally responsive and accessible to Minnesotans with disabilities.

The DNR has diversity, equity and inclusion strategies that benefit all OHF projects:

- Multilingual and culturally specific hunting and fishing education programs take place on public lands.
- All hiring is equal opportunity, affirmative action, and veteran-friendly. Contracting seeks out Targeted Group, Economically Disadvantaged and Veteran-Owned businesses.
- Public engagement seeks out BIPOC voices and involves diverse communities. Outreach and marketing of projects has this focus as well.
- Partnerships are at the center of all projects. Tribes in particular are consulted in all pertinent areas of the DNR's work, under EO 19-24.

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)?**

No

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:

According to Statute 97A.056 subd 13(j), Non-governmental organizations must notify in writing the county board and town board where the land is located and furnish them a description of the land to be acquired. NGOs do not have to seek formal approval prior to the acquisition. In cases where there is interest, NGOs are willing to attend county or township meetings to communicate their interest in the parcel and answer questions.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?

No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:

A limited number of partner-led acquisitions may have federal or state easements on a portion of the desired tract. If a parcel has one of these encumbrances, and it is still deemed a high priority by the partnership, we will follow guidance established by the Outdoor Heritage Fund to proceed, or use non-OHF funding to acquire the residual value of the protected portion of the property.

Land Use

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

Yes

Explain what will be planted:

The primary purpose 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. Initial development plans (IDPs) may use farming to prepare cropland for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest to prepare the seedbed for native seed planting. Vegetation removal is not necessary on annual crop fields, provided

native seed is planted in the winter after harvest. Crop fields require little seedbed preparation, unless crop residue is heavy enough to interfere with seeding. Soybean fields are the preferred crop "start state" for native prairie enhancement because they are essentially ready to seed. On a small percentage of WMA (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter source of food 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

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:

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

Any Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) lands that are acquired would be open to the most appropriate types of hunting for the particular parcel. Priority will be given to acquiring lands that are open to all hunting, trapping and fishing.

All fee title Aquatic Management Area (AMA) and State Forest lands to be acquired will be open for hunting and fishing with no variations from State of Minnesota regulations.

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

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 proposal's funding and availability?

No

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

This administrative proposal specifically focuses on the DNR land acquisition costs and core DNR IDP activities associated with partner-led acquisitions. There are no restoration or enhancement funds provided. If a partner wants to conduct restoration or enhancement on the parcel they acquired, they will fund that work out of their acquisition OHF grant. Partners can conduct the habitat work themselves or if they would like the DNR to complete the habitat work, a Use of Funds letter will be required to transfer the funds to DNR.

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?
21	\$12,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
21	\$26,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
21	\$15,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
21	\$25,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
21	\$180,000	-	-	-	-	-	No

21	\$14,400	-	-	-	-	-	No
21	\$30,000	\$412	-	-	-	-	No
20	\$60,000	\$1,193	-	-	-	-	No
20	\$60,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
20	\$25,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
20	\$40,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
20	\$40,000	\$5,776	-	-	-	-	No
20	\$15,000	\$445	-	-	-	-	No
20	\$50,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
20	\$4,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
21	\$60,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
21	\$144,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
20	\$26,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
20	\$99,590	\$166	-	-	-	-	No
20	\$162,100	\$1,069	-	-	-	-	No
19	\$10,000	\$4,981	-	-	-	-	No
19	\$30,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
19	\$275,400	\$220,672	-	-	-	-	No
19	\$80,000	\$15,307	-	-	-	-	No
19	\$24,000	\$12,762	-	-	-	-	No
19	\$254,050	\$3,500	-	-	-	-	No
19	\$85,000	\$1,881	-	-	-	-	No
19	\$216,500	-	-	-	-	-	No
18	\$175,000	\$5,391	-	-	-	-	No
18	\$17,000	\$3,391	-	-	-	-	No
18	\$47,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
18	\$287,000	\$177,201	-	-	-	-	No
18	\$30,000	\$10,000	-	-	-	-	No
18	\$45,000	\$26,917	-	-	-	-	No
18	\$11,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
18	\$20,000	\$300	-	-	-	-	No
18	\$82,300	\$13,795	-	-	-	-	No
18	\$223,000	\$13,566	-	-	-	-	No
17	\$30,000	\$2,110	-	-	-	-	No
17	\$127,200	\$119,500	-	-	-	-	Yes
21	\$40,000	-	-	-	-	-	No
17	\$30,000	\$22,945	-	-	-	-	No
17	\$61,500	\$9,694	-	-	-	-	No
17	\$40,300	\$19,557	-	-	-	-	No
17	\$237,000	\$114,785	-	-	-	-	No
16	\$30,000	\$17,600	-	-	-	-	Yes
16	\$150,000	\$146,900	-	-	-	-	Yes
16	\$35,000	\$14,900	-	-	-	-	Yes
16	\$10,000	\$9,400	-	-	-	-	Yes
16	\$1,000	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	Yes
16	\$67,000	\$20,670	-	-	-	-	No
16	\$291,000	\$210,106	-	-	-	-	No
15	\$150,000	\$118,681	-	-	-	-	No
15	\$37,700	\$37,700	-	-	-	-	Yes
15	\$45,000	\$44,916	-	-	-	-	Yes
15	\$110,000	\$56,833	-	-	-	-	No
15	\$225,000	\$174,402	-	-	-	-	No
15	\$41,600	\$41,600	-	-	-	-	Yes
15	\$38,900	\$38,900	-	-	-	-	Yes
15	\$400,000	\$346,600	-	-	-	-	Yes
14	\$40,000	\$40,000	-	-	-	-	Yes
14	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$26,000	-	-	-	Yes

14	\$70,000	\$69,600	-	-	-	-	Yes
14	\$41,800	\$41,800	-	-	-	-	Yes
14	\$219,000	\$219,000	\$60,000	-	-	-	Yes
13	\$207,000	\$207,000	\$60,000	-	-	-	Yes

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Appropriation becomes available for use	July 2023
Begin paying for DNR land acquisition costs and core DNR IDP costs on new partner-led fee title acquisitions regardless of the appropriation year the acquisition originated in. End of first fiscal year.	July 2024
Submit status report	August 2024
Submit status report	February 2025
Continue paying for DNR land acquisition costs and core DNR IDP costs on new partner-led fee title acquisitions regardless of the appropriation year the acquisition originated in. End of second fiscal year.	July 2025
Submit status report	August 2025
Submit status report	February 2026
Finish spending any remaining DNR land acquisition and DNR IDP funds if they exist. End of third fiscal year.	July 2026
Submit final report	November 2026

Budget

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$98,500	\$24,600	Game and Fish funds	\$123,100
Contracts	\$65,400	-	-	\$65,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$500	-	-	\$500
Professional Services	\$433,500	-	-	\$433,500
Direct Support Services	\$11,000	-	-	\$11,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$65,400	-	-	\$65,400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$674,300	\$24,600	-	\$698,900

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Initial Development Coordinator	0.8	1.0	\$98,500	\$24,600	Game and Fish funds	\$123,100

Amount of Request: \$674,300

Amount of Leverage: \$24,600

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 3.65%

DSS + Personnel: \$109,500

As a % of the total request: 16.24%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

The Initial Development Coordinator (IDP) position will work on non-OHF agency projects 20% of the time and will be allocated 0.2 FTE of DNR Fish and Game funds to accommodate those needs and projects.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?

No

Please explain why this project can NOT be scaled:

This administrative proposal is not designed to be scalable. The DNR land acquisition costs and core DNR IDP costs are estimated to occur across partner-led fee title acquisitions.

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?

The Initial Development Coordinator (IDP) position was funded at 0.8 FTE for 3 years in the ML19 DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition, Phase XI grant.

The IDP position is proposed for funding at 0.8 FTE for one year in the ML22 DNR IDP Coordinator grant. This current ML23 Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisition administrative proposal would fund the IDP Coordinator position at 0.8 FTE for one year.

A ML24 proposal will be submitted to continue funding the OHF work this position focuses on.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

Contracted professional services with the Minnesota Historical Society to conduct cultural resource reviews for compliance with the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act and Minnesota Historic Sites Act (MN Statutes 138.40 and 138.665).

May also include contracted facilities access, grazing fencing and parking lot construction.

Travel

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

No

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

The \$500 for travel covers the mileage for a State vehicle along with any lodging and/or food.

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

Yes

Direct Support Services

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

The Minnesota DNR uses a standardized Direct & Necessary Cost Calculator that has been developed by the Office of Management and Budget Services.

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	0	0	0
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	0	0	0	0	0

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	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	0	0	0	0	0

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	\$134,800	\$134,900	\$134,800	\$134,900	\$134,900	\$674,300
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$134,800	\$134,900	\$134,800	\$134,900	\$134,900	\$674,300

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 forest-prairie transition region:

- Other ~ *Greater public access for wildlife and outdoors-related recreation - could be measured and evaluated by looking at how many partner-led fee title land acquisition acres were successfully acquired by non-governmental organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the forest-prairie transition region.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Other ~ *Greater public access for wildlife and outdoors-related recreation - could be measured and evaluated by looking at how many partner-led fee title land acquisition acres were successfully acquired by non-governmental organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the metropolitan urbanizing region.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Greater public access for wildlife and outdoors-related recreation ~ *Could be measured and evaluated by looking at how many partner-led fee title land acquisition acres were successfully acquired by non-governmental organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the northern forest region.*

Programs in prairie region:

- Other ~ *Greater public access for wildlife and outdoors-related recreation - could be measured and evaluated by looking at how many partner-led fee title land acquisition acres were successfully acquired by non-governmental organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the prairie region.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Other ~ *Greater public access for wildlife and outdoors-related recreation - could be measured and evaluated by looking at how many partner-led fee title land acquisition acres were successfully acquired by non-governmental organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the southeast forest region.*

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes](#)

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

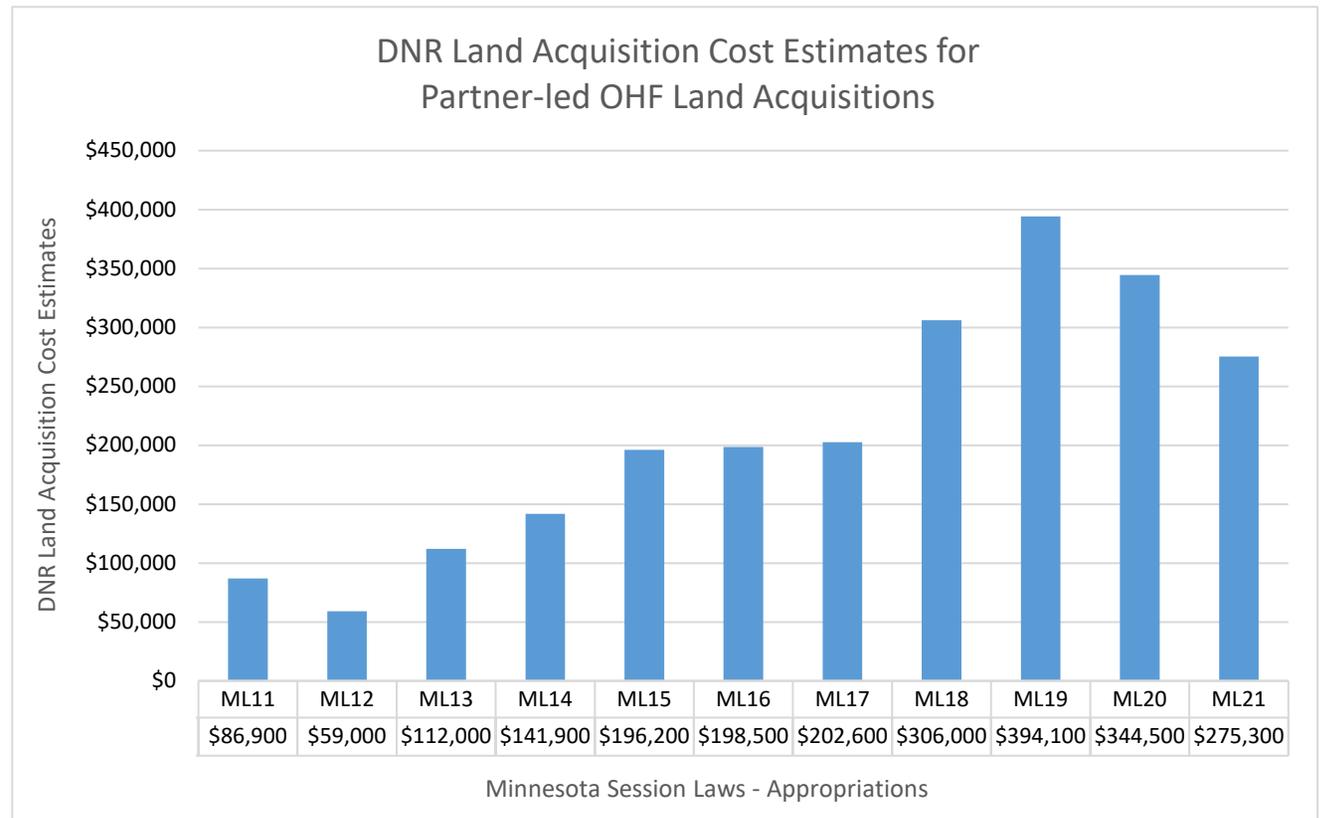
Currently, seven conservation related non-governmental organizations (NGOs) coordinate and communicate with the Minnesota DNR to strategically acquire fee title land from willing sellers. The NGOs will maintain the fee title parcel lists in their respective OHF acquisition grants. The DNR will ensure the parcel is on the NGO parcel list before OHF funds are spent.

Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions

The Minnesota DNR currently partners with seven non-governmental organizations to strategically acquire new fee title land, from willing sellers, that meets state land-management goals. With every fee title land acquisition that is conveyed to the DNR, core functions make sure the parcel is legally acquired and meets minimal standards for public access and cultural resource protection. These core functions will be covered in a single OHF administrative appropriation thereby replacing the multiple partner released funds to DNR. The DNR Land Acquisition Cost estimates from ML19 and the Core Initial Development Plan cost estimates from ML17, plus a 10% inflation factor, are used in this ML23 OHF grant proposal.

DNR Land Acquisition Costs

- Appraisal review
- Land survey review
- Title review
- Drainage agreements review
- Access agreements review
- Other agreement/encumbrance reviews
- Property taxes
- Recording fees
- Deed taxes
- Project management time - DNR Division of Land & Minerals staff



Core Initial Development Plan Activities

An Initial Development Plan (IDP) is required for all land acquisitions in the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The IDP is intended to identify the funding needs and source of funds to develop a piece of property to minimum standards for public access and cultural resource protection. Only the core IDP activities the DNR is best positioned to complete are in this proposal (ML17 estimate = \$118,814 plus 10% inflation factor). Note there is great variability in the type of core IDP activities that are needed on new parcels. Some parcels have no core IDP needs and some involve all, or part, of the activities listed below:

- Cultural resource review – compliance with Minnesota Field Archaeology Act and Minnesota Historic Sites Act (MN Statutes 138.40 and 138.655)
- Boundary posts – purchased by DNR in large orders, freight cost savings for delivery to Area offices
- DNR signs and hardware – DNR metal and wood routed signs, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.
- Grazing fence, if needed
- Access road/parking lots – constructed to a sufficient standard to minimize future maintenance costs





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