Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance - Phase 3

Laws of Minnesota 2024 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 07/06/2026

Project Title: Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance - Phase 3

Funds Recommended: $3,321,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2024, Ch. 106, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(c)

Appropriation Language: $3,321,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance lakes of outstanding biological significance in northeast and north-central Minnesota. Of this amount, $1,083,000 is to the Northern Waters Land Trust and $2,238,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to $224,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

Manager Information

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Location Information

County Location(s): Cass, Koochiching, Beltrami, St. Louis, Aitkin, Lake, Crow Wing and Hubbard.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

This program will bring focused conservation to one of Minnesota's priority aquatic resources, Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance. These threatened lakes possess outstanding fisheries and provide habitat for a variety of Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN); yet, previous to this program, no habitat protection program specifically targeted these priority resources. Through this proposal, the Minnesota Land Trust and Northern Waters Land Trust will protect through perpetual conservation easement and fee acquisition 1 mile of shoreland and 484 acres of habitat associated with the top 10% of these lakes in northeast and northcentral Minnesota.

Design and Scope of Work

Northern Minnesota's lakes comprise one of the most biologically important systems in the state for fish, game and wildlife. They are also one of its most threatened. Development and disturbance of the state's remaining highest quality lakes – Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance (LOBS) - continues to be a threat identified in many of the State's resource protection plans, including One-Watershed-One-Plan documents and County Water Plans. These lakes represent the "best of the best" aquatic and shoreland habitat and are characterized by exceptional fisheries (both game and non-game), high aquatic plant richness and floristic quality, and populations of endangered or threatened plant and imperiled lake bird species. These lakes are priorities for protection.

To preserve this important component of Minnesota's aquatic natural heritage, Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) and Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) propose to target these LOBS for protection via conservation easements and fee title acquisition. Fee title acquisitions under this program will be conveyed to an accredited organization/agency for long-term management and permanent protection.

This Program fills an otherwise unmet need related to the protection of this resource; no other program is focused principally on the protection of LOBS. This work builds on the success demonstrated in Phases 1-5 of MLTs Critical Shorelands program and is a continuation of the Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance program – all funded by the Outdoor Heritage Fund with LSOHC recommendation.

Together, MLT and NWLT will protect 484 acres within watersheds of prioritized LOBS through permanent conservation easements and fee title acquisition. Thirty-four lakes have been prioritized for action based on an evaluation of DNR's benefit-cost score and investment priorities as identified in the County Water Plans and One-Watershed-One-Plan documents. NWLT was awarded funding through the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership to develop a GIS parcel analysis to further refine/score/target properties that complete gaps in existing protected land, contain the highest-quality habitat, and provide the greatest leverage to the state.

MLT and NWLT actively work with local lake associations, County SWCD's, Tribal interests and DNR to identify protection priorities and opportunities. This takes shape through a Technical Advisory Committee which reviews easement and acquisition applications, active engagement of lake associations, and pro-active coordination with

local conservation partners.

MLT will seek donations of easement value and will purchase easements that help complete key complexes. Conservation easements secured under this program will be drafted to prevent fragmentation and destruction of habitat and ensure they remain ecologically viable and productive for fish, game and wildlife by prohibiting land uses that negatively impact the important habitat values.

Outcomes from this project include: 1) healthier populations of fish, waterfowl, and other Species in Greatest Conservation Need; 2) maintaining water quality of priority aquatic resources; 3) increased participation of private landowners in habitat protection projects; and 4) enhancement of prior state and local investments made in shoreland and forest conservation in the region. Program partners will strategically target complexes of protected lands in which these outcomes are located.

Explain how the plan addresses habitat protection, restoration, and/or enhancement for fish, game & wildlife, including threatened or endangered species conservation

The lakes and natural shorelands around Minnesota's celebrated lakes comprises one of the most biologically important systems in the state for fish, game and wildlife and is also one of its most threatened. This program will preserve critical shoreland and associated habitats identified by MN DNR as Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance. These areas protect fish and wildlife populations including trout, walleye, northern pike, and other fish, waterfowl, and other SGCN and help maintain water quality of priority aquatic resources. Some SGCNs that will benefit include American Woodcock, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Winter Wren, and Black-backed Woodpecker.

As noted previously, these lakes represent the "best of the best" aquatic and shoreland habitat and are characterized by exceptional fisheries (both game and non-game), high aquatic plant richness and floristic quality, and populations of endangered or threatened plant and imperiled lake bird species.

Numerous plans have identified the protection of these habitats as a conservation priority for Minnesota, including the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan, DNR's Aquatic Management Area program, the State Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda, and Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework. The central goal of this program is to protect high-quality habitat by securing permanent conservation easements and fee title acquisitions in strategic locations on high biodiversity lakes that do not have other protection programs available to them.

What are the elements of this plan that are critical from a timing perspective?

Development and disturbance of the State's remaining sensitive shoreland habitat continues to be a threat identified in many of the State's resource protection plans. DNR and other scientists indicate that shoreland systems are one of the most biologically diverse and important for a variety of wildlife species; they are also one of Minnesota's most threatened resources.

The COVID-19 pandemic drove many people to relocate to seasonal homes in Northern Minnesota. Landowners can work, live, and play from the same location. Realtors in our program area have reported a rapid increase in demand for lakeshore property. With land values rising in the region and development pressures looming, now is the time to protect these LOBS and maximize the effectiveness of this outstanding habitat protection project. We are building considerable momentum with effective partnerships and believe these synergistic efforts will increase leveraging and maximize results.

Describe how the plan expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:

By utilizing conservation easements and fee title acquisitions to protect land within watersheds of LOBS, habitat corridors are expanded, fragmented habitats are connected, and overall ecosystem health is improved. These conservation measures contribute to the long-term preservation of biodiversity and ensure the sustainable management of valuable natural resources.

Specifically, this proposal prioritizes 34 lakes through an evaluation of DNR's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance GIS layer for Northeast and North-central Minnesota. The GIS analysis for parcel prioritization, funded by the Midwest Glacial Lakes Program, prioritizes shoreland, streams and larger parcels with adjacency to protected complexes. This prevents habitat fragmentation and protects habitat corridors and water quality by keeping watersheds forested and shorelands undeveloped and intact.

The proposal is significantly informed by scientific assessments and conversations with key scientists working in the field. Our Program is informed heavily through input by MN DNR fisheries biologist Paul Radomski, who developed the methodology that is the basis for DNR's benefit-cost analysis of high-quality and high-value lakes that provides for the greatest return on investment. This benefit-cost score is a function of phosphorus sensitivity, lake size, and catchment disturbance. This benefit-cost analysis is one of the key criteria used in selecting priority LOBS targeted for protection.

Our approach is further informed by research completed by Cross and Jacobson (2013), which noted that phosphorus concentrations generally become elevated when watershed land use disturbance reached 25%. Their research further showed that lakes with watersheds that have less than 40% land use disturbance would be good candidates for protection. For this reason, our focus is on lakes having a protection level of greater than 60% in place.

Which top 2 Conservation Plans referenced in MS97A.056, subd. 3a are most applicable to this project?

Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Explain how this plan will uniquely address habitat resilience to climate change and its anticipated effects on game, fish & wildlife species utilizing the protected or restored/enhanced habitat this proposal targets.

Minnesota is one of the fastest warming states in the United States. Northern Minnesota is the fastest warming region in the state. This is impacting our cold-water lakes. Late summer surface water temperatures have increased over 3 degrees Fahrenheit between 1985-2019 (Olmanson, personal communication 2021) for northern Minnesota lakes. This warming combined with ongoing land conversion for development, agriculture, and unsustainable logging puts our cold-water fishery at risk.

Research by Cross and Jacobson (2010, 2013) has demonstrated that keeping watersheds forested and achieving a 75% protection level are an important strategy for long term protection of cold-water lakes. The Nature Conservancy's resilient and connected landscapes tool is being used to help evaluate and prioritize the highest scoring properties that contribute to a climate resilient landscape. Our proposal will protect important terrestrial habitat complexes and our highest quality coldwater lakes, along with the fish, plants, and wildlife they support.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Northern Forest

Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *Shorelands are protected from development and fragmentation. This program will permanently protect 484 acres of the most biologically outstanding shoreland in northern Minnesota and approximately 1 mile of undeveloped shoreline. Measure: Acres protected.*

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 substituting for any previous funding. This is entirely new work.

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

The land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. The Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

In addition, the Land Trust prepares for each landowner a habitat management plan that provides recommendations for use in ecologically managing the property over time. The Land Trust actively encourages landowners to manage their properties in line with the conservation easement, and works with landowners to address any financial or informational obstacles that stand in the way of them doing so.

Lands acquired in fee by NWLT and conveyed to a governmental agency will become part of that agency's respective owned and managed forest land portfolio, increasing management efficiency and public access.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2029 and in perpetuity	Fee acquisition - funds from the managing organization/agency	Management as necessary	-	-
2029 and in perpetuity	MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of all easement projects	Enforcement as necessary	-

Provide an assessment of how your program celebrates cultural diversity or reaches diverse communities in Minnesota, including reaching low- and moderate-income households:

One of the Minnesota Land Trust's core public values is a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have been engaged in a multi-year-long process to assess how Minnesota Land Trust can better address these issues. To date, we have demonstrated this commitment when possible given the funding parameters and our unique role in

working with private landowners, including numerous projects to protect camps and nature centers that serve a diversity of Minnesota youth, and a long-term partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa on wild rice restoration.

Going forward, we intend to build on this engagement by using diversity, equity, and inclusion as a lens in project, partner, and contractor selection. In each of our program areas, we intend to listen and seek out potential, authentic partnerships that can advance our goals of conserving the best of Minnesota's remaining habitats and, at the same time, being a more inclusive organization.

One related program we recently launched is the "Ambassador Lands Program" which connects willing conservation landowners to diverse community groups that desire access to private land for a variety of programming purposes, such as youth mentor hunts, cultural or ceremonial use, conservation employment training, nature-based education, and much more. This will add greatly to the more universal public benefits of conserved lands such as wildlife habitat, clean water, and climate mitigation. Finally, we welcome more conversations with the LSOHC and conservation community about how these values can be better manifest in all our shared work going forward.

NWLT deeply values inclusiveness, collaboration, teamwork and diversity in all of our programs, projects, and community work. We believe that enduring conservation success depends on the active involvement of people and partners whose lives and cultures are linked to the natural systems we seek to conserve. Currently, NWLT is directly including Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in these protection efforts by engaging in quarterly discussions, acknowledging which lands have cultural and ecological significance, and engaging in partnership on conservation projects where possible. NWLT is focused on building relationships based on trust, listening, and mutual respect.

Activity Details

Requirements

If funded, this program 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

Who will manage the easement?
Minnesota Land Trust will manage the easements.

Who will be the easement holder?
Minnesota Land Trust will hold the easements.

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
Minnesota Land Trust expects to close 4-8 conservation easements through this grant, depending on project cost.

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this program either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?
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:
All fee title acquisitions conveyed to a government agency will be open to hunting and fishing.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

County

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

County Forest

State Forest

SNA

Tribal

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
NWLT expects to close 1-2 fee acquisitions through this appropriation. MLT expects to close 4-7 conservation easements.

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:
Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, these established trails and roads are permitted in the terms of the

easement and can be maintained for personal use if their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed.

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

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?
Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the Land Trust's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in line with the terms of the easement will be the responsibility of the landowner.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
No

MLT - We do not anticipate that R/E work will be necessary for the significant majority of lands protected through conservation easement associated with this program. If needs are evident, we will amend the accomplishment plan to accommodate for those needs.

NWLT - NWLT does not anticipate that R/E funds through this grant will be needed.

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?
No

Explain how, when, and source of the R/E work:
MLT - We do not anticipate that R/E work will be necessary for the significant majority of lands protected through conservation easement associated with this program. If needs are evident, we will amend the accomplishment plan to accommodate for those needs.

NWLT - NWLT does not anticipate that R/E funds through this grant will be needed.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Protection of 270 acres via fee acquisition; conveyance to governmental agency.	June 2028
Acquire conservation easements: 1) identify priority landowners, 2) negotiate, draft and complete easements, and 3) dedicate funds for long-term stewardship.	June 30, 2028

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2028

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 for fee title acquisition of land 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, 2028;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2032;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2029;
(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.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$312,000	-	-	$312,000
Contracts	$55,000	-	-	$55,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$357,700	$28,800	Landowners; Lake Associations	$386,500
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$508,500	$57,000	Landowners, Lake Associations	$565,500
Easement Acquisition	$1,475,000	$295,000	-, Landowners	$1,770,000
Easement Stewardship	$224,000	-	-	$224,000
Travel	$17,000	-	-	$17,000
Professional Services	$272,800	-	-	$272,800
Direct Support Services	$93,000	-	-	$93,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
Supplies/Materials	$4,000	-	-	$4,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,321,000**	**$380,800**	**-**	**$3,701,800**

Partner: MLT

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$202,000	-	-	$202,000
Contracts	$48,000	-	-	$48,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,475,000	$295,000	Landowners	$1,770,000
Easement Stewardship	$224,000	-	-	$224,000
Travel	$14,000	-	-	$14,000
Professional Services	$216,000	-	-	$216,000
Direct Support Services	$56,000	-	-	$56,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
Supplies/Materials	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,238,000**	**$295,000**	**-**	**$2,533,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Protection Staff	0.5	4.0	$202,000	-	-	$202,000

Partner: NWLT

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$110,000	-	-	$110,000
Contracts	$7,000	-	-	$7,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$357,700	$28,800	Landowners; Lake Associations	$386,500
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$508,500	$57,000	Landowners, Lake Associations	$565,500
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
Professional Services	$56,800	-	-	$56,800
Direct Support Services	$37,000	-	-	$37,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,083,000**	**$85,800**	**-**	**$1,168,800**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
NWLT Land Protection Staff	0.5	4.0	$110,000	-	-	$110,000

Amount of Request: $3,321,000
Amount of Leverage: $380,800
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 11.47%
DSS + Personnel: $405,000
As a % of the total request: 12.2%
Easement Stewardship: $224,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 15.19%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The Partnership received 43% of its proposed funding. Funding was split proportionately between the partners relative to levels submitted in the proposal. Outputs were reduced to 42% of that proposed.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
The Minnesota Land Trust encourages landowners to fully/partially donate conservation easement value. Our leverage goal is a conservative estimate of value we expect to see donated.

NWLT works with landowners and lake associations to donate funds. Expenses not covered by this grant will be funded through general operating income.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This proposal is true to budget and protection goals and would be most effective if funded fully. If 30% funding was received, outputs would be reduced by 70-80%. NWLT would protect 80 acres in fee. MLT 's reduction in outputs would modestly less than a proportional.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS will be reduced, but less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
MLT - Funds in the contract line are for the writing of habitat management plans via qualified vendors, outreach to landowners through SWCDs and other local partners, and posting of easement boundaries.

NWLT - Contracts for acquisition services; outreach services to connect landowners to opportunities.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Environmental Assessments, Minerals Assessments, Project Mapping

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
NWLT expects to close 1-2 fee acquisitions.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
MLT expects to close 4-8 conservation easements through this proposal. The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is $28,000, although in extraordinary

circumstances a larger amount may be warranted. This figure is derived from MLT's detailed stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates to this cost analysis with LSOHC staff.

Travel

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

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
Minnesota Land Trust staff regularly rent vehicles for grant-related purposes, which is a significant cost savings over use of personal vehicles.

NWLT's travel budget does not include equipment/vehicle rental.

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?
MLT - In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services.

NWLT - In a process approved by MNDNR on March 20, 2023, Northern Waters Land Trust used a simplified allocation methodology that resulted in MNDNR approving an indirect rate of allowable expenses. NWLT anticipates a similar rate for this proposal.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
GPS units, field safety gear, etc.

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	-	-	-	20	20
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	210	210
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	354	354
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**584**	**584**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$443,500	$443,500
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$600,000	$600,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$2,277,500	$2,277,500
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,321,000**	**$3,321,000**

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	-	-	-	-	20	20
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	210	210
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	354	354
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**584**	**584**

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	-	-	-	-	$443,500	$443,500
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	$600,000	$600,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	$2,277,500	$2,277,500
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,321,000**	**$3,321,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$22,175
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$2,857
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$6,433
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	-	-	-	-	$22,175
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	$2,857
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	$6,433
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

1

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Solicitation for potential projects employs a diverse strategy of direct outreach to landowners in high priority conservation areas and coordinated outreach with conservation partners including lake associations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and others. Leads for potential projects are pursued following initial assessment and scoring against criteria identified in established conservation plans. Criteria based scoring systems provide a standardized set of data from which multiple projects can be compared relative to each other and individual projects can be compared against a baseline. Scoring systems are a set of data, not a final, complete decision making tool. Local expertise and experience provided by a regional technical advisory committee, programmatic goals, timelines, available resources, capacity, and other more subjective factors might also come into play in project selection and decision making.

The attached scoresheet provides an approach to criteria based scoring that considers: 1) Ecological Integrity/Viability as current status; 2) Threat/Urgency as a future scenario if protection is not afforded; and 3) Cost reflecting the overall value realized through the acquisition of a conservation easement (including a reflection of donative value). Ecological Integrity weights property size, condition, and context equally (at least as an initial starting point). The three primary factors, when taken together, provide a good estimate of long-term viability for biodiversity at the site: 1) Size of the parcel to be protected, 2) Condition of the habitat on the parcel, and 3) its Landscape context (both from a protection and ecological standpoint).

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Marquette Lake - NWLT	Beltrami	14633236	20	$357,700	No
Wolf/Cass Lake Watersheds	Cass	14531219	1,000	$3,000,000	No
Duck Lake - NWLT	Crow Wing	13825217	191	$458,000	No

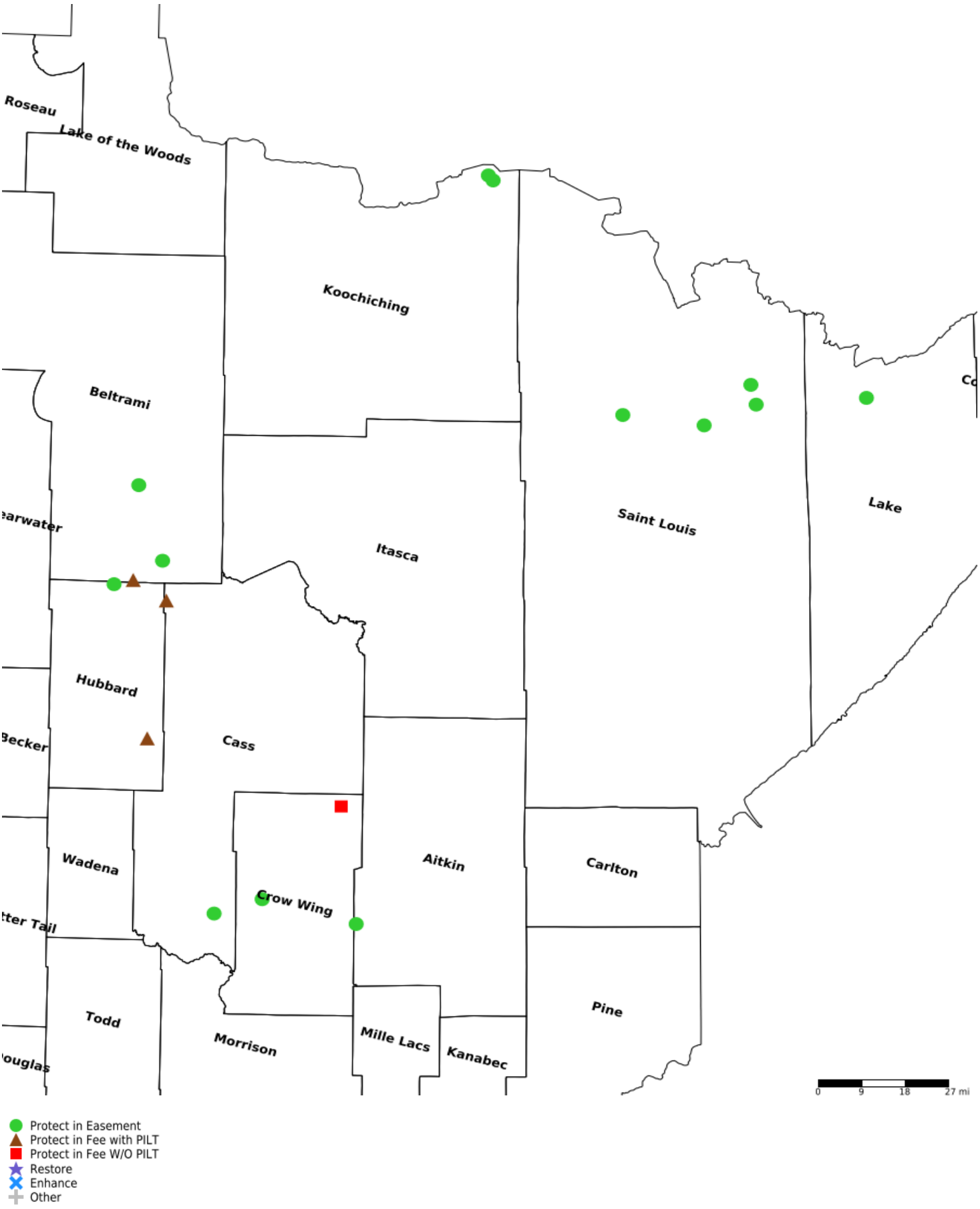
Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Leech Lake Watershed/Gauldin Lake - NWLT	Hubbard	14032209	196	$600,300	No	2	$68,900

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Farm Lake	Aitkin	04627231	55	$500,000	No
Sandy Lake	Beltrami	14932230	115	$250,000	No
Swenson Lake	Beltrami	14632212	51	$150,000	No
Gull Lake	Cass	13430202	448	$600,000	No
Gull Lake	Crow Wing	13528221	147	$200,000	No
Plantagenet Lake 1	Hubbard	14533205	223	$0	No
MLT - Rainy Lake 1	Koochiching	07123225	318	$1,000,000	No
MLT- Rainy Lake 2	Koochiching	07122231	60	$500,000	No
Moose Lake	Lake	06309207	150	$200,000	No
Big Lake	St. Louis	06413230	187	$0	No
Lake Vermillion 1	St. Louis	06215204	50	$0	No
Lake Vermillion 2	St. Louis	06318227	350	$1,250,000	No
MLT-Burntside Lake	St. Louis	06313217	5	$0	No

Parcel Map


Roseau
Lake of the Woods
Koochiching
Beltrami
Itasca
Saint Louis
Lake
Hubbard
Cass
Wadena
Crow Wing
Aitkin
Carlton
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Pine
0
9
18
27 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other