Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase 8

Laws of Minnesota 2024 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 09/18/2026

Project Title: Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase 8

Funds Recommended: $2,706,000

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

Appropriation Language: $2,706,000 the second year is to acquire lands in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore wildlife habitat in the Mississippi headwaters. Of this amount: (1) $1,706,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: $57,000 to the Mississippi Headwaters Board and $1,649,000 to Trust for Public Land; and (2) $1,000,000 is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, of which up to $100,000 is to establish 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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Partners Contact

BWSR: *No Contact Added*

MHB: *No Contact Added*

TPL: *No Contact Added*

Location Information

County Location(s): Aitkin, Crow Wing, Cass, Itasca and Hubbard.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The Mississippi Headwaters Board in partnership with The Trust for Public Land and BWSR assisted by 8 County SWCDs will permanently protect an additional 830 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat along the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River, its major tributaries, 9 headwaters lakes and adjacent minor watersheds. Phases 1-7 have already protected 10,259 acres and 47 miles of shoreland using fee title acquisitions and conservation easements to create or expand permanently protected aquatic and upland wildlife habitat corridors/complexes. This on-going work benefits fish, game/non-game wildlife, migratory waterfowl, reduces forest fragmentation and enhances

Design and Scope of Work

Phase 8 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 the 8 Headwaters counties (Clearwater, Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Crow Wing , Aitkin, and Morrison counties). To date, 10,259 acres and 47 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 detrimental to habitat protection has been reduced; public recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, and passive recreation have been enhanced; and clean water protected for fish habitat and the drinking water of millions of Minnesotans downstream who depend on the river.

There is urgency to fund this phase because acquisition funds in previously funded phases are spent or committed to land conservation that will protect an additional 5,637 acres and 9 miles of shoreland.

The headwaters of the Mississippi River are 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 during migration 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 wildlife 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 county) and BWSR in partnership with 8 Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation Districts completes RIM conservation easements. Parcels for land protection are identified and prioritized through a science-based prioritization process that identifies the highest priority land to enhance or create large habitat complexes. A Technical Team of project partners along with representatives from the DNR, The Nature Conservancy, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe review and approve all projects using a ranked evaluation of habitat and biodiversity, urgency and opportunity for protection, size of the parcel and amount of shoreland along with other factors. 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 with county commissioners. This process has enhanced local government support and the resulting trust has contributed to this Project's ongoing success.

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

The Mississippi Headwaters is host to over 350 species of mammals and birds, including common game and non-game wildlife and most of the endangered and threatened species in Minnesota. Some of the more common threatened species include, but are not limited to: common loon, trumpeter swans, boreal owl , shortjaw cisco, long-eared bat, evening grosbeak and many others. Migratory waterfowl depend on the river for food and shelter during migration along the Mississippi Flyway. And, keeping forested lands from becoming fragmented protects clean water of the Mississippi River and adjacent lakes that support many species of game fish.

This Program uses a science-based targeting assessment tool that includes many state and national databases for identification of priority habitat for fish, game and non-game wildlife. These databases include the Minnesota County Biological Survey; DNR Biodiversity rankings, rare species and old growth forest data; the Minnesota Wildlife Action Network, 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 Mississippi Headwaters and along major tributaries. The targeting also considers 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.

Parcels that are adjacent to already protected land (either county, state, tribal, or federal lands or lands already enrolled in easement programs) are selected for landowner outreach. Large, contiguous, and permanently protected habitat complexes provide the essential elements of good habitat continuity as defined by the National Wildlife Federation. This project focuses on creating and expanding protected wildlife habitat complexes/corridors through fee-title acquisition or easements on parcels adjacent to already protected lands to provide the highest opportunity for fish and wildlife habitat protection and continued forest integrity.

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

To date, all land acquisition funds appropriated to the Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project (MHHCP) have been spent or are committed to fish and wildlife habitat protection projects on priority lands. This Program is one of the most successfully funded programs from the Outdoor Heritage Fund---continuously exceeding goals of land conservation by over 250%. With highly developed lakeshores in the Headwaters, there is increasing interest in developing along the river, its tributaries and Headwaters Lakes. Landowners are waiting to participate in the program while development pressures are threatening forest, shoreland and upland habitat. This Program has no

further funds available for land protection (fee-title or conservation easements) unless the LSOHC Council chooses to recommend additional funding from the 2024 legislature. Hence, there is urgency to protect high priority lands for fish and wildlife habitat protection and to insure the continuation of this highly successful partnership between non-profits, state andal

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

The MHHCP project focuses on creating and expanding protected wildlife habitat complexes/corridors through fee-title acquisition and RIM conservation easements on parcels adjacent to already protected lands to provide the highest opportunity for fish and wildlife habitat protection and continued forest integrity. Large, contiguous and permanently protected habitat corridors/complexes provide the essential elements of good habitat continuity which includes food, a place to raise their young, and different types of cover for various life stages along with clean water for fish and wildlife survival. They also provide mobility for wildlife in a changing climate. Creating or expanding habitat complexes prevents forest fragmentation by providing large undisturbed areas of habitat for game and non-game wildlife and protected shorelands for fish and migratory waterfowl.

Using a science-based prioritization process, this program identifies high priority parcels next to already protected lands (county, state, tribal, federal or properties with easements) to enhance or create larger habitat protection complexes. Adding more public land adjacent to already protected public land combined with land permanently protected with a conservation easement is critical to the success of enhancing or expanding habitat corridors or complexes.

For example, In Crow Wing County, two fee-title acquisitions (adding more public land to a state forest and a county forest) and two adjacent easements created a large habitat complex of 1,672+ acres of contiguous protected upland and 9+ miles of protected Mississippi River shoreland. The Indian Jack habitat complex (highlighted in the project illustration) created a new 299 acre WMA through two fee-title acquisitions, which combined with two adjacent easements and other state and county land, created a protected habitat complex of 594 contiguous acres, 2.5 miles of Indian Jack lake shoreland, and 3 miles of Mississippi River. The DNR is now adding a new parking lot/public access on the WMA's Mississippi River shoreland to enhance public access to the river.

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

Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Plan

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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.

The MHHCP focuses on protecting the headwaters of the most important river system in the United States. The Headwaters contains over 350 species of fish and animals, including many species of greatest concern in Minnesota. Landscapes with diverse and intact functional ecosystems are expected to have the greatest resilience in a changing climate. This program targets those lands for protection that provide the best opportunities for maintaining biodiversity and increasing connectivity of habitat. Protection at a watershed scale increases the resiliency of the landscape by protecting and buffering sensitive areas which support biological diversity and ecological function while increasing connections that will facilitate species movement across the headwaters range

of 400 miles. Increased functional redundancy, connectivity, and biodiversity at this large scale insures there are enough connected blocks of habitat suitable for sustaining wildlife.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

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

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 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 ~ *Conservation easements have been in past appropriations and those funded with an ML 24 appropriation will be placed on parcels on the main stem Mississippi River, along major tributaries along the headwaters, and other critical habitat parcels adjacent to public land. Parcels are mostly forested. Easement outcomes will be measured by the number of acres protected and shoreland feet and evaluated against set goals. Easements will be evaluated into perpetuity through yearly monitoring. Fee-title acquisitions will also be evaluated by acres protected and shoreland feet and against set appropriation goals.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors ~ *With permanent land protection (either fee-title acquisition of conservation easements) forests will remain intact and thus less fragmented maintaining forest integrity. Placement of projects will be focused on those that can connect with other public lands to create or expand habitat corridors. The outcome will be measured by acres and shoreland miles protected and evaluated against the program goals. Permanent owners of fee-title acquisitions will monitor and evaluate the condition of the lands according to their policies and easement lands will be monitored annually into perpetuity by BWSR.*

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.

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

For conservation easements recorded through this Program, 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
2024-2028	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.	-
2024-2028	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.
2024-2028	OHF	Work with project partners and landowners to determine RIM conservation easement interest and develop 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 onsite inspections and monitoring and enforce conditions of the recorded easement into perpetuity.

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

MHHCP partner organizations have other programs funded through different sources that focus primarily on engaging BIPOC, other diverse communities as well as all economic levels. Since land conservation is the primary objective of this program, a representative of the Leech Lake Band of Objibwe is invited to participate in the Technical Team meetings that review and approve all projects in an effort to be more inclusive in the program's land protection work.

There are significant benefits for all Minnesotans--regardless of ethnic background or income levels--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 financial resources to connect with private natural lands, whether that is for cultural purposes, hunting, fishing, hiking, or other outdoor recreational pursuits. Conservation easements also benefit all Minnesotans. They help to keep our air and water clean for fish habitat and drinking water downstream of the Headwaters, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and land conservation conserves the biological diversity that is important to all of Minnesotan's public natural resources. The project partners remain open to incorporating work that specifically focuses on BIPOC and other diverse communities.

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?
No

Describe the expected public use:
Lands chosen for a conservation easement may be enrolled in the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA), but must be withdrawn from that program (without penalty) to enter into a conservation easement.

Who will manage the easement?
BWSR will be the permanent easement holder and will manage the easements with assistance from the appropriate SWCD for monitoring.

Who will be the easement holder?
BWSR is the permanent easement holder.

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
10 easements on 380 acres.

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:
No variation from State regulations.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Local Unit of Government

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

County Forest

State Forest

City Owned : To be determined by a particular project

SNA

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
1-2

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:
The Big Mantrap Lake parcel has existing hiking and two-track trails which the DNR would manage, if acquired, in accordance with current DNR land management practices.

No new trails are planned on prospective acquisitions, but if new trail segments or alignments are added, generally 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.

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

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?
The Big Mantrap Lake parcel has existing hiking and two-track trails which the DNR would manage, if acquired, in accordance with current DNR land management practices.

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:
No new trails are planned on prospective acquisitions, but if new trail segments or alignments are added, generally 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?
Any new trails would be maintained and monitored in accordance with the permanent owner's (state or county) management policies.

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

While no specific R/E work is anticipated for fee-title acquisition; after land is acquired and conveyed to the MN DNR, initial restoration activities may occur as part of the DNR IDP plan. For conservation easements, a small number of easements, primarily in the Prairie/Northern Forest transition zone, may have limited restoration, primarily reforestation, in their conservation plan. A small amount of money ($50,000) would be spent on this activity.

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

For conservation easements, a small number of easements, primarily in the Prairie/Northern Forest transition zone, may have limited restoration, primarily reforestation, in their conservation plan. A small amount of money ($50,000) would be spent on this activity.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Final owners (state or LGU) of acquired fee-title lands do ongoing maintenance and monitoring of lands according to their respect management policies.	Ongoing
Under contract to BWSR, SWCDs do annual monitoring of acquired easements	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	2028
BWSR approves and processes landowner applications that have been approved by the Project Technical Committee, responsible for ongoing monitoring of completed easements. diligence,	2028; stewardship ongoing
SWCDs do landowner outreach according to established parcel priorities, works with landowner to submit easement application and complete the easement, records the final easement.	2028
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.	2028

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/23/2028

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	$199,000	-	-	$199,000
Contracts	$73,000	-	-	$73,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$547,000	-	-	$547,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$920,000	-	-	$920,000
Easement Acquisition	$762,800	-	-	$762,800
Easement Stewardship	$100,000	-	-	$100,000
Travel	$1,800	$3,700	Private	$5,500
Professional Services	$45,000	-	-	$45,000
Direct Support Services	$52,100	$27,000	-, Private	$79,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$2,500	-	-	$2,500
Supplies/Materials	$2,800	-	-	$2,800
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,706,000**	**$30,700**	**-**	**$2,736,700**

Partner: BWSR

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$82,000	-	-	$82,000
Contracts	$25,000	-	-	$25,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$762,800	-	-	$762,800
Easement Stewardship	$100,000	-	-	$100,000
Travel	$1,800	-	-	$1,800
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$25,100	-	-	$25,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$2,500	-	-	$2,500
Supplies/Materials	$800	-	-	$800
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,000,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,000,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	0.23	4.0	$82,000	-	-	$82,000

Partner: MHB

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$17,000	-	-	$17,000
Contracts	$38,000	-	-	$38,000
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	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$57,000**	**-**	**-**	**$57,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Administrator	0.1	4.0	$17,000	-	-	$17,000

Partner: TPL

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$100,000	-	-	$100,000
Contracts	$10,000	-	-	$10,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$547,000	-	-	$547,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$920,000	-	-	$920,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	$3,700	Private	$3,700
Professional Services	$45,000	-	-	$45,000
Direct Support Services	$27,000	$27,000	Private	$54,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,649,000**	**$30,700**	**-**	**$1,679,700**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection/Legal Staff	0.19	3.0	$100,000	-	-	$100,000

Amount of Request: $2,706,000
Amount of Leverage: $30,700
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 1.13%
DSS + Personnel: $251,100
As a % of the total request: 9.28%
Easement Stewardship: $100,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 13.11%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
A reduction in funding reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

Detail leverage sources 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 only be used if applicable to a specific fee-title acquisition project.

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?
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 administration, coordination, development and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of the appropriation amount.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
MHB contact 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.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Payments to SWCDs for easement acquisition assistance; environmental site assessments (aka Phase 1 environmental review)

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
1-2 acquisitions; investigate 2-3

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
An estimated 10 easements (380 acres) will be completed with this funding as requested. Easement stewardship has been calculated per 10 easements. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at $10,000 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's 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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	420	0	420
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	30	0	30
Protect in Easement	-	-	380	0	380
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**830**	**0**	**830**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	$1,578,000	-	$1,578,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	$100,000	-	$100,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	$1,028,000	-	$1,028,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**$2,706,000**	**-**	**$2,706,000**

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	-	-	-	-	420	420
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	30	30
Protect in Easement	-	100	-	-	280	380
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**100**	**-**	**-**	**730**	**830**

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	-	-	-	-	$1,578,000	$1,578,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	$100,000	$100,000
Protect in Easement	-	$100,000	-	-	$928,000	$1,028,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**$100,000**	**-**	**-**	**$2,606,000**	**$2,706,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	$3,757	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	$3,333	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	$2,705	-
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	-	-	-	-	$3,757
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	$3,333
Protect in Easement	-	$1,000	-	-	$3,314
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

3

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
A science-based prioritization process is first used to narrow the field of potential outreach candidates that meet program criteria. The RAQ process, as detailed earlier, includes assessing the riparian nature of the parcel (R), its adjacency to other public land (A) and its habitat quality (Q) using a variety of state and federal databases and natural resource data. Parcels scoring in the top third are the priority outreach targets for both fee-title acquisitions and easements. When a landowner is interested in the program the parcel(s) are then assessed using a specific ranking sheet that looks at the RAQ scoring but also other factors such as size of the parcel, amount of shoreland, urgency for protection, specific forest and other land conditions, and the professional judgement of the presenter of the project (TPL or one of the 8 SWCDs). A Technical Team is convened at least twice a year to review the proposed parcels and their ranking and approve or disapprove proceeding with the acquisition or easement. The Technical Team is comprised of program partners, the 8 headwaters SWCD representatives, and representatives from the Nature Conservancy and DNR, How much money is available for the project is also a major consideration in terms of ranking projects in priority order. The completed 1W1Ps in several of the major watersheds in the Headwaters region that a have similar scoring of parcels is also used to identify other potential landowners for outreach.

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Aitkin Lake	Aitkin	05023217	151	$850,000	No
Ball Bluff Lake	Aitkin	05123205	124	$1,100,000	No
Big Sandy	Aitkin	05023229	283	$900,000	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
Indian Jack Lake WMA Addition 3	Crow Wing	13626234	80	$550,000	No
Big Mantrap Lake	Hubbard	14133206	397	$5,389,400	No
Bass Brook WMA Addition	Itasca	05526213	46	$184,000	No
La Prairie	Itasca	05525226	115	$460,000	No
Swan River Deer Yard WMA Addition	Itasca	05323223	473	$590,000	No

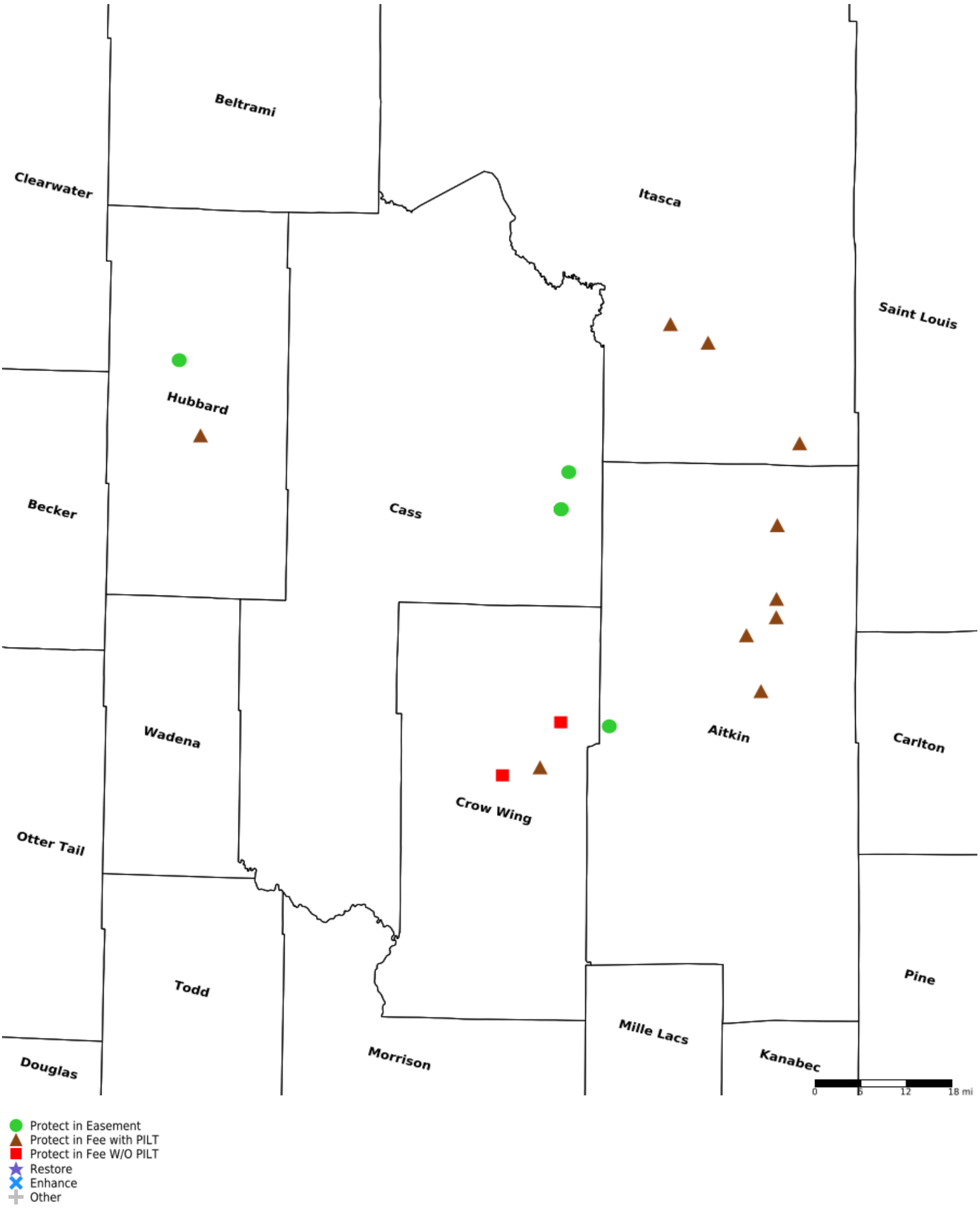
Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Crow Wing County Forest Addition - Dean Brook	Crow Wing	13625206	314	$910,000	No	2	$0

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
01-01-25-15- -	Aitkin	04827227	151	$155,965	No
11-03-25-13- -	Cass	14125220	74	$114,523	No
11-03-25-15- -	Cass	14025207	79	$80,391	No
11-04-25-15- -	Cass	14025207	38	$180,272	No
29-02-25-15- -	Hubbard	14334227	118	$190,929	No

Parcel Map


Beltrami
Clearwater
Itasca
Saint Louis
Hubbard
Becker
Cass
Wadena
Aitkin
Carlton
Crow Wing
Otter Tail
Todd
Pine
Mille Lacs
Morrison
Kanabec
Douglas
0
6
12
18 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other