Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - Phase X

Laws of Minnesota 2024 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 07/23/2026

Project Title: Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - Phase X

Funds Recommended: $2,687,000

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

Appropriation Language: $2,687,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and in permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat to sustain healthy fish habitat on coldwater lakes in Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard Counties as follows: $2,252,000 to Northern Waters Land Trust and $435,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to $56,000 to Minnesota Land Trust 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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Location Information

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

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) and Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will protect critical fish habitat within 48 tullibee "refuge" lakes and their minor watersheds by securing conservation easements and fee title acquisitions. These efforts are prioritized toward the 23 highest priority tullibee refuge lakes. Through this Fisheries Habitat Protection program, NWLT and MLT are working to protect 75% of each targeted watershed, a measure that provides a high probability of maintaining clean water and healthy lake ecosystems. We will permanently protect approximately 327 acres of land through this grant.

Design and Scope of Work

Sustaining a strong angling heritage in North Central Minnesota (along with the local economy it drives) revolves around protecting fisheries habitat. Resurging shoreland development pressures and climate change are direct threats to the ecology of Minnesota's lakes. Fisheries research shows that healthy watersheds with intact forests are fundamental to sustaining good fish habitat over the long term; achieving a 75% lake watershed protection goal ensures a resilient and healthy lake ecosystem.

Our protection efforts are focused on tullibee (aka cisco), a preferred forage fish of walleye, northern pike, muskellunge and lake trout. They require cold, well oxygenated waters, a condition most common in lakes with deep water and healthy watersheds. Minnesota DNR Fisheries researchers studied tullibee lakes and designated 68 lakes in Minnesota as "refuge lakes" for tullibee that need protection. Our four-county area (Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard) includes 48 of these tullibee refuges. We are prioritizing 23 of these lakes and their minor watersheds. Many are Minnesota's premier recreational lakes.

The Clean Water Critical Habitat Technical Committee evaluated all tullibee lakes in our project area and prioritized 23 lakes and their minor watersheds for action. In assigning priorities, the committee considered: (1) ecological value of the lake, (2) percent of the minor watershed currently protected, (3) number of parcels in the watershed greater than 20 acres in size, (4) partner organizations available for advising on outreach efforts, and (5) investment by other agencies and organizations to protect lands and watersheds.

The Clean Water Critical Habitat Technical Committee has also developed a scoring framework to evaluate specific parcels within these priority watersheds (Attachment A). This framework takes four factors into consideration: Program Requirements (at least 20 acres in size, within our service area, and on a refuge lake), Ecological Factors (size, quality/condition of the resource, and landscape context), Threat/Urgency (development or disturbance in the minor watershed and the risk classification from water plans), and Cost (cost of project and donative value). These factors are scored on a scale of 0-210, with the highest score indicating the greatest need for conservation action. These scored parcels are made available in a user-friendly format on the online Clean Water Critical Habitat map. This map has directly resulted in the protection of numerous high priority parcels.

Due to the high level of interest in the program and its great success to date, we are applying for a Phase 10 of this

effort. In this phase, we will protect 327 strategically important acres of land through conservation easements and fee title acquisitions. Program partners will include County SWCD's, MN DNR, and County land departments. This team will conduct outreach to potential landowners and help evaluate the projects to assure we are prioritizing those projects with the greatest conservation outcomes. In addition, to optimize the state's conservation investment, landowner willingness to donate a portion of the easement or land sale value will be key to evaluation. Both funded partners will have latitude to pursue conservation easements and fee acquisitions through this appropriation.

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

Tullibee (aka cisco) is the preferred forage fish for walleye, northern pike, muskellunge and lake trout. They require cold, well oxygenated waters - a condition most common in lakes with deep water and healthy watersheds. Tullibee populations are the "canary in the coal mine" for three significant threats to Minnesota's sport fisheries: shoreland development, watershed health and climate warming. Deep, cold water lakes with high quality, well-oxygenated waters and natural, undisturbed land cover along the shorelines and within their watersheds will have the best chance to sustain tullibee populations in the face of these threats and will serve as a "refuge" for the tullibee if annual temperatures increase.

Minnesota DNR Fisheries Research scientists studied tullibee lakes and designated 68 lakes in Minnesota as primary "refuge lakes" for tullibee that need protection. Forty-eight of these lakes and their minor watersheds are located in Crow Wing, Aitkin, Cass and Hubbard counties. These lakes are premier recreational and sport fishery lakes. Fisheries research has shown that healthy watersheds with intact forest are fundamental to good fish habitat. MN DNR Fisheries Habitat Plan, states near shore fish habitat affected by shoreland disturbance can impact fisheries. Maintaining good water quality is critical to sustaining tullibees as determined by the water’s oxygen level and nutrient content. Lakeshore development decreases a lake’s ability to function as a healthy ecosystem for sport fish and their forage, due to increased runoff, but also through physical alternation by lakeshore owners.

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

Right now is a critical time to protect some of the "best of the best" sport fishery lakes in Minnesota. With the hit of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have opted to move out of their urban homes and relocate to their seasonal homes in Northern Minnesota. Landowners can work, live, and play from the same location. Realtors in our four-county service 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 tullibee refugee lakes and maximize the effectiveness of this fisheries habitat protection project. We are building considerable momentum with effective partnerships with local lake associations, local SWCD’s, Counties, MN DNR, and the North Central Conservation Roundtable. We believe these synergistic efforts will increase leveraging and maximize results.

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

Timothy Cross and Peter Jacobson in their white paper, "Landscape factors influencing lake phosphorus concentrations across Minnesota," determined coldwater fish communities are especially vulnerable to eutrophication from increased phosphorus concentrations. Decreases in hypolimnetic oxygen concentrations have direct negative effects on fish such as tullibee that physiologically require oxygenated cold water to survive, grow and reproduce. Protection is viewed as the most cost-effective strategy when applied to watersheds where human activities have not already significantly elevated phosphorus levels.

Peter Jacobson and Mike Duval, in "Protecting Watershed of Minnesota Lakes with Private Forest Conservation Easements: A Suggested Strategy", stated that protecting the forests in these watersheds from development is critical for maintaining water quality in these lakes. While large areas of land in forested portions are under public ownership, a considerable amount is also owned by private individuals in some of our most critical lake watersheds. These parcels are increasingly being split up and sold. Modelling by MN DNR Fisheries research unit suggests that total phosphorus concentrations remain near natural background levels when less than 25% of a lake's watershed is disturbed. Tullibee refuge lakes have watersheds with less than 25% disturbed land uses and are good candidates for protection. Very deep lakes with exceptional water quality to support coldwater fish populations like tullibee were considered priorities by the report.

Minnesota DNR Fisheries researchers studied tullibee lakes and designated 68 lakes in Minnesota as the primary "refuge lakes" for tullibee. We focused our protection efforts of the highest quality tullibee lakes that will require modest to moderate levels of land protection to achieve 75% protection levels. Protecting the habitats of tullibee refuge lakes along the shoreline and surrounding forest lands is essential to a sustained sport fishery.

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

Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management

Other : Leech Lake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (LLRCWMP)

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.

Tullibee refuge lakes can generally be assured to maintain high water quality and resiliency in the face of climate change, and support tullibee populations if 75% of the land area within the watershed is permanently protected. In addition to directly protecting tullibee, land protection actions through this grant help preserve a vital carbon sink through the forests, peatlands and other habitats protected. This will reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases and mitigate the effects of climate change on water resources and fish habitats.

The Minnesota Climate Action Framework's Initiative 2.1 is to "manage forests, grasslands, and wetlands for increased carbon sequestration and storage". It is clear that preserving forested watersheds directly mitigates the impacts of climate change in northern Minnesota, making forest and aquatic habitat more resilient. Additionally, The Nature Conservancy climate resilience data is a key element in ranking criteria for land protection within this grant.

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:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ Private shoreline habitat and forested parcels totaling 327 acres will be permanently*

protected from development and fragmentation through conservation easements and fee title acquisitions. Protected riparian forest lands will maintain healthy habitat complexes for upland and aquatic species; forest cover will enhance water quality habitat for tullibee lakes. These lands will also protect fish habitat to ensure high quality fishing opportunities. Fee acquisitions will allow for greater public access and recreation. Lands acquired in fee will be conveyed to a governmental organization to be managed consistent with the agency's land management policies.

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.

Funding procured by NWLT and MLT through this Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal will not supplant or substitute any previous funding from a non-Legacy fund used for the same purpose.

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

NWLT and MLT are long standing accredited conservation organizations that do not depend on Outdoor Heritage Funds to sustain or maintain our work. The majority of financial support for both NWLT and MLT must be raised on an annual basis. The work in this proposal allows both organizations to enhance and accelerate ongoing conservation efforts in North Central Minnesota; these grant funds will not substitute for or supplant other funding sources.

The fee title acquisitions will be owned and managed by a governmental agency.

The Minnesota Land Trust will hold the conservation easements acquired, which will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. The Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited 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. In addition, MLT encourages landowners to undertake active ecological management of their properties, provides them with habitat management plans, and works with them over time to secure resources (expertise and funding) to undertake these activities over time.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2029 and in perpetuity	Managing governmental agency	Ongoing management in line with developed management plans	-	-
2029 and in perpetuity	MLT Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of easements	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 the conservation community—and the Minnesota Land Trust in particular—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 the 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.

MLT 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 to the more universal public benefits of conserved lands such as wildlife habitat, clean water, and climate mitigation.

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 the 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

Who will be the easement holder?
Minnesota Land Trust

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
1-3

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 will be open to hunting and fishing.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

County

Tribal

Local Unit of Government

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

State Forest

County Forest

SNA

Tribal

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
4-6

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, the conservation easement permits the continued usage of established trails and roads so long as 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 on easement lands 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 accordance 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.

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 does not anticipate that R/E funds through this grant will not be needed for fee title acquisitions.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Protection of targeted parcels via conservation easement.	June 2028
Protection of targeted parcels via fee acquisition; conveyance to a governmental agency.	June 2028
Landowner outreach, consultation, technical assistance and easement preparation	Ongoing through June 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	$270,000	-	-	$270,000
Contracts	$37,000	-	-	$37,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,303,300	$176,000	Landowners, Lake Associations	$1,479,300
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$456,700	-	-	$456,700
Easement Acquisition	$239,000	$47,000	Landowner donation of easement value.	$286,000
Easement Stewardship	$56,000	-	-	$56,000
Travel	$12,000	-	-	$12,000
Professional Services	$224,000	-	-	$224,000
Direct Support Services	$84,000	-	-	$84,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
Supplies/Materials	$4,000	-	-	$4,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,687,000**	**$223,000**	**-**	**$2,910,000**

Partner: MLT

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$50,000	-	-	$50,000
Contracts	$17,000	-	-	$17,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$239,000	$47,000	Landowner donation of easement value.	$286,000
Easement Stewardship	$56,000	-	-	$56,000
Travel	$5,000	-	-	$5,000
Professional Services	$52,000	-	-	$52,000
Direct Support Services	$14,000	-	-	$14,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
Supplies/Materials	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$435,000**	**$47,000**	**-**	**$482,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Land Protection Staff	0.12	4.0	$50,000	-	-	$50,000

Partner: NWLT

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$220,000	-	-	$220,000
Contracts	$20,000	-	-	$20,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$1,303,300	$176,000	Landowners, Lake Associations	$1,479,300
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$456,700	-	-	$456,700
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$7,000	-	-	$7,000
Professional Services	$172,000	-	-	$172,000
Direct Support Services	$70,000	-	-	$70,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,252,000**	**$176,000**	**-**	**$2,428,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
NWLT Staff	0.5	4.0	$220,000	-	-	$220,000

Amount of Request: $2,687,000
Amount of Leverage: $223,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 8.3%
DSS + Personnel: $354,000
As a % of the total request: 13.17%
Easement Stewardship: $56,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 23.43%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The Partnership received 35% of its request. Funding was shifted disproportionately from MLT (16%) to NWLT (84%) to accommodate NWLT's fee acquisition opportunities. Outputs were reduced by 72% (28% of proposed).

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
NWLT: Works with landowners and corresponding lake associations to donate funds. We anticipate $176,000 of leverage; not confirmed. Any expenses not covered by this grant will be funded through general operating income.

MLT: Full or partially donation of conservation value from landowners. A conservative estimate ($47,000); not confirmed.

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 proportional.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS will be scaled, but moderately 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 - Writing of habitat management plans by vendors, posting of easement boundaries.

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

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 complete 4-6 fee title acquisitions through this proposal.

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 1-3 conservation easements, depending on project size and cost. 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 stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates of 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 rents 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 17, 2023, Northern Waters Land Trust used a simplified allocation methodology that resulted in MNDNR approving an indirect rate of allowable expenses. We anticipate a similar rate for this grant.

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	-	-	-	112	112
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	158	158
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	57	57
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**327**	**327**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$1,652,000	$1,652,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$600,000	$600,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$435,000	$435,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,687,000**	**$2,687,000**

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	-	-	-	-	112	112
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	158	158
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	57	57
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**327**	**327**

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	-	-	-	-	$1,652,000	$1,652,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	$600,000	$600,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	$435,000	$435,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,687,000**	**$2,687,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$14,750
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$3,797
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$7,631
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	-	-	-	-	$14,750
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	$3,797
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	$7,631
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
Yes - Sign up criteria is attached

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
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, programmatic goals, timelines, available resources, capacity, and other more subjective factors might also come into play in project selection and decision making.

MLT and NWLT accept proposals via a Request for Proposal process from targeted landowners with properties on prioritized tullibee lakes. A technical team of experts scores and ranks each project proposal and identifies priorities from those submitted.

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
Ball Bluff Lake	Aitkin	05123205	124	$743,200	No
Cedar Lake	Aitkin	04727231	0	$0	No
Long Lake	Aitkin	04625210	0	$0	No
Round Lake	Aitkin	04923225	0	$0	No
Bass Lake	Cass	14026227	0	$0	No
Cooper	Cass	14028211	0	$0	No
Deep Portage	Cass	13929207	0	$0	No
Girl Lake	Cass	14128233	40	$125,500	No
Long Lake	Cass	14128223	0	$0	No
Long Lake	Cass	14231233	0	$0	No
Thunder Lake	Cass	14026209	0	$0	No
Washburn Lake	Cass	13926209	0	$0	No
Whitefish Lake Watershed	Cass	14031222	40	$121,000	No
Wolf/Cass Lake Watersheds	Cass	14531219	1,000	$3,000,000	No
Big Trout	Crow Wing	13728223	0	$0	No
Borden Lake	Crow Wing	04428215	0	$0	No
Crooked Lake	Crow Wing	04528216	0	$0	No
Kenny Lake	Crow Wing	04428202	0	$0	No
Lower Hay Lake	Crow Wing	13729225	0	$0	No
Ossawinamakee Lake	Crow Wing	13628204	0	$0	No
Pelican Lake	Crow Wing	13628227	0	$0	No
Roosevelt Lake	Crow Wing	13826208	0	$0	No
Star Lake	Crow Wing	13728225	0	$0	No
Whitefish Lake	Crow Wing	13728207	0	$0	No

Whitefish Watershed	Crow Wing	13828213	78	$267,500	No
Big Mantrap Lake/Watershed	Hubbard	14133232	16	$155,326	No
Big Sand Lake	Hubbard	14134226	0	$0	No
Eleventh Crow Wing Lake	Hubbard	14132215	0	$0	No
Kabekona Lake	Hubbard	14332230	0	$0	No
Ninth Crow Wing Lake	Hubbard	14032206	0	$0	No
Spearhead Lake	Hubbard	14534214	0	$0	No

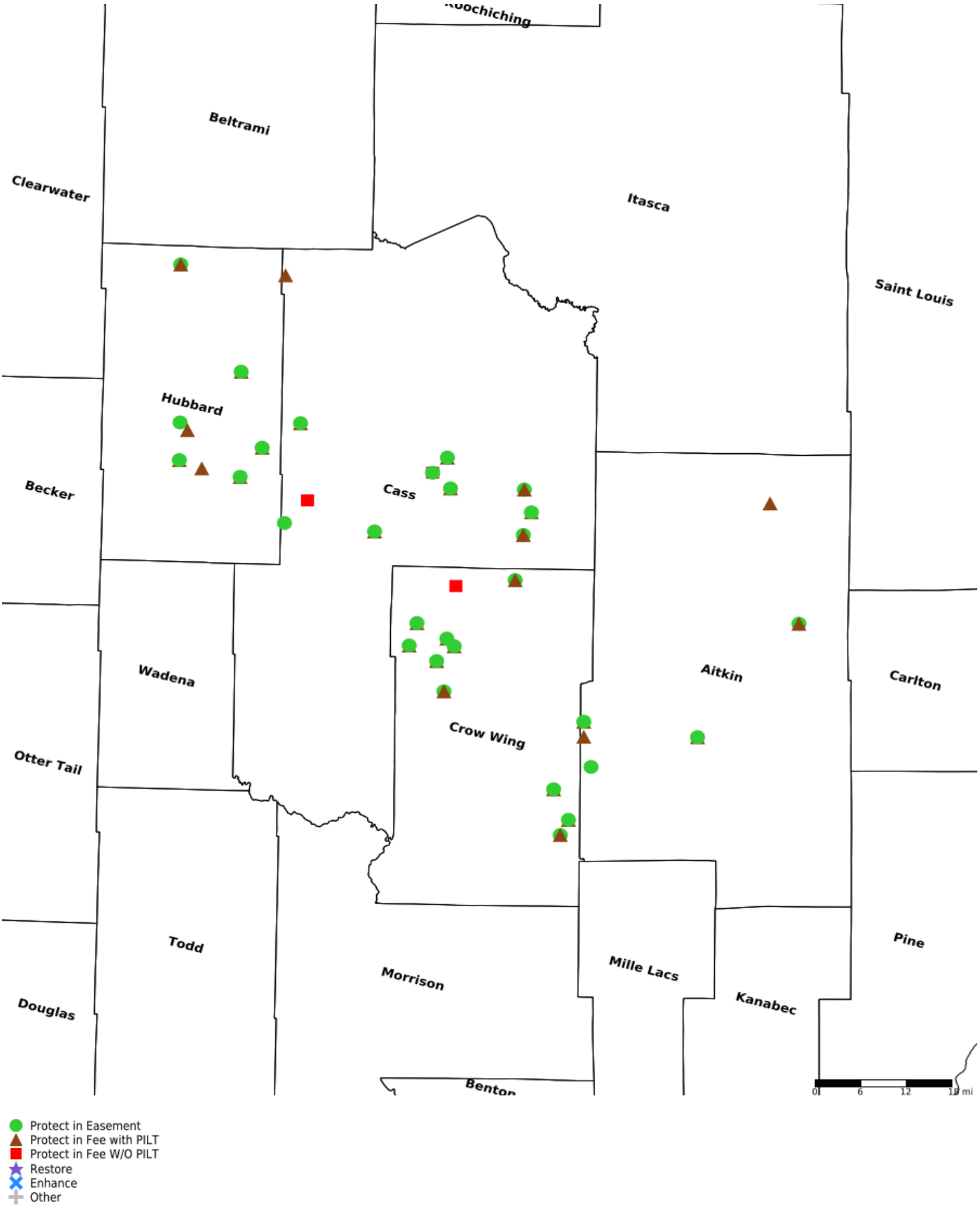
Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
Cedar Lake - NWLT	Aitkin	04627207	10	$297,100	No	3	$4,400
Upper Bottle Lake	Hubbard	14134201	42	$892,000	No	5	$83,320

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Cedar Lake	Aitkin	04727231	0	$0	No
Farm Island 1	Aitkin	04627232	47	$790,500	No
Long Lake	Aitkin	04625210	0	$0	No
Round Lake	Aitkin	04923225	0	$0	No
Bass Lake	Cass	14026227	0	$0	No
Cooper	Cass	14028211	0	$0	No
Deep Portage	Cass	13929207	0	$0	No
Girl Lake	Cass	14128233	0	$0	No
Long Lake	Cass	14231233	0	$0	No
Long Lake	Cass	14128223	0	$0	No
Thunder Lake	Cass	14026209	0	$0	No
Washburn Lake	Cass	13926209	0	$0	No
Whitefish Lake	Cass	13931206	102	$120,000	No
Big Trout	Crow Wing	13728223	0	$0	No
Borden Lake	Crow Wing	04428215	0	$0	No
Crooked Lake	Crow Wing	04528216	0	$0	No
Kenny Lake	Crow Wing	04428202	0	$0	No
Lower Hay Lake	Crow Wing	13729225	0	$0	No
Ossawinamakee Lake	Crow Wing	13628204	0	$0	No
Pelican Lake	Crow Wing	13628227	0	$0	No
Roosevelt Lake	Crow Wing	13826208	0	$0	No
Star Lake	Crow Wing	13728225	0	$0	No
Whitefish Lake	Crow Wing	13728207	0	$0	No
Bad Axe Lake 2	Hubbard	14234235	81	$400,000	No
Big Sand Lake	Hubbard	14134226	0	$0	No
Eleventh Crow Wing Lake	Hubbard	14132215	0	$0	No
Kabekona Lake	Hubbard	14332230	0	$0	No
Ninth Crow Wing Lake	Hubbard	14032206	0	$0	No
Spearhead Lake	Hubbard	14534214	0	$0	No

Parcel Map


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