



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

### DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions

### ML 2024 Request for Funding

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#### General Information

**Date:** 05/31/2023

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

**Funds Requested:** \$815,400

**Confirmed Leverage Funds:** \$26,000

**Is this proposal Scalable?:** No

#### **Manager Information**

**Manager's Name:** Jennifer Olson

**Title:** Initial Development Coordinator

**Organization:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Division of Fish & Wildlife

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#### **Location Information**

**County Location(s):** Washington.

**Eco regions in which work will take place:**

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

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Fee

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

## Narrative

### Abstract

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently partners with nine conservation related organizations to strategically acquire new fee title land that meets state land management goals. With every partner-led fee title acquisition that is conveyed to the DNR, a core set of functions relating to DNR land acquisition costs makes sure the State's interests are protected against future liabilities and DNR initial development needs meet minimal standards for cultural resource protection and public access. These core functions are most efficiently covered in a single annual administrative appropriation thereby replacing multiple partner release of funds to the DNR.

### Design and Scope of Work

Nine conservation related organizations coordinate and communicate with the Minnesota DNR to strategically acquire fee title land from willing sellers. The nine organizations include: 1) Pheasants Forever, 2) Ducks Unlimited, 3) Trust for Public Land, 4) The Nature Conservancy, 5) Northern Waters Land Trust, 6) The Conservation Fund, 7) Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc., 8) Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society, and 9) Shell Rock River Watershed District. Currently, the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife is managing 53 separate partner-released funds related to DNR Land Acquisition Costs and/or DNR Initial Development Plan costs. These partner-released funds are from ML17 - ML22 funding years. Some of the parcels being acquired by the conservation organizations will be conveyed to the Minnesota DNR to become part of the state's Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Aquatic Management Area (AMA), Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) and/or State Forest system. This single appropriation would pay for the DNR Land Acquisition Costs and the limited DNR Initial Development Plan activities for fee title parcels conveyed to the DNR. Partners would maintain parcel lists in their direct accomplishment plans.

It is the DNR's responsibility to ensure the State's interests are protected against future liabilities. Activities that are covered by DNR Land Acquisition Costs include:

- DNR Land & Mineral Division project manager time
- Appraisal review – ensure appraisal meets state standards
- Land survey review – ensure survey meets state standards
- Title review – ensure title meets state standards
- Drainage agreements – review
- Access agreements – review
- Other agreements/encumbrances (lease, CRP, etc.) review
- Property taxes
- Recording fees
- Deed taxes

Within the Division of Fish and Wildlife, an approved Initial Development Plan (IDP) is required for all land acquisitions, regardless of whether they are being acquired by DNR or one of our partners, and regardless of the funding source of the acquisition. The IDP is used to identify the funding that will be used to develop a new parcel to minimum standards. In addition to the anticipated ML24 partner land acquisition and core IDP costs, we are requesting an additional \$100,000 in IDP funds for the new 1,820-acre Keystone Woods WMA in Washington County. This new WMA in the Twin Cities metro area is being designed with a broad audience in mind. It has significant initial development needs (ex. cultural resource review, access, five parking lots, two will be ADA compliant, information kiosk, etc.). Only limited activities approved in an IDP are covered in this OHF proposal:

- Cultural resource review – Compliance with the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act and Minnesota Historic

Sites Act (MN Statutes 138.40 and 138.655)

- Boundary posts – purchased by DNR in large orders, freight cost savings
- Signs and hardware - OHF and DNR signs, posts, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.
- Fencing
- Access / parking lots – improvement of ROW, easement or approach from public road, parking capacity needs, soils (geotextile fabric, posts, gates, gravel, culvert, etc.)

If NGOs would like the DNR to assist with site cleanup or habitat restoration, funds would need to be transferred to the DNR.

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

Fee title acquisition is one tool that permanently protects species by ensuring habitat exists and development rights are limited to the purposes designated within DNR Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Aquatic Management Areas (AMA), Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) and/or State Forest systems. Fee title purchases are voluntary transactions between a landowner (seller) and purchaser (buyer). In our case, the buyer is a conservation related organization that will convey the property to the DNR.

Potential acquisitions for WMAs, AMAs and SNAs are objectively scored for their habitat value. The DNR uses weighted criteria and prioritizes high scoring parcels for acquisition. For example, candidates for WMAs score higher with a prairie grouse lek, in a pheasant habitat complex, presence of shallow lakes, and occurrence of deer wintering areas. Candidates for WMAs, AMAs and SNAs score higher when they have known records of threatened, endangered, species of greatest conservation need and high quality native plant communities. AMAs which permanently protect high quality aquatic habitats and watersheds, and lakes designated as having biological significance will have high scoring parcels worthy of acquisition consideration.

Examples of native plant communities with exceptional value as wildlife habitat include Southern dry prairie, dry sand-gravel prairie, mesic prairie, dry hill prairie, northern wet prairie, mesic brush prairie, wet seepage prairie, Southern dry mesic oak hickory woodland, mesic hardwood forest, wet forest, forest and open rich peatlands, and northern jack pine/black spruce woodland.

### **What are the elements of this proposal that are critical from a timing perspective?**

One site in critical need of IDP activity is the new 1,820-acre Keystone Woods WMA in Washington County. We are asking for an additional \$100,000 for this WMA to get it ready for public access (cultural resource review, access, five parking lots, two will be ADA compliant, information kiosk, etc.). This new WMA provides a unique opportunity to reach diverse audiences and modernize outdoor recreation experiences by enhancing access and welcoming new users to public lands. By having one appropriation for completing these core functions it will reduce the administrative burden on the conservation partners and on the DNR Grants Unit which processes grant fund transfers. This will also allow conservation partners to close their fee-title acquisition grants sooner since most, if not all, of the IDP work that kept appropriations open for up to 4-5 years after closing will be handled in this separate DNR appropriation.

### **Describe how the proposal expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:**

The DNR uses GIS-based scoring systems to objectively rank potential acquisitions and develop statewide priority lists. These systems incorporate scientific data giving priority to locations within and that add to: 1) an important

habitat corridor or complex (such as identified by the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Pheasant Action Plan, SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan, and the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan), 2) native plant communities and sites of outstanding and high biodiversity significance mapped by Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), and 3) parcels that adjoin existing units or other conservation lands. The end result is the prioritization of acquisitions that protect larger blocks of habitat or natural intact communities, improve riparian and terrestrial connectivity or maintain ecosystem services through protection of climate resilient, high biodiversity areas.

I am going to cover "why" I chose the two conservation plans below since there is no space elsewhere to address it and it is relevant to this question.

The Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda (2015-2025) has two strategies under the Natural Resource Conservation goal to: 1) Conserve Natural Areas - Retain natural areas and working lands containing important habitats, especially habitats in jeopardy, such as native prairies, wetlands, shallow lakes, and shorelines. Connect fragments of high-quality habitat. Conserve endangered, threatened, rare, declining and vulnerable species, and 2) Monitor and fine-tune management actions - Track and continually improve the effectiveness of our conservation work.

Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years (2002-2052) has a statewide recommendation: The Division of Wildlife (old name) needs to work collaboratively with other agencies and units of government, public and private partners, legislators, landowners, and citizens to seek additional, creative funding to implement the recommendations in this report and find ways to expedite the WMA land acquisition process.

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

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

### **Explain how this proposal 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 MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife created Guidance for meeting Operational Order 131 – Climate Adaptation and Mitigation in Natural Resources Management, effective date December 10, 2015.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife Objective is to: Develop and maintain a network of large, connected conservation lands to support healthy fish and wildlife populations in Minnesota's streams, lakes, grasslands, wetlands and forests.

Specific Land Acquisition Guidance includes: In the Strategic WMA and AMA Scoring Tool, staff will prioritize WMA/AMA parcels for acquisition that meet the following criteria: Greater than 240 acres; Immediately adjacent to a conservation land; Establishes or increases connectivity between conservation lands; Under-represented native ecosystem – remnant prairie, seasonal wetlands; Provides or supports habitat for the following species – tullibee; Is within the Fish Habitat Plan priority protection area; Contains peatland; Contains restorable prairie/grassland/wetland; Contains coarse woody debris; and the Desired cover is attainable.

**Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?**

**Describe how this project/program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife, and if not permanent outcomes, why it is important to undertake at this time:**

This proposal is working with conservation partners who are successful with fee title acquisition - which is a permanent action benefitting the protection of habitat for fish, game and wildlife. The opportunity to purchase strategic parcels of land is challenging with increasing land prices, including recreation and agricultural land prices. The current Outdoor Heritage Fund legislation will sunset in 2034. We can not take for granted the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment and whether it will be successfully passed by Minnesota voters in the future. This is the time to make a difference for future generations of humans and the natural landscapes on which we need for survival, recreational opportunities, health and mental wellness.

**Outcomes**

**Programs in forest-prairie transition region:**

- Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title land acquisition acres are successfully acquired by non-governmental organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the forest-prairie transition region.*

**Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:**

- Protected habitats will hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title land acquisition acres are successfully acquired by non-governmental organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the metropolitan urbanizing region.*

**Programs in the northern forest region:**

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title land acquisition acres are successfully acquired by non-governmental organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the northern forest region.*

**Programs in prairie region:**

- Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title land acquisition acres are successfully acquired by non-governmental organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the prairie region.*

**Programs in southeast forest region:**

- High priority riparian lands, forestlands, and savannas are protected from parcelization and fragmentation ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title land acquisition acres are successfully acquired by non-governmental organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the southeast forest region.*

**What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this proposal?**

- N/A

**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.**

The Outdoor Heritage Funds supplement state small game Surcharge funds, state Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) funds, and federal Pittman-Robertson funds that are used for fee title acquisition within the MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife.

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

Long term maintenance and habitat management costs on WMA/AMAs are covered by a combination of funding sources including, but not limited to, state Game and Fish funds (license fees), Heritage Enhancement funds, small game Surcharge funds, RIM funds, and federal Pittman-Robertson funds, and/or other grant funds, etc.

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

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are key values of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). We are committed to living out these values in all of our work, whether it's getting people outdoors, creating accessible facilities in state parks, or recruiting a diverse workforce. Here are some ways we are engaging in various efforts: The Minnesota DNR opens the outdoors to people with disabilities including hosting accessible camp sites, providing accommodations to people who use powered mobility devices, offering accessible hunting areas and fishing piers, and issuing discounted permits.

The DNR hosts hunting and fishing education programs, such as Becoming an Outdoors Woman and I Can Fish! to introduce people to outdoor recreation. We also offer educational materials, including the Hunting & Trapping Regulations and Fishing Regulations, in multiple languages such as Hmong, Karen, Somali and Spanish. We strive to be a workplace that represents the diversity of the state and includes people of all backgrounds. The DNR is a veteran-friendly Yellow Ribbon employer. We also participate in Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers, which is a college-to-careers pathway program for underrepresented STEM college students interested in pursuing a career in environmental and natural resources.

The DNR has adopted a Language Access Plan to communicate effectively with people with limited English proficiency (LEP) and to provide meaningful access to DNR program information and services for every Minnesotan.

**Activity Details**

**Requirements**

**If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?**

Yes

**Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought\*\* prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**

No

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

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

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

No

**Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:**

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

**Land Use**

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

Yes

**Explain what will be planted:**

The primary purpose of WMAs are to develop and manage for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife. Initial development plans (IDPs) may use farming to prepare cropland for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest to prepare the seedbed for native seed planting. Vegetation removal is not necessary on annual crop fields, provided native seed is planted in the winter after harvest. Crop fields require little seedbed preparation, unless crop residue is heavy enough to interfere with seeding. Soybean fields are the preferred crop "start state" for native prairie enhancement because they are essentially ready to seed. On a small percentage of WMA (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter source of food for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources.

**Will neonicotinoid pesticide products be used within any activities of this proposal?**

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

**Who will eventually own the fee title land?**

- State of MN

**Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:**

- WMA
- AMA
- State Forest
- SNA

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

Yes

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

I do not know the answer to this question since these will be partner-led acquisitions but it is possible that some parcels may have roads or trails on them prior to acquisition.

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

Yes

**How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?**

It is possible existing roads or trail use will be allowed after OHF acquisition.

**Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?**

No

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

No

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

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

**Other OHF Appropriation Awards**

**Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC that are current OPEN appropriations?**

Yes

| Approp Year | Funding Amount Received | Amount Spent to Date | Funding Remaining | % Spent to Date |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 22          | \$45,000                | -                    | -                 | -               |
| 22          | \$41,600                | -                    | -                 | -               |
| 22          | \$80,000                | \$4,350              | \$75,650          | 5.44%           |
| 22          | \$33,800                | \$1,582              | \$32,218          | 4.68%           |
| 22          | \$60,000                | -                    | -                 | -               |
| 22          | \$129,600               | -                    | -                 | -               |
| 22          | \$19,000                | -                    | -                 | -               |
| 22          | \$53,000                | -                    | -                 | -               |
| 22          | \$60,000                | -                    | -                 | -               |
| 22          | \$40,000                | \$424                | \$39,576          | 1.06%           |
| 21          | \$33,500                | -                    | -                 | -               |
| 21          | \$50,000                | \$20,310             | \$29,690          | 40.62%          |
| 21          | \$138,200               | \$20,251             | \$117,949         | 14.65%          |
| 21          | \$33,000                | -                    | -                 | -               |
| 21          | \$46,000                | -                    | -                 | -               |
| 21          | \$25,000                | \$5,800              | \$19,200          | 23.2%           |
| 21          | \$40,000                | -                    | -                 | -               |
| 21          | \$70,000                | \$21,045             | \$48,955          | 30.06%          |
| 21          | \$37,000                | -                    | -                 | -               |



|        |             |             |             |        |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| 21     | \$25,000    | \$9,795     | \$15,205    | 39.18% |
| 21     | \$7,000     | -           | -           | -      |
| 21     | \$30,000    | -           | -           | -      |
| 20     | \$35,000    | \$20,358    | \$14,642    | 58.17% |
| 20     | \$48,000    | \$4,278     | \$43,722    | 8.91%  |
| 20     | \$96,000    | \$3,026     | \$92,974    | 3.15%  |
| 20     | \$40,000    | -           | -           | -      |
| 20     | \$60,000    | \$11,342    | \$48,658    | 18.9%  |
| 20     | \$170,000   | \$128,981   | \$41,019    | 75.87% |
| 20     | \$45,000    | -           | -           | -      |
| 20     | \$40,000    | \$19,979    | \$20,021    | 49.95% |
| 20     | \$60,000    | \$25,818    | \$34,182    | 43.03% |
| 20     | \$19,400    | -           | -           | -      |
| 20     | \$30,800    | \$15,808    | \$14,992    | 51.32% |
| 20     | \$114,000   | \$61,048    | \$52,952    | 53.55% |
| 19     | \$65,000    | \$52,131    | \$12,869    | 80.2%  |
| 19     | \$65,000    | \$28,716    | \$36,284    | 44.18% |
| 19     | \$48,100    | \$17,177    | \$30,923    | 35.71% |
| 19     | \$254,050   | \$187,415   | \$66,635    | 73.77% |
| 19     | \$210,000   | \$120,527   | \$89,473    | 57.39% |
| 19     | \$55,000    | \$27,323    | \$27,677    | 49.68% |
| 19     | \$355,400   | \$318,631   | \$36,769    | 89.65% |
| 19     | \$20,000    | \$13,376    | \$6,624     | 66.88% |
| 18     | \$25,500    | \$8,106     | \$17,394    | 31.79% |
| 18     | \$40,000    | \$22,720    | \$17,280    | 56.8%  |
| 18     | \$167,300   | \$120,070   | \$47,230    | 71.77% |
| 18     | \$179,200   | \$77,651    | \$101,549   | 43.33% |
| 18     | \$45,000    | \$39,058    | \$5,942     | 86.8%  |
| 18     | \$77,000    | \$21,332    | \$55,668    | 27.7%  |
| 18     | \$337,025   | \$304,899   | \$32,126    | 90.47% |
| 18     | \$45,000    | \$31,989    | \$13,011    | 71.09% |
| 18     | \$21,655    | \$3,571     | \$18,084    | 16.49% |
| 18     | \$40,000    | \$35,922    | \$4,078     | 89.81% |
| 17     | \$61,500    | \$10,082    | \$51,418    | 16.39% |
| Totals | \$3,966,630 | \$1,814,891 | \$2,151,739 | 45.75% |

**Timeline**

| Activity Name  | Estimated Completion Date |
|--|---------------------------|
| Submit final report  | November 2028             |
| Continue paying on core IDP activities on new partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to the DNR.   | July 2028                 |
| Submit status report   | February 2028             |
| Submit status report   | August 2027               |
| Continue paying for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on new partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of third fiscal year.  | July 2027                 |
| Submit status report   | February 2027             |
| Submit status report   | August 2026               |
| Continue paying for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on new partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of second fiscal year. | July 2026                 |
| Submit status report   | February 2026             |
| Submit status report   | August 2025               |
| Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on new partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of first fiscal year.              | July 2025                 |
| Appropriation becomes available  | July 2024                 |



**Budget**

**Totals**

| Item                       | Funding Request  | Total Leverage  | Leverage Source   | Total            |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Personnel                  | \$104,000        | \$26,000        | Game & Fish funds | \$130,000        |
| Contracts                  | \$176,000        | -               | -                 | \$176,000        |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT    | -                | -               | -                 | -                |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT   | -                | -               | -                 | -                |
| Easement Acquisition       | -                | -               | -                 | -                |
| Easement Stewardship       | -                | -               | -                 | -                |
| Travel                     | \$1,000          | -               | -                 | \$1,000          |
| Professional Services      | \$444,500        | -               | -                 | \$444,500        |
| Direct Support Services    | \$13,900         | -               | -                 | \$13,900         |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | -                | -               | -                 | -                |
| Capital Equipment          | -                | -               | -                 | -                |
| Other Equipment/Tools      | -                | -               | -                 | -                |
| Supplies/Materials         | \$76,000         | -               | -                 | \$76,000         |
| DNR IDP                    | -                | -               | -                 | -                |
| <b>Grand Total</b>         | <b>\$815,400</b> | <b>\$26,000</b> | -                 | <b>\$841,400</b> |

**Personnel**

| Position                        | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Total Leverage | Leverage Source   | Total     |
|---------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Initial Development Coordinator | 0.8        | 1.0           | \$104,000       | \$26,000       | Game & Fish funds | \$130,000 |

**Amount of Request:** \$815,400

**Amount of Leverage:** \$26,000

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 3.19%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$117,900

**As a % of the total request:** 14.46%

**Easement Stewardship:** -

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** -

| Total Leverage (from above) | Amount Confirmed | % of Total Leverage | Amount Anticipated | % of Total Leverage |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| \$26,000                    | \$26,000         | 100.0%              | -                  | 0.0%                |

**Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:**

The Initial Development Coordinator position will be covered by 0.2 FTE out of the state Game & Fish funds. This covers time on non-OHF activities such as chronic wasting disease deer check station work, State Fair DNR building staffing, etc.

**Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?**

No

**Please explain why this project can NOT be scaled:**

This budget is based on the most complete and recent information available, which is expected to cover all the DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP activities on partner-led fee title acquisitions. A reduction in funds may mean some core functions may not be covered in a timely manner.

**Personnel**

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

Yes

**Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?**

The IDP Coordinator position was initially covered for two years under the ML19 DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition - Phase XI grant. It then moved to a one year administrative ML22 Initial Development Coordinator grant. It will then move to the administrative ML23 Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions grant. The desire is to keep it within the DNR Core Functions grant moving forward.

**Contracts**

**What is included in the contracts line?**

Core initial development plan activities are in the contracts line and may include, but is not limited to, constructing parking lots, fence installation, delivering gravel, and paying for cultural resource reviews, etc. We added \$100,000 in Contracts for the new 1,800-acre Keystone Woods WMA in Washington County.

**Professional Services**

**What is included in the Professional Services line?**

- Other : DNR Land Acquisition Costs - which includes DNR Land and Minerals Division staff time to review appraisals, land surveys, titles, drainage agreements, access agreements, other agreements/encumbrances, paying for property taxes, recording fees and deed taxes.

**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**

**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?**

I worked with our Budget Analyst, Michelle Mitchell, who works in the DNR Office of Management & Budget. She has a calculator tool and reviews/approves all Direct & Necessary calculations.

**Federal Funds**

**Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?**

No

## Output Tables

### Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

| Type                                     | Wetland  | Prairie  | Forest   | Habitat  | Total Acres |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Restore                                  | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0           |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0           |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0           |
| Protect in Easement                      | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0           |
| Enhance                                  | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>    |

### Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

| Type                                     | Wetland  | Prairie  | Forest   | Habitat  | Total Funding |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| Restore                                  | -        | -        | -        | -        | -             |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -        | -        | -        | -        | -             |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -        | -        | -        | -        | -             |
| Protect in Easement                      | -        | -        | -        | -        | -             |
| Enhance                                  | -        | -        | -        | -        | -             |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b>      |

### Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

| Type                                     | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie  | N. Forest | Total Acres |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Restore                                  | 0           | 0              | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0           |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0           | 0              | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0           |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -           | -              | -         | -        | -         | -           |
| Protect in Easement                      | 0           | 0              | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0           |
| Enhance                                  | 0           | 0              | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>    |

### 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 | \$163,100        | \$163,100        | \$163,100        | \$163,100        | \$163,000        | \$815,400        |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -                | -                | -                | -                | -                | -                |
| Protect in Easement                      | -                | -                | -                | -                | -                | -                |
| Enhance                                  | -                | -                | -                | -                | -                | -                |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$163,100</b> | <b>\$163,100</b> | <b>\$163,100</b> | <b>\$163,100</b> | <b>\$163,000</b> | <b>\$815,400</b> |

### Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

| Type                                     | Wetland | Prairie | Forest | Habitat |
|--|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| Restore                                  | -       | -       | -      | -       |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -       | -       | -      | -       |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -       | -       | -      | -       |
| Protect in Easement                      | -       | -       | -      | -       |
| Enhance                                  | -       | -       | -      | -       |

### Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

| Type                                     | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | N. Forest |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Restore                                  | -           | -              | -         | -       | -         |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | -           | -              | -         | -       | -         |

|  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Protect in Fee w/o State<br>PILT Liability | - | - | - | - | - |
| Protect in Easement                        | - | - | - | - | - |
| Enhance                                    | - | - | - | - | - |

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

Parcels

**Sign-up Criteria?**

No

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

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

**Other Parcels**

| Name               | County     | TRDS     | Acres | Est Cost  | Existing Protection |
|--------------------|------------|----------|-------|-----------|---------------------|
| Keystone Woods WMA | Washington | 03121212 | 1,820 | \$100,000 | No                  |



Parcel Map

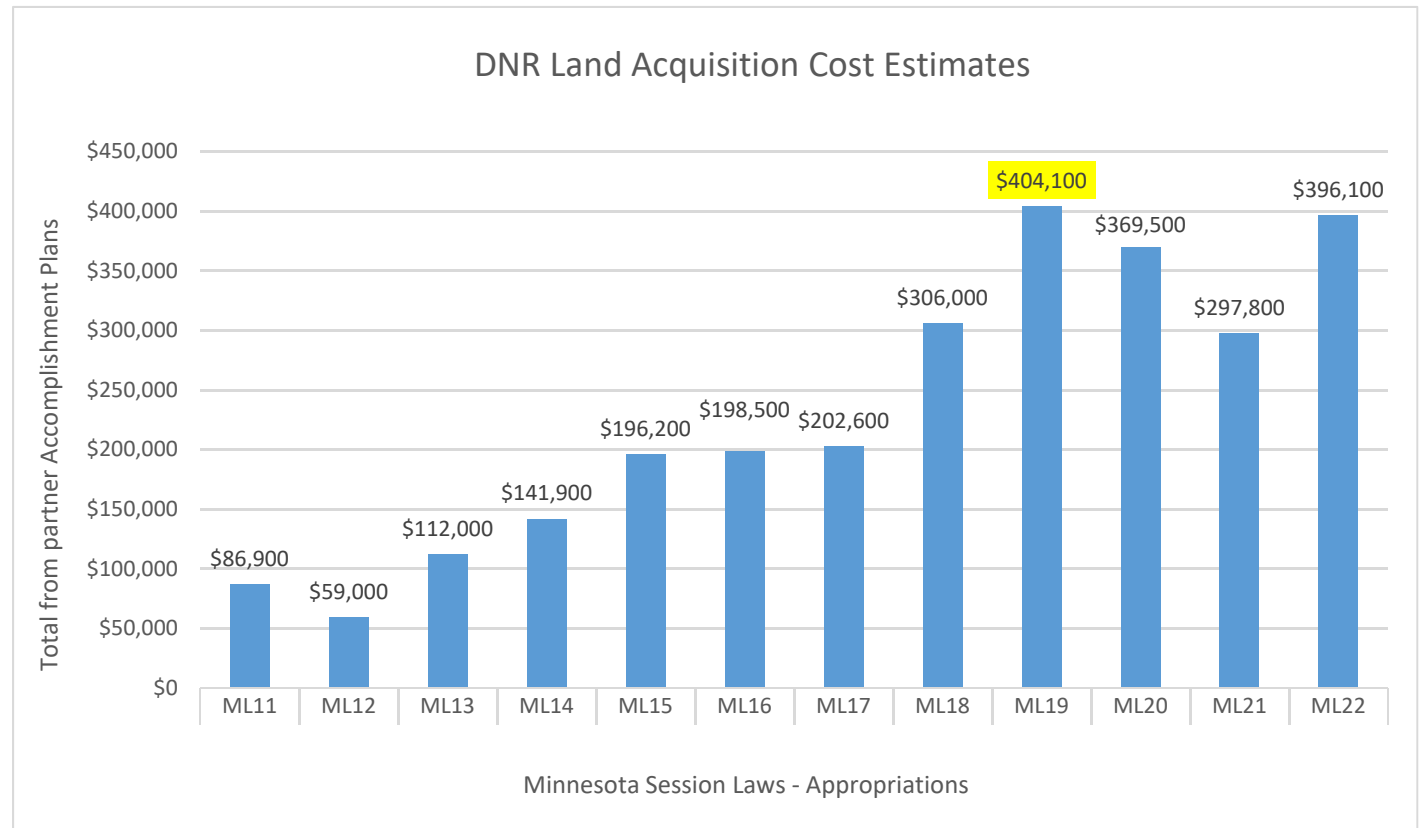


# DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions

The Minnesota DNR currently partners with nine non-governmental organizations to strategically acquire new fee title land, from willing sellers, that meets state land-management goals. With every fee title land acquisition that is conveyed to the DNR, core functions make sure the parcel is legally acquired and meets minimal standards for public access and cultural resource protection. These core functions will be covered in a single OHF administrative appropriation thereby replacing multiple partner release of funds to DNR. Land Acquisition Costs released from ML19 partner accomplishment plans (\$404,100), plus a 10% inflation factor, were the basis used to develop this ML24 proposal. **The total DNR Land Acquisition Cost estimate for ML24 = \$444,500.**

## DNR Land Acquisition Costs

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



## Core Initial Development Plan Activities

An Initial Development Plan (IDP) is required for all land acquisitions in the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The IDP is used to identify the funding that will be used to develop a new parcel to minimum standards. Only limited activities approved in an IDP are covered in this OHF proposal. In addition to the anticipated ML24 partner land acquisition and core IDP costs, we are requesting an additional \$100,000 in IDP funds for the new 1,820-acre Keystone Woods WMA in Washington County. This new WMA in the Twin Cities metro area is being designed with a broad audience in mind. It has significant initial development needs (ex. cultural resource review, access, five parking lots, two will be ADA compliant, information kiosk, etc.). **This ML24 proposal is based on the ML18 core IDP estimates from 26 partner approved IDPs (\$140,085), plus a 10% inflation factor, plus \$100,000 for Keystone Woods WMA. The total ML24 Core IDP activities estimate = \$252,000 (split between contracts and supplies/materials).**

There is great variability in the type of core IDP activities that are needed on new parcels. Some parcels have no core IDP needs and some involve all, or part, of the activities listed below:

- Cultural resource review – compliance with Minnesota Field Archaeology Act and Minnesota Historic Sites Act (MN Statutes 138.40 and 138.655)
- Boundary posts – purchased by DNR in large orders, freight cost savings for delivery to Area offices
- OHF & DNR signs and hardware – metal and wood routed signs, posts, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.
- Fencing - grazing, parking lot, etc.
- Access/parking lots – improvement of ROW, easement or approach from public road; parking lot needs (geotextile fabric, posts, gates, gravel, culvert, etc.)

