



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Sand Lake/7 Beavers Acquisition & Enhancement
ML 2026 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/26/2025

Proposal Title: Sand Lake/7 Beavers Acquisition & Enhancement

Funds Requested: \$10,309,600

Confirmed Leverage Funds: \$295,140

Is this proposal Scalable?: No

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Rich Biske

Title: Director of Water and Land Protection

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Address: 1101 West River Parkway Suite 200

City: Minneapolis, MN 55415

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Website: nature.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Lake and St. Louis.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Narrative

Abstract

Sand Lake/7 Beavers Forest Conservation project will protect approximately 12,623 acres of forest, wetland and shoreline through fee acquisition in Northeast Minnesota. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will retain ownership of approximately 9,823 acres in Lake County and intends to transfer approximately 1,200 acres in part to Lake County and in part to the State of Minnesota as State Forest. 1,600 acres will be transferred to Rajala Woods Foundation for ecological forest management. The acquisition is nearly completely surrounded by other public conservation lands allowing for increased recreational use and improved landscape management.

Design and Scope of Work

The Sand Lake/7 Beavers Conservation Area is a large unfragmented landscape encompassing the best and the most intact occurrence of a lowland conifer ecosystem in the Superior Mixed Forest ecoregion along with mixed forest. The lowland conifer ecosystem was recognized by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) as one of the 18 most significant peatlands in the state. The conservation area is home to the headwaters of the Rainy River, a major river flowing through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and draining into Hudson Bay and a small portion of the property is in the headwaters of the St. Louis River draining to Lake Superior. The project will protect nearly 2.5 miles of shoreline on Greenwood Lake, Cloquet Lake and all of Source Lake along with portion of Greenwood River and Stony River.

The project is nearly surrounded by conservation lands including the Sand Lake/7 Beavers Scientific and Natural Area, Superior National Forest, High Conservation Value Forests, County Forest, Finland State Forest and TNC's 6,344-acre Sand Lake/7 Beavers property. TNC is in the process of acquiring an adjacent approximately 12,271-acre tract that along with this proposed project will be additions to the Sand Lake/7 Beavers property owned and managed by TNC and open to the public. This project is the 4th largest unprotected private property and 88% of it is within the Resilient Connected Network and the adjacent acquisition underway will protect the 5th largest unprotected resilient property, preventing forest fragmentation, expanding outdoor recreation opportunities and allowing for improved forest management.

TNC currently manages the adjacent Sand Lake/7 Beavers property for its biodiversity, watershed, habitat, and climate value. Typical management practices include tree planting and tending to diversify the forest for increased resilience and habitat value, and ecologically-based harvesting to reduce fuel loads and provide opportunities to increase species and structural diversity. We plan to carry out similar practice on the new property. LSOHC funds will be used to enhance 870 acres of the property with site prep, tree-planting, browse protection and brushing.

TNC will transfer tracts near Embarrass, MN to Rajala Woods Foundation (RWF).

TNC and RWF will each develop forest stewardship/management plans that will establish management goals, objectives and management practices.

TNC and RWF will pay property taxes on lands acquired and retained.

TNC intends to transfer individual tracts outside of the core area surrounding the Sand Lake/7 Beavers complex to Lake County and the MN DNR Division of Forestry to consolidate existing holdings and improve access for management and public use.

This is a stand-alone project, not part of an existing program and is not the start of a new program. TNC is investing \$7M of private funds for a pending fee acquisition adjacent to this project that will also be open to the public. TNC will also be paying property taxes on this property.

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

Acquisition of the proposed property and another TNC is in the process of purchasing as additions to the Sand Lake/Seven Beavers preserve will protect a total of approximately 24,894 acres of forest, peatland, and wetland including forested wetland, riparian wetland and more, through fee title acquisition. The property has been ranked as high resilience, high flow, and recognized biodiversity by TNC's Resilient and Connected Network. The Minnesota County Biological Survey considers the property to be of moderate biodiversity or high biodiversity and surrounded by mostly high biodiversity lands, presenting an opportunity to improve habitat condition with enhancement. The property will provide additional carbon storage with reforestation and improved management.

Species of note on the property include the following State Rank 3 element occurrences: bog rush, small green wood orchid, small shinleaf, autumn fimbry, Michaux's sedge and adder's tongue. Other species utilizing the property and surrounding area include moose, lynx, ruffed grouse, gray wolf, fisher, boreal owls and numerous important bird species like northern goshawks and Connecticut warblers.

RWF will own and manage the property according to a stewardship plan they develop. RWF intends to enhance upland areas to uneven aged long lived diverse species including white pine, red pine, white spruce and paper birch. Lowland conifer forest will be managed to promote black spruce, white cedar, tamarack and protecting sphagnum moss.

RWF and TNC will manage their respective lands for moose habitat and demonstrate moose herbivory mitigation.

The project also bears significant habitat value as revealed by the Resilient and Connected Network (RCN) analysis. It is part of an expansive network of high resilience, high flow, and recognized biodiversity in the Terrestrial RCN.

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

The property was listed for sale in November 2024. The Nature Conservancy has a signed purchase agreement on the property. However, if TNC is unable to secure sufficient funds to purchase the property and exercise the purchase agreement the property will likely be placed back on the market and could be subdivided for rural recreational development or other uses. TNC has until December 18, 2026 to close on the property. TNC continues to coordinate with potential take-out partners including Lake County and MN DNR Division of Forestry. TNC has been coordinating with Rajala Woods Foundation (RWF) on the tracts to be transferred to RWF.

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

The project will protect 23.7% of the Stony River Watershed, the other project TNC is acquiring without OHF will protect 30.0% of the unprotected acres, together they will protect 53.7% of the currently unprotected acres in the watershed. After these two acquisitions, the Stony River Watershed will be 87.8% protected.

Portions of the project are within the Sand Lake Conservation Focus Area (CFA). As a CFA it is considered one of the best opportunities for working with partners to develop and implement terrestrial or aquatic habitat projects that address conservation needs, and to report on the effectiveness of management actions, which meet the Wildlife Action Plan objectives of increasing wildlife, habitat and landscape biological diversity with a focus on Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).

The project consists of 258 parcels in Lake County, almost all of which are 40-acre parcels that could potentially be sold off individually to separate owners. Protecting this project therefore prevents fragmentation from a single

owner to up to 258 owners.

Acquiring and transferring outlying inholdings into county and state ownership will reduce fragmentation while improving access for management and public use.

This project along with another underway will protect an inholding within a complex surrounded by the Superior National Forest, Sand Lake/7 Beavers SNA and TNC's Sand Lake/7 Beavers property and Finland State Forest ensuring habitat continuity and the opportunity for larger landscape management. TNC currently works with public land managers including Superior National Forest, MN DNR and Lake County to enhance forest habitat using resilient forest management and tree planting. Acquisition of this project as an inholding will allow for expansion of the current all lands approach to forest management.

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

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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.

This is the 4th largest most resilient unprotected property in Minnesota. Protection and enhancement will maintain a larger resilient habitat complex and allow for resilient forest management to improve resilience on this site and surrounding areas. The project protects significant shoreline along Greenwood Lake, wild rice lakes, peatland and results in 87.8% of the Stony River Watershed being protected.

This project and another underway fully paid for with private funds will result in the protection of an additional 24,894-acres scattered within a larger complex of conservation lands making public and private conservation land consolidation for access and management possible while reducing fragmentation.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

Northern Forest

Provide access to manage habitat on landlocked public properties or protect forest land from parcelization and fragmentation through fee acquisition, conservation or access easement

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:

The property will be permanently protected and adjacent to thousands of acres of other protected lands open to the public for hunting, fishing and recreation. This project and the surrounding area is critical habitat for moose, wolves, lynx, boreal owls, northern goshawks and Connecticut warblers. If not protected now, this property is at high risk of sale, parcelization and development that would also limit the opportunity for resilient ecological forest management.

The project and another underway with private funding will provide public access for hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing and more to 24,894-acres and will improve public access to thousands more of existing public lands. This is

a unique opportunity to protect the 4th largest unprotected property in Minnesota that also has very high climate resilience and conservation value.

TNC and RWF have extensive experience managing for diverse and resilient forest habitat for game and nongame species. Those practices including moose management will be demonstrated on the acquired lands and used for management demonstration with other partners.

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *The project will protect 23.7% of the Stony River Watershed, the other project TNC is acquiring without OHF will protect 30.0% of the unprotected acres, together they will protect 53.7% of the currently unprotected acres in the watershed. After these two acquisitions, the Stony River Watershed will be 87.8% protected.*

The project consists of consists of 258 parcels in Lake County, almost all of which are 40 acres and could potentially be sold off individually to separate owners. Protecting this project therefore prevents fragmentation from a single owner to up to 258 owners.

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

Parks and Trails Fund

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.

NA

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

TNC will retain ownership of that portion of the property adjacent to TNC lands. TNC will raise private funds to establish a stewardship endowment for the property to pay for a portion of property taxes and ongoing management expenses on the property. If revenue is generated from forest harvests necessary for management those revenue would be dedicated to expenses associated with the property including taxes, maintenance, restoration and enhancement on the property. TNC has a resilient forest management team located in Duluth, Ely and Grand Marais that will steward the property as they do the existing Sand Lake/Seven Beavers preserve.

The portion of the property transferred to Rajala Woods Foundation will be managed by RWF.

Portions transferred to Lake County and MN DNR Forestry will be managed by their respective forest managers.

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

The Nature Conservancy is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion which are embedded in our code of conduct and values. We recognize that conservation is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and identities. Our hiring practices have been updated to be more inclusive. Additionally, we recognize that BIPOC and other marginalized communities experience disproportionate access to nature on private lands, making it essential to provide lands that are accessible to, and safe for, all Minnesotans; and where diverse communities will feel welcome and safe to pursue their passions for hunting, angling, photography, hiking, and simply enjoying all the benefits that nature provides. TNC invites indigenous communities to utilize our lands for traditional uses.

Activity Details

Requirements

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:

County boards will be notified via letter and staff and partners will be made available to answer questions. TNC and RWF has and will communicate and coordinate with counties early and throughout the project development.

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

Yes

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

Other : TNC and Rajala Woods Foundation land acquired in this proposal

County/Municipal

State Forests

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 proposal 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:

Land will be open for public hunting and fishing under applicable State of Minnesota Regulations.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

NGO

County

State of MN

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

Other : TNC will own and manage as part of the organization's existing Sand Lake/Seven Beavers property. Land in St. Louis County is intended to be transferred to Rajala Woods Foundation. Disjunct tracts in Lake County are intended to be transferred to county and state forest.

County Forest

State Forest

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

Yes

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

There are public and private access roads bisecting portions of the property and interior roads used for management throughout the property. There are also winter use snowmobile trails through portions of the property.

There are also National Forest roads and State Forest roads and trails that bisect portions of the property.

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

Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

Roads and trails will be used for ongoing management and public access. Grant in aid snowmobile trails will continue.

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:

Temporary roads and/or trails may be created for management purposes.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

Roads will be cleared of fallen trees when management access is required. Erosion control measures will be used along with care to avoid altering hydrology on site. Roads will be surveyed or mapped to document current location, width, use and condition.

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:

Initial ecological forest management including release and planting will take place during the proposals funding availability. Lands will continue to be enhanced after the funding is completed using revenue generated from forest management activities.

Other OHF Appropriation Awards

Have you received OHF dollars through LSOHC in the past?

No

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Fee Acquisition	June 30, 2027
Transfer lands to Rajala Woods Foundation and County and/or State Forest	June 30, 2029
Forest Enhancement	June 30, 2031

Budget**Grand Totals Across All Partnerships**

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$434,000	-	-	\$434,000
Contracts	\$400,000	-	-	\$400,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$400,000	-	-	\$400,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$8,600,000	\$180,000	-, Private	\$8,780,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$7,500	-	-	\$7,500
Professional Services	\$175,000	\$25,000	-, Private	\$200,000
Direct Support Services	\$78,100	\$124,900	-, Private	\$203,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Supplies/Materials	\$140,000	-	-	\$140,000
DNR IDP	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Grand Total	\$10,309,600	\$329,900	-	\$10,639,500

Partner: Rajala Woods Foundation

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Contracts	\$100,000	-	-	\$100,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	\$25,000	Private	\$25,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$40,000	-	-	\$40,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$140,000	\$25,000	-	\$165,000

Partner: The Nature Conservancy

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$434,000	-	-	\$434,000
Contracts	\$300,000	-	-	\$300,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$400,000	-	-	\$400,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$8,600,000	\$180,000	Private	\$8,780,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$7,500	-	-	\$7,500
Professional Services	\$175,000	-	-	\$175,000
Direct Support Services	\$78,100	\$124,900	Private	\$203,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Supplies/Materials	\$100,000	-	-	\$100,000
DNR IDP	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Grand Total	\$10,169,600	\$304,900	-	\$10,474,500

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection	0.4	3.0	\$149,000	-	-	\$149,000
Contract & Grant Mgmt	0.2	4.0	\$45,000	-	-	\$45,000
Forest Management	0.5	4.0	\$240,000	-	-	\$240,000

Amount of Request: \$10,309,600

Amount of Leverage: \$329,900

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 3.2%

DSS + Personnel: \$512,100

As a % of the total request: 4.97%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

Total Leverage (from above)	Amount Confirmed	% of Total Leverage	Amount Anticipated	% of Total Leverage
\$329,900	\$295,140	89.46%	\$34,760	10.54%

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:

Leverage is from private sources to establish a stewardship endowment to pay for property taxes, future management future along with unrecovered direct support services.

TNC is in the process of purchasing the adjacent property with private funds that will also be open for public use and managed similarly.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?

No

Please explain why this project can NOT be scaled:

The property is currently listed on the market for sale. The seller intends to sell the entire property. If insufficient funds are secured, the property will be sold to another buyer.

The seller is committed to selling the property in its entirety and unwilling to sell portions.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

No

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

Tree planting, forest thinning, browse protection and release.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Forest Stewardship Planning

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?

1 acquisition, 3 transfers.

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

A vehicle will be rented for TNC staff to travel to and from the site as necessary.

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?

DSS is based on The Nature Conservancy's Federal Negotiated Rate (FNR) as proposed and approved by the US Dept. of Interior on an annual basis. In this proposal we are requesting reimbursement of 7.5% of eligible base costs as determined by our annual FNR and based on suggestions from the Council in prior years' hearings. The FNR is not applied to capital equipment over \$50,000 or land acquisition. Examples of expenses included in the FNR include services from in-house legal counsel; finance; human resources; and information technology support, all of which contribute directly to the implementation of the project. TNC will use private funds to pay for unrecovered indirect costs.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?

Planting equipment, brush saws, seedlings and browse protection. Supplies include seedlings for planting

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	400	0	400
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	12,223	0	12,223
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	12,623	0	12,623

Restoration/Enhancement Acres of OHF Acquired Lands (Table 1a.1)

	RESTORE		Total	ENHANCE		Total
	Lands acquired in this proposal	Lands acquired with previous OHF appropriations (<5yrs old)		Lands acquired in this proposal	Lands acquired with previous OHF appropriations (<5yrs old)	
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	0	870	-	870
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	870	-	870

Restoration/Enhancement Acres Breakdown of Existing Protected Lands (Table 1a.2)

	RESTORE		ENHANCE	
	Lands acquired with OHF	Lands NOT acquired with OHF	Lands acquired with OHF	Lands NOT acquired with OHF
DNR Lands (WMA, State Forests, etc)	-	-	-	-
Non-DNR Lands (city, state, federal, etc.)	-	-	-	-
Easements	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$400,000	-	\$400,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	\$9,109,600	-	\$9,109,600
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	\$800,000	-	\$800,000
Total	-	-	\$10,309,600	-	\$10,309,600

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	400	400
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	12,223	12,223
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	12,623	12,623

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	-	-	-	-	\$400,000	\$400,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$9,109,600	\$9,109,600
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	\$800,000	\$800,000
Total	-	-	-	-	\$10,309,600	\$10,309,600

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$1,000	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	\$745	-
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	-	-	-	-	\$1,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$745
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2.5 miles

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

No

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

The property was identified as the 4th largest most resilient and unprotected properties in Minnesota. It is nearly surrounded by conservation lands open to the public.

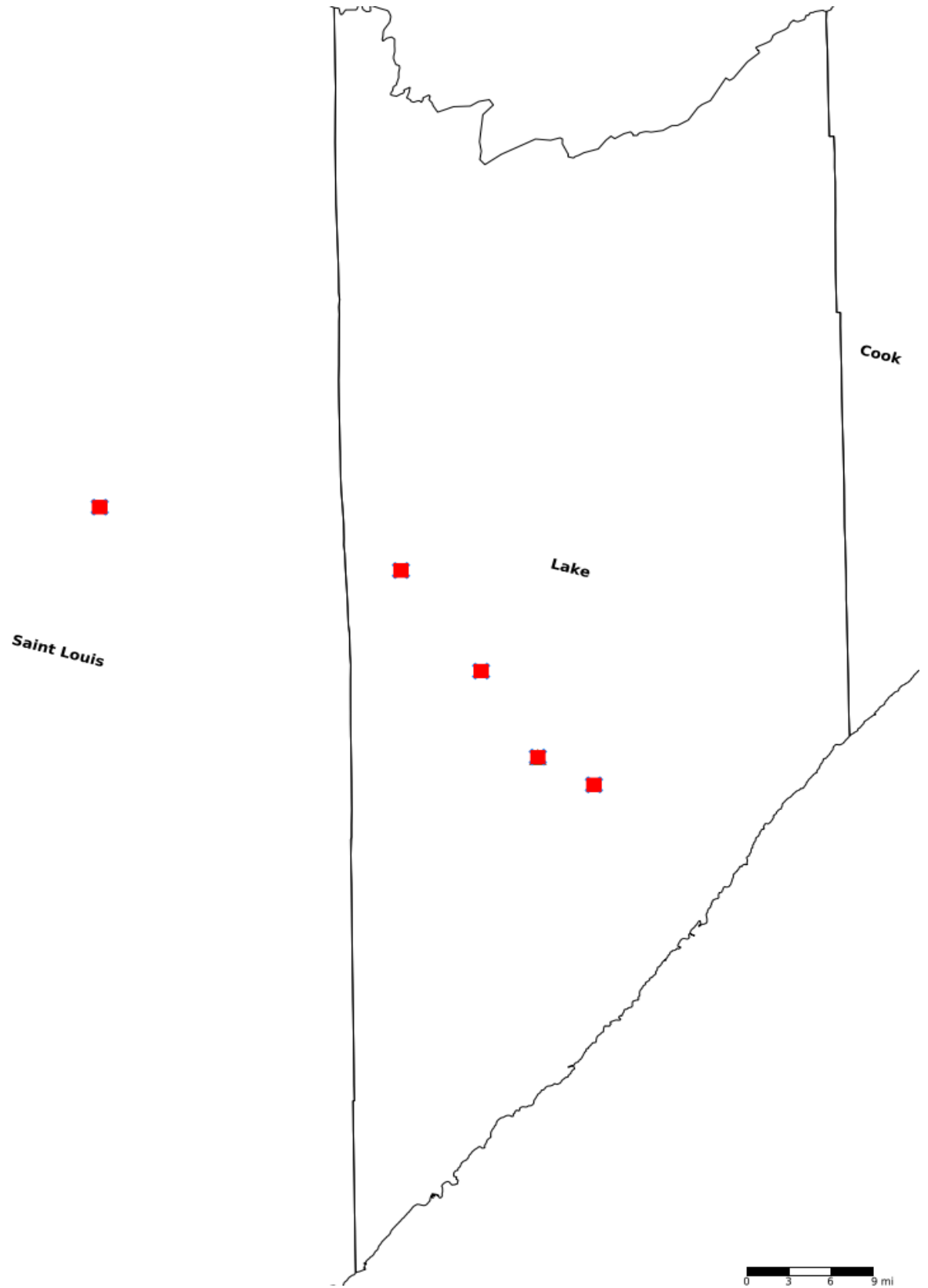
Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Lake County	Lake	05709213	700	-	Yes	County and State inholdings
Lake County Finland	Lake	05709205	500	-	Yes	County and State inholdings
Lake County Northwest	Lake	06011234	1,240	-	Yes	Acquisition and enhancement
Sand Lake/7 Beavers	Lake	05810203	9,823	-	Yes	Lowland hardwood forest, fire dependent hardwood within public land complex
Embarrass	St. Louis	06014206	1,600	-	Yes	Upland aspen, balsam fir, lowland hardwood

Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Lake County	Lake	05709213	700	-	No
Lake County	Lake	05709213	700	-	No
Lake County Finland	Lake	05709205	500	-	No
Lake County Finland	Lake	05709205	500	-	No
Lake County Northwest	Lake	06011234	1,240	-	No
Lake County Northwest	Lake	06011234	1,240	-	No
Sand Lake/7 Beavers	Lake	05810203	9,823	-	No
Sand Lake/7 Beavers	Lake	05810203	9,823	-	No
Embarrass	St. Louis	06014206	1,600	-	No
Embarrass	St. Louis	06014206	1,600	-	No

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ✚ Other



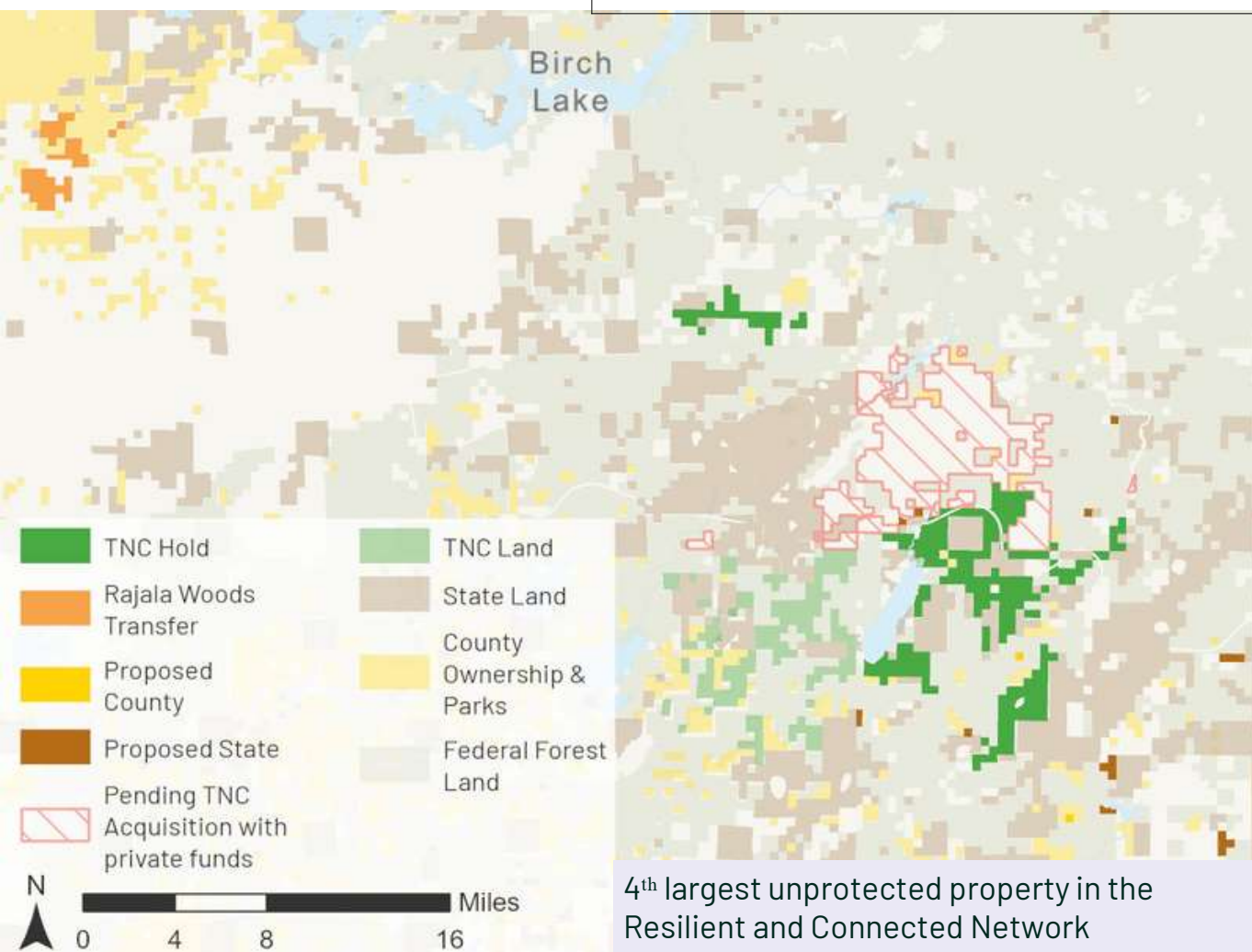
Sand Lake/7 Beavers



Request \$10,309,600

12,623 Acres Fee Acquisition

870 Acres Forest Enhanced



4th largest unprotected property in the Resilient and Connected Network

Fee Acquisition

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will acquire 12,623 acres of forest, peatland, lakeshore and river corridor in Lake and St. Louis Counties.

- 9,823 acres retained by TNC in Lake County as an addition to Sand Lake/7 Beavers Property
- 1,600 acres transferred to Rajala Woods Foundation
- 1,200 acres under discussion for transfer to County and State Forest ownership
- Leverages \$7M Private Funds for protection in landscape

(acres are approximate)



Sand Lake/7 Beavers



Forest Enhancement

TNC & Rajala Woods Foundation will utilize ecological forest management on the properties to benefit many wildlife species. This includes promotion of long-lived conifers like white pine and cedar while maintaining a component of aspen.

Species Benefiting

- Moose
- Ruffed Grouse
- Connecticut warbler
- Lynx
- Boreal owl
- Northern goshawk

Rajala Woods Foundation

The Rajala Woods Foundation is committed to restoring long-lived tree species in their native habitat, creating healthy, resilient forests that will provide value for centuries.



CONTACT

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Protects 23.7% of the Stony River Watershed, resulting in 87.8% protected.