



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase 10

ML 2026 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/26/2025

Proposal Title: Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase 10

Funds Requested: \$9,800,000

Confirmed Leverage Funds: \$92,700

Is this proposal Scalable?: Yes

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Tim Terrill

Title: Executive Director

Organization: Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB)

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Location Information

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

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Habitat

Narrative**Abstract**

The Mississippi Headwaters Board partnering with Trust for Public Land and BWSR, assisted by 8 County SWCDs, will permanently protect 2,000 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat along the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River, its major tributaries, and 9 headwaters lakes. To date the Program has protected 11,900 acres and 65 miles of shoreland using fee-title acquisitions and conservation easements to create/expand permanently protected aquatic and upland wildlife habitat corridors/complexes. This on-going work benefits fish, game/non-game wildlife, migratory waterfowl, reduces forest fragmentation, enhances public recreation and protects water quality.

Design and Scope of Work

This Phase of the Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project (MHHCP) will continue to address aquatic and upland habitat protection opportunities along the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River and within its major watersheds, along major tributaries and 9 Headwaters lakes in Clearwater, Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Crow Wing, Aitkin, and Morrison Counties. In addition to the 11,900 acres already protected, this Phase will permanently protect an additional 2,000 acres and 5+ miles of shoreland to benefit aquatic and wildlife habitat and migratory waterfowl by creating and enlarging protected habitat complexes and corridors. Enhanced public recreational opportunities and quality drinking water for millions downstream are additional benefits.

The Headwaters are home to a variety of game fish and its adjacent lands are home to over 350+ species of animals and birds. Development pressure along the river and its tributaries is increasing as people seek to live near water and inland waters are highly developed. Development leads to fragmentation of forests that threaten wildlife and aquatic habitats. Public lands adjacent to undeveloped private property are in danger of losing habitat connectivity as private lands are increasingly developed resulting in destruction of wild rice beds, disruption of aquatic and upland habitat and fragmentation of forestlands, grasslands, and wetlands that dominate the Mississippi Headwaters.

The MHHCP provides habitat protection by creating or expanding habitat complexes that provide food and shelter for migratory waterfowl during spring and fall migration and ensures critical water quality for fish habitat/spawning and downstream drinking water. Reduction of forest fragmentation by limiting development protects critical upland habitat. Additionally, public recreational opportunities are enhanced for public fishing, hunting, and passive recreation.

To achieve these results, habitat complexes with high quality aquatic shorelands and uplands are created by targeting land conservation projects (fee-title or RIM easements) towards privately owned parcels adjacent to already protected public land to enhance or create large habitat protection complexes.

There is urgency to fund this Phase because previously appropriated funds are spent or committed to projects and Phase 9 (ML 25) is not yet available. As a partnership, The Mississippi Headwaters Board provides program administration and coordination. Trust for Public Land acquires fee-title to priority lands and conveys permanent ownership to a public entity (MN DNR or LGU). BWSR completes RIM conservation easements on private lands with local SWCD assistance and is responsible for perpetual monitoring. Potential land protection parcels are

identified and prioritized through a science-based process and with input from completed 1Watershed1Plan priorities. A Technical Team of project partners along with representatives from the DNR and The Nature Conservancy review and approve all projects using a ranked evaluation of habitat and biodiversity, urgency and opportunity for protection, size of the parcel, amount of shoreland and other critical habitat features. Strong local government involvement is unique to this Program. For fee-title acquisitions, County Boards are notified early to seek approval and again before closing. This process has enhanced local government support and trust and contributes to the Program's ongoing success.

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

The Mississippi Headwaters is host to over 350 species of mammals and birds, including common game and non-game wildlife and most of the endangered and threatened species in Minnesota. This Program's focus on creating permanently protected habitat complexes and corridors along the river provides the food and shelter needed for migratory waterfowl, ensures water quality that support many species of game and forage fish and keeps forested lands from becoming fragmented and disrupting habitat for common and threatened species a fish, game and wildlife.

This Program uses a science-based assessment tool (RAQ) to prioritize potential private parcels for protection. Local governments are also queried for parcels of interest or are a priority in local water plans. Selective parcels that meet program criteria are scored by their riparian nature (R), the adjacency to already protected land (A) and habitat quality (Q). These parcels are assessed for habitat quality against state and national databases that include: the Minnesota County Biological Survey; the Minnesota Wildlife Action Network database; DNR biodiversity rankings, rare species and old growth forest data; priority areas of significant value for fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need; and other habitat quality parameters. This assessment process considerably narrows the focus areas and number of parcels considered for project outreach.

High scoring parcels that are adjacent to permanently protected land (either county, state, tribal, or federal public lands or lands already enrolled in an easement program) are selected for landowner outreach. This Program focuses on creating and expanding protected wildlife habitat complexes through fee-title acquisition or RIM easements on parcels adjacent to already protected lands to create or expand habitat complexes that provide the highest opportunity for fish and wildlife habitat protection. Land protection is the primary focus of the MHHCP.

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

MHHCP's past accomplishments have consistently exceeded appropriation goals by more than 150%. For closed appropriations, 95% of the money was spent. Open appropriations (ML 22 and ML 24) are spent or allocated to projects in process. Phase 9 (ML25) is not yet available. Landowners, who are eager to participate and have been vetted and approved by the Technical Team, are in a queue waiting to utilize the minor remaining funds and future funding. This includes 3 parcels comprising \$1.1 million in easement funding. At this time, there are more landowners willing to participate than available funds can accommodate.

Because inland lakes are highly developed, there is increasing interest in developing along the river and its tributaries. There is urgency to protect high priority lands for fish and wildlife habitat protection because development pressures are threatening forest fragmentation and disturbance of shoreland and upland habitats.

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

The MHHCP focuses on creating and expanding permanently protected aquatic and upland wildlife habitat complexes/corridors by acquiring priority private land (via fee-title or easement acquisition) adjacent to already protected land (county, state, or federal public land or land already under easement) to expand existing or create new habitat complexes. These large habitat corridors/complexes provide the essential elements of good upland habitat continuity for wildlife that includes food, a place to raise their young, different types of cover from predators, mobility for wildlife during various life stages and adaptation as needed to climate change. They also provide aquatic habitat (clean water) for fish survival and spawning and food and shelter for migratory waterfowl along with river corridor. These complexes limit future development that could disrupt forest complexes and fragment fish and wildlife habitat.

Using the previously described RAQ science-based parcel prioritization process, high priority private parcels are identified next to already protected lands (public or under easement). Connecting these acquired parcels to already protected land enhances or creates habitat protection complexes. Multiple habitat complexes along the river or tributaries create safe corridors of protected land for wildlife to move through.

Two examples illustrate the Program's successful approach of using fee-title and easement acquisitions connected to already protected land to create or expand large habitat complexes. First, two fee-title acquisitions in Crow Wing County created the new 299-acre DNR Indian Jack WMA, which combined with two new and adjacent RIM easements and other state and county land, created a habitat complex of 594 contiguous acres, 2.5 miles of Indian Jack Lake shoreland, and 3 miles of Mississippi River shoreland, on which the DNR is adding a new public access. (See the project illustration) Second, two recent fee-title acquisitions from The Conservation Fund through the Minnesota Heritage Forest Project added 2,529 acres of state forest land and 714 acres of county forest land in Hubbard County to enlarge existing habitat complexes. In Crow Wing County, 1,280 acres was acquired to enlarge a county forest. The state and county forest habitat complexes also provide enhanced public recreation opportunities.

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

Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Plan

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Explain how this 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 MHHCP focuses on protecting the headwaters of one of the most important river systems in the United States. The Headwaters contains over 350 species of fish and animals, including many species of greatest concern in Minnesota. Landscapes with diverse and intact functional ecosystems are expected to have the greatest resilience in a changing climate. This Program targets those lands for protection that provide the best opportunities for maintaining biodiversity and increasing habitat connectivity. Protection at a watershed scale increases the resiliency of the landscape by protecting and buffering sensitive areas which support biological diversity and ecological function while also increasing connections that will facilitate species movement across the headwaters range of 400 river miles and 8 counties. Increased functional redundancy, connectivity, and biodiversity at this

large scale ensures there are enough connected blocks of protected habitat suitable for sustaining wildlife's need for mobility in a changing climate.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

Northern Forest

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

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 ongoing Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project (MHHCP) has consistently exceeded its projected goals with each completed phase. To date this includes 11,900 acres of upland and 65 miles shoreland on the Mississippi River and major tributaries in the Mississippi River Headwaters. Land conservation projects in process (12) with open appropriations (ML22 and 24) will protect an additional 1,100 acres and 7 miles of critical shorelands for permanent habitat protection for fish, game/non-game wildlife and migratory waterfowl. In light of the significant program success to date in meeting its habitat protection goals, it is reasonable to assume MHHCP's ongoing work will continue to provide an additional and significant conservation legacy with continued LSOHC support.

It is important to continue to protect the Headwaters of the Mississippi River not only for fish and wildlife, but also for migratory waterfowl in their migration along the Mississippi flyway and to ensure safe drinking water for the millions of people downstream that depend on the river. The habitat complexes created and enhanced through the MHHCP's habitat protection will help build resilience into the Mississippi River Headwaters system to protect against fragmentation of critical forests, wetlands and shorelines and insure population sustainability for healthy fish, game and non-game wildlife, and migratory waterfowl along with enhanced recreational opportunities for all Minnesotans.

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Rivers and streams provide corridors of habitat including intact areas of forest cover in the east and large wetland/upland complexes in the west ~ *Conservation easements in this region have been in past appropriations and those funded with an ML 26 appropriation will be placed on parcels on or near the main stem Mississippi River and/or along major Mississippi tributaries in the region. In the eastern portion of the region, parcels are mostly forested. Easement outcomes will be measured by the number of acres protected and shoreland feet and evaluated against set criteria and goals. Easements will be evaluated into perpetuity through yearly monitoring. Fee-title acquisitions will also be evaluated by acres protected and shoreland feet against set project criteria.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors ~ *With permanent land protection (either fee-title acquisition or conservation easements) forests will remain intact and less*

fragmented to maintain forest integrity. Placement of projects will focus on private land that can connect with adjacent public lands to create or expand habitat corridors. Outcomes will be measured by acres and shoreland miles protected and evaluated against Program goals and criteria. Permanent owners of fee-title acquisitions will monitor and evaluate the condition of the lands according to their policies and easements will be monitored annually into perpetuity by BWSR and the SWCD for the county in which the easement is located.

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

Environment and Natural Resource Trust 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.

This request is not supplanting or a substitution for any previous Legacy funding used for the same purpose.

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

For conservation easements acquired through this Program, the MN BWSR is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring into perpetuity. They partner with the Soil and Water Conservation District in the county where the easement is recorded to carry-out the oversight and monitoring of the conservation easements. Easements are inspected annually for the first five years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections and compliance checks are performed and reported to BWSR every three years. If a violation is noted, a non-compliance procedure is initiated. Stewardship money is appropriated to cover ongoing BWSR oversight, SWCD monitoring, and enforcement actions, if needed. Trust for Public Land (TPL) is responsible for the fee-title acquisitions. TPL acquires the land with Outdoor Heritage Funds and then transfers ownership to the applicable public entity, either the MN DNR or a local government, for permanent ownership and stewardship. The lands are then managed in accordance with the public entity's land management policies and OHF requirements.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2026-2030	OHF	Work with project partners and landowners to determine RIM conservation easement interest and develop long-term fish and game habitat protection priorities.	Work with BWSR and County SWCDs to conduct landowner outreach and acquire conservation easements	BWSR and SWCDs will perform ongoing onsite inspections and monitoring and enforce conditions of the recorded easement into perpetuity.
2026-2030	OHF	Work with project partners and landowners to determine interest in a fee-title acquisition and seek state or local government permanent land ownership.	The Trust for Public Land will acquire parcels for fee-title acquisition (with or without PILT) and transfer to the appropriate public entity.	Permanent public entity owners of acquired lands (state or local government) will follow the monitoring and land management policies of their organization.

2026-2030	OHF	Work with project partners to determine fish and game habitat protection priorities; develop tools for prioritizing lands for acquisition (fee title or easement); provide outreach assistance to SWCDs; and develop/ maintain trusting relationships with local government for project support	The Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) provides project coordination among project partners and other supporting organizations, including responsibility for status reports, outreach assistance to SWCDs, developing prioritization tools for project selection, facilitation of regular meetings of the Project Technical Committee to review and approve participating landowner projects, and project representation to regional conservation collaborative efforts. MHB also promotes ongoing relationships and training as needed for the 8 Headwaters County Boards.	-
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Provide an assessment of how your program may celebrate cultural diversity or reach diverse communities in Minnesota, including reaching low- and moderate-income households:

MHHCP partner organizations have programs funded through different sources that focus primarily on engaging Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities as well as diverse economic communities. Representatives of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe are invited to participate in the Technical Team meetings that review and approve all projects in an effort to be more inclusive in the Program's land protection work.

There are significant benefits for all Minnesotans, including culturally diverse communities, when land is protected through fee-title acquisition and becomes managed as public land accessible to all. In particular, public land provides an opportunity for those who do not have access or financial resources to connect with private natural lands, whether that is for cultural purposes, hunting, fishing, hiking, or other outdoor recreational pursuits. Conservation easements also benefit all Minnesotans. They help to keep our air and water clean for fish habitat and drinking water downstream of the Headwaters, and help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Land conservation conserves the biological diversity that is important to all of Minnesotan's public natural resources.

TPL has a mentored hunting and angling program which is a great example of inclusive community engagement. In partnership with the MN Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, TPL is hosting and facilitating mentored hunts and angling opportunities for diverse communities on public lands and waters across MN with a focus on ones protected with Outdoor Heritage Funds. Our target audience for mentees are diverse and historically marginalized communities, with a particular outreach focus on BIPOC communities. Our program mentors are individuals from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds as well, helping to reinforce the notion that seeing those who look like us helps foster a sense of representation, belonging and inclusion in outdoor spaces.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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:

No variation from State regulations.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Local Unit of Government

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

County Forest

State Forest

SNA

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:

No new trails are planned on prospective acquisitions, but if new trail segments or alignments are added there would be a "no net gain of trails." In other words, if a new trail segment was created an equal amount of preexisting trail would be restored to natural habitat.

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

Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

Any trails would be maintained and monitored in accordance with the permanent owner's (state or county) management policies.

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

Yes

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

No new trails are planned on prospective acquisitions, but if new trail segments or alignments are added there would be a "no net gain of trails." In other words, if a new trail segment was created an equal amount of preexisting trail would be restored to natural habitat.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

Any new trails would be maintained and monitored in accordance with the permanent owner's (state or county) management policies.

Will the 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:

While no significant R/E work is anticipated for the fee-title acquisitions, there may be some minor initial R/E work needed. The Contract line includes funding for that potential work. After land is acquired and conveyed to the MN DNR, initial restoration activities will occur as part of the DNR IDP plan.

Conservation easements generally do not have restoration or enhancement work. A small number of easements, primarily in the Prairie/Northern Forest transition zone, may have limited restoration, primarily reforestation, in their conservation plan. If a landowner chooses to do reforestation the work would be done with cost-share grants with the landowner. A small amount of money (\$50,000) could be spent on this activity.

Other OHF Appropriation Awards

Have you received OHF dollars through LSOHC in the past?

Yes

Are any of these past appropriations still OPEN?

Yes

Approp Year	Funding Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Funding Remaining	% Spent to Date
2025	\$2,832,000	-	-	-
2024	\$2,746,000	\$238,300	\$2,507,700	8.68%
2022	\$5,329,000	\$4,719,400	\$609,600	88.56%
2021	\$2,901,000	\$2,313,800	\$587,200	79.76%
Totals	\$13,808,000	\$7,271,500	\$6,536,500	52.66%

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
BWSR approves and processes landowner applications that have been approved by the Project Technical Committee, responsible for ongoing monitoring of completed easements. diligence,	2030; stewardship ongoing
TPL does landowner outreach, negotiates with committed landowners, seeks final ownership (state or local government), see approval from local government, conducts due diligence on the property, acquires property, conveys to final landowner.	2030
MHB provides project administration and coordination, assists with development of parcel prioritization tools and outreach, convenes the Technical Review Committee, and does project reporting	2030
SWCDs do landowner outreach according to established parcel priorities, works with landowner to submit easement application and complete the easement, records the final easement.	2030
Final owners (state or LGU) of acquired fee-title lands conduct ongoing maintenance and monitoring of lands according to their respect management policies.	Ongoing
Under contract to BWSR, SWCDs do annual monitoring of acquired easements	Ongoing

Budget**Grand Totals Across All Partnerships**

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$699,800	-	-	\$699,800
Contracts	\$164,500	-	-	\$164,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$3,500,000	-	-	\$3,500,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$500,000	-	-	\$500,000
Easement Acquisition	\$4,113,800	-	-	\$4,113,800
Easement Stewardship	\$270,000	-	-	\$270,000
Travel	\$8,500	\$3,700	-, Private	\$12,200
Professional Services	\$115,000	-	-	\$115,000
Direct Support Services	\$173,500	\$89,000	Private	\$262,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$96,000	-	-	\$96,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$12,200	-	-	\$12,200
Supplies/Materials	\$6,700	-	-	\$6,700
DNR IDP	\$140,000	-	-	\$140,000
Grand Total	\$9,800,000	\$92,700	-	\$9,892,700

Partner: MHB

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000
Contracts	\$47,000	-	-	\$47,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$3,000	-	-	\$3,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$60,000	-	-	\$60,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Administrator	0.1	4.0	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000

Partner: TPL

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$380,000	-	-	\$380,000
Contracts	\$50,000	-	-	\$50,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$3,500,000	-	-	\$3,500,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$500,000	-	-	\$500,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	\$3,700	Private	\$3,700
Professional Services	\$115,000	-	-	\$115,000
Direct Support Services	\$89,000	\$89,000	Private	\$178,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$96,000	-	-	\$96,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	\$140,000	-	-	\$140,000
Grand Total	\$4,870,000	\$92,700	-	\$4,962,700

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection & Legal Staff	0.74	3.0	\$380,000	-	-	\$380,000

Partner: BWSR

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$309,800	-	-	\$309,800
Contracts	\$67,500	-	-	\$67,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$4,113,800	-	-	\$4,113,800
Easement Stewardship	\$270,000	-	-	\$270,000
Travel	\$8,500	-	-	\$8,500
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$84,500	-	-	\$84,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$12,200	-	-	\$12,200
Supplies/Materials	\$3,700	-	-	\$3,700
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$4,870,000	-	-	\$4,870,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	2.03	4.0	\$309,800	-	-	\$309,800

Amount of Request: \$9,800,000

Amount of Leverage: \$92,700

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.95%

DSS + Personnel: \$873,300

As a % of the total request: 8.91%

Easement Stewardship: \$270,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 6.56%

Total Leverage (from above)	Amount Confirmed	% of Total Leverage	Amount Anticipated	% of Total Leverage
\$92,700	\$92,700	100.0%	-	0.0%

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:

Trust for Public Land is providing a private match of half of their direct support services costs and all travel costs.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?

Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well. However, not exactly proportionately as program administration, coordination, development and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of the appropriation amount.

If the project received 30% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well. However, not exactly proportionately as program administration, coordination, development and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of the appropriation amount.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

Yes

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

For MHB, the FTE listed for project administration is consistent with funds spent in the closed appropriations and those in process. Contract program coordination is provided by the same contractor and is consistent with what has been spent in the past. Only funds needed to ensure program success are spent. For TPL the FTEs listed in the proposal are an estimate of the personnel time required to produce the grant deliverables put forward in this proposal. An array of staff draw from these funds for legal work, negotiating with landowners, crafting of acquisition documents, coordinating with agency partners, and managing the grant. TPL only those personnel funds necessary to achieve the goals of the grant. For BWSR, these funds pay for staff time spent on new easements associated with this phase. Because this is an ongoing program, funds for staffing by all partners are being used as described in the two open appropriations.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

MHB contract funding is for a Program Coordinator. BWSR contract is for SWCD assistance. TPL contract funds are for potential site clean-up and initial restoration activities.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

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

Surveys

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?

3 acquisitions completed and investigation of 2-3 prospects.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?

An estimated 27 easements and 2000 acres will be completed with the funding requested. Easement stewardship has been calculated per 27 easements. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at \$10,000 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship covers costs of the SWCD's regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and any enforcement necessary.

Travel

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

No

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging

None

I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:

Yes

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?

BWSR calculates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done. DSS requested by Trust for Public Land is based upon their federal rate, which has been approved by the DNR; 50% of TPL's DSS costs are requested from the OHF grant, 50% is contributed as leverage.

Other Equipment/Tools

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

Signage for completed projects.

Federal Funds

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

No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	700	0	700
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	100	0	100
Protect in Easement	0	0	2,000	0	2,000
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	2,800	0	2,800

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

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	-	-	\$4,290,500	-	\$4,290,500
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	\$609,500	-	\$609,500
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$4,900,000	-	\$4,900,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	\$9,800,000	-	\$9,800,000

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	700	700
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	100	100
Protect in Easement	0	200	0	0	1,800	2,000
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	200	0	0	2,600	2,800

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	-	-	-	-	\$4,290,500	\$4,290,500
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$609,500	\$609,500
Protect in Easement	-	\$974,000	-	-	\$3,926,000	\$4,900,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	\$974,000	-	-	\$8,826,000	\$9,800,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$6,129	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	\$6,095	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$2,450	-
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	-	-	-	-	\$6,129
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$6,095
Protect in Easement	-	\$4,870	-	-	\$2,181
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

5+ miles

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

No

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

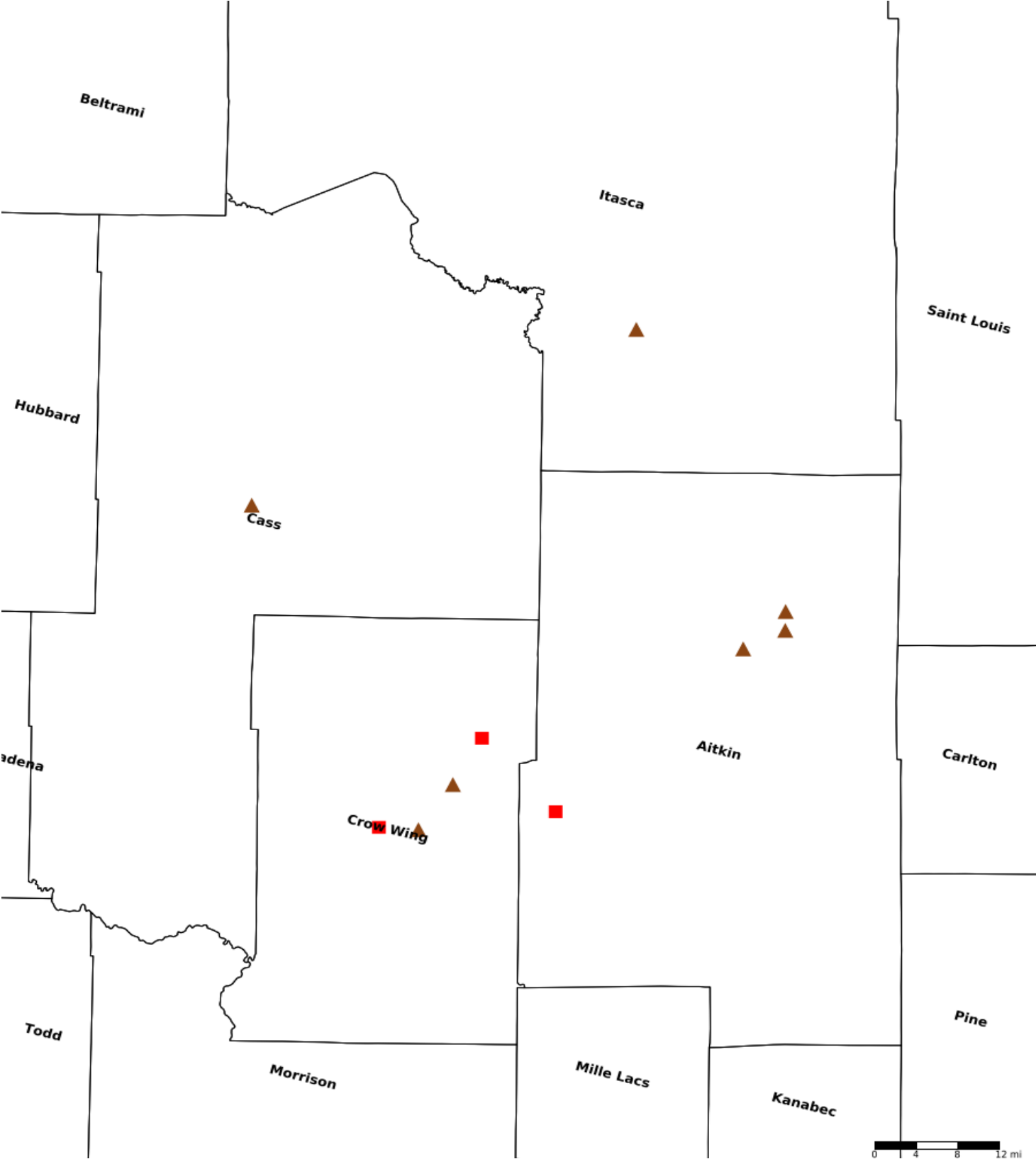
A science-based prioritization process (RAQ) is first used to narrow the field of potential outreach parcels that meet program criteria. The RAQ process, as detailed earlier, includes assessing the riparian nature of the parcel (R), its adjacency to other public land (A) and its habitat quality (Q) using a variety of state and federal databases and natural resource data. Parcels scoring in the top third are priority outreach targets for fee-title acquisitions and easements. Parcel location in priority areas of an approved Watershed Plan in major watersheds in the Headwaters region is also used to identify potential parcels for protection.

When a landowner is interested in either a fee-title acquisition or easement and the land meets program criteria, the parcel(s) are presented to the Technical Team that is convened at least twice a year to review and approve proposed parcels. The Technical Team is comprised of program partners, the 8 headwater's SWCDs, and representatives from the Nature Conservancy, DNR, and invited appropriate tribal governments. The Team assesses the parcel(s) using a program-specific ranking sheet that looks at the RAQ scoring but also other factors such as size of the parcel, amount of shoreland, urgency for protection, specific forest and other land use conditions, and the professional judgement of the presenter of the project (TPL or one of the 8 SWCDs). The location of parcels within the Program's designated geography is also considered by the Team for approval to proceed with the fee-title acquisition or easement project.

Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Aitkin Lake	Aitkin	05023217	151	\$850,000	No
Big Sandy	Aitkin	05023229	283	\$900,000	No
Lily Lake	Aitkin	04727234	210	\$600,000	No
Wold WMA Addition	Aitkin	04924203	391	\$860,000	No
Baby Lake AMA Addition	Cass	14029204	15	\$250,000	No
Crow Wing County Forest Addition	Crow Wing	13625206	266	\$680,400	No
Crow Wing County-Mississippi River	Crow Wing	04630211	50	\$266,000	No
Indian Jack WMA 3	Crow Wing	13626234	80	\$689,400	No
June Lake	Crow Wing	04629209	60	\$1,400,000	No
Bass Brook WMA Addition	Itasca	05526213	46	\$184,000	No

Parcel Map



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

ML26 Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project

Request: \$ 9,800,000

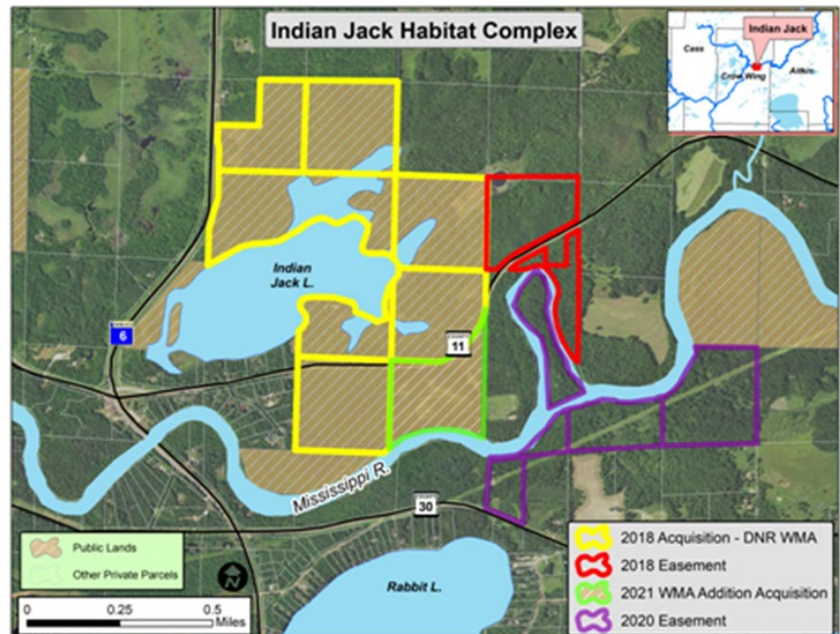
Program Focus: Protect private land, via fee-title and easement acquisitions, adjacent to public land to create or enlarge permanently protected habitat complexes and corridors for the benefit of fish, game and non-game wildlife, migratory waterfowl, enhanced public recreation and water quality protection.

Projects are targeted in the Headwaters of the Mississippi River—along the river, its tributaries, major watersheds, and 9 Headwaters' lakes.

This newly created Indian Jack Habit Complex is an example.



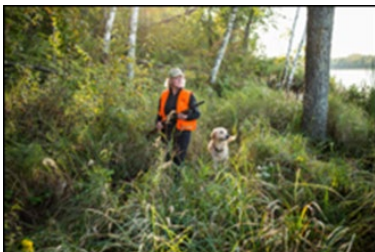
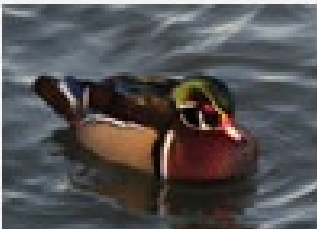
The Indian Jack Habitat Complex was created with a new WMA (264 acres), a WMA addition (35 acres), and two conservation easements (104 acres combined with adjacent public land (190 acres) to form a permanently protected habitat complex spanning 594 acres, 2.5 miles of lake shoreline, and 3 miles of river shoreline



Program Partners

- Mississippi Headwaters Board
- Trust for Public Land
- BWSR and 8 Headwaters' SWCDs
- With stakeholder support from the MN DNR and The Nature Conservancy





Accomplishments To Date

(Phase 9 is pending)

- Permanent habitat protection completed on 11,900 acres and 65 miles of shoreline.
- 4 additions to State Forests, 5 additions to County Forests, the creation of a new 300+ acres DNR WMA, an addition to newly created WMA, an addition to an existing DNR AMA, and 60 recorded RIM conservation easements.
- 12 easements in process will protect an additional 1,000 acres and 7 miles of shoreline.
- The Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project (MHHCP) has consistently exceeded our AP acreage goals by over 100%.

Why permanently protect critical shorelands and uplands to create habitat complexes and corridors throughout the Headwaters?

- Game and non-game wildlife have four basic habitat needs that are provided through permanently protected habitat complexes: 1) cover against predators; 2) water; 3) places to raise their young; and 4) adequate space to move around during varied life stages.
- Migratory waterfowl need food and cover along the Mississippi Flyway. Fish populations need healthy shorelines and clean water for spawning and survival.
- As Headwaters' inland lakes have become more developed, there is increasing development pressure on or near the river, its tributaries, and headwaters lakes/reservoirs, which can cause fragmentation of critical habitats such as forests, shorelands, grasslands, and wetlands.
- Land conservation ensures forest integrity and protects critical aquatic and upland habitat for healthy fish and wildlife populations.