



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota's North Shore - Phase 4  
ML 2026 Request for Funding

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### General Information

**Date:** 06/26/2025

**Proposal Title:** Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota's North Shore - Phase 4

**Funds Requested:** \$4,044,000

**Confirmed Leverage Funds:** -

**Is this proposal Scalable?:** Yes

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Wayne Ostlie

**Title:** Director of Land Protection

**Organization:** Minnesota Land Trust

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### Location Information

**County Location(s):**

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

Northern Forest

**Activity types:**

Protect in Easement

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

Wetlands

Forest

Habitat

## Narrative

### **Abstract**

The magnitude, timing, and frequency of flow are key attributes governing the structure of native fish and aquatic communities. Through targeted protection projects, the Minnesota Land Trust will conserve these attributes and ensure resiliency of priority coldwater tributaries to Lake Superior in the face of climate change. The Land Trust will protect 660 acres and 2 miles of shoreline by targeting high quality, priority parcels that will protect habitats for coldwater species such as trout and cisco, but also provide habitat for a number of wildlife species such as American woodcock and golden-winged warbler.

### **Design and Scope of Work**

Lake Superior and its tributaries in Minnesota have some of the most important coldwater trout habitat in the State, supporting native brook trout and naturalized populations of salmon, steelhead, and brown trout. This coldwater fishery is vulnerable to climate and landcover change as it is mostly surface water fed. Combined, these factors may result in water temperature increases and flow regime changes that threaten support of cold-water fish species such as trout and salmon.

Protection of shaded shorelines and headwaters wetlands within these tributary streams and rivers are critical for maintaining coldwater resources and flow regimes that support this fishery. The magnitude, timing, frequency of flow are key attributes governing the structure of native fish and aquatic communities. For example, along the North Shore, stream discharge and water temperature are major signals influencing the timing of the juvenile steelhead migration. Significant alterations to natural patterns of hydrology impact the suitability of those systems for native aquatic biodiversity.

The Ecological Limits of Hydrologic Alteration (ELOHA) 2016 study assessed management criteria to sustain healthy aquatic ecosystems in a changing climate. This study found that the combination of climate change and land use changes can be expected to result in increased intensity of storm events, increased runoff and increased erosion, which will in turn drive a series of cascading impacts to streams, including higher temperatures, reduced dissolved oxygen, increased primary production rates, and increased biological oxygen demand. These changes will negatively impact fish and other organisms in the stream. Similar impacts are expected in deep, cold lakes that support trout, cisco, and other coldwater species. The ELOHA study recommends management actions that focus on protecting baseflows, including: 1) protection of wetlands, vernal pools and floodplains that slowly release water into the system; 2) management and maintenance of riparian zones, forest cover/shade and 3) promotion and restoration of connectivity.

We propose to strategically procure conservation easements within high-quality watersheds. We will work in line with the methodology developed by the ELOHA program to identify priority watersheds and target properties to protect both water temperature as well as flow regimes. Conservation easements secured under this program will be perpetual and drafted to prevent the fragmentation and destruction of existing habitat. These easements will ensure that the sensitive shoreline and headwaters habitat will remain ecologically viable and productive for fish, game and wildlife by prohibiting land uses that negatively impact the important habitat values and requiring habitat management plans to maximize the benefits of shoreland and associated forested uplands.

Outcomes from this project include: 1) healthy populations of trout and other fish species, and Species in Greatest Conservation Need; 2) maintenance of water quality within targeted aquatic resources; and 3) increased participation of private landowners in natural habitat protection projects.

Phases 1 and 2 of funding has been largely committed to existing projects; we have built a strong pipeline of Phase 3 projects. We desire to build upon the momentum being created through our first three grants and further elevate protection of these critical resources.

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

The natural shoreland around Lake Superior's lakes and rivers comprises one of the most biologically important systems in the state for fish, game and wildlife and is also one of its most threatened. This program will preserve critical shoreland habitats and protect headwaters of some of the most sensitive lakes, streams and rivers that flow into Lake Superior - important components of the state's natural heritage - essential to maintaining healthy populations of the region's fish and wildlife populations (trout and other fish, waterfowl, and other Species in Greatest Conservation Need) and maintaining water quality of aquatic resources. Some SGCNs that would benefit include American woodcock, olive-sided flycatcher, golden-winged warbler, winter wren, black-backed woodpecker and cisco. Numerous plans have identified the protection of these habitats as a conservation priority for Minnesota, including the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan, DNR's Aquatic Management Area program, the State Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda, and Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework. The central goal of this program is to protect and restore high quality habitat by securing permanent conservation easements in strategic locations within priority watersheds of North Shore coldwater streams.

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

The development of the State's remaining sensitive shoreland and headwaters habitat continues to be a threat identified in many of the State's resource protection plans. Many of Minnesota's most desirable lakes have been fully developed the pressure is now moving to rivers and streams. DNR and other scientists indicate that the shoreland zone is one of the most biologically diverse and important habitat types for a variety of wildlife species.

Phase 1 of this program benefitted from a lull in the real-estate market, whereby landowners were provided with an opportunity to reflect on the future of their lands; this provided a narrow window of time to invest in these shoreland protection projects. With the real estate market again growing, additional pressures are being placed on these resources. Outreach conducted under previous grants has generated tremendous landowner interest that will be met through this proposed work.

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

The ELOHA study states that populations of coldwater fish species face limiting factors due to the area's bedrock geology including warm water temperatures, lack of suitable spawning and nursery habitat, and reduced stream connectivity. These factors coupled with low base flows and high storm flows makes these streams and the fish and other aquatic life that live there vulnerable to changes in flow as a result of climate change. The ELOHA study looks at stream vulnerability, and identifies management actions that can be taken to maintain and enhance the natural resilience of streams.

A key recommendation of the study is to mitigate impacts on baseflow and water temperatures through protection of wetlands, vernal pools, riparian areas and forest cover. This program will use the insights from the ELOHA study and other data to develop an analysis and scoring and ranking methodology to identify priority watersheds and a targeted list of critical private lands for protection.

Habitat management plans developed with each easement project completed through this program will promote climate change resilient forests and shaded riparian areas.

Established conservation plans such as the Minnesota Land Trust's Conservation Agenda 2017-2027, State Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota DNR's Strategic Conservation Agenda, Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025, and Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework will be used to identify priority areas for work and combined with GIS analysis will identify potential project areas that fill in gaps or leverage existing land protection. Criteria used will incorporate site specific assessment of parcel quality, landscape context, return on investment, and urgency. The program emphasizes protecting shoreland habitat on coldwater lakes, streams and rivers, headwater wetlands, and spawning areas.

**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 proposal focuses specifically on management actions identified in the ELOHA study to sustain healthy aquatic ecosystems in a changing climate. Protection of headwater wetlands, shaded shorelines and forested watersheds has been shown to maintain key hydrologic functions and values in cold water streams. Conservation easements will be targeted in the watersheds of designated trout streams, streams at risk from climate change. Securing conservation easements will protect riparian and wetland habitats, reduce forest loss and fragmentation, and ensure reliable, consistent cold-water baseflow inputs needed by trout and other wildlife that depend on cold water resources.

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

**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 Land Trust's Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota's North Shore Program focuses on protecting some of the most important recreational and sport fisheries resources in Minnesota and helps preserve this State's proud angler heritage. When many residents endorsed the Legacy Amendment, they indicated a strong interest in seeing our water resources protected. This program takes a science based and targeted approach to protect key habitat to sustain one of Minnesota's most important cold-water fisheries.

Wildlife such as American woodcock, ruffed grouse, olive-sided flycatcher and golden-winged warbler will benefit by protection of shorelines and headwaters wetlands associated with cold water stream habitat.

This program will secure permanent conservation easements on priority lands with high quality habitats that also serve to build complexes of protected habitat. The program will enhance the State's and MLT's prior investments in habitat protection and will result in an even larger, lasting legacy thanks to the permanency of the easements and the participation of Minnesota's landowners in our State's conservation efforts. The Land Trust's program is cultivating a high conservation ethic and developing effective tools for landowners to protect their lands and waters.

## Outcomes

### Programs in the northern forest region:

Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors ~ *This program will permanently protect approximately 660 acres of strategic northern forest region habitats and approximately 2 miles of undeveloped shoreline. Measure: Acres and feet of shoreline protected.*

### 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.

This request is not supplanting or substituting for any previous funding. This is entirely new work.

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

The land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. The Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

In addition, the Land Trust prepares for each landowner a habitat management plan that provides recommendations for use in ecologically managing the property over time. The Land Trust actively encourages landowners to manage their properties in line with the conservation easement, and works with landowners to address any financial or informational obstacles that stand in the way of them doing so.

### Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

| Year                   | Source of Funds                             | Step 1                                      | Step 2                   | Step 3 |
|------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|--------|
| 2030 and in perpetuity | MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Easement Fund | Annual monitoring of property in perpetuity | Enforcement as necessary | -      |

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

One of MLT's core values is a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We work to demonstrate this commitment whenever possible across our work. For example, we look to find opportunities to protect and restore critical habitats associated within camps and nature centers that serve diverse constituencies, allowing access to nature in a welcoming and safe environment, and a long-term partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa on wild rice restoration

MLT will continue to use diversity, equity, and inclusion as a lens in project, partner, and contractor selection. We will continue to listen and seek out potential, authentic partnerships that can advance our goals of conserving the best of Minnesota's remaining habitats and, at the same time, being a more inclusive organization. To that end, we intentionally build relationships and work collaboratively with diverse communities throughout the state, such as summer camps for youth, Tribal Nations, rural farmers, and multi-generational families.

## Activity Details

### Requirements

**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?**

Yes

**Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:**

The purpose of the MLT's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. We restrict agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases where there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either exclude the agricultural area from the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to exclude those areas. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement. These lands will be available for traditional agriculture unless otherwise restricted by the easement.

As for food plots, although MLT prefers no food plots in our easements, we do recognize that these are important to some landowners; an outright restriction against them would greatly diminish our ability to protect quality habitat in some of our program areas. As such, we do allow a limited number of them over small areas when that's the case. Since January 1, 2020, MLT has completed 47 conservation easements containing food plots, representing 28.7% of the 162 conservation easements completed during this time. The total footprint of these food plots is 92 acres, a mere 0.47% of the total area protected. Our practice is to limit the area of food plots to no more than 3% of the total easement area of a property, with a preference for less than more. Exceptions to this practice will be very limited. Per our stated policy, MLT will prohibit the use of neonicotinoid-treated seed in the planting of food plots, prohibit the planting of invasive species, and require the landowner to submit seed tags to MLT's Stewardship Team on an annual basis after the planting of food plots.

**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

**Will the eased land be open for public use?**

No

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

Yes

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

Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, these established trails and roads are permitted in the terms of the easement and can be maintained for personal use if their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed.

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

Yes

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

Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the Land Trust's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in line with the terms of the easement will be the responsibility of the landowner.

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

No

**Will the 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:**

Lands protected via easement will be assessed as to their need for R/E work by the Land Trust's Restoration Program. If R/E needs are identified, they will be built into future funding proposals.

**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        | \$2,187,000             | -                    | -                 | -               |
| 2022        | \$3,395,000             | \$589,000            | \$2,806,000       | 17.35%          |
| 2020        | \$1,809,000             | \$1,587,500          | \$221,500         | 87.76%          |
| Totals      | \$7,391,000             | \$2,176,500          | \$5,214,500       | 29.45%          |

**Timeline**

| Activity Name  | Estimated Completion Date |
|--|---------------------------|
| Acquire conservation easements: 1) identify priority landowners; 2) negotiate, draft and complete easements; 3) dedicate funds for stewardship | June 30, 2030             |



Budget**Totals**

| Item                          | Funding Request    | Total Leverage   | Leverage Source | Total              |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Personnel                     | \$350,000          | -                | -               | \$350,000          |
| Contracts                     | \$83,000           | -                | -               | \$83,000           |
| Fee Acquisition w/<br>PILT    | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Fee Acquisition w/o<br>PILT   | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Easement Acquisition          | \$3,000,000        | \$300,000        | Landowner       | \$3,300,000        |
| Easement<br>Stewardship       | \$252,000          | -                | -               | \$252,000          |
| Travel                        | \$20,000           | -                | -               | \$20,000           |
| Professional Services         | \$240,000          | -                | -               | \$240,000          |
| Direct Support<br>Services    | \$95,000           | -                | -               | \$95,000           |
| DNR Land Acquisition<br>Costs | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Capital Equipment             | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| Other<br>Equipment/Tools      | \$3,000            | -                | -               | \$3,000            |
| Supplies/Materials            | \$1,000            | -                | -               | \$1,000            |
| DNR IDP                       | -                  | -                | -               | -                  |
| <b>Grand Total</b>            | <b>\$4,044,000</b> | <b>\$300,000</b> | -               | <b>\$4,344,000</b> |

**Personnel**

| Position                | Annual FTE | Years Working | Funding Request | Total Leverage | Leverage Source | Total     |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| MLT<br>Protection Staff | 0.88       | 4.0           | \$350,000       | -              | -               | \$350,000 |

**Amount of Request:** \$4,044,000**Amount of Leverage:** \$300,000**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 7.42%**DSS + Personnel:** \$445,000**As a % of the total request:** 11.0%**Easement Stewardship:** \$252,000**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 8.4%

| Total Leverage (from above) | Amount Confirmed | % of Total Leverage | Amount Anticipated | % of Total Leverage |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| \$300,000                   | -                | 0.0%                | \$300,000          | 100.0%              |

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

The Land Trust encourages landowners to fully or partially donate the value of conservation easements. MLT also has private money available to work in this landscape. The leverage portion of the easement acquisition line item is a conservative estimate of value we expect to see donated to the Land Trust.

**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?**

Reductions in deliverables and activities will be modestly greater (approximately 55-65%) than proportional to the funding received. Some costs related to the grant are fixed (grant management, etc.).

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

Personnel and DSS will be reduced, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

## If the project received 30% of the requested funding

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

Reductions in deliverables and activities will be modestly greater (approximately 75-85%) than proportional to the funding received. Some costs related to the grant are fixed (grant management, etc.), resulting in modestly less than proportional funding for easement acquisition.

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

Personnel and DSS will be scaled, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

## Personnel

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

Yes

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

FTEs listed in the proposal are an estimate of the personnel time required to deliver the grant outputs included in this proposal. An array of staff may work on projects to complete legal review, sub-contracts, negotiating with landowners, drafting conservation easements, completing baseline reports and managing the grant. MLT's basis for billing is the individual Protection project we work on, ensuring allocation to the appropriate grant award, and by using a timesheet based approach we use only those personnel funds actually expended to achieve the goals of the grant.

## Contracts

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

Funds in the contract line are for the writing of habitat management plans via qualified vendors and outreach contracts.

## Professional Services

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

Appraisals

Other : Environmental Site Assessments, Mapping, Minerals Reports, etc.

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

## Easement Stewardship

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

The budget is based on the procurement of 8-10 easements. The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$28,000, but under extraordinary circumstances higher amounts may be warranted. This figure is derived from MLT's detailed stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates to this cost analysis with LSOHC staff.

## Travel

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

Yes

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

Land Trust staff regularly rent vehicles for grant-related purposes, which is a significant cost savings over use of personal vehicles.

### 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?

In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services.

## Other Equipment/Tools

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

GPS systems, satellite communicators and other safety equipment.

## 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        | 660        | 660         |
| Enhance                                  | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0          | 0           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>660</b> | <b>660</b>  |

### 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                      | -                               | -   | -        | -                               | -   | -        |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>  | <b>-</b> |

### 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                                  | -                       | -                           | -                       | -                           |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>-</b>                | <b>-</b>                    | <b>-</b>                | <b>-</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                      | -        | -        | -        | \$4,044,000        | \$4,044,000        |
| Enhance                                  | -        | -        | -        | -                  | -                  |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>\$4,044,000</b> | <b>\$4,044,000</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  | 0           | 0              | 0         | 0        | 0          | 0           |
| Protect in Easement                      | 0           | 0              | 0         | 0        | 660        | 660         |
| Enhance                                  | 0           | 0              | 0         | 0        | 0          | 0           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>660</b> | <b>660</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 | -           | -              | -         | -       | -                  | -                  |
| Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability  | -           | -              | -         | -       | -                  | -                  |
| Protect in Easement                      | -           | -              | -         | -       | \$4,044,000        | \$4,044,000        |
| Enhance                                  | -           | -              | -         | -       | -                  | -                  |
| <b>Total</b>                             | -           | -              | -         | -       | <b>\$4,044,000</b> | <b>\$4,044,000</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                      | -       | -       | -      | \$6,127 |
| 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 PILT Liability  | -           | -              | -         | -       | -         |
| Protect in Easement                      | -           | -              | -         | -       | \$6,127   |
| Enhance                                  | -           | -              | -         | -       | -         |

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

2 miles

## Parcels

### **Sign-up Criteria?**

[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](#)

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

Solicitation for potential projects employs a diverse strategy of direct outreach to landowners in high priority conservation areas and coordinated outreach with conservation partners such as Trout Unlimited, Encampment Forest Association, various lake associations, and local and national organizations. Leads for potential projects are pursued following initial assessment and scoring against criteria identified in established conservation plans. Criteria based scoring systems provide a standardized set of data from which multiple projects can be compared relative to each other and individual projects can be compared against a baseline. Scoring systems are a set of data, not a final, complete decision making tool. Local expertise and experience, programmatic goals, timelines, available resources, capacity, and other more subjective factors might also come into play in project selection and decision-making.

The attached scoresheet provides an approach to criteria based scoring that considers: 1) Ecological Integrity/Viability as current status; 2) Threat/Urgency as a future scenario if protection is not afforded; and 3) Cost reflecting the overall value realized through the acquisition of a conservation easement (including a reflection of donative value). Ecological Integrity weights property size, condition, and context equally (at least as an initial starting point). The three primary factors, when taken together, provide a good estimate of long-term viability for biodiversity at the site: 1) Size of the parcel to be protected, 2) Condition of the habitat on the parcel, and 3) its Landscape context (both from a protection and ecological standpoint).