Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Wetland Habitat Team

ML 2026 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/26/2025

Proposal Title: DNR Wetland Habitat Team

Funds Requested: $3,628,500

Confirmed Leverage Funds: -

Is this proposal Scalable?: Yes

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Ricky Lien
Title: Wetland Habitat Team Supervisor
Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Address: 500 Lafayette Road
City: St. Paul, MN 55155
Email: ricky.lien@state.mn.us
Office Number: 651-259-5227
Mobile Number:
Fax Number: 651-297-4961
Website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Activity types:

Enhance

Restore

Other : Survey, design, construction management

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

Starting in 2011, Outdoor Heritage Funds were used to expand the DNR's Wetland Habitat Team to increase and accelerate the implementation of shallow lake and wetland habitat enhancements and restorations. A total of ten positions were added to the Wetland Team over the course of several OHF appropriations. Based on an LSOHC recommendation, and following the model used to fund DNR Roving Habitat Crews, this proposal will maintain funding for the ten Wetland Habitat Team staff to continue shallow lake and wetland habitat enhancement and restoration projects for two years.

Design and Scope of Work

The Wetland Habitat Team consists of two programs, The Shallow Lakes Program (SLP) and the Wetland Management Program (WMP). These programs evaluate wetlands and shallow lakes and work to implement needed management to restore and enhance habitat to meet goals outlined in the Minnesota Duck Action Plan, Managing Minnesota's Shallow Lakes for Waterfowl and Wildlife, and the Minnesota Duck Recovery Plan, among others. The SLP performs standardized assessments of shallow lakes (50 acres or greater, less than 15 feet deep) to identify management needs, works with Area staff and conservation partners to implement management, and then evaluates the results of management. OHF funds were used to expand the SLP by three shallow lake specialists in 2011, with another OHF-funded specialist added in 2018. Subsequent OHF appropriations provided funding to maintain these positions. The SLP has 8 specialists in total, 4 funded with OHF.

The WMP was created with staff hired by two OHF appropriations. The WMP exists to assess, restore, and enhance wetlands (less than 50 acres in size) on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the prairie potion of Minnesota. This work is focused on wetland complexes that contain the variety of wetland sizes and types that are especially valuable for waterfowl production.

The most recent position added with OHF funding is a State Wetland Project Consultant position hired in 2023. This position provides wetland project evaluation, design, and construction management skills to more efficiently and effectively implement wetland and shallow lake infrastructure projects. The ten positions added through OHF funding have expanded the amount of shallow lake and wetland habitat work accomplished by the Section of Wildlife and also provide extensive support to conservation partners.

Initial funding for these ten-OHF positions and subsequent follow-up requests for continued funding was obtained through programmatic proposals that contained both staffing and project components. Based on an LSOHC recommendation, this current proposal is a stand-alone request for continued staff funding. This approach follows the model used for DNR Roving Habitat Crews and proposes fund sufficient for two years of staffing. This current Wetland Habitat Team Staff and future Roving Habitat Crew requests are being arranged so that future requests for the two programs occur in alternating years.

Staff funded in this OHF proposal will work on projects funded through ML25/FY26 OHF proposals, in addition to projects found OHF proposals in previous years. The ML25/FY26 Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancements proposal details over 10,000 acres of wetland restoration and enhancement. Many of these projects were initiated and will be completed by OHF-funded staff. Eight hundred acres of wetland restoration and enhancement projects are included in this ML25/FY26 Wetland Habitat Team Staffing proposal. These additional

wetland habitat acres will be accomplished by OHF-funded staff using alternate funding sources as they become available. These acres will be completed on state lands and public waters. Additionally, the project identified in the ML256/FY26 Talcot Lake proposal to replace infrastructure on 996-acre Talcot Lake is being coordinated by an OHF-funded shallow lake specialist.

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

The Minnesota Duck Action Plan 2025-2030 notes that, "The restoration, protection, and enhancement of duck habitat is a vital part of the Minnesota DNR's mission," and the Plan goes on to state this work is a specific goal. The need for this work is additionally identified in Managing Minnesota's Shallow Lakes for Waterfowl and Wildlife, and the Minnesota Duck Recovery Plan, highlighting the need for the staff who will be funded by this proposal. These people will allow for shallow lake and wetland restoration and enhancement work that will not otherwise be possible. Approximately 50% of all federally endangered animal are wetland-related. As a measure of the importance of wetlands to Minnesota Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), the word 'wetland' appears 127 times in Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025 (WAP). Conservation Focus Areas are priority areas for working with partners to identify, design, and implement conservation actions and report on the effectiveness toward achieving the goals and objectives defined in the Wildlife Action Plan. Target Habitat Complexes within Conservation Focus Areas commonly include Prairie Wetland Complexes and other wetland community types. The protection and management of wetlands and wetland/grassland complexes are noted extensively in the discussion of Conservation Focus Area Target, Conservation Issues and Approaches. Specific management actions mentioned include reed canary grass and invasive cattail control, "natural disturbance management" (i.e. water level management, prescribed fire, woody vegetation removal). Target Habitat Complexes within Conservation Focus Areas commonly include Prairie Wetland Complexes and other wetland community types.
As noted in the WAP, wet meadows and fens typically provide optimal habitat for sedge wrens, yellow rails, Nelson’s sharp-tailed sparrows and numerous other SGCN. Wetland Management Options to support SGCN include prevention of wetland degradation, restoration of wetland complexes, and management of invasives, all actions implemented by staff supported by this OHF proposal. For shallow lake habitat, examples of SGCN include lesser scaup, northern pintail, common moorhen, least bitterns, American bitterns, marsh wrens, and Virginia rails. Wetland management actions to benefit SGCN include the restoration of large complexes of shallow lakes and wetlands.

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

The Status and Trends of Wetlands in Minnesota: Depressional Wetland Quality Assessment (2007 – 2012), produced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, noted that the prairie and central regions of the state wetlands are dominated by degraded vegetation communities. Vegetation communities in more than half of these depressional wetlands are in poor condition (56%), with only 17% in good condition, similar to the quality of all wetland types in the central hardwood and former prairie regions. Non-native invasive plants are having the greatest impact. In other words, not only have most wetlands been lost in much of the prairie and forest-transition areas of Minnesota, what remains are degraded and need management action to produce quality habitat. Work as described in this proposal will provide needed habitat, while also provide the other benefits found in healthy wetlands - water quality, floodwater storage, places to hunt and recreate, and carbon sequestration.

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

The Minnesota Duck Recovery Plan goals include boosting the state's breeding duck population. The most productive prairie waterfowl habitat is a mix of wetland and grassland as a habitat complex. A complex could be 4 -

9 square miles and should be comprised of 10% temporary/seasonal wetlands, 10% permanent wetlands, and 40% grasslands, with the remaining 40% available for crops. In addition to mixes of grasslands and healthy wetlands, The Duck Plan also called for accelerated efforts to restore 1,800 shallow lakes, including wild rice lakes.

The Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, which is a plan for both uplands and wetlands in the prairie region of Minnesota, outlines focal areas (Core Areas and Habitat Complexes) where we can build on an existing base of conservation lands and improve the habitat there. The Prairie Wetland Initiative component of this OHF proposal would contribute to these identified Core Areas and Habitat Complexes by working to actively manage and improve small wetlands on public lands, especially on those lands contributing to the Minnesota Comprehensive Prairie Plan. The Status and Trends of Wetlands in Minnesota: Depressional Wetland Quality Assessment (2007 – 2012), produced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, noted that while most wetlands in northern Minnesota are in good condition, the opposite is true in the central and former prairie regions of the state, where degraded vegetation communities are predominant. Vegetation communities in more than half of these depressional wetlands are in poor condition (56%), with only 17% in good condition, similar to the quality of all wetland types in the central hardwood and former prairie regions. Non-native invasive plants are having the greatest impact.

The work done by the staff supported by this OHF proposal will directly contribute to expanded and healthy wetland complexes and increased shallow lakes work. Work will renovate existing wetland infrastructure and establish new management, especially in the critical prairie region of Minnesota. More specifically, the work done by the Wetland Management Program is targeted to identify key wetland complexes in the prairie region and bring management actions to the wetlands of those complexes.

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

Long Range Duck Recovery Plan

Managing Minnesota's Shallow Lakes for Waterfowl and Wildlife

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.

Highlighting just how important wetlands are to adaptation and climate action, the Global Center on Climate Adaptation noted, “Wetlands capture CO_2 from the atmosphere, making them nature’s own solution to the climate emergency. In fact, they store more carbon than any other ecosystem on Earth, and peatlands alone store twice as much as all the world’s forests. According to Ramsar’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel, wetlands cover only nine percent of the planet’s surface, but store up to 35 percent of terrestrial carbon.” Additionally, wetlands and shallow lakes provide the ability to hold precipitation and run-off that occur from major storm events that occur more frequently due to climate change.

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

Prairie

Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

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:

Three elements relate to this proposal's ability to produce a significant and permanent conservation legacy.

First, the scale of shallow lake and wetland work now possible because of these staff is impressive. The acreage now being impacted by restoration and enhancement work is able to produce results locally and statewide.

Second, the infrastructure (water control structures, dikes, a fish barrier) projects are made possible by the staff funded in this proposal will be worked on by qualified engineers who will design and oversee construction and renovation to achieve long-lasting results. A typical goal is to have constructed water control structures, dikes and fish barriers with a life expectancy of last a minimum of 30-40 years. These projects will be on public waters or publicly-owned or eased lands.

Third, the type of work being done through this proposal, Shallow lake enhancement and wetland restoration, are key components of all significant conservation plans for Minnesota affecting Minnesota. The work is needed to restore wetlands, 90% of which have been lost in the prairies and many of the remaining ones are degraded. Key state conservation plans such as Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan, Long Range Duck Recovery Plan, Minnesota Duck Action Plan, and Managing Minnesota Shallow Lakes for Waterfowl and Wildlife Plan call for the active management of shallow lakes and the restoration/management of wetlands to Minnesota's landscape.

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Intensive wetland management and habitat infrastructure maintenance will provide the wetland base called for in numerous prairie, shallow lake and waterfowl plans. Area wildlife staff and/or shallow lakes staff will monitor completed projects to determine success of implementation and to assess the need for future management and/or maintenance.*

Programs in prairie region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Intensive wetland management and habitat infrastructure maintenance will provide the wetland base called for in numerous prairie, shallow lake and waterfowl plans. Area wildlife staff and/or shallow lakes staff will monitor completed projects to determine success of implementation and to assess the need for future management and/or maintenance.*

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 an acceleration of the Minnesota DNR's Section of Wildlife wetland habitat work to a level not attainable but for the appropriation.

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

Staff supported by this proposal will implement work in which qualified engineers, will design and oversee construction and renovation of infrastructure to achieve long-lasting results. A typical goal is to have water control structures, dikes and fish barriers last a minimum of 30-40 years. The management of completed infrastructure projects will fall on existing staff of the Department of Natural Resources. Enhancement work implemented by this staff such as invasive species removal, supplemental vegetation planting, or water control structure installation, maintenance, or replacement, will be accomplished through annual funding requests to a variety of funding sources including, but not limited to, the Game and Fish Fund, bonding, gifts, the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Outdoor Heritage Fund, and federal sources such as North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants and Pittman-Robertson funds. Wetland enhancement projects such as cattail control, prescribed burns, invasive fish management and the like are implemented to achieve quality, long-lasting habitat benefits, but the benefit lifespan may be variable due to conditions imposed by climate, physical factors, etc. Monitoring by area wildlife staff and wetland management specialists, and shallow lakes specialists will ensure that follow-up management is employed as needed.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
10-12 months post-completion of engineered infrastructure	DNR	Qualified engineers conduct warranty inspection of project.	-	-
1 year post-implementation of management action	DNR	Wetland Management Program, Shallow Lakes Program, and Area Wildlife staff evaluate management effectiveness.	-	-

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

Work accomplished by the Wetland Habitat team includes actions that have the following specific ties to BIPOC and diverse communities:

- Wild rice seeding has tribal support to re-establish culturally valuable wild rice. A potential partnership regarding this effort is being discussed.

DNR's OHF projects aim to serve all Minnesotans. At the same time, we are bringing more focus in all our work to BIPOC and diverse communities. The Minnesota DNR has adopted advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) as a key priority in its 2020-22 strategic plan. The plan focuses on increasing the cultural competence of our staff, creating a workforce that is reflective of Minnesota, continuing to strengthen tribal consultation and building partnerships with diverse communities.

OHF funded Wetland Habitat Team staff initiate habitat projects that provide ecosystem services like clean water and carbon sequestration that support environmental justice. OHF also supports public access and recreational opportunities on these lands. OHF projects and outcomes benefit BIPOC and diverse communities through recreational opportunities that are close-to-home, culturally responsive and accessible to Minnesotans with disabilities.

The DNR has diversity, equity and inclusion strategies that benefit all OHF projects:

- Multilingual and culturally specific hunting and fishing education programs take place on public lands.
- All hiring is equal opportunity, affirmative action, and veteran-friendly. Contracting seeks out Targeted Group, Economically Disadvantaged and Veteran-Owned businesses.
- Public engagement seeks out BIPOC voices and involves diverse communities. Outreach and marketing of projects has this focus as well.
- Partnerships are at the center of all projects. Tribes in particular are consulted in all pertinent areas of the DNR's work, under EO 19-24.

Activity Details

Requirements

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?

WMA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

State Forests

County/Municipal

Public Waters

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

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
2024	$3,136,000	$93,100	$3,042,900	2.97%
2023	$3,695,000	$1,372,800	$2,322,200	37.15%
2022	$2,301,000	$1,069,600	$1,231,400	46.48%
2021	$2,589,000	$1,689,300	$899,700	65.25%
2020	$1,676,000	$1,086,300	$589,700	64.82%
2019	$845,000	$373,500	$471,500	44.2%
Totals	$14,242,000	$5,684,600	$8,557,400	39.91%

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Wetland/Shallow Lake assessments, enhancements, and restorations	June 30, 2028

Budget

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$2,605,500	-	-	$2,605,500
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$356,000	-	-	$356,000
Professional Services	$200,000	-	-	$200,000
Direct Support Services	$244,000	-	-	$244,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	$76,000	-	-	$76,000
Other Equipment/Tools	$65,000	-	-	$65,000
Supplies/Materials	$82,000	-	-	$82,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,628,500**	**-**	**-**	**$3,628,500**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Shallow Lake Temporary Technicians	0.8	2.0	$115,500	-	-	$115,500
Shallow Lake Specialists, Wetland Management Specialists, State Program Supervisor, Wetland Project Consultant	10.0	2.0	$2,490,000	-	-	$2,490,000

Capital Equipment

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Trimble GPS Unit	$40,000	-	-	$40,000
ATV, tracks, and trailer	$36,000	-	-	$36,000

Amount of Request: $3,628,500
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $2,849,500
As a % of the total request: 78.53%

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

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?
Funding is requested for two years of Wetland Habitat Staff funding. It could be scaled to award one year of staff, however two years of staff time follows the model used for funding that is provided to Roving Habitat Crews and allows these requests to be submitted in alternate years.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Direct Support Services is determined by a standard DNR process (i.e. calculator) taking into account the amount of funding and the number of allocations made with that funding. Any change to the amount of funding would result in DNR recalculation of DSS expenses.

If the project received 30% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Thirty percent funding would not allow for a full year of staff costs for the identified staff, which is the minimum amount needed.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Direct Support Services is determined by a standard DNR process (i.e. calculator) taking into account the amount of funding and the number of allocations made with that funding. Any change to the amount of funding would result in DNR recalculation of DSS expenses.

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?
Ten Wetland Habitat Team positions would be funded by this request. All ten positions were created using past OHF appropriations that were requested in programmatic OHF requests that included both funding for staff and funding for a variety of wetland habitat projects. It is desirable to fund the staff component in a stand-alone OHF appropriation separate from the wetland habitat projects to reduce the complexity of proposals, make the staffing component more transparent, and continue the value wetland habitat that would not otherwise be done. In fortuitous timing, 8 of the 10 positions have OHF funding that expires at the end of FY26 and the 2 remaining positions have only one year of remaining funds that would expire in FY27.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Design/Engineering

Other : SHPO permit costs.

Surveys

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
$336,000 is shown in the Travel line of the budget and will be used traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging. The total cost is determined by an estimated travel expense of $40,000 per annually. This cost is verified by past expenditures.

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?
Direct Support Services is determined by a standard DNR process taking into account the amount of funding and the number of allocations made with that funding.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Equipment and tools would be typical tools used by someone working in wetland environments to develop projects and could include waders, canoe, flagging, personal protective equipment (PPE), small tools, etc.

Federal Funds

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

Are the funds confirmed?
No

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds?
Unknown, but have previously implemented work involving numerous federal funds including NAWCA grants, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture funding, and Inflation Reduction Act funding. While the availability of these and other federal funds in the future is unknown, but they will be sought as appropriate to further waterfowl habitat work being done by the Wetland Habitat Team.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	200	0	0	0	200
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	600	0	0	0	600
Total	**800**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**800**

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)	100	100	300	300
Non-DNR Lands (city, state, federal, etc.)	-	-	-	-
Easements	-	-	-	-
Total	**100**	**100**	**300**	**300**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	$1,814,300	-	-	-	$1,814,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$1,814,200	-	-	-	$1,814,200
Total	**$3,628,500**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,628,500**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	50	0	150	0	200
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	0	0
Enhance	0	150	0	450	0	600
Total	**0**	**200**	**0**	**600**	**0**	**800**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	$453,600	-	$1,360,700	-	$1,814,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$453,500	-	$1,360,700	-	$1,814,200
Total	**-**	**$907,100**	**-**	**$2,721,400**	**-**	**$3,628,500**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	$9,071	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$3,023	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	$9,072	-	$9,071	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	$3,023	-	$3,023	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or 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:

Proposals for individual projects are submitted by DNR Area Wildlife Staff and Wetland Habitat Team members. Projects are reviewed at the regional and central office and appropriate projects are selected for inclusion in this OHF proposal. The parcel list may be modified by the program manager as needed and the Final Report will reflect an accurate and complete parcel list.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Proposal for Wetland Habitat Team staff: The Shallow Lakes Program and The Wetland Management Program.

There are 10 OHF funded staff between 2 programs within the Wetland Habitat Team. These 10 staff work solely on wetland or shallow lake habitat enhancement or restoration projects. They were all new positions for the Section of Wildlife that did not exist prior to OHF funding. The Shallow Lakes Program had 5 positions prior to OHF funding and now the program has 9 positions. The Wetland Management Program is entirely new and didn't exist prior to getting OHF funding.

Shallow Lakes Program OHF specialist locations:

OHF-funded Shallow Lake Program Specialists are found in Detroit Lakes, Windom, Brainerd and Tower. The SLP also has 4.5 Specialists and a supervisor that are not funded with OHF funds.

Key Tasks of Shallow Lakes Program specialists:

- Identifying shallow lakes (50 acres or greater) in need of management
- Solicit public input on proposed shallow lake management projects
- Writing shallow lake management plans
- Going through the legal processes to secure water level management authority on select shallow lakes
- Obtaining permits for water control structure installation and management
- Supporting projects with partners such as NGOs and government and tribal agencies
- Implement management on these lakes to enhance habitat

Wetland Program Staff OHF locations:

The Wetland Program Supervisor and a State Wetland Project Consultant are located in Glenwood. Four Wetland Specialists are located in Fergus Falls, Glenwood, New London and Windom.

Key Tasks of Wetland Supervisor and Specialists:

- Identify wetland complexes on WMAs in need of restoration or enhancement
- Conduct topography survey to identify and delineate wetland restorations
- Design restoration projects
- Obtain any required permits for restoration and construction projects
- Implement wetland restorations and habitat enhancement projects
- Work with partners to develop projects cooperatively
- Work with Wetland Consultant to develop bid packages

Key Tasks of the Wetland Project Consultant:

- Survey, design and draft wetland restoration projects across the state
- Compile bid packages for wetland enhancement and restoration projects
- Review design plans of wetland and shallow lake projects
- Oversee wetland and shallow lake construction projects