Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Pine and Leech Watershed Phase IV Forest Habitat Protection

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/14/2026

Project Title: Pine and Leech Watershed Phase IV Forest Habitat Protection

Funds Recommended: $1,815,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Melissa Barrick
Title: District Manager
Organization: Crow Wing SWCD
Address: 322 Laurel St Ste 22
City: Brainerd, MN 56401
Email: melissa@cwswcd.org
Office Number: 2188286197
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: www.cwswcd.org

Partners Contact

BWSR: Sharon Doucette - sharon.doucette@state.mn.us - (651) 539-2527

Crow Wing SWCD: Melissa Barrick - melissa@cwswcd.org - 2188286197

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

Narrative

Abstract

Hubbard, Crow Wing, and Cass Counties, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) will partner to protect 360 acres of high-quality private forest, wetlands, and two miles of shoreline in the Northern Forest Ecological Section under BWSR RIM easements. This project will be successful because of the parcel selection scoring process, proven outreach tactics, SWCD landowner relationships, and partnerships. Forest fragmentation seriously threatens cisco, golden-winged warbler, northern long-eared bat, Blanding's turtles, and over 125 unique, rare, endangered, and threatened species that live in these watersheds' uplands, lowlands, and mature forests (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) Rare Species).

Design and Scope of Work

This project will build on the success of the previous Lessard Sam's Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Grant with the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easements on targeted private forests, wetlands, and shorelines within the Leech Lake and Pine River Major Watersheds (hydrologic unit codes (HUCs) 07010102 and 7010105). These grant funds will meet 6 percent of our remaining 6000-acre watershed protection goals.

These watersheds contain:

- 775 lakes (public waters over 10 acres for a total of 255,000 acres), which cover 400 square miles (sq mi), the same size as Benton County, MN (408 sq mi).
- 125 lakes with High (5) or Outstanding (120) Biological Significance (MN DNR).
- 306,788 acres or 6,993 parcels of private forest land over 20 acres that need protection.
- 204 wild rice lakes and 70 miles of streams.
- 29 cisco lakes.
- 17 native muskie lakes.

The MN DNR Fisheries Unit developed the 75 percent watershed protection goal as part of the 2013 MN DNR Fish Habitat Plan (Jacobson et al. 2016). The Leech Lake and Pine River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans (CWMP) adopted the 75 percent protection goal and pinpointed private woodlands as essential to preservation. The CWMPs identified issues and concerns and developed a targeted and measurable 10-year implementation plan. Both CWMPs recognized conservation easements as a critical tool for protecting priority groundwater, habitat, and surface water. The team developed a methodology for targeting specific large-tract private forested parcels. The process is called RAQ (Riparian, Adjacent, Quality); each watershed parcel is scored on a 0-10 scale for the three elements:

Riparian: parcel on a river or lake.

Adjacency: to protected lands, i.e., county, state, or federal land.

Quality: wild rice, cisco, and biodiversity (among other criteria).

The most significant risks to private forestland and lakeshore are development and fragmentation of large habitat complexes. The RAQ tool prioritizes private parcels adjacent to state or federal lands (protected lands in the model). This will create extensive, long-lasting habitat complexes. The CWMPs selected the Headwaters, Whitefish Lake, Lower Pine, Little Pine River, Woman Lake, Steamboat River, and Kabekona River Watersheds (7 of 12 minor watersheds) for habitat protection. The RAQ scores were computed on 306,788 acres and prioritized by priority minor watersheds. SWCD staff will sort RAQ scores by highest score, estimated cost, and other criteria, and

complete outreach only to specific parcels.
The total property values for priority CWMPs subwatersheds are worth over $10 billion (2025 County Assessors Data). The tourism industries within Hubbard, Cass, and Crow Wing Counties (CWC) generate over $957 million in economic impact, $93.8 million in state and local taxes, and have over $590 million in visitor spending (Explore Minnesota 2024). Cass and CWCs are the 5th- and 4th-highest in second-home values among 87 counties, totaling over $80 million. The private lands within these watersheds deserve protection strategies. This project will secure 4 easements to ensure the habitat remains intact and to protect the local tourism economy and tax base of the Leech Lake and Pine River Watersheds.

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

The MN DNR rare species guide indicated that Leech Lake and Pine River Watersheds contain over 125 rare species of fish, invertebrates, plants, reptiles, and mammals. These species depend on fringe wetlands, forested corridors, high-quality lakes, and shoreland vegetative habitats.

Blanding's Turtles require both upland and wetlands to complete their life cycle. This habitat includes calm, shallow water bodies (types 1-3 wetlands), essential amphibian and invertebrate breeding grounds, and food sources for the Blanding's turtle. The turtles nest on undeveloped land in open grassy or brushy sand.

Wild rice provides some of Minnesota's most important habitats for migrating and breeding waterfowl. More than 17 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) use wild rice areas as habitats for breeding, migration, and foraging. They include common loon, trumpeter swan, bald eagle, American Bittern, least bittern, red-necked grebe, sora rail, Virginia rail, yellow rail, black tern, rusty blackbird, sedge wren, lesser scaup, northern pintail, and American black duck. Wild rice grows in shallow lakes, rivers, and shallow bays of deeper lakes.

In 2022, the northern long-eared bat was added to the federal threatened species list due to loss of roosts. The MN DNR and the US Fish and Wildlife Service identified over 12 locations in Hubbard, Cass, and CW Counties that contain mature roost trees for the northern long-eared bat. The population size in the Pine River Watershed is estimated at 104 (MN DNR Conservation Explorer).

The MN DNR identified the golden-winged warbler as a SGCN because its population has declined by 60 percent across the United States and Canada. Minnesota's critical upland, lowland, and mature forest habitats support over 47 percent of the species' breeding population. This golden-winged warbler is a Minnesota icon and symbol of private land stewardship. These unprotected remote forests and upland habitats are a mecca for all these species. This project will protect these crucial habitats.

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

The 2024 U.S. Census data indicates that over 3.9 million people live in the Twin Cities and Fargo. These people are within two hours of the Pine River and Leech Lake Watersheds. According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, from 1990 to 2024, the populations of Hubbard, Cass, and CWCs increased by 50 percent (an average of 1,211 people per year). Family-owned cabins are transforming into lake homes. The cabin footprint increased by 378 percent, from the 1940s to 1990s (700 to 3,350 square feet (WIDNR). Vegetative buffers have been converted to manicured lawns re-contoured toward the lake. These changes significantly affect bird nesting, fish spawning, frog populations, rare and endangered species, forest health, and water quality. The cost will increase, and opportunities will be fewer if we wait to protect these critical habitats. This program seeks to protect these sensitive areas before they are lost.

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

This project will utilize CWMPs minor watersheds science-based targeting to expand important habitat corridors and complexes on private lands. The goal is to protect private forest land adjacent to public land to create larger forest habitat complexes. To do that, partners utilize the RAQ methodology to score individual private, forested parcels in the following manner:

- Riparian (R) is whether the parcel is next to a priority water resource (1-3 points).
- Adjacency (A) is whether it is next to existing state, county, or federal land (1-3 points).
- Quality (Q) is aquatic and terrestrial habitat elements (4 points), i.e., trout/cisco lakes, wild rice lakes and streams, exceptional fish IBI scores, medium or high or high Wildlife Action Network scores, old growth forest, rare species, high or outstanding biodiversity, and drinking water and source water protection areas.

The CWMPs provided: 62,000 RAQ scores for all private parcels; RAQ score maps; databases; landowner outreach tables; percent of protected land; rare and unique species; species of concern; cisco and wild rice; and an easement acre goal for each subwatershed. This data targets RIM easements at the parcel level, allowing us to hand-select the best parcels for habitat value and to prevent future fragmentation across the entire watershed. The local government units will utilize CWMPs to complete the following items:

- Filter the outreach database to identify parcel RAQ scores of five or above within prioritized HUC 10 sub-watersheds adjacent to selected high-quality lakes.
- Review selected parcels and scores.
- Develop individual maps for each landowner showing the specific easement boundary and the associated price.
- Mail information on the RIM easement program and map to selected landowners.
- Rank and score RIM applications with an internal scoring sheet.
- Host an interagency committee meeting to review all applications.
- Initiate the RIM easement application process with BWSR.

The Crow Wing SWCD has utilized this process and has protected over 23 miles of shoreline and 3,800 acres of habitat through RIM easements. These acres are adjacent to public waters and land and have created or expanded larger habitat complex which prevents future forest fragmentation.

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

Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans

National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Northern Forest

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

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *This project will measure the number of acres of forestland and wetlands enrolled in RIM easements. The number of miles of shoreline protected and the protection percentage for the individual minor watersheds. The other evaluation will include a scoring sheet for*

each conservation easement, anecdotal information from landowners on species on their land and habitat value, and may also include cultural resource protection. This project will employ lessons learned from past easement programs, including excellent communication, clear and accurate landowner responsibility information, maps, standard payment rate, direct mailing, and quarterly partner meetings to ensure funding and work are completed.

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 funding request is not supplanting existing funding or a substitution for any previous funding.

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

BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcing RIM easements. BWSR partners with local SWCDs to oversee, monitor, and inspect conservation easements. Easements are inspected every year for the first five years beginning the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are conducted every three years, and compliance checks are conducted in the other two years. SWCDs document findings and report to BWSR on each site inspection. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations are identified. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs are $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using SWCD staff for monitoring and preliminary enforcement. The amount includes costs of BWSR and local government unit staff time as well as costs for encouraging voluntary compliance, addressing potential violations and legal enforcement.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027Ongoing	Stewardship Accounts	Inspections every year for the first five years; then every third year.	Corrective actions to address violations.	Enforcement action taken by MN Attorney General's office.

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

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe tribal land contains 45 percent of the Leech Lake River Watershed area (387,132 acres). Hubbard and Cass Counties have working relationships with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The SWCD staff meets with the tribal leaders and communicates regularly with the division of resources management. Through the BWSR One Watershed One Plan program, the SWCDs, counties, and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe have worked together to have a better understanding of each other's roles within the watershed. They will keep the contacts and connections updated on this project. Wild rice, or manoomin (good seed) in Ojibwe, is reserved as a special gift from the Creator. The MN DNR identifies over 200 wild rice lakes, totaling 192,000 acres and 70 miles of wild rice streams in these watersheds and that hydrology changes, water-based recreation, and shoreline development impact the plants and its reproduction ability (MN DNR 2008 Legislative Report). On September 20, 2022, the Associated Press released an article titled “Minnesota Ojibwe harvest sacred, Climate-Imperiled Wild Rice”. The article discusses the connection of wild rice to the Ojibwe community and its importance to future generations (see link below). This project will also protect the existing wild rice on lakes and rivers within the Pine River and Leech Lake Watersheds. Wild rice is one of the quality factors in the RAQ score. All the Pine River and Leech Lake Watershed lands are part of the 1855 Land Cession Treaty Area. According to a Leech Lake News article titled “On This Day: 1855 Treaty Signed between United States and Ojibwe Bands,” the 1837 and 1854 treaties included stipulations that the Ojibwe would retain their hunting and fishing rights in the ceded territory. This project will benefit the 1855 Treaty area by maintaining wild rice and protecting fisheries, land, and aquatic habitat that are important for hunting and fishing (See attachments for 1855 Treaty Area). Website citations:https://www.leechlakenews.com/2018/02/22/day-1855-treaty-signed-united-states-ojibwe-bands/

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/fish_wildlife/wildlife/wildrice/natural-wild-rice-in-minnesota.pdf (pages 1 and 2)
https://apnews.com/article/religion-minnesota-lakes-6caa0dd5f0842d922841cea34708e2f3tr

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
The individual landowner will manage the easement lands according to the BWSR RIM Policy. A conservation plan and/or a Forest Stewardship Plan will be developed to assist the landowner in management within the easement boundaries. Communication with the landowner and SWCD is required before a landowner begins a conservation project.

Who will be the easement holder?
The Board of Water and Soil Resources holds the easement. The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Resources Law of 1986, Minnesota Statutes, sections 103F.505 to 103F.531, and subsequent amendments, established the RIM conservation easement program.

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
The partnership anticipates that we will complete 4 to 6 conservation easements depending on the acre size and price per acre.

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 program either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?
No

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

Describe the expected public use:
RIM easements do not require that private land is open to the public; however, this question is also evaluated on public benefit and RIM easements do provide a significant public benefit; often expand wildlife habitat near public lands; and do not limit the potential for the land to be open to the public through other programs. SWCD and other partner staff who work with landowners on RIM easements are also usually the staff who enroll landowners into the DNR Walk-In Access (WIA) program. The WIA program is available in 54 counties, all of which are eligible for RIM. Conversations about WIA between the SWCDs and interested landowners occur when the landowner submits an easement application. BWSR's Conservation Easement Application includes a question for a landowner to indicate if they are interested in

enrolling in WIA if eligible.

RIM's statutory language requires the restriction of building and agricultural activities on an easement. If RIM also required public access, the landowner would retain almost no private rights to the land and would still pay property taxes. RIM easement land is still in private ownership, and the landowner still pays property taxes, which is consistent with the statutory goals of the Outdoor Heritage Fund of protection and restoration of habitat. Minnesota Statute 97A.056 states ". . .the fund must be expended to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife." and "The council shall make recommendations . . . that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie."

Criteria in all RIM program scoresheets used to evaluate and prioritize parcels funded include proximity of the easement land to lands that are in public ownership and/or open to public hunting. Parcels immediately adjacent to public land or that would connect or expand larger existing habitat areas receive more points in the scoring and ranking process than a parcel that does not provide that benefit. Wildlife do not follow property lines; therefore protected private lands adjacent to and near public lands create complexes of public and private land that provide high quality habitat supporting wildlife, including recreationally hunted species, allowing them to thrive on and off public lands. Protected private lands also add visual and noise buffers that allow users of public land to better enjoy their experiences. Additionally, easement lands allow for an interim step before public ownership, likely making public purchase more affordable in the future.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?

Yes

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

Though uncommon, new trails may be developed if they contribute to easement maintenance or benefit the easement site (fire breaks, berm maintenance, forest stewardship) and are noted on the conservation plan. Narrow mowed trails for personal use are allowed for landowner access on RIM easements. Unauthorized trails are a violation of the easement

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

Under the terms of the easement, a conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement and the conservation plan. BWSR, in cooperation with SWCDs, implements a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms and the conservation plan.

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?

No

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

No

Explain how and when the restoration/enhancement work will be completed and identify the source of funding:

If the landowner would like to make enhancements to their property, we encourage them to complete a

forest stewardship plan. Once the landowner has a forest stewardship plan, the SWCD would work with them to develop a project plan for their property. The SWCD has cost-share funds available to assist with conservation projects.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Rank Score Applications/Interagency Team Meetings.	July - October 2027
Work with BWSR and Landowners to complete RIM Easements	January 2028 - 2030
Outreach and Mailing for specific parcels.	September 2027
Prioritize RAQ scores 7-10 within a specific HUC 10 subwatershed adjacent to selected high-quality lakes.	August 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2031

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation
(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.
(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2031;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2035;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2032;
(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$162,700	-	-	$162,700
Contracts	$55,000	-	-	$55,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,500,000	-	-	$1,500,000
Easement Stewardship	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Travel	$800	-	-	$800
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$30,200	-	-	$30,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$5,300	-	-	$5,300
Supplies/Materials	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,815,000**	**-**	**-**	**$1,815,000**

Partner: BWSR

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$112,700	-	-	$112,700
Contracts	$15,000	-	-	$15,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$1,500,000	-	-	$1,500,000
Easement Stewardship	$60,000	-	-	$60,000
Travel	$500	-	-	$500
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$30,200	-	-	$30,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$4,300	-	-	$4,300
Supplies/Materials	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,723,700**	**-**	**-**	**$1,723,700**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Easement	0.21	4.0	$112,700	-	-	$112,700

Partner: Crow Wing SWCD

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$50,000	-	-	$50,000
Contracts	$40,000	-	-	$40,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$300	-	-	$300
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$1,000	-	-	$1,000
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$91,300**	**-**	**-**	**$91,300**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Adminstration	0.06	4.0	$25,000	-	-	$25,000
Outreach	0.08	3.0	$25,000	-	-	$25,000

Amount of Request: $1,815,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $192,900
As a % of the total request: 10.63%
Easement Stewardship: $60,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 4.0%

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
The BWSR and SWCD have reduced our budgets accordingly to reflect the 42% grant reduction. Crow Wing SWCD staffing decreased because we moved $ 40,000 to contracts for Hubbard and Cass SWCD for outreach. Crow Wing SWCD will agree with BWSR and subaward the money.

Does this project 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?
If we receive less funding, we will reduce the number of easements and the number of acres protected.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Staff time will be reduced, but it is needed to implement the program. Staff time may be reduced at a different ratio. Doing outreach and completing the RIM easement process takes time. Staff time would be based on the number of easements and the final workplan outcomes.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?
No

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
The contract line includes costs covered under the SWCD MJPA, $2,500 for staff time per easement acquisition.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?
The partnership anticipates completing 4-6 conservation easements. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at $10,000 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff to monitor landowner relations and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship covers the SWCD regular monitoring costs, BWSR oversight, and any necessary enforcement.

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
The travel line will only be used for traditional travel costs for mileage and food.

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.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Signs and stakes to stake the easement boundaries. Other tools are needed to complete the easement work.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	72	-	288	-	360
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**72**	**-**	**288**	**-**	**360**

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	$363,000	-	$1,452,000	-	$1,815,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$363,000**	**-**	**$1,452,000**	**-**	**$1,815,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	360	360
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**360**	**360**

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	-	-	-	-	$1,815,000	$1,815,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,815,000**	**$1,815,000**

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	$5,041	-	$5,041	-
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	-	-	-	-	$5,041
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

4,435

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
Yes - Sign up criteria is attached

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
The CWMPs provided: 62,000 RAQ scores for all private parcels; RAQ score maps; databases; landowner outreach tables; percent of protected land; rare and unique species; species of concern; cisco and wild rice; and an easement acre goal for each subwatershed. The local government units will utilize CWPs to complete the following items:
Step 1: Filter the outreach database to identify parcel RAQ scores of 7-10 within prioritized HUC 10 sub-watersheds adjacent to selected high-quality lakes.
Step 2: Review selected parcels and scores.
Step 3: Develop individual maps for each landowner showing the specific easement boundary and the associated price.
Step 4: Mail information on the RIM easement program and map to selected landowners.
Step 5: Rank and score RIM applications with an internal scoring sheet.
Step 6: Host an interagency committee meeting to review all applications.
Step 7: Complete the RIM easement process with BWSR.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Pine and Leech Watershed Phase IV Forest Habitat Protection

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Pine and Leech Watershed Phase IV Forest Habitat Protection
Organization: Crow Wing SWCD
Manager: Melissa Barrick

Budget

Requested Amount: $4,290,000
Appropriated Amount: $1,815,000
Percentage: 42.31%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$446,600	-	$162,700	-	36.43%	-
Contracts	$35,000	-	$55,000	-	157.14%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$3,566,600	-	$1,500,000	-	42.06%	-
Easement Stewardship	$140,000	-	$60,000	-	42.86%	-
Travel	$9,200	-	$800	-	8.7%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$71,200	-	$30,200	-	42.42%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$10,300	-	$5,300	-	51.46%	-
Supplies/Materials	$11,100	-	$1,000	-	9.01%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$4,290,000**	**-**	**$1,815,000**	**-**	**42.31%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If we receive less funding, we will reduce the number of easements and the number of acres protected.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Staff time will be reduced, but staff time is needed to implement the program, so some costs will remain the same within the partnership.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If we receive less funding, we will reduce the number of easements and the number of acres protected.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Staff time will be reduced, but it is needed to implement the program. Staff time may be reduced at a different ratio. Doing outreach and completing the RIM easement process takes time. Staff time would be based on the number of easements and the final workplan outcomes.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	840	360	42.86%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$4,290,000	$1,815,000	42.31%
Enhance	-	-	-

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	840	360	42.86%
Enhance	0	-	-

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$4,290,000	$1,815,000	42.31%
Enhance	-	-	-