Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - ML2027

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - ML2027

Funds Recommended: $2,833,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Annie Knight
Title: Executive Director
Organization: Northern Waters Land Trust
Address: 800 Minnesota Ave W PO Box 124
City: Walker, MN 56484
Email: AnnieK@nwlt-mn.org
Office Number: 218-547-4510
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: www.northernwaterslandtrust.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Becker, Otter Tail, Aitkin, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Crow Wing and Beltrami.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) will permanently protect approximately 350 acres within priority coldwater lake watersheds in north-central Minnesota through fee-title acquisition and transfer to long-term public ownership. These lakes support sensitive coldwater fish species that depend on clean, cold, oxygen-rich water. Working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and regional partners, NWLT will strategically protect forested shoreline and watershed parcels identified through science-based ecological analysis. By protecting these lands before they are fragmented or developed, the program will help sustain water quality, coldwater fisheries, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations.

Design and Scope of Work

Minnesota is famously known as the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," but some of its most distinctive bodies of water are its coldwater lakes. A foundation of Minnesota's angling and cultural heritage, these lakes support coldwater fish communities including lake trout, lake whitefish, burbot, and tullibee (cisco) - important forage fish for walleye, muskellunge, and other sport fisheries. Coldwater lakes are characterized by their ability to maintain cold, oxygen-rich water (oxythermal habitat) year-round.

Over the past 30 years, Minnesota DNR and University of Minnesota researchers have documented steep declines in coldwater fish populations. Cisco populations, important indicators of warming water temperatures, have nearly vanished from portions of their southern range and have disappeared from a substantial share of their native lakes in nearby states (Stanley, 2019). A growing body of research identifies climate change and watershed disturbance from land-use change as major drivers of oxythermal habitat loss. As air temperatures rise and watershed development increases, many coldwater lakes are losing the cold, oxygen-rich conditions necessary to sustain coldwater fisheries.

Reducing watershed disturbance through protection of forested land cover and native shoreland vegetation is critical to maintaining coldwater lake resilience under increasing temperatures and other ecological stressors. Earlier phases of the "Fisheries Habitat" program focused primarily on protecting high-quality tullibee refuge lakes, advancing watershed-scale conservation around some of Minnesota's most vulnerable coldwater fisheries.

Building on this foundation, updated DNR and Pollution Control Agency analyses now provide a more comprehensive framework for evaluating coldwater lake condition, classifying lakes into Tier 1–3 based on dissolved oxygen levels. This science-based approach maintains focus on protecting remaining refuge lakes while also identifying additional Tier 1 and Tier 2 lakes that still support viable coldwater fisheries but are increasingly vulnerable without proactive watershed protection. Tier 3 lakes, which no longer maintain suitable coldwater habitat conditions, demonstrate the long-term consequences of delayed protection and watershed disturbance. Protecting priority watersheds before further degradation occurs will help sustain resilient fisheries, protect water quality, and maintain ecological function.

In prioritizing watershed lands for protection, NWLT evaluates ecological value, watershed protection levels, parcel size, landscape context, development risk, partnership opportunities, and prior conservation investments. Parcels are further ranked using a scoring framework considering habitat quality, connectivity, disturbance, urgency, and cost. Priority parcels are mapped using the Clean Water Critical Habitat tool to support science-based decisions. NWLT has partnered closely with Minnesota Land Trust throughout previous program phases, strengthening regional coordination and impact.

Through this grant, NWLT will permanently protect approximately 350 acres through fee title acquisition within priority coldwater lake watersheds. Acquired lands will be conveyed to long-term public ownership for permanent management and public benefit. NWLT will conduct targeted landowner outreach and collaborate with partners including Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and county land departments. Projects will prioritize willing landowners and opportunities to leverage matching contributions and donated value. Protecting these lands helps prevent fragmentation and sustains water quality, fisheries habitat, wildlife corridors, and recreation opportunities across northern Minnesota.

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

Coldwater lakes support important fisheries for species such as tullibee (cisco), lake trout, lake whitefish, and burbot. These species require clean, cold, well-oxygenated water conditions typically found in deep lakes with healthy, intact watersheds. Tullibee are a critical forage fish supporting prized sport fisheries such as walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge, while lake trout and lake whitefish provide important recreational, cultural, and subsistence value, particularly for Tribal communities. Because coldwater fish species are highly sensitive to warming temperatures, declining oxygen levels, and watershed disturbance, they are important indicators of overall lake ecosystem health.

Climate change, shoreland development, and watershed disturbance pose increasing threats to Minnesota's coldwater fisheries and aquatic habitats. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, rising air temperatures, increasing precipitation intensity, and changing runoff patterns are already affecting lake temperatures, water quality, and aquatic habitat conditions across the state. Lakes with intact forests, undeveloped shorelands, and protected watershed lands are more resilient to these pressures and provide critical refuge habitat for coldwater fish species as environmental conditions change.

MN DNR Fisheries research has shown that healthy forested watersheds are fundamental to sustaining high-quality fish habitat and aquatic ecosystem function. Shoreland disturbance and watershed development increase runoff, nutrient loading, erosion, and habitat fragmentation, reducing a lake's ability to support sport fish, forage fish, and other aquatic wildlife. By permanently protecting forested watershed and shoreline habitats, this program helps maintain water quality, sustain coldwater fisheries, protect connected wildlife habitat, and support long-term resilience for fish, game, and wildlife populations across northern Minnesota.

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

Now is a critical time to protect Minnesota's coldwater fisheries lakes. These rare and ecologically sensitive systems are under increasing threat from climate change, which is warming deepwater habitats and reducing oxygen levels essential for coldwater fish species. At the same time, shoreline development and land-use pressures continue to degrade water quality and fragment critical forested buffers. Protecting these lakes through strategic land acquisition offers a cost-effective, long-term solution to preserving water quality, sustaining recreational fisheries, and maintaining biodiversity. With public awareness growing and science-based conservation tools in place, this is a unique window of opportunity to secure irreplaceable aquatic habitats before further degradation occurs. Grant support will enable us to act quickly and collaboratively to protect these high-priority lakes for current and future generations.

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

This proposal protects shoreline and forest habitat within priority coldwater lake watersheds in north central Minnesota. Our land acquisition strategy prioritizes parcels adjacent to existing public lands and protected properties in order to expand contiguous habitat complexes and maintain intact, forested shorelines across the broader landscape. By protecting these lands before they are subdivided and developed, this work reduces habitat fragmentation, strengthens watershed resilience, and preserves the long-term ecological integrity of coldwater lake ecosystems.

Research by Timothy Cross and Peter Jacobson in "Landscape Factors Influencing Lake Phosphorus Concentrations Across Minnesota" demonstrates that coldwater fish communities are especially vulnerable to elevated phosphorus levels associated with watershed disturbance and development. As phosphorus increases, deep-water oxygen levels decline, negatively affecting species that depend on cold, oxygen-rich conditions for survival and reproduction. Their findings conclude that protecting intact watersheds before water quality degradation occurs is the most effective and cost-efficient conservation strategy.

Minnesota DNR Fisheries researchers have classified coldwater lakes statewide into Tiers 1-3 based on their coldwater fish habitat quality (TDO3). Our protection efforts are focused on the highest quality (Tier 1 and 2) coldwater lake watersheds, where additional land protection will have the greatest safeguarding effect. Building on this proactive protection framework, Jacobson and Duval, in "Protecting Watersheds of Minnesota Lakes with Private Forest Conservation Easements: A Suggested Strategy," emphasize that maintaining forest cover in lake watersheds is critical to sustaining water quality. While substantial portions of these watersheds are publicly owned, a significant share remains in private ownership and is increasingly being subdivided and developed. Modeling by the Minnesota DNR Fisheries Research Unit indicates that total phosphorus concentrations remain near natural background levels when approximately 75% of a watershed is protected and left undisturbed.

Since this program's inception, we have made meaningful progress toward achieving this 75% protection threshold on several priority lakes, effectively "moving the needle" on watershed-scale protection across the region. Continued support will allow us to build on this momentum, complete key habitat corridors, and further safeguard Minnesota's highest-quality coldwater lake systems.

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

Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management

Other : Regional One Watershed One Plans

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

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

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Shoreline habitat and forested parcels totaling 350acres will be permanently protected from development and fragmentation through fee title acquisitions. This outcome will be measured by the number of acres and shoreline miles permanently protected within priority coldwater watersheds, and by the extent to which projects expand connected habitat complexes and reduce fragmentation risk. Acquired lands will also be evaluated for their contribution to public access and recreational opportunities. Properties conveyed to government agencies will be managed according to established land management plans, ensuring long-term conservation goals are met and maintained.*

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.

Funding procured by NWLT through this Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal will not supplant or substitute any previous funding from a non-Legacy fund used for the same purpose.

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

NWLT is an accredited conservation organization that does not depend on Outdoor Heritage Funds to sustain or maintain our work. The majority of financial support for both NWLT must be raised on an annual basis. The work in this proposal allows NWLT to enhance and accelerate ongoing conservation efforts in North Central Minnesota. These grant funds will not substitute for or supplant other funding sources.

The fee-title acquisitions will be owned and managed by a governmental agency.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2031 and in perpetuity	Managing governmental agency	Ongoing management in line with developed management plans	-	-

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

NWLT deeply values inclusiveness, collaboration, teamwork and diversity in all of our programs, projects, and community work. We believe that enduring conservation success depends on the active involvement of people and partners whose lives and cultures are linked to the natural systems we seek to conserve. Currently, NWLT is directly including Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in these protection efforts by engaging in regular discussions, acknowledging which lands have cultural and ecological significance, and engaging in partnership on conservation projects where possible. NWLT is focused on building relationships based on trust, listening, and mutual respect. We will listen and seek out potential authentic partnerships that can advance our goals of conserving the best of Minnesota's remaining habitats while building relationships with and working collaboratively with diverse communities such as Tribal Nations, rural landowners, and multi-generational families. The Environmental Protection Agency has developed an environmental justice mapping and screening tool. This tool indicates several of the proposed parcels fall within areas identified as environmental justice areas of concern. Demographic indicators used are: percent low-income, percent people of color, less than high school education, linguistic isolation, age under 5 and over 64. Protecting these lands mitigates some of the environmental justice concerns for at-risk populations.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**
Yes

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

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?
No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?
Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:
All fee title acquisitions will be open to hunting and fishing.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

County

Local Unit of Government

Tribal

NGO

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

State Forest

County Forest

SNA

Tribal

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
4-5 acquisitions.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?
No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
No

NWLT will not be completing restoration or enhancement work through this grant, however after land is acquired and conveyed to the MN DNR, they will execute initial restoration activities as outlined in the DNR IDP plan. We have allocated the appropriate funds for this in the DNR IDP budget line.

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:
NWLT will not be completing restoration or enhancement work through this grant, however after land is acquired and conveyed to the MN DNR, they will execute initial restoration activities as outlined in the DNR IDP plan. We have allocated the appropriate funds for this in the DNR IDP budget line.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Protection of 350 acres via fee acquisition; conveyance to a governmental agency.	June 2031
Landowner outreach for fee acquisition program.	Ongoing through June 2031

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.

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$170,000	-	-	$170,000
Contracts	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$2,290,000	$229,000	Landowners, Lake Associations	$2,519,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$4,000	-	-	$4,000
Professional Services	$160,000	-	-	$160,000
Direct Support Services	$46,000	-	-	$46,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$68,700	-	-	$68,700
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$2,300	-	-	$2,300
DNR IDP	$62,000	-	-	$62,000
Grand Total	**$2,833,000**	**$229,000**	**-**	**$3,062,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
NWLT Land Protection Staff	0.75	4.0	$170,000	-	-	$170,000

Amount of Request: $2,833,000
Amount of Leverage: $229,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 8.08%
DSS + Personnel: $216,000
As a % of the total request: 7.62%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
We received 33% of our requested appropriation. Acre outputs were reduced to 33% of what was proposed. Personnel was reduced to 43% of what was proposed. This is because the majority of staff time is tied to fixed administrative, coordination, and compliance tasks that remain constant regardless of projects completed.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
We will seek leverage in the form of donations via seller contributions to reduce the purchase price of acquisitions, as well as donations from lake associations within surrounding watersheds. These funds are not yet confirmed at this time.

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?
This proposal is true to budget and protection goals and would be most effective if funded fully. If 50% funding was received, outputs would be reduced by approximately 50-65%.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS costs would be reduced, but less than proportionally to the reduction in acquisition funding. Certain costs, including landowner outreach, project development, grant administration, and due diligence, are necessary regardless of project size. Some projects also require substantial staff time before feasibility can be fully determined.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?
Yes

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Funds in the contract line are for outreach services (with appropriate approval) and for pre-conveyance site cleanup services, such as well sealing, building removal, and general contracting, etc.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Appraisals

Other : Environmental Assessments, Project Mapping.

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?
We anticipate completing 4-5 fee title acquisitions with the proposed funds.

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

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 annually reviewed and approved by MNDNR Grants (most recently in August of 2025), NWLT determined our direct support services rate to include all allowable direct and necessary expenditures not captured in other line items in the budget. NWLT also provides MNDNR Grants with a copy of our financial audit as an additional validation as part of the request for DSS rate approval.

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	-	-	-	350	350
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**350**	**350**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$2,833,000	$2,833,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,833,000**	**$2,833,000**

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	-	-	-	-	350	350
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**350**	**350**

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	-	-	-	-	$2,833,000	$2,833,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$2,833,000**	**$2,833,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	$8,094
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	$8,094
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

.5

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) uses a combination of objective criteria and professional judgment to identify, prioritize, and select parcels for protection. A criteria-based scoring system provides a standardized framework to compare projects using consistent data, allowing proposals to be evaluated relative to each other and to a baseline. Local knowledge, program goals, timing, funding availability, organizational capacity, and other qualitative considerations also inform final selections.

NWLT solicits project proposals through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, targeting landowners with properties on high-priority lakes. Each proposal is reviewed and scored by NWLT's Clean Water Technical Advisory Committee, which includes conservation professionals from the DNR, counties, SWCDs, and regional NGOs. This committee brings deep, place-based knowledge to the selection process and ensures alignment with local and regional conservation priorities.

The scoring framework evaluates three main categories:

1- Ecological Integrity – Measures the current condition of the site, including parcel size, habitat quality, and surrounding landscape context.

2- Threat/Urgency – Assesses the potential risk of development or degradation if the property is not protected.

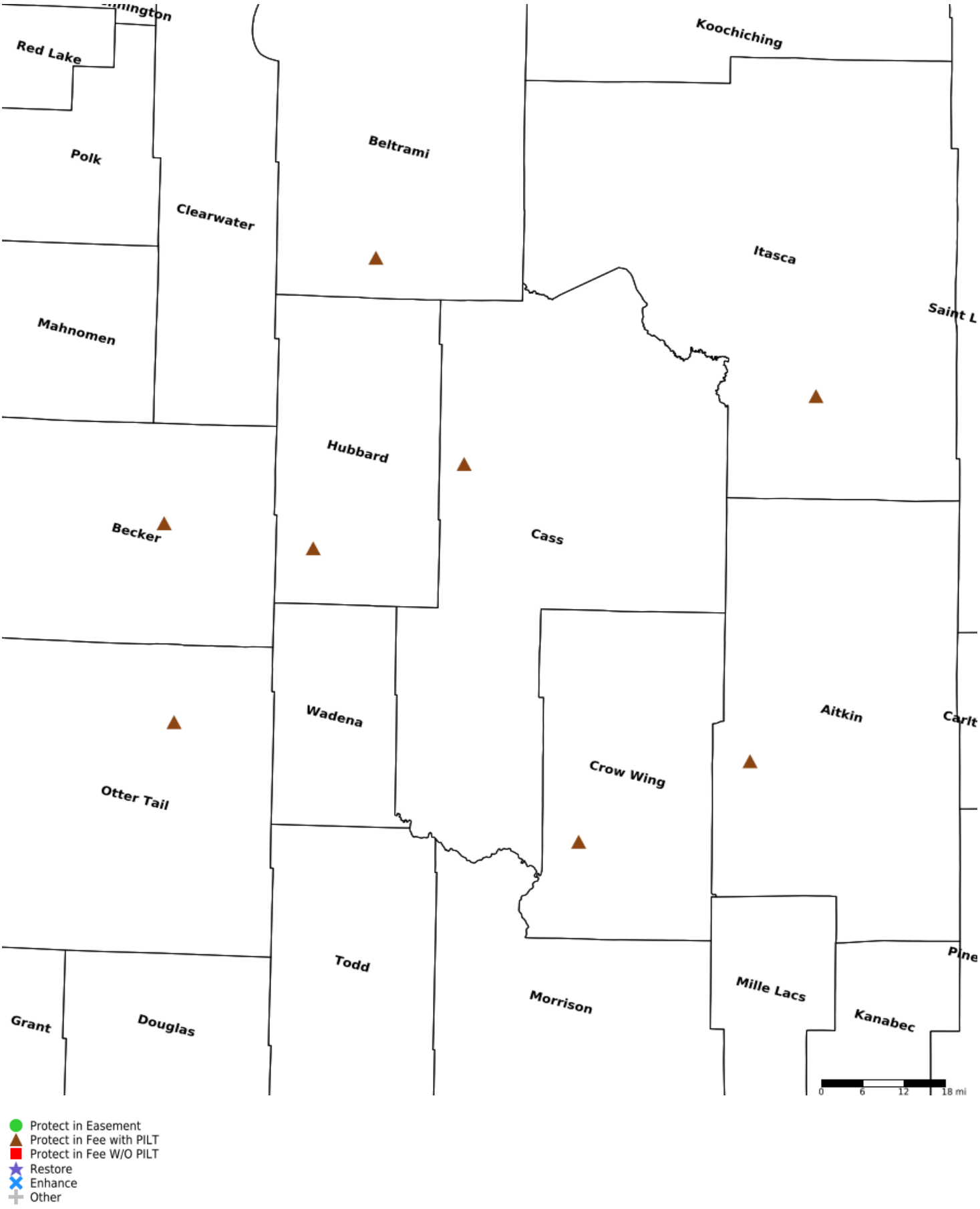
3- Cost/Value – Considers the overall conservation value relative to cost, including any donative value offered by the landowner.

By combining these factors, NWLT identifies parcels with the greatest potential for long-term ecological viability and public benefit. This process ensures that limited resources are directed toward the highest-impact conservation opportunities.

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Aitkin Area Coldwater Lakes	Aitkin	04727236	0	$0	No
Detroit Lakes Area Coldwater Lakes	Becker	14038208	0	$0	No
Bemidji Area Coldwater Lakes	Beltrami	14633204	0	$0	No
Walker Area Coldwater Lakes	Cass	14231227	0	$0	No
Brainerd Area Coldwater Lakes	Crow Wing	13328209	0	$0	No
Park Rapids Area Coldwater Lakes	Hubbard	14035225	0	$0	No
Grand Rapids Area Coldwater Lakes	Itasca	05525222	0	$0	No
Fergus Falls Area Coldwater Lakes	Otter Tail	13638227	0	$0	No

Parcel Map


Red Lake
Polk
Clearwater
Beltrami
Koochiching
Itasca
Saint L
Mahnomen
Hubbard
Becker
Cass
Wadena
Aitkin
Carlt
Otter Tail
Crow Wing
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Pine
Grant
Douglas
0
6
12
18 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - ML2027

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - ML2027
Organization: Northern Waters Land Trust
Manager: Annie Knight

Budget

Requested Amount: $8,476,000
Appropriated Amount: $2,833,000
Percentage: 33.42%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$395,000	-	$170,000	-	43.04%	-
Contracts	$91,000	-	$30,000	-	32.97%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$7,000,000	$700,000	$2,290,000	$229,000	32.71%	32.71%
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$15,200	-	$4,000	-	26.32%	-
Professional Services	$502,000	-	$160,000	-	31.87%	-
Direct Support Services	$106,600	-	$46,000	-	43.15%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$210,000	-	$68,700	-	32.71%	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$3,000	-	$2,300	-	76.67%	-
DNR IDP	$153,200	-	$62,000	-	40.47%	-
Grand Total	**$8,476,000**	**$700,000**	**$2,833,000**	**$229,000**	**33.42%**	**32.71%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This proposal is true to budget and protection goals and would be most effective if funded fully. If 50% funding was received, outputs would be reduced by approximately 50-65%.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS costs would be reduced, but less than proportionally to the reduction in acquisition funding. Certain costs, including landowner outreach, project development, grant administration, and due diligence, are necessary regardless of project size. Some projects also require substantial staff time before feasibility can be fully determined.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
This proposal is true to budget and protection goals and would be most effective if funded fully. If 30% funding was received, outputs would be reduced by 70-80%.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS costs would be reduced, but less than proportionally to the reduction in acquisition funding. Certain costs, including landowner outreach, project development, grant administration, and due diligence, are necessary regardless of project size. Some projects also require substantial staff time before feasibility can be fully determined.

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	875	350	40.0%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
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	$8,476,000	$2,833,000	33.42%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
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	875	350	40.0%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
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	$8,476,000	$2,833,000	33.42%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-