Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program ML27/FY28

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/19/2026

Project Title: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program ML27/FY28

Funds Recommended: $13,109,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: David Stein
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Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Southeast Forest

Metro / Urban

Prairie

Activity types:

Enhance

Protect in Fee

Restore

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Prairie

Wetlands

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program is managed by the Department of Natural Resources to Provide competitive matching grants of up to $500,000 to local, regional, state, and national non-profit organizations and government entities. Since 2011, the CPL program has provided over 1160 grants, totaling over $130 million to over 290 different grantee organizations, enhancing, restoring, or protecting over 630,000 acres of habitat. Demand continues as successful organizations return for additional grants and new organizations apply each year.

Design and Scope of Work

The CPL Program fulfills MS 97a.056 Subd. 3a, directing LSOHC to establish a conservation partners grant program encouraging/supporting local conservation efforts. $12,509,000 of the requested $13,109,000 will be available for grants. Of this amount, at least $3,000,000 will be used for projects submitted from applicants who have not received CPL funds before, and at least $3,000,000 will be used for projects in the 7-county metro area and in cities with a population of 50,000 people or greater. If funds remain from the $3,000,000 new applicant fund and the $3,000,000 metro fund after one grant round, they may be used for projects statewide. Statewide funds may be used in the metro area and for new applicants. Grant activities include enhancement, restoration, and protection of forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. A 10% match from non-state sources is required for all grants and may be in-kind or cash.

Applicants must describe the project goals, methods, location, activity, habitat, urgency, and overall benefit. Staff works with applicants to submit applications, oversee grant selection, prepare/execute grant documents, review expenditures, approves payments/reports, monitor work, and assist recipients with close-out. Staff complies with Office of Grants Management policies. Grantees are required to submit annual and final accomplishment reports. The CPL program has 4 annual grant cycles- Traditional, Metro, New Applicant, and Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP). The Traditional and Metro cycles will have one grant round beginning August 2027 and a second round if funds remain.

Projects under $25,000 will have a simplified application. The ECP grant cycle will be open continuously for eligible projects under $75,000 beginning August 2027, and applications will be awarded up to 5 times through May 2028,

depending on available funds. DNR may choose to make additional awards, consistent with DNR and OHF policy and guidance, if additional funding becomes available.
CPL staff provides an administrative review of applications. Technical Review Committees, comprised of habitat experts across the state, review and score Traditional and Metro applications based on evaluation criteria (attached). The DNR Directors of Fish and Wildlife, Ecological and Water Resources, and Forestry review the committees' recommendations and provide a ranking to the Commissioner. Final decisions are made by the Commissioner. ECP grants are reviewed by CPL staff and DNR habitat experts using established criteria. The Director of Fish and Wildlife makes final decisions for ECP.

CPL staff conducts site visits for most projects over $50,000 and smaller projects if needed. For projects over $250,000, staff may conduct site visits annually for the duration of the grant to ensure that project objectives are being met. Administration costs of $600,000 include salary/fringe, direct support services, travel, outreach, ongoing application system/database maintenance, and other professional services. 3.0 FTEs are needed to manage and promote the program, monitor grants, assist with applications and technical review meetings, and meet state requirements.

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

All CPL projects include a Natural Heritage Database Review, which addresses wildlife species of greatest conservation need, the MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories. These results are incorporated into the requests, along with mitigation measures if needed. Habitat value/species benefits is also one of the evaluation criterion used to score applications. When the projects are reviewed by the technical habitat experts, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, targeted species, and threatened/endangered species are all discussed, and add to the overall habitat quality and urgency of applications which is reflected in the scoring and funding recommendations.

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

The CPL program will prioritize habitat projects of which applicants have demonstrated a conservation urgency. This may include protecting lands of high conservation value that are at immediate risk of development, preventing the spread of invasive species on public lands or waters, etc. Urgency is one of the six evaluation criterion used in the review process. CPL involvement continues to grow every year and supporting this appropriation will keep the momentum going with the local conservation culture.

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

The CPL program has a Technical Review Committee that reviews and scores projects based on evaluation criteria. One of the evaluation criterion addresses the overall project value and includes the habitat quality and quantity of the site, whether or not it is part of a habitat corridor, and the use of currently accepted practices based on sound conservation science. A second evaluation criterion addresses the habitat benefits of the proposal, such as protecting areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey. A third evaluation criterion addresses public use and access, and the project's proximity to other protected lands. The technical experts ensure that CPL proposals recommended for funding are using current conservation science and best management practices.

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

Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

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

Metro / Urban

Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity

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

Prairie

Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

Southeast Forest

Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Other ~ *Outcomes depend on applications received and projects funded*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Other ~ *Outcomes depend on applications received and projects funded*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Other ~ *Outcomes depend on applications received and projects funded*

Programs in prairie region:

Other ~ *Outcomes depend on applications received and projects funded*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Other ~ *Outcomes depend on applications received and projects funded*

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 for the continuation of a program that did not exist prior to the legacy fund and would not continue to exist without an OHF appropriation.

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

Applicants are asked to describe or submit their long-term management plans when submitting a project proposal, and the Technical Review Committee considers these plans when scoring proposals and making funding recommendations. The sustainability of the project is also addressed through one of the evaluation criterion. Long term maintenance commitment from the applicant is crucial to a successful proposal. The CPL program has a monitoring process to ensure that funds are being used to complete work as described in the grantee's work plans. The CPL program manager and natural resource specialist conducts site visits for projects that are over $50,000 and smaller projects as needed. When conducting site visits, CPL staff meets with the project manager and land manager to discuss and evaluate the work, and to address any issues that may have come up during the grant period, as well as discuss long-term management goals.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
ML 2027	LSOHC	CPL Request for Proposals will be made publicly available and application system will open.	CPL Technical Review Committee will meet to score projects based on application quality and outcomes.	DNR Division Directors and Commissioners will approve or deny funding for projects based on Technical Review Committee findings.

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

The Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program has the following specific ties to BIPOC and diverse communities:

- Tribes have been grantees or partners for CPL projects
- Many metro grantees and partners have CPL projects that restore or enhance public land in diverse communities
- Staff members will be providing outreach to BIPOC, diverse, and low to moderate income communities- informing them of the project and funding opportunities with CPL

The Minnesota DNR has adopted advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) as a key priority in its 2023-27 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. 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. OHF achieves high quality habitat that provides ecosystem services like clean water and carbon sequestration that support environmental justice. OHF also supports public access and recreational opportunities on these lands. Project scoring and implementation 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

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)?**
No

> **Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:**
> County board/LGU approval will be sought for WMA and SNA acquisitions, for all other acquisitions partners will notify the county board/LGU of the acquisition.

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

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

Who will manage the easement?
The easement manager will be specified in each CPL application and work plan.

Who will be the easement holder?
The easement holder will be specified in each CPL application and work plan.

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
This depends on the amount of CPL grants received and awarded.

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
>
> SNA
>
> Permanently Protected Conservation Easements
>
> Refuge Lands
>
> State Wilderness Areas

State Forests

WPA

AMA

County/Municipal

Public Waters

State Recreation Areas

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
Yes

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
Short term cover crops such as annual rye, winter wheat, oats, clover, etc. may be planted to prepare sites for restoration.

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:
The land may be open for hunting and fishing, depending on individual project applications. For acquisitions, the land will be open to hunting and fishing unless otherwise provided by law.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Federal

Tribal

County

Local Unit of Government

NGO

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

County Forest

National Wildlife Refuge

Tribal

SNA

State Forest

WPA

SRA

City Owned : This will vary depending on applicants

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
This will vary depending on applications received.

Will the eased land be open for public use?
Yes

Describe the expected public use:
Public use will depend on the conditions of the easement. Most but not all CPL projects are on public lands/waters open for public use.

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

Acquired parcels may or may not be restored and enhanced under this appropriation depending on awarded CPL project scopes.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Final report due to council	October 2031
Grantees complete projects and submit final reports	June-July 2031
Ongoing monitoring, per OGM policy	Summer 2029,2030,2031
Status updates due to council	2028,2029,2030,2031
Second round grants encumbered, grantees begin work	May-June 2028
Second round applications due	March 2028
Second round applications awarded	April 2028
Solicit second round applications if needed	January 2028
First round grants encumbered, grantees begin work	January-April 2028
First round grantees announced	December 2027
First round applications due (ECP applications accepted continuously)	September 2027
Solicit Applications: RFP posted online	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.

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$450,000	-	-	$450,000
Contracts	$12,509,000	$1,250,900	Grantees	$13,759,900
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Professional Services	$30,000	-	-	$30,000
Direct Support Services	$69,200	-	-	$69,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$20,800	-	-	$20,800
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$13,109,000**	**$1,250,900**	**-**	**$14,359,900**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Grants Specialist	1.0	2.0	$150,000	-	-	$150,000
CPL Administrator	1.0	2.0	$150,000	-	-	$150,000
CPL Coordinator	1.0	2.0	$150,000	-	-	$150,000

Amount of Request: $13,109,000
Amount of Leverage: $1,250,900
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 9.54%
DSS + Personnel: $519,200
As a % of the total request: 3.96%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
With the reduced appropriation recommendation, the CPL program will implement a reduced budget structure. Under this budget structure, $12,509,000 will be allocated toward grant contracts, and $600,000 will be allocated towards administrative costs.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Leverage will be provided through local match of a minimum of 10% of each grant awarded. CPL grantees contribute cash, in-kind contributions, and donations as leverage to grants.

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 the program receives less funding, less projects will be awarded and funded. Acres will be somewhat proportionally reduced, but this is unknown until applications are submitted.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses will not be proportionally reduced. In order to operate the CPL program, two staff are needed to work with applicants and grantees.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
All partner grant projects.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Other : Online Application System Maintenance and Improvement

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
N/A

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?
The DNR Direct and Necessary Cost Calculator.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

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:
Parcels are determined by project applications, and will be selected through the technical review process of the CPL program.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program ML27/FY28

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program ML27/FY28
Organization: DNR
Manager: David Stein

Budget

Requested Amount: $15,000,000
Appropriated Amount: $13,109,000
Percentage: 87.39%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$450,000	-	$450,000	-	100.0%	-
Contracts	$14,400,000	$1,440,000	$12,509,000	$1,250,900	86.87%	86.87%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$30,000	-	$30,000	-	100.0%	-
Professional Services	$30,000	-	$30,000	-	100.0%	-
Direct Support Services	$69,200	-	$69,200	-	100.0%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$20,800	-	$20,800	-	100.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$15,000,000**	**$1,440,000**	**$13,109,000**	**$1,250,900**	**87.39%**	**86.87%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If the program receives less funding, less projects will be awarded and funded. Acres will be somewhat proportionally reduced, but this is unknown until applications are submitted.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses will not be proportionally reduced. In order to operate the CPL program, two staff are needed to work with applicants and grantees.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
If the program receives less funding, less projects will be awarded and funded. Acres will be somewhat proportionally reduced, but this is unknown until applications are submitted.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel and DSS expenses will not be proportionally reduced. In order to operate the CPL program, two staff are needed to work with applicants and grantees.

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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2027 Contract Management

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/12/2026

Project Title: 2027 Contract Management

Funds Recommended: $550,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Andrea Sternberg
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Fax Number:
Website:

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Other : Contract Management

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Narrative

Abstract

Provide contract management and customer service to OHF pass-through appropriation recipients for approximately 330 open grants. Ensure funds are expended in compliance with appropriation law, state statute, grants policies, and approved accomplishment plans.

Design and Scope of Work

This appropriation will be used to continue and enhance contract management services to pass-through recipients of Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations to the Commissioner of Natural Resources. The goal of contract management is to ensure that grantees are properly reimbursed and that organizations operate in compliance with OHF pass-through appropriation procedures, policies from the Department of Administration's Grants Management, OHF statute, and the recommendations of the Legislative Auditor. Contract management includes: grant agreements and amendments, training, technical assistance, reporting, fiscal monitoring, reimbursement request processing, and close-out of grants.

The DNR is currently the administrative agent for this program. The DNR's Office of Management and Budget (OMBS) Grants Unit is applying to continue to provide contract management services to pass-through grant recipients. The OMBS Grants Unit's goal is to provide pass-through recipients with the contract management, technical assistance, and grant monitoring they need to successfully complete their conservation work. The Grants Unit provides grantees with one consistent point of contact for their agreements and delivers timely, responsive, customer service.

This proposal includes a funding request of $550,000, an increase of $100,000 from the ML 2026 appropriation. The increase will fully support the increased FTE from ML26, in order to allow the DNR to continue to provide effective contracts management as activities continue to increase.

Contract management services are billed using a professional services rate. In FY28, 5.5 FTE will be dedicated to contract management. The professional services hourly rate includes salary and fringe for grants management staff, supervisory time, travel costs, supplies, and allocated administrative costs including rent and printing as well as other related costs necessary to carry out the pass-through grant management program. Multiple staff with a variety of grants, financial or other responsibilities provide contract management services to OHF as well as the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The Grants Unit consults with Lands and Minerals and Fish and Wildlife staff as necessary on technical issues. Cost coding is used to record and differentiate time spent on ENRTF and OHF pass-through grant management. Services not received or provided will not be billed. The rate for FY26-7 is $92.00/hr and is re-calculated at least biennially. If the rate changes, LSOHC staff will be informed immediately.

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

N/A

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

Contract management provides oversight of reimbursement for project deliverables and ensures that pass-through recipients are compliant with the Department of Administration's Office of Grants Management procedures as well as the recommendations of the Legislative Auditor.

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

N/A

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

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Other ~ *Pass-through grants are managed appropriately and grantee expenditures are reimbursed efficiently and correctly.*

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 for work related to Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations. It would not be implemented but for the appropriation. No outside funding has been used for this purpose.

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

N/A

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

The Grants Unit is bringing more focus to BIPOC and diverse communities in our grant management work. 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. The DNR has DEI 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. Subcontracting requirements for pass-through organizations also follow these guidelines.
- Public engagement seeks out BIPOC voices and involves diverse communities. Outreach and marketing of projects has this focus as well.

The Grants Unit participates in all trainings and have been leaders in developing the grants guidance, and members of our team helped launch the OGM's DEI community of practice. The Grants Unit only provides contract management activities to organizations who receive pass-through appropriations, so our scope for some activities is limited. In OHF contract management work, we concentrate on identifying and improving elements in our processes that may fall more heavily on or become barriers to participation by organizations from communities that have experienced disparities, and increasing our capacity for technical assistance. In FY21 we made several revisions to our reimbursement processes to:

- reduce the administrative burden on partners and provide flexibility in our process, while maintaining our high levels of risk mitigation

- focus on reaching out proactively to new organizations to set new projects up for success.

Our goal is to continue and increase these efforts, so that OHF contract management work is responsive to and supports the success of organizations and projects from BIPOC and diverse communities, as well as all pass-through organizations.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Pass-through grant agreements prepared and provided to recipients	August 2027
Submit final report	August 2029
Contract management for Pass-through grant recipients	June 2029
Submit first annual status report	August 2028

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2029

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	-	-	-	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$550,000	-	-	$550,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$550,000**	**-**	**-**	**$550,000**

Amount of Request: $550,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: -
As a % of the total request: 0.0%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
No

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Other : DNR grants unit activities, billed using a professional services rate for actual hours worked.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2027 Contract Management

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - 2027 Contract Management
Organization: DNR
Manager: Andrea Sternberg

Budget

Requested Amount: $550,000
Appropriated Amount: $550,000
Percentage: 100.0%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$550,000	-	$550,000	-	100.0%	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$550,000**	**-**	**$550,000**	**-**	**100.0%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

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

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

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

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

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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2027 Restoration Evaluations - ML 2027

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/14/2026

Project Title: 2027 Restoration Evaluations - ML 2027

Funds Recommended: $175,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Wade Johnson
Title: Restoration Evaluations Program Coordinator
Organization: DNR
Address: 500 Lafayette Road Box 25
City: St Paul, MN 55155-4025
Email: Wade.A.Johnson@state.mn.us
Office Number: 651-259-5075
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/legacy/restoration-evaluation.html

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Activity types:

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Narrative

Abstract

This proposal supports the work of the Restoration Evaluation Program (REP). The REP carries out the statutory charge to annually evaluate a subset of Outdoor Heritage Fund supported projects with the goal of improving future restorations and enhancements. The REP coordinates the evaluation work, presents the evaluation results

to a technical panel of experts, and collates resulting recommendations. The REP produces a related report and offers various targeted outreach to practitioners highlighting successes, failures, lessons learned, and recommendations for improving restoration practice.

Design and Scope of Work

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) are jointly responsible for convening a Restoration Evaluation Panel (Panel) of technical experts to annually evaluate a sample of habitat restoration and enhancement projects completed with Outdoor Heritage funding, as provided in M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10. Primary goals of the restoration evaluation program are to provide on the ground accountability for the use of Legacy funds and to improve future habitat restorations in the State. Per statute, the Panel will evaluate the selected habitat restoration projects relative to the law, current science, and the stated goals in the restoration plan. Program staff will identify projects to be evaluated, coordinate field assessments and provide a report to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and the legislature determining if the restorations are meeting planned goals, any problems with implementation, and, if necessary, recommendations on improving restorations.

The anticipated long-term outcome of this program is to promote and increase impactful, long-lasting habitat restoration projects. This is accomplished by advancing awareness among practitioners and decision-makers of common challenges and recommended management options to improve future restoration projects. The primary mechanism for advancing awareness is through program staff coordinating various communications including the annual report, website, webinars, field trainings, conference seminars and workshops and integration in technical guidance (e.g. https://bwsr.state.mn.us/native-vegetation-guidelines). Program staff are working with the Panel, LSOHC, and project managers to explore novel approaches to advance the intent of M.S. 97A.056, Subd. 10.

Funding for this proposal will:

- Complete up to twenty initial Outdoor Heritage Fund project evaluations and three follow up evaluations of previously assessed sites. Follow up assessments provide valuable insight into tracking progress and estimating trajectory towards planned goals. Site evaluations will be conducted by a state staff and contacted assessors. Contracted assessors add value by providing deep knowledge of practice implementation and avoiding conflict of interest.
- Coordinate review by the technical evaluation panel, synthesize and organize their findings and recommendations and report the results in 2027 Legacy Restoration Evaluation report.
- Continue creating, disseminating and promoting targeted guidance for improving restoration and enhancement practices based on panel recommendations.

During 2026 the evaluation program is focused on reviewing projects completed more than 7 years ago to gauge longevity/durability and ongoing management. Outcomes will be reported to the Council in 2027. Continued discussion with the Panel and Council members will guide areas of focus in 2027.

The most recent Restoration Evaluation report, appendix of project evaluations and an overview of ongoing recommendations for improving practices are available on the MN DNR website https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/legacy/restoration-evaluation.html.

A permanent record of all Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation reports beginning in 2012 are available from the Legislative Library: http://www.leg.state.mn.us/edocs/edocs.aspx?oclcnumber=823766285.

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

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

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

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

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Outcomes

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 program is dedicated to Legacy Fund work and does not supplant or substitute for previous funding.

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

It is anticipated that the evaluation program outputs will help to create a framework for continuous improvement in restoration practice. Direct work of the Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation Program will be sustained for the period of funding.

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

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
2026 Restoration Evaluation report submitted to Legislature and LSOHC	April 28, 2028
Site assessors (State staff and contractors) conduct field surveys of selected sites	October 1, 2027
Program staff select up to twenty-five project sites for evaluation	July 1, 2027
Evaluation Panel establishes annual priorities	July 1, 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 06/29/2029

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	$147,900	-	-	$147,900
Contracts	$8,100	-	-	$8,100
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$15,500	-	-	$15,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$1,500	-	-	$1,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$175,000**	**-**	**-**	**$175,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
State Assessors	0.02	0.5	$2,000	-	-	$2,000
Evaluation Specialist	0.53	1.0	$67,900	-	-	$67,900
Program Coordinator	0.53	1.0	$78,000	-	-	$78,000

Amount of Request: $175,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $163,400
As a % of the total request: 93.37%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
No

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Technical evaluation of completed restorations and enhancements.

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?
DNR Direct and Necessary calculator.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

2027 Restoration Evaluations - ML 2027

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - 2027 Restoration Evaluations - ML 2027
Organization: DNR
Manager: Wade Johnson

Budget

Requested Amount: $206,000
Appropriated Amount: $175,000
Percentage: 84.95%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$165,000	-	$147,900	-	89.64%	-
Contracts	$19,500	-	$8,100	-	41.54%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,000	-	$2,000	-	100.0%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$17,500	-	$15,500	-	88.57%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	$2,000	-	$1,500	-	75.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$206,000**	**-**	**$175,000**	**-**	**84.95%**	**-**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

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

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

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

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

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

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/12/2026

Project Title: DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions

Funds Recommended: $124,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jennifer Olson
Title: Initial Development Coordinator
Organization: DNR
Address: 500 Lafayette Road
City: St. Paul, MN 55155
Email: jennifer.a.olson@state.mn.us
Office Number: 651-259-5245
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website:

Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Northern Forest

Southeast Forest

Metro / Urban

Prairie

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Narrative

Abstract

The DNR Initial Development Plan (IDP) Coordinator position is responsible for communicating with conservation partners, DNR divisions, and with MN Historical Society archaeologists related to OHF acquisitions. With every partner-led fee title acquisition, or conservation easement, there are a core set of activities dealing with DNR land acquisition costs and/or DNR initial development needs which make sure the State's interests are protected against future liabilities, cultural resources properties are protected, and public access on new acquisitions meets minimum standards. These core functions are most efficiently covered in a single administrative appropriation instead of multiple Use of Funds transfers.

Design and Scope of Work

The IDP Coordinator and DNR Land Acquisition Consultants currently work with eleven partner organizations to strategically acquire fee title land and/or conservation easements from willing sellers. The eleven organizations include: 1) Ducks Unlimited, 2) Fox Lake Conservation League, 3) Minnesota Land Trust, 4) Minnesota Valley Trust, 5) Northern Waters Land Trust, 6) Pheasants Forever, 7) Ruffed Grouse Society / American Woodcock Society, 8) Shell Rock River Watershed District, 9) The Conservation Fund, 10) The Nature Conservancy, and 11) Trust for Public Land. Some of the parcels being acquired by partner organizations will be conveyed to the State of Minnesota to become part of the state's Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Aquatic Management Area (AMA), Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) and/or State Forest system. Partner accomplishment plans will explain how much will be spent on acquisitions, how many acres will be acquired, and whether parcels are expected to convey to the Minnesota DNR. A technical appraisal review is required, by the DNR Land and Minerals Division - Acquisition and Appraisal Unit, when the value of property is over $1 million regardless of whether the property is conveyed to the DNR or not (see DNR Attachment E: Land Acquisition Reporting Procedures for OHF at: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/passthrough/lag.html). The DNR Land Acquisition Cost formula is $15,000 for every $500,000 in fee acquisition with PILT.

Activities that are covered by DNR Land Acquisition Costs include:

- DNR Land & Mineral Division project manager time
- Appraisal reviews
- Land survey reviews
- Title reviews
- Drainage agreement reviews
- Access agreements reviews
- Other agreements/encumbrances (lease, CRP, boundary lines, etc.)
- Property taxes
- Recording fees
- Deed taxes

Within the Division of Fish and Wildlife, an approved Initial Development Plan (IDP) is required for all land

acquisitions, regardless of whether they are being acquired by DNR or one of our partners, and regardless of the funding source of the acquisition. The IDP is used to identify the funding that will be used to develop a new parcel to minimum standards (DNR Directive #070605 - Development Standards for WMA/AMAs). Only limited activities in an IDP will be covered under the DNR Core Functions proposal. The DNR Initial Development Plan cost formula is $21,000 for every 120-acre goal associated with fee title acquisitions.

- Cultural resource review – Compliance with the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act and Minnesota Historic Sites Act (MN Statutes 138.40 and 138.655)
- Boundary posts
- Signs and hardware - OHF and DNR signs, posts and hardware.
- Fencing - if needed
- Access / parking lots – improvement of ROW, easement or approach from public road, maintenance of existing trails/roads, parking capacity needs (gravel, geotextile fabric, posts, gates, culvert).

Partner accomplishment plans will be reviewed and DNR Land Acquisition Costs and DNR IDP budgets will be swept into the DNR Core Functions proposal. If partner organizations would like the DNR to assist with site cleanup or habitat restoration, separate funds would need to be released to the DNR through the Use of Funds process.

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

Fee title acquisition and conservation easements are two tools that protect species by ensuring habitat exists and development rights are limited to the purposes designated within DNR Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Aquatic Management Areas (AMA), Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) and/or State Forest systems. Fee title purchases are voluntary transactions between a landowner (seller) and purchaser (buyer). In this case, the buyer is a partner organization that will convey the property to the DNR or the property is valued at over $1 million and requires a technical appraisal review.

Potential acquisitions for WMAs, AMAs and SNAs are scored for their habitat value. The DNR uses weighted criteria and prioritizes high scoring parcels for acquisition. For example, candidate parcels for WMAs score higher if they include a known prairie grouse lek, are within a pheasant habitat complex, include the presence of shallow lakes, and/or include deer wintering areas.

Candidate parcels for SNAs score higher when they have known records of threatened, endangered, species of greatest conservation need and/or include high quality native plant communities. Examples of native plant communities with exceptional value as wildlife habitat include southern dry prairie, dry sand-gravel prairie, mesic prairie, dry hill prairie, northern wet prairie, mesic brush prairie, wet seepage prairie, southern dry mesic oak hickory woodland, mesic hardwood forest, wet forest, open rich peatlands, and northern jack pine/black spruce woodland.

Aquatic Management Areas permanently protect high quality aquatic habitats and watersheds, and lakes designated as having biological significance. A lake of biological significance is a lake that has unique plants or animals such as aquatic plants, fish, birds, or amphibians. The DNR has assigned biological significance classes (outstanding, high, or moderate) to this group of lakes. Some examples of how a lake would classify as "outstanding" for fish include lakes meeting at least one of the following criteria: self-sustaining walleye, quality northern pike, native muskie, lake trout lake, or cisco (tullibee) refuge lake.

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

Most private landowners will wait and work with a partner organization for a short time but won't wait indefinitely for the acquisition to be completed. A generation, or more, may pass before parcels may become available for purchase again.

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

The DNR uses GIS-based scoring systems to objectively rank potential acquisitions and develop statewide priority lists. These systems incorporate scientific data giving priority to locations within and that add to: 1) an important habitat corridor or complex (such as identified by the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Pheasant Action Plan, SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan, and the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan), 2) native plant communities and sites of outstanding and high biodiversity significance mapped by Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), and 3) parcels that adjoin existing units or other conservation lands. The end result is the prioritization of acquisitions that protect larger blocks of habitat or natural intact communities, improve riparian and terrestrial connectivity or maintain ecosystem services through protection of climate resilient, high biodiversity areas.

I am going to cover "why" I chose the two conservation plans below since there is no space to address it elsewhere and it is relevant to this question.
The Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda (2015-2025) has two strategies under the Natural Resource Conservation goal to: 1) Conserve Natural Areas - Retain natural areas and working lands containing important habitats, especially habitats in jeopardy, such as native prairies, wetlands, shallow lakes, and shorelines. Connect fragments of high-quality habitat. Conserve endangered, threatened, rare, declining and vulnerable species, and 2) Monitor and fine-tune management actions - Track and continually improve the effectiveness of our conservation work.

Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years (2002-2052) has a statewide recommendation: The Division of Wildlife (old name) needs to work collaboratively with other agencies and units of government, public and private partners, legislators, landowners, and citizens to seek additional, creative funding to implement the recommendations in this report and find ways to expedite the WMA land acquisition process.

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

Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda

Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

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

Metro / Urban

Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

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

Prairie

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

Southeast Forest

Protect forest habitat though acquisition in fee or easement to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties

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 ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the forest-prairie transition region.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Protected habitats will hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the metropolitan urbanizing region.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the northern forest region.*

Programs in prairie region:

Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the prairie region.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

High priority riparian lands, forestlands, and savannas are protected from parcelization and fragmentation ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the southeast forest region.*

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.

The Outdoor Heritage Funds supplement state small game Surcharge funds, state Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) funds, and federal Pittman-Robertson funds that are used for fee title acquisitions within the MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife.

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

Long term maintenance and habitat management costs on WMA/AMAs are covered by a combination of DNR Fish and Wildlife funding including, but not limited to: Game and Fish Operations Account (license fees, Federal Aid reimbursements, etc.), Deer Management Account (deer license fee), Heritage Enhancement Account (lottery payments in lieu of sales tax on lottery tickets), Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account (pheasant stamp), RIM funds (license plate fees), Trout and Salmon account (trout and salmon stamps), Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account (MN migratory waterfowl stamp), Wildlife Acquisition Account (small game surcharge license fee), Wild Turkey Management Account (turkey license fee), federal Pittman-Robertson funds, and/or other grant funds, etc.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2031	Game & Fish Fund	Area staff will maintain signs and parking lots.	Area staff can submit larger maintenance projects through annual work plan software for funding evaluation.	Area staff can partner with local conservation organizations to gain additional assistance on maintenance projects.

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

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are key values of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). We are committed to living out these values in all of our work, whether it's getting people outdoors, creating accessible facilities in state parks, or recruiting a diverse workforce. Here are some ways we are engaging in various efforts:
The Minnesota DNR opens the outdoors to people with disabilities including hosting accessible camp sites, providing accommodations to people who use powered mobility devices, offering accessible hunting areas and fishing piers, and issuing discounted permits.
The DNR hosts hunting and fishing education programs, such as Becoming an Outdoors Woman and I Can Fish! to introduce people to outdoor recreation. We also offer educational materials, including the Hunting & Trapping Regulations and Fishing Regulations, in multiple languages such as Hmong, Karen, Somali and Spanish.
We strive to be a workplace that represents the diversity of the state and includes people of all backgrounds. The DNR is a veteran-friendly Yellow Ribbon employer. We also participate in Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers, which is a college-to-careers pathway program for underrepresented STEM college students interested in pursuing a career in environmental and natural resources.
The DNR has adopted a Language Access Plan to communicate effectively with people with limited English proficiency (LEP) and to provide meaningful access to DNR program information and services for every Minnesotan.

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)?**
No

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:
According to Statute 97A.056 subd 13(j), Non-governmental organizations must notify in writing the county board and town board where the land is located and furnish them a description of the land to be acquired. NGOs do not have to seek formal approval prior to the acquisition. In cases where there is interest, NGOs are willing to attend county or township meetings to communicate their interest in the parcel and answer questions.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?
No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:
A limited number of partner-led acquisitions may have federal or state easements on a portion of the desired tract. If a parcel has one of these encumbrances, and it is still deemed a high priority by the partnership, the partner will follow guidance established by the Outdoor Heritage Fund to proceed, or use non-OHF funding to acquire the residual value of the protected portion of the property.

Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) free of any other permanent protection?
No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:
A limited number of partner-led acquisitions may have federal or state easements on a portion of the desired tract. If a parcel has one of these encumbrances, and it is still deemed a high priority by the partnership, the partner will follow guidance established by the Outdoor Heritage Fund to proceed, or use non-OHF funding to acquire the residual value of the protected portion of the property.

Who will manage the easement?

Who will be the easement holder?

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
Yes

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
The IDP Coordinator is not aware of any planned food plots beyond the initial restoration of farmland (most likely soybeans, corn or oats to native grasses) that may occur on new partner-led acquisitions. Future management goals by the DNR Division (ex. DNR Wildlife Management Area) may include a food plot option. As defined by State Statute 86A.05, the primary purpose of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are "to protect those lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and to develop and manage these lands and waters for the production of wildlife, for public hunting, fishing, and trapping, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses."
At its core, wildlife management is the manipulation of food and cover (i.e. habitat) across the landscape.

Management decisions are based on the local site characteristics while understanding the broader landscape setting. Area wildlife managers are charged with habitat development and management decisions on WMAs in their work areas. This includes the decision to establish food plots. Area wildlife managers have the delegated authority to enter into and sign Cooperative Farming Agreements. Regional wildlife managers have the delegated authority and must sign and approve all Cooperative Farming Agreements. Based on 2022 data, a small percentage of WMAs (less than 1%) are actively farmed (10,623 acres out of 1.37 million acres). Farming on WMAs is a wildlife management tool which is targeted and limited in scope.

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 land that will be conveyed as Wildlife Management Area (WMA) lands will be open for hunting and fishing with no variations from State of Minnesota regulations. All feet title land that will be conveyed as Aquatic Management Area (AMA) and State Forest lands will be open for hunting and fishing with no variations from State of Minnesota regulations. It is my understanding that conservation easements purchased by partners are likely to remain under private interest.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

Federal

County

Local Unit of Government

NGO

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

State Forest

SNA

WPA

County Forest

National Wildlife Refuge

SRA

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

Will the eased land be open for public use?
No

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?
-

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR or that require technical appraisal review. End of first fiscal year.	June 2028
Appropriation becomes available	July 2027
Submit status report	August 2029
Submit status report	February 2029
Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR or that require technical appraisal review. End of second fiscal year.	June 2029
Submit status report	August 2029
Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR or that require technical appraisal review. End of third fiscal year.	June 2030
Submit status report	February 2030
Submit status report	August 2030
Submit status report	February 2031
Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR or that require technical appraisal review. End of fourth fiscal year.	June 2031
Submit status report	August 2031
Submit status report	February 2032
Submit status report	August 2032
Pay for core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of fifth fiscal year.	June 2032
Submit status report	February 2033
Pay for core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of six fiscal year.	June 2033

Submit status report	August 2033
Submit status report	February 2034
Pay for core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of seventh fiscal year.	June 2034
Submit status report	August 2034
Submit status report	February 2035
Close out appropriation. Pay for core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of eighth and final fiscal year.	June 2035
Submit final report	October 2035

Date of Final Report Submission: 10/01/2035

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	$110,000	$28,000	Game & Fish funds	$138,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$1,500	-	-	$1,500
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$12,500	-	-	$12,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$124,000**	**$28,000**	**-**	**$152,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Initial Development Plan Coordinator	0.8	1.0	$110,000	$28,000	Game & Fish funds	$138,000

Amount of Request: $124,000
Amount of Leverage: $28,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 22.58%
DSS + Personnel: $122,500
As a % of the total request: 98.79%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
N/A

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
The Initial Development Coordinator position will include 0.2 FTE from Game & Fish Funds. This covers time on non-OHF activities such as chronic wasting disease deer check station work, State Fair DNR building staffing, professional development trainings, etc.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?
No

Personnel

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

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?
Direct Support Services are determined by a standard DNR process taking into account the amount of funding and the number of allocations made with that funding. We work with the DNR Office of Management and Budget Services to determine Direct Support Services.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

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	$24,800	$24,800	$24,800	$24,800	$24,800	$124,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**$24,800**	**$24,800**	**$24,800**	**$24,800**	**$24,800**	**$124,000**

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	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Eleven organizations coordinate and communicate with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and Minnesota DNR to strategically acquire fee title land and/or conservation easements from willing sellers. The partner organizations will maintain the parcel lists in their respective OHF acquisition grants. The DNR will ensure the parcels are on the partner's parcel list before OHF funds are spent.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions
Organization: DNR
Manager: Jennifer Olson

Budget

Requested Amount: $124,500
Appropriated Amount: $124,000
Percentage: 99.6%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$110,000	$28,000	$110,000	$28,000	100.0%	100.0%
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,000	-	$1,500	-	75.0%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$12,500	-	$12,500	-	100.0%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$124,500**	**$28,000**	**$124,000**	**$28,000**	**99.6%**	**100.0%**

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

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

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

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

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

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

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	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	-	-	-
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	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
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	$124,500	$124,000	99.6%
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Roving Crew 4

Laws of Minnesota 2027 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/09/2026

Project Title: DNR Roving Crew 4

Funds Recommended: $13,007,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Greg Hoch
Title: Prairie Habitat Supervisor
Organization: DNR
Address: 500 Lafayette Rd
City: St Paul, MN 55055
Email: greg.hoch@state.mn.us
Office Number: 651-259-5230
Mobile Number: 651-259-5230
Fax Number:
Website: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location Information

County Location(s): Roseau, Faribault, Lake of the Woods, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Pennington, Mille Lacs, Polk, Chippewa, Goodhue, Benton, Lyon, Cottonwood, Cass, Morrison, Pipestone, Marshall, Fillmore, Redwood, Cook, Freeborn, Carlton, Washington, Stearns and Aitkin.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Forest / Prairie Transition

Prairie

Metro / Urban

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Grasslands and wetlands in western Minnesota continues to be the most threatened habitat in the state. At the same time, the DNR continues to work to make the forests on public lands more productive for wildlife. This proposal will enhance wildlife habitat on permanently protected lands. While the majority of restoration and enhancement action will be on WMAs, Crews will also work, when needed, on DNR SNAs, AMAs, NPB easements, and State Forests, as well as National Forests, WPAs and NWRs to meet specific wildlife habitat goals and further develop habitat complexes.

Design and Scope of Work

Roving Crews are fully equipped to conduct a range of habitat projects. The staff on these crews are solely dedicated to habitat enhancement and restoration. In the prairies and western prairie pothole wetlands, they focus on prescribed burns, tree removal, grassland restorations, removal of old fencing, and installing fenceposts for conservation grazing. In wetlands the focus is on wild rice collection and seeding, wetland restoration, invasive species control, and sediment removal. Forest projects include prescribed burns in fire-dependent forests and brushlands, seed harvesting and planting, seedling planting, release cuttings for of species such as oak and winter cover such as conifer; mowing and shearing of brushlands.

In the farmland region, we continue to lose ground on wetlands and grasslands. Therefore, its critical that the remaining public and protected habitats are in as high a quality as possible to both produce resident wildlife, such as pheasants, and be attractive to migratory waterfowl that breed to our north. These same habitats benefit dozens of non-game species and hundreds of pollinators. Our forests also need enhancements to maintain high quality wildlife habitat, especially to increase the numbers of mast producing species like oaks, which provide food for a number of wildlife species.

This proposal will fund five Roving Crews. These include the 8 person Crews near Crookston (DNR Region 1), 8 person Crew at Lac Qui Parle (Region 4), 8 person Crew at Rosemount (Region 3), 6 person Crew south of Fergus Falls (Region 1), and the 4 person Crew near Grand Rapids (Region 2).

We estimate that on a good to average year the crews will restore and enhance approximately 27,000 acres of habitat annually, or 54,000 acres over two years, across the state. However, droughts or wet spring and other issues can affect the large acre projects such as prescribed fire. Warm winters make it hard to do projects that

require frozen ground. In other years the weather may be very cooperative and we can conduct numerous large burns or do a large acreage of brushland shearing. Given Midwestern weather, it's difficult to make an exact estimate of our accomplishments.

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

Because these Crews are working in grasslands, wetlands, forests, as well as brushland and savanna, they will be able to benefit wildlife that depend on a wide range of habitat types. In the forests, many game and non-game species depend on brushlands and early successional forests. These often require mechanical treatment such as shearing. Similarly, many of our pine and oak forests are dependent on prescribed fire. In other areas, seeds or seedlings can be planted to enhance forest diversity and benefit wildlife. These include mast bearing trees such as oak or hickory, or trees and shrubs that produce fruits such plums and cherries. In grasslands and wetland margins, tree encroachment and invasive species are a common and recurring threat. In most cases, once a tree removal is completed, the site should not need any follow-up in the near future. However, grasslands need repeated fire over time to continue to enhance their benefits for wildlife. Installing grazing infrastructure is a one-time project that can have long-term benefits from periodic grazing over the followng years.

There are a number of game species, nongame species, SGCN, and T&E species all these habitats. Each has a slightly different habitat requirement and all species use different habitats at different seasons and ages. To satisfy all species and all their habitat requirements over the year, we need a range of wetland sizes and depths, taller and shorter vegetation with a high plant species diversity in our grasslands, and a range of forest types and strucutures. This can only be achieved with long-term enhancement programs.

While the work proposed here will benefit many wildlife species, it will also go beyond these objectives to provide numerous ecosystem services for people. These include water filtration, nitrate reduction, floodwater retention and reduced flood damage. These habitats also create pollinator habitat to help sustain segments of the agricultural economy. All of these habitats are very good at carbon storage and removing carbon from the air.

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

Traditionally, habitats have been seen as primarily benefiting wildlife. In recent years researchers in Minnesota and surrounding states have been demonstrating how strategic landscape planning for habitat work can improve water quality. Water quality issues continue to be an economic and health problem in rural Minnesota. Combining wildlife habitat and water plans shows how strategic planning can benefit wildlife and people at the same time.

From a wildlife perspective, it is far cheaper to maintain habitat, such as grassland with prescribed fire, than to leave it unmanaged for decades followed by an expensive tree removal project. The earlier we get to these projects the better and more cost effective our work.

Providing diverse and healthy habitats produces more wildlife making hunting more attractive to both experienced and new hunters. They will also provide opportunities for birdwatching, nature photography, and related activities.

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

The grassland and wetland projects in this proposal will be guided primarily by the Prairie Conservation Plan, and Pheasant and Duck Action Plans. These Plans outline 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 Plan identifies specific corridors and complexes that connect larger core areas. The latest science is telling us that it isn't the size of an individual habitat parcel that matters as much as the amount of habitat in the larger surrounding landscape. These Plans, and the work proposed here, build on these concepts of landscape level habitat planning. We will not restrict ourselves to these focal areas. There are critical habitats outside these areas. However, we will use these Plans to focus our efforts in areas where they can have the greatest wildlife benefits.

The DNR has a number of plans for forests in different parts of the states including the DNR's Conservation Agenda, Deer Plan, Wildlife Action Plan, Forest Action Plan, and Section Forest Resource Management Plans. These plans coordinate the management of types and ages of forests across the landscape, as well as the local management of each unit and regional management of the larger landscape to assure there are multiple forest habitat types that benefit all forest wildlife species.

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

Long Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in MN

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

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

Metro / Urban

Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity

Northern Forest

Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

Prairie

Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

Southeast Forest

Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in area in recent decades

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need ~ *Migratory game and non-game birds will be some of the primary beneficiaries of this work. Audubon is developing some bird use models for Minnesota and are seeing some interesting results for parts of this region. It will be interesting to see if we can integrate all of the collective OHF work into this and similar models in the future.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna ~ *Monitoring will take place with the base level monitoring conducted by DNR staff and staff from other agencies/NGOs.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *Monitoring will take place with the base level monitoring conducted by DNR staff and staff from other agencies/NGOs. This includes surveys such as moose, sharp-tailed and ruffed grouse, and woodcock, which are all dependent on open areas.*

Programs in prairie region:

Restored and enhanced upland habitats ~ *The multi-agency/NGO Grassland Monitoring Team (GMT) has developed standardized protocols for sampling grassland vegetation and a number of the sites on this request will be sampled over the 5 year period. There are also a number of wildlife surveys such as the DNR's grouse and pheasant surveys and waterfowl surveys conducted by both DNR and USFWS. These, along with the USGS Breeding Bird Survey, give us a landscape level context for evaluating these habitat projects.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Healthier populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *DNR non-game staff will continue ongoing, long-term monitoring of a range of wildlife species.*

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.

These funds are for additional enhance/restoration work beyond what the DNR is already conducting. These funds are not supplanting or substituting any funds.

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

We select projects with these funds that strategically enhance priority habitats. The OHF provides Minnesota's conservation community with a large amount of non-Federal dollars as match that other Midwestern states don't have. In recent years, the conservation partners have been coordinating to maximize our efforts with funding sources such as the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) as well as the American Bird Conservancy's RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) for young forests, to name just a couple of examples. The DNR will continue to develop existing and new partnership for habitat enhancement and restoration to work in tandem with DNR funds to ensure the good work done under the OHF isn't lost over time.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2028 and beyond	OHF, DNR funds, partner funds	conduct enhancements	monitor vegetation and wildlife responses	-

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

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. Work such as seeding new wetland with wild rice has both strong wildlife and cultural benefits.

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. OHF achieves high quality habitat that provides ecosystem services like clean water and carbon sequestration that support environmental justice. For instance, work in the upper reaches of a watershed can often capture floodwater and reduce downstream flooding, where many of our rural cities are. OHF also supports public access and recreational opportunities on these lands. Project scoring and implementation benefit BIPOC and diverse communities through recreational opportunities that are close-to-home, culturally responsive and accessible to Minnesotans with disabilities.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

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

WPA

SNA

AMA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

County/Municipal

Refuge Lands

Public Waters

State Forests

Other : potentially Con-con lands or national forests, if there is a clear long-term wildlife habitat benefit to the work. Also TNC lands if needed as part of a larger project to make the project more efficient or safer for Crew members.

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
Yes

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:
Corn or soybeans plantings for a year or two may be used to prepare soil for restoration.

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

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Enhance and restore habitats across Minnesota	FY2029-30, complete July 2030

Date of Final Report Submission: 09/15/2030

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	$8,850,000	-	-	$8,850,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,800,100	-	-	$2,800,100
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$806,900	-	-	$806,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$250,000	-	-	$250,000
Supplies/Materials	$300,000	-	-	$300,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$13,007,000**	**-**	**-**	**$13,007,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Crew Supervisor	0.25	2.0	$90,000	-	-	$90,000
Roving Crew	34.0	2.0	$8,760,000	-	-	$8,760,000

Amount of Request: $13,007,000
Amount of Leverage: -
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%
DSS + Personnel: $9,656,900
As a % of the total request: 74.24%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
This proposal is composed of numerous projects. We would simply eliminate projects or scale down the size of some projects.

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 composed of numerous projects. We would simply eliminate projects or scale down the size of some projects.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
They would be proportionally reduced using the DNR calculator.

Personnel

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

Travel

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

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
All activities related to travel for the Roving Crews we place in the travel line. This includes basic mileage and lodging as well as equipment/vehicle rentals and leases, etc.

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?
We used the DNR's standard Direct and Necessary calculator designed for OHF and ENRTF proposals.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Chainsaws, drip torches, and related.

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?
These funds would be matched to Pittman-Roberson funds on an annual cycle through the DNR.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	9,000	39,500	3,500	-	52,000
Total	**9,000**	**41,500**	**3,500**	**-**	**54,000**

How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie? (Table 1b)

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Easement	-
Enhance	1,500
Total	**1,500**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	$481,700	-	-	$481,700
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$2,167,800	$9,514,400	$843,100	-	$12,525,300
Total	**$2,167,800**	**$9,996,100**	**$843,100**	**-**	**$13,007,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	3,630	19,820	600	22,820	5,130	52,000
Total	**3,630**	**19,820**	**600**	**24,820**	**5,130**	**54,000**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$481,700	-	$481,700
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$874,400	$4,774,000	$144,500	$5,496,700	$1,235,700	$12,525,300
Total	**$874,400**	**$4,774,000**	**$144,500**	**$5,978,400**	**$1,235,700**	**$13,007,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	$240	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$240	$240	$240	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	$240	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$240	$240	$240	$240	$240

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

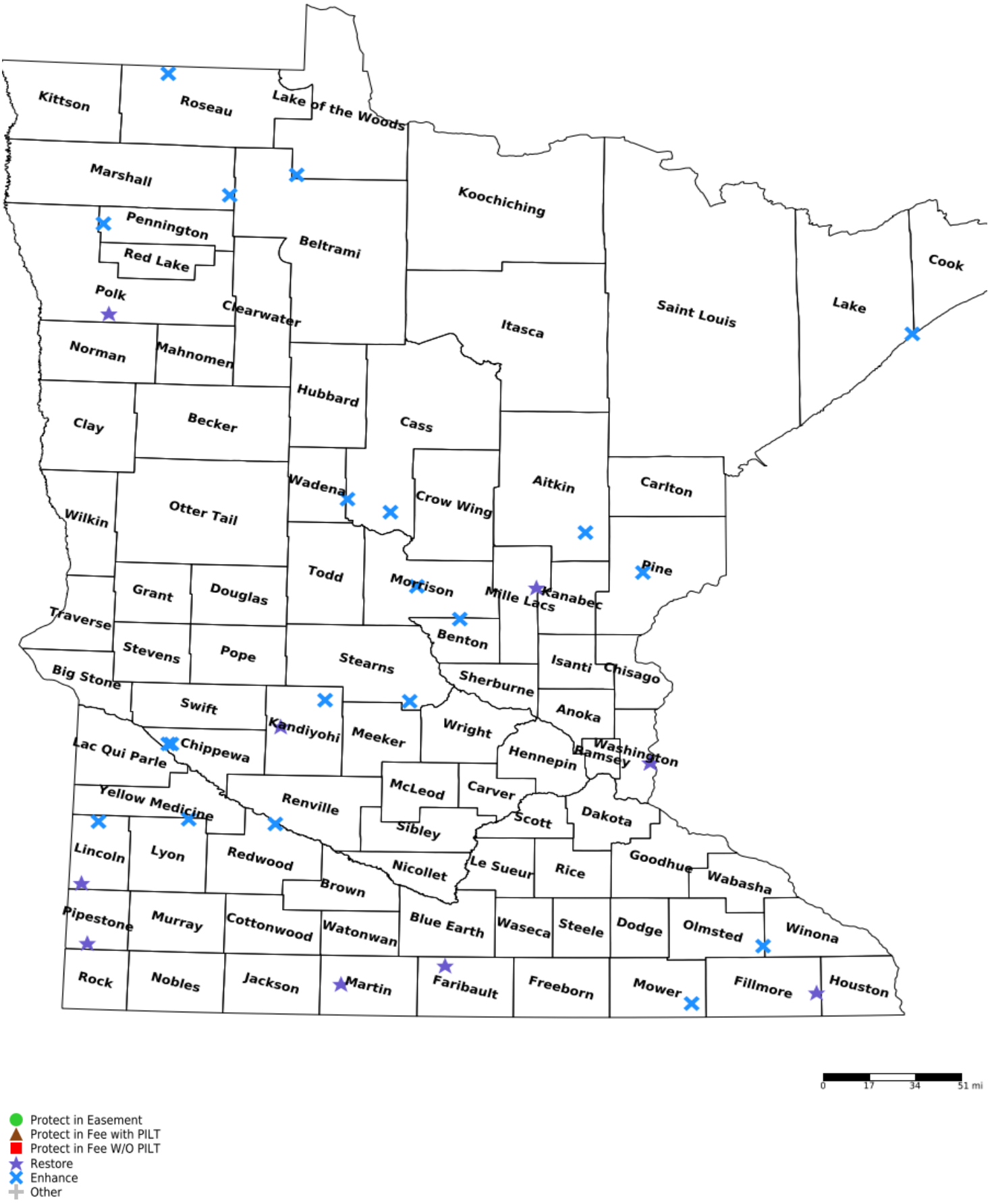
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Parcels are identified by Area Wildlife Managers and approved by Regional Managers. Priorities are set by the Plans identified earlier in this proposal. The parcels listed below are representative of the types of projects Roving Crews would work on. The parcel list below are simply some placeholder projects. New projects are always coming to the Crews' attention or they need to switch from one project to another due to weather or other issues. It is difficult at this time to identify with any accuracy the projects the Crews will actually work on.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Aitkin WMA: Main Unit	Aitkin	04423202	300	$118,500	Yes	Forest Stand Improvement
Graham WMA: Main Unit	Benton	03830201	24	$19,500	Yes	Woody Removal
Blackhoof River WMA	Carlton	04220226	550	$750	Yes	Forest Stand Improvement
Birchdale WMA	Cass	13430208	200	$92,000	Yes	Forest Stand Improvement
Farnham Lake WMA	Cass	13532218	100	$50,000	Yes	Forest Stand Improvement
Lac qui Parle WMA: Controlled Hunting Zone	Chippewa	11842201	5	$12,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Lac qui Parle WMA: Controlled Hunting Zone	Chippewa	11841206	276	$150,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Caribou Falls WMA: West Unit	Cook	05806236	103	$16,860	Yes	Forest Stand Improvement
Four Corners WMA	Cottonwood	10332231	33	$23,000	Yes	Grassland Restoration
Rice Lake WMA	Faribault	10427221	27	$27,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Choice WMA	Fillmore	10208214	70	$56,000	Yes	Grassland Restoration
Boyd Sartell WMA: Main Unit	Freeborn	10114205	1,500	$250,000	Yes	Grassland Grazing
Izaak Walton League WMA	Goodhue	10511212	80	$120,000	Yes	Forest Stand Improvement
Gopher Ridge WMA	Kandiyohi	12233231	15	$80,000	Yes	Wetland Water Control Structures
RIM Memorial WMA	Kandiyohi	12036226	11	$45,000	Yes	Wetland Restoration
Red Lake WMA: Main Unit	Lake of the Woods	15735229	400	$60,000	Yes	Brushland Shearing
Chain-O-Sloughs WMA	Lincoln	10946222	95	$75,600	Yes	Grassland Restoration
Prairie Dell WMA	Lincoln	11345216	38	$15,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Gabriel Anderson WMA	Lyon	11340206	10	$7,500	Yes	Woody Removal
Eckvoll WMA	Marshall	15539211	500	$125,000	Yes	Brushland Shearing
Mille Lacs WMA	Mille Lacs	04125229	100	$115,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Ereaux WMA	Morrison	04131230	86	$68,800	Yes	Brushland Management
Pembina WMA: Pennington County Unit	Pennington	15345217	20	$50,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Eden WMA	Pipestone	10546224	135	$96,000	Yes	Grassland Restoration
Liberty WMA	Polk	14745216	75	$30,000	Yes	Grassland Restoration
Cedar Rock WMA: South East Unit	Redwood	11336210	87	$90,000	Yes	Woody Removal
Roseau River WMA	Roseau	16342209	904	$45,555	Yes	Wetland Enhancement
Alice Hamm WMA	Stearns	12229233	425	$72,100	Yes	Grassland Burns
Bayport WMA	Washington	02920222	75	$270,125	Yes	Woody Removal
Bayport WMA	Washington	02920222	16	$45,600	Yes	Grassland Restoration

Parcel Map


Kittson
Roseau
Lake of the Woods
Marshall
Pennington
Red Lake
Polk
Clearwater
Beltrami
Koochiching
Itasca
Saint Louis
Lake
Cook
Norman
Mahnomen
Hubbard
Clay
Becker
Cass
Wilkin
Otter Tail
Wadena
Crow Wing
Aitkin
Carlton
Pine
Grant
Douglas
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabec
Traverse
Stevens
Pope
Stearns
Benton
Isanti
Chisago
Big Stone
Swift
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Sherburne
Wright
Anoka
Lac Qui Parle
Chippewa
Hennepin
Ramsey
Washington
Yellow Medicine
Renville
McLeod
Carver
Scott
Dakota
Lincoln
Lyon
Redwood
Sibley
Nicollet
Le Sueur
Rice
Goodhue
Wabasha
Brown
Pipestone
Murray
Cottonwood
Watonwan
Blue Earth
Waseca
Steele
Dodge
Olmsted
Winona
Rock
Nobles
Jackson
Martin
Faribault
Freeborn
Mower
Fillmore
Houston
0
17
34
51 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Roving Crew 4

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2027 - DNR Roving Crew 4
Organization: DNR
Manager: Greg Hoch

Budget

Requested Amount: $13,006,900
Appropriated Amount: $13,007,000
Percentage: 100.0%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	$8,850,000	-	$8,850,000	-	100.0%	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	$2,800,000	-	$2,800,100	-	100.0%	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$806,900	-	$806,900	-	100.0%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$250,000	-	$250,000	-	100.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	$300,000	-	$300,000	-	100.0%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$13,006,900**	**-**	**$13,007,000**	**-**	**100.0%**	**-**

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 composed of numerous projects. We would simply eliminate projects or scale down the size of some projects.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
They would be proportionally reduced using the DNR calculator.

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 composed of numerous projects. We would simply eliminate projects or scale down the size of some projects.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
They would be proportionally reduced using the DNR calculator.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	2,000	2,000	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	52,000	52,000	100.0%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$481,700	$481,700	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$12,525,200	$12,525,300	100.0%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	2,000	2,000	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	52,000	52,000	100.0%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	$481,700	$481,700	100.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	$12,525,200	$12,525,300	100.0%