



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Statewide Forest Enhancement-Phase 7

ML 2027 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/24/2026

Proposal Title: DNR Statewide Forest Enhancement-Phase 7

Funds Requested: \$4,451,000

Confirmed Leverage Funds: -

Is this proposal Scalable?: Yes

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Ted Dick

Title: Forest Habitat Supervisor

Organization: DNR

Address: 1201 East Highway 2

City: Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3296

Email: ted.dick@state.mn.us

Office Number: 218-328-8869

Mobile Number: 218-395-3577

Fax Number:

Website: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location Information

County Location(s): Pine, Cass, Morrison, Benton, Chippewa, Wilkin, Todd, Norman, Houston, Fillmore, Winona, St. Louis, Roseau, Cook, Hubbard, Lake, Aitkin and Beltrami.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Forest / Prairie Transition

Southeast Forest

Prairie

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Narrative**Abstract**

Forest and brushland habitats in Minnesota require restoration and enhancement work to expand their value to wildlife and fish species. Activities such as shearing, prescribed fire, planting to increase species diversity, and invasive species treatment increase the quality of critical wildlife habitat (e.g., deer and moose thermal habitat). This project will also benefit water quality and outdoor recreation. The DNR Conservation Agenda, Wildlife Action Plan, Forest Action Plan, and Fish Habitat Plan will guide habitat enhancements in this proposal to meet the objectives put forth in these plans.

Design and Scope of Work

Minnesota's forest habitats include many native plant communities in different growth stages. Forests include riparian areas along rivers and lakes, upland forests, wet forests, and conifer forests. Each of these habitats are home to a wide array of game and non-game species, including multiple Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Forests provide outdoor recreation, timber products, and support to local communities. Forests protect water quality and sequester carbon. However, forests face increasing stress from invasive species, climate change, critical habitat loss, conversion to non-forest, and fragmentation. Beyond more traditional forest management activities, some sites require vital enhancements to maximize diversity of trees, shrubs, and ground vegetation for fish and wildlife. For example, reintroduction of 'good fire' on the landscape provides needed biological legacies that enhance habitat for birds, pollinators, mammals and amphibians. The use of fire is also a tool that helps reduce the need for herbicide and mechanical treatments in forest habitat enhancement and invasive species control efforts.

Healthy, diverse forests increase water retention and filtration and store and sequester carbon and also are more resilient and provide other ecosystem services. We will accomplish strategic and targeted forest enhancements using contractors to conduct activities that support healthy, diverse, and resilient habitats. Activities may include:

- 1) Controlling invasive vegetation, woody vegetation removal, and prescribed fire
- 2) Assisting oak regeneration through seeding and tree planting to provide important mast for forage
- 3) Maintaining wet forest ecosystems by increasing tree species diversity ahead of emerald ash borer (EAB)
- 4) Enhancing spruce budworm-damaged forest habitat by establishing and tending diverse, long-lived conifer stands to provide thermal cover
- 5) Restoring ecologically beneficial fire to Minnesota's State Forests

DNR land managers collaborate with other state, federal, and county agencies and many conservation organizations to take a landscape view of forests and manage across administrative units. For example, DNR managers are working together with U.S. Forest Service managers to maintain and enhance vegetation to provide forage and mast for a variety of wildlife. Traditional timber harvest is an important tool for improving habitat, but the activities proposed here are in addition to logging and often require different activities to achieve habitat improvements.

This request seeks funding to enhance 15,586 acres of habitat on public lands, primarily but not limited to, Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Aquatic Management Areas (AMA), state forests, and county lands. Strategic and

targeted work will be accomplished through the added capacity of contractors hired to conduct activities that support healthy, diverse, and resilient habitats.

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

All ages of forests require investment and management. Some sites, with heightened value to key wildlife and aquatic species, need additional efforts to maximize habitat benefits. Prescribed fire in mature forests helps clear underbrush and allows sunlight penetration to the ground to boost tree regeneration. Fire is especially important to both maintain and regenerate oak and pine forests. Oak forests are important habitat and establishing and tending young oak forests will keep oak on the landscape into the future. The proposed project would expand the use for prescribed fire on State Forest land. The reintroduction of 'good fire' on the landscape will provide needed biological legacies that enhance habitat for birds, pollinators, mammals and amphibians. The use of fire is also a tool that helps reduce the need for herbicide and mechanical treatments in forest regeneration and invasive species control efforts.

Shearing brushland helps create open lands that provide critical habitat for American woodcock, yellow rails, and sharp-tailed grouse, which are SGCN species. Shearing maintains brushlands for sharp-tailed grouse and provides small forest openings critical to many species of birds, including golden-winged warblers. Finally, planting conifers provides thermal cover for multiple wildlife species and creates shade and protects sources of ground water for native brook trout streams threatened by climate change.

Each of the practices mentioned will benefit a wide range of game and non-game species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, as well as pollinating insects.

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

Pressures on Minnesota forests are increasing. It is more effective to enhance critical habitat for wildlife species and conserve SGCN species now rather than having to restore habitat in the future. Planting trees on acres affected by large spruce budworm infestations helps to diversify forests while providing habitat for wildlife. Diversifying balsam fir forests will make them more resilient to future spruce budworm and other insect outbreaks that are predicted to increase with a warming climate. Current DNR plans provide the opportunity to address these habitat needs, and funding will accelerate implementation of these plans. Increased management of brushland habitats is a particularly urgent need. Early detection and swift control of invasive species is more cost-effective than trying to manage established and widespread invasive species populations.

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

DNR's Conservation Agenda, Wildlife Action Plan, Forest Action Plan, Fish Habitat Plan, along with specific site management plans will guide activities. These plans incorporate the best information and science to identify goals and strategies. DNR strives to base all habitat management on science. Restoring and enhancing habitat expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation, and directly applies research to on the ground projects.

The habitat needs of many forest species, including mature forest species such as marten and fisher and young forest species like woodcock and golden-winged warblers, are well documented. Many wildlife species require mature forests during some point in their lives. Research conducted in Minnesota will be used to apply these funds to enhance and restore habitats in the forested areas of the state.

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

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, restore, and enhance habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need

Northern Forest

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

Prairie

Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna

Southeast Forest

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

Describe how this project/program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife:

Forests are always maturing and changing; enhancement work, by its very nature, is not permanent. It is significant because the enhancements described above will make the forest more diverse and resilient and will increase wildlife abundance. This is all compatible with sustainable forest management and the ecosystem services these habitats provide. A healthy, diverse forest and ecosystem are a permanent legacy.

If this project/program does not have permanent outcomes, describe why it is important to undertake at this time:

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 ~ *A number of species are tied to brushland and young aspen forests in these region, including elk, golden-winged warblers, and sharp-tailed grouse. Ongoing surveys and research on these species will allow the DNR to track local and regional responses to these and related efforts.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *The DNR and partner agencies conduct a number of wildlife surveys, including moose, deer, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, woodcock, and songbird surveys.*

Programs in prairie region:

Improved condition of habitat on public lands ~ *These efforts will help manage forests in this region to benefit a range of wildlife species, both game and non-game. Ongoing surveys, especially among songbirds, will track long-term changes in bird populations in this region.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

Large corridors and complexes of biologically diverse wildlife habitat typical of the unglaciated region are restored and protected ~ *The non-game program is very active in this region with projects assessing wildlife populations. And there are the same ongoing wildlife surveys as in the other regions of the state.*

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 MN DNR is already conducting, and do not supplant or substitute. This request includes funding for prescribed burns designed to improve habitat. Other funds designed to fight wildfire and reduce fuels are not eligible for habitat improvement burns.

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

We will select and implement projects to achieve high quality and enduring benefits. Projects have variable lifespans depending on project type, weather, and other environmental conditions. Many of the projects are meant to endure for decades, at which point regular forest management activity can resume. DNR staff and staff from partner agencies/non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will monitor project sites to gauge habitat response and determine when additional enhancement may be needed. Work will be sustained through other DNR funds, forest management practices, and future requests from the OHF and related external funding.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2027 and beyond	listed above and future OHF requests	continue monitoring	adapt results	seek additional funding
2026	listed above and future OHF requests	monitor results	document results	develop budget for additional work with internal and external funds

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

We have in the past and will continue to consult and coordinate with diverse communities and tribal partners into the project planning and work we do to enhance fish and wildlife habitats for all citizens of the state of Minnesota.

Activity Details

Requirements

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

WMA

AMA

State Forests

Other : national forest, Con-Con lands, school trust lands.

County/Municipal

Land Use

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

No

Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this proposal either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?

No

Previous OHF Appropriations

Have you received OHF dollars through LSOHC for this program or project in the past?

Yes

Are there any of these past appropriations still OPEN?

Yes

If needed, please include any explanation of unspent funds.

Open OHF Appropriations - Data from Most Recent Status Update

Project	Funding Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Funding Remaining	% Spent to Date
ML 2026 - DNR Forest Restoration and Enhancement, Phase 6	\$1,944,000	-	\$1,944,000	0.0%
ML 2025 - DNR Statewide Forest Enhancement and Restoration-Phase 5	\$2,543,000	-	\$2,543,000	0.0%
ML 2024 - DNR Forest Enhancement and Restoration-Phase 4	\$1,727,000	\$99,200	\$1,627,800	5.74%
ML 2023 - DNR Forest Enhancement Phase III	\$1,496,000	\$596,400	\$899,600	39.87%
ML 2022 - DNR Forest Enhancement Phase 2	\$2,172,000	\$1,160,700	\$1,011,300	53.44%
ML 2021 - DNR Forest Enhancement	\$1,338,000	\$1,305,700	\$32,300	97.59%
Totals	\$11,220,000	\$3,162,000	\$8,058,000	28.18%

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
implement enhancements	spring 2031
continued monitoring and follow-up management and enhancements	ongoing

Budget

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$405,300	-	-	\$405,300
Contracts	\$3,570,500	-	-	\$3,570,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$158,000	-	-	\$158,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$84,100	-	-	\$84,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$233,100	-	-	\$233,100
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$4,451,000	-	-	\$4,451,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Prescribed fire foresters	0.25	4.0	\$105,300	-	-	\$105,300
Contract coordinator	1.0	2.0	\$300,000	-	-	\$300,000

Amount of Request: \$4,451,000

Amount of Leverage: -

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%

DSS + Personnel: \$489,400

As a % of the total request: 11.0%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

N/A

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?

Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

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

Fewer acres could be accomplished, the majority of these projects are scalable.

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

All costs including contracts/supplies/materials for the majority of the projects can be proportionally reduced.

If the project received 30% of the requested funding

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

Number of projects and acres accomplished can be reduced accordingly to meet a 30% funding level. Fund smaller projects that do not need to be scaled down to meet funding.

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

The personnel costs (RX burn specialists and Contract Administrator) are not proportionally reduceable consistent with previous OHF forest enhancement appropriations.

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this proposal?

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

Yes

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

Consistent with approved work plans for previous OHF appropriations, this funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for FAW staff who set up contracts for work done on projects. This one contract coordinator position is vital to implementing restoration and enhancement projects in this grant. The .25 FTE for prescribed fire foresters is new to this proposal this year. The OHF funding would not supplant existing funding, prescribed fire work is additive to the work that the Division of Forestry already does. While vegetation management can be accomplished by means funded in other ways (herbicide and heavy equipment use), prescribed fire can be used as an additional tool that will meet forest vegetation management needs, create and enhance higher quality biological legacies, and otherwise enhance pollinator and wildlife habitat.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

This line includes contracts for restoration and enhancement work that the DNR or Roving Crews don't have the specialized equipment or staff to conduct. Contracts increase our capacity to impact acres beyond what staff alone are capable of.

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 travel costs meet the traditional travel costs associated with project work.

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 standard DNR calculator for proposals to the OHF and ENRTF.

Federal Funds

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

No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	15,586	0	15,586
Total	0	0	15,586	0	15,586

Restoration/Enhancement Acres Breakdown of Existing Protected Lands (Table 1a.2)

	RESTORE: Lands acquired with OHF	RESTORE: Lands NOT acquired with OHF	ENHANCE: Lands acquired with OHF	ENHANCE: Lands NOT acquired with OHF
DNR Lands (WMA, State Forests, etc.)	0	0	0	15,586
Non-DNR Lands (city, state, federal, etc.)	0	0	0	0
Easements	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	15,586

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	-	-	\$4,451,000	-	\$4,451,000
Total	-	-	\$4,451,000	-	\$4,451,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	620	959	45	13,962	15,586
Total	0	620	959	45	13,962	15,586

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	-	\$998,100	\$611,100	\$110,000	\$2,731,800	\$4,451,000
Total	-	\$998,100	\$611,100	\$110,000	\$2,731,800	\$4,451,000

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	-	-	\$285	-

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	-	\$1,609	\$637	\$2,444	\$195

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

No

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

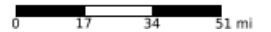
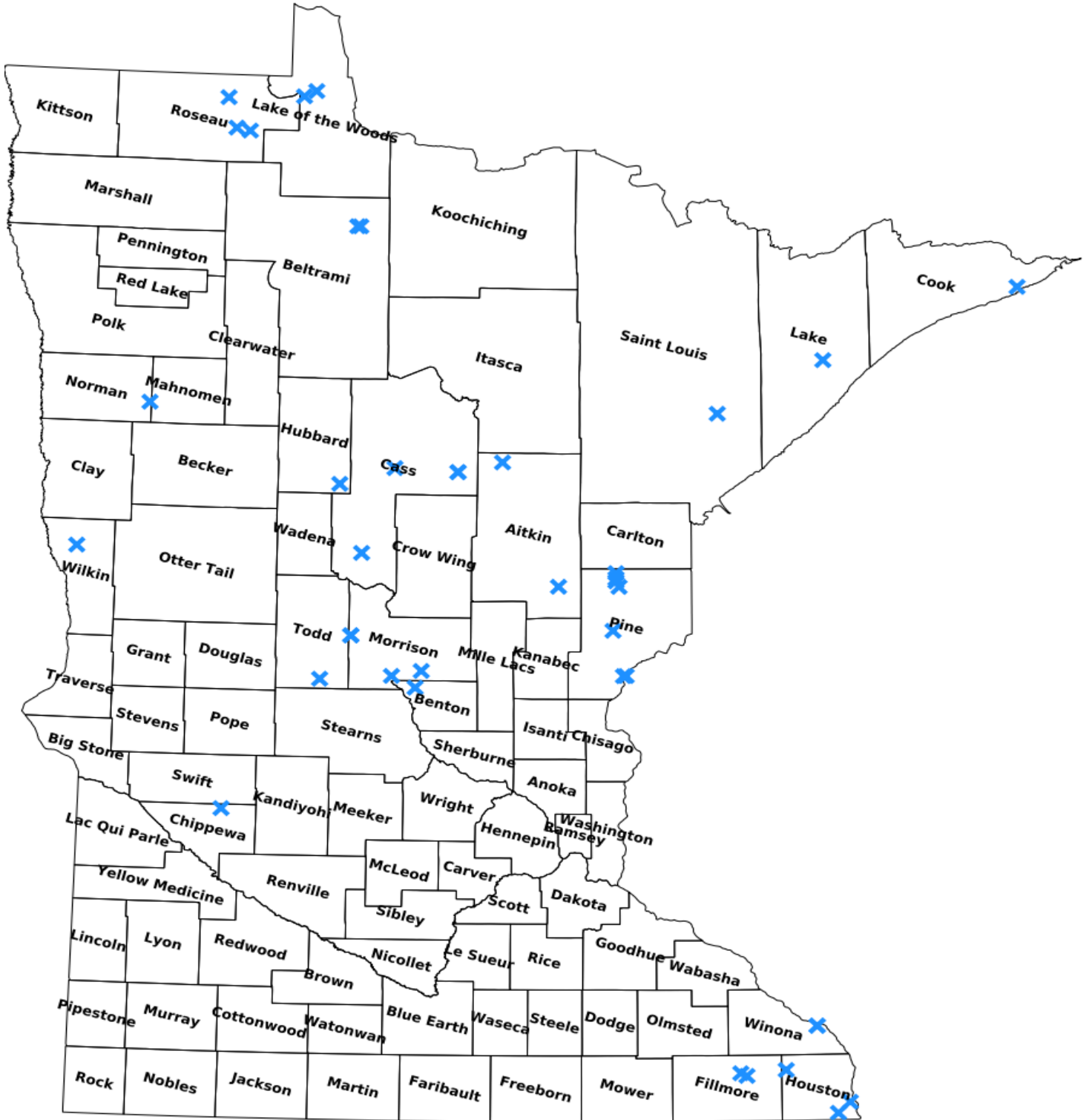
We evaluated forest habitat needs not funded through other sources, considering staff capacity from DNR Fish and Wildlife/Forestry divisions to implement and complete within grant timeline.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Aitkin (01004000) - Aitkin County, Aitkin WMA: Main Unit, Aitkin WMA: South Unit, Cedar Lake WMA, Grayling Marsh WMA, Hay Point WMA, Hill River SF, Kimberly Marsh WMA: Main Unit, Little Willow River WMA: Main Unit, Moose Willow WMA, Newstrom Lake WMA: South Unit, Pliny WMA, Rabbit Lake WMA, Ripple Lake AMA (Aitkin), Ripple River WMA: Access Unit, Ripple River WMA: East Unit, Ripple River WMA: West Unit, Roberts-Wickstrom WMA: East Unit, Roberts-Wickstrom WMA: West Unit, Salo Marsh WMA: Main Unit, Savanna SF, Solana SF, Waukenabo SF, Wealthwood SF, Wold WMA, Woross WMA	Aitkin	04423202	1,000	\$295,000	Yes	Forest stand improvement
Hill Lake WMA: North Unit, Hill Lake WMA: South Unit	Aitkin	05226223	24	\$60,000	Yes	buckthorn treatment
LUP land, Red Lake WMA: Supplement Unit	Beltrami	15531228	-	-	Yes	-
Red Lake WMA	Beltrami	15531229	-	-	Yes	-
McDougall WMA	Benton	03831215	-	-	Yes	-
Rice Area Sportsmens Club WMA	Benton	03931213	-	-	Yes	-
Centennial State Forest 45755	Cass	14029216	17	\$9,775	Yes	Oak regeneration
Land o' Lakes State Forest 88370	Cass	14026224	55	\$31,625	Yes	Oak regeneration
Land o' Lakes State Forest 88370	Cass	14026224	55	\$31,625	Yes	Oak regeneration
Meadow Brook WMA	Cass	13531222	-	-	Yes	-
Shakopee WMA	Chippewa	11938207	20	\$60,000	Yes	invasive species control
Pat Bayle SF 11975	Cook	06204208	262	\$222,176	Yes	Spruce Budworm Enhancement
RJ Dorer State Forest 36811	Fillmore	10310202	51	\$40,800	Yes	Stand Habitat Improvement
RJ Dorer State Forest 36857	Fillmore	10309207	19	\$15,200	Yes	Stand Habitat Improvement
Ferndale Ridge WMA	Houston	10407232	50	\$135,000	Yes	Forest stand improvement
RJ Dorer State Forest	Houston	10204235	20	\$24,000	Yes	Invasive shrub management
RJ Dorer State Forest 90907	Houston	10104219	53	\$42,400	Yes	Stand Habitat Improvement
Badoura State Forest 0076	Hubbard	13932216	43	\$48,000	Yes	Prescribed burn
Finland SF 0792	Lake	05808216	184	\$156,032	Yes	Spruce Budworm Enhancement
Little Elk WMA	Morrison	13031219	21	\$58,800	Yes	forest stand improvement
Little Elk WMA	Morrison	13031219	154	\$490,000	Yes	forest stand improvement

Sartell WMA	Morrison	03932229	138	\$110,500	Yes	Rx burns, oak improvement
Faith WMA	Norman	14443225	1	\$1,500	Yes	grassland managment
Chengwatana State Forest 0135	Pine	03919219	82	\$27,000	Yes	Prescribed burn
Chengwatana State Forest 75259	Pine	03919220	202	\$151,500	Yes	Conifer Release
General CC Andrews State Forest 0056	Pine	04419206	30	\$18,000	Yes	Conifer Release
General CC Andrews State Forest 0138	Pine	04520224	9	\$5,700	Yes	Conifer Release
General CC Andrews State Forest 0163	Pine	04520225	16	\$9,600	Yes	Conifer Release
Moose Lake WMA	Pine	04520212	-	-	Yes	-
Sandstone WMA	Pine	04220226	-	-	Yes	-
Bear Creek WMA, Cedar Bend WMA	Roseau	16138234	188	\$75,200	Yes	forest stand improvement
Beltrami Island State Forest	Roseau	16037205	250	\$150,000	Yes	Stand Habitat Improvement
Enstrom WMA, R.C. #3 WMA	Roseau	16238206	195	\$87,750	Yes	brushland managment
Roseau River WMA	Roseau	16334232	-	-	Yes	-
Roseau River WMA	Roseau	16334224	24	\$106,800	Yes	tree protection
Cloquet Valley State Forest	St. Louis	05514222	6	\$4,800	Yes	Invasive shrub management
Grey Eagle WMA	Todd	12733209	40	\$112,000	Yes	Invasive species control
Manston Marsh WMA	Wilkin	13547224	24	\$38,400	Yes	forest openings
RJ Dorer State Forest 0008	Winona	10606212	266	\$87,000	Yes	Prescribed burn
RJ Dorer State Forest 0008	Winona	10606212	266	\$87,000	Yes	Prescribed burn

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ⊕ Other

DNR Forest Enhancement - Phase 7



This project will:

- Proactively enhance 15,586 acres of forest habitat on public lands open to hunting or fishing; primarily Wildlife Management Areas and State Forests.
- Hire contractors to increase capacity to achieve large scale habitat improvements, such as tree planting and seeding; tree protection and release; threatened/endangered species habitat improvement; invasive species control; forest & brushland prescribed burns; regenerating brushlands; and enhancing habitat affected by forest pests.
- Sustain and grow healthy, diverse, and resilient habitats for Minnesota's future, benefitting wildlife populations and citizens.



Habitat management activities will:

- Address stressors in our forest such as impacts from invasive species, forest pests such as spruce budworm and emerald ash borer, climate change, loss of oak and winter cover, and lack of necessary disturbance.
- Enhance habitat for threatened or endangered species.
- Focus on larger projects that require unique equipment, and/or are more cost effective for contractors to conduct.
- Restore the use of fire to sites and species adapted to fire using prescribed burns.
- Benefit an array of native fish and wildlife, including game and non-game, and several species in greatest conservation need.

