



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions  
ML 2027 Request for Funding

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### General Information

**Date:** 06/22/2026

**Proposal Title:** DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions

**Funds Requested:** \$124,500

**Confirmed Leverage Funds:** \$28,000

**Is this proposal Scalable?:** No

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Jennifer Olson

**Title:** Initial Development Coordinator

**Organization:** DNR

**Address:** 500 Lafayette Road

**City:** St. Paul, MN 55155

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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:**

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 proposal 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 proposal 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 proposal 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 proposal?**

**Forest / Prairie Transition**

Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

**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 through acquisition in fee or easement to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties

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

This proposal is working with partner organizations who are successful with fee title acquisition and/or conservation easements. Some private landowners have a short window of time during which they will seriously entertain an appraisal and sell their land. Land acquisition directly protects habitat for fish, game and wildlife. The opportunity to purchase strategic parcels of land or limit development rights is challenging with increasing recreation and agricultural land prices. The current Outdoor Heritage Fund legislation will sunset in 2034. We can not assume a future Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment Act voter amendment will successfully pass. This is the time to make a difference and protect the natural landscapes on which we need for survival, recreational opportunities, mental health, and climate resiliency for current and future generations.

**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:**

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 may celebrate cultural diversity or reach 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

**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.

### 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 proposal 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 fee 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

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

Yes

**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.**

The "Availability of Appropriation" language in statute provides four years for real property acquisition and four years after the acquisition date for restoration and enhancement, which includes the limited initial development activities described under this appropriation (cultural resource review, boundary posts, signs, gates, access improvement, parking lots, fencing, etc.).

**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 Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions	\$1,377,000	-	\$1,377,000	0.0%
ML 2025 - DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions	\$740,000	\$69,500	\$670,500	9.39%
ML 2024 - DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions	\$892,000	\$215,200	\$676,800	24.13%
ML 2023 - Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions	\$668,000	\$381,700	\$286,300	57.14%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,677,000</b>	<b>\$666,400</b>	<b>\$3,010,600</b>	<b>18.12%</b>

**Timeline**

<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
Submit final report	November 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 status report	February 2035
Submit status report	August 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	February 2034
Submit status report	August 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	February 2033
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	August 2032
Submit status report	February 2032
Submit status report	August 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	February 2031
Submit status report	August 2030
Submit status report	February 2030
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	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 second fiscal year.	June 2029
Submit status report	February 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 first fiscal year.	June 2028
Appropriation becomes available	July 2027

## Budget

### Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total 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	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$12,500	-	-	\$12,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$124,500</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	-	<b>\$152,500</b>

### Personnel

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

**Amount of Request:** \$124,500

**Amount of Leverage:** \$28,000

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 22.49%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$122,500

**As a % of the total request:** 98.39%

**Easement Stewardship:** -

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

### Leverage Funding Table

	Leverage Amount Committed	Leverage Amount Confirmed (of Committed Funds)	Leverage Amount Anticipated	Total Leverage
Amount:	-	\$28,000	-	\$28,000
% of Total Leverage:	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	

N/A

### Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:

The Initial Development Coordinator position will be covered by 0.2 FTE out of the state Game & Fish funds. This covers time on non-OHF activities such as chronic wasting disease deer check station work, State Fair DNR staffing, professional development, Wildlife Academy, trainings, etc.

**Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?**

No

**Please explain why this project can NOT be scaled:**

This budget is based on the most complete and recent information available, which is expected to cover all the DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP activities on partner-led fee title acquisitions. A reduction in funds may mean some core functions may not be covered in a timely manner.

**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?**

The IDP Coordinator position was initially funded for three years under the ML19 DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition - Phase XI grant. It then moved to a one year administrative ML22 Initial Development Coordinator grant. It was then funded in the ML23 Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions; ML24 DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions; and ML25 DNR Core Functions in Partner-led Acquisition grants. The desire is to keep the IDP Coordinator position funded within the DNR Core Functions grants moving forward.

**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	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	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Restoration/Enhancement Acres of OHF Acquired Lands (Table 1a.1)

	RESTORE: Lands acquired in this proposal	RESTORE: Lands acquired with previous OHF appropriations (<5yrs old)	RESTORE Total	ENHANCE: Lands acquired in this proposal	ENHANCE: Lands acquired with previous OHF appropriations (<5yrs old)	ENHANCE Total
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### 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.)	-	-	-	-
Non-DNR Lands (city, state, federal, etc.)	-	-	-	-
Easements	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### 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	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### 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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**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	\$24,900	\$24,900	\$24,900	\$24,900	\$24,900	\$124,500
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,900</b>	<b>\$24,900</b>	<b>\$24,900</b>	<b>\$24,900</b>	<b>\$24,900</b>	<b>\$124,500</b>

**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

### **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.

# ML27 DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions

The DNR Initial Development (IDP) Coordinator position is responsible for communicating and coordinating with eleven conservation partners, multiple DNR divisions, and with the MN Historical Society archeologists related to OHF acquisitions.

With every partner-led acquisition, a core set of functions relating to DNR Land Acquisition Costs ensures quality appraisals, fair price, and the State's interests are protected against future liabilities. 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. The DNR Land Acquisition Cost formula has been shared with partner organizations for their budget planning efforts. Properties that will not convey to the DNR (ex. fee acquisition without PILT or conservation easements) but that are valued over \$1 million require an appraisal review by DNR Division of Land & Minerals – Acquisition and Appraisal Unit. The DNR Land Acquisition Cost budgets will be swept from partner organizations budgets and put into the DNR Core Functions budget in late fall 2026.

**DNR Land Acquisition Cost formula for fee acquisition with PILT = \$15,000 for every \$500,000**

**DNR Land Acquisition Cost formula for acquisitions without PILT, fee title or conservation easements, valued over \$1 million = \$7,500**

## DNR Land Acquisition Costs

- Appraisal review
- Land survey review
- Title review
- Drainage agreements review
- Access agreements review
- Other agreement/encumbrance reviews
- DNR Division of Land & Minerals project manager time
- Property taxes
- Recording fees
- Deed taxes



## DNR Initial Development Plan Costs

An Initial Development Plan (IDP) is required for all fee title land acquisitions in the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife. The IDP is used to identify the funding and activities that will be needed to develop a new parcel to minimum standards (DNR Directive #070605 – Development Standards for WMA/AMAs). The DNR IDP formula has been shared with partner organizations for their budget planning efforts.

**The DNR IDP formula = \$21,000 for every 120-acre goal associated with fee title acquisition with PILT.**

Limited activities in an IDP are covered in under the DNR Core Functions proposal:

- Cultural resource review – compliance with Minnesota Field Archaeology Act and Minnesota Historic Sites Act (MN Statutes 138.40 and 138.655)
- Boundary posts – purchased by DNR in large orders, freight cost savings
- OHF & DNR signs and hardware – metal and wood routed signs, posts, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.
- Fencing - grazing, parking lot, etc.
- Access/parking lots – improvement of ROW or approach from public road; parking lot needs (geotextile fabric, posts, gates, gravel, culvert, etc.)

Partner accomplishment plans will be reviewed and DNR IDP budgets will be swept into the DNR Core Functions budget in late fall 2026.

