

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road · Saint Paul, Minnesota · 55155-4037

Office of the Commissioner

651-259-5555



November 4, 2009

Dr. Mike Kilgore, Chair  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
Associate Professor, Department of Forest Resources  
University of Minnesota Twin Cities - Room 301K Green Hall 6112  
1530 North Cleveland Avenue  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108

Dear Dr. Kilgore:

On Monday, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) submitted a package of seven Requests For Funding to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for fiscal year 2011. These proposals totaled \$68 million. A summary spreadsheet of the requests is attached with this letter.

I recognize that the DNR request exceeds the \$55 million that the Council has estimated is available for recommendation for FY2011. The Department's request provides a realistic estimate of both the need and the capacity for completing the conservation work outlined in the Council's Planning Section priorities and the constitutional language. We are willing to work with the Council and staff to identify priorities both across and within the seven proposals that the DNR has submitted, but we thought it important that the Council be aware of the breadth of opportunities that we are aware of.

Due to the very tight timeframe between release of the Council's Call For Request and the Request For Funding deadline, DNR staff were not able to collaborate with other organizations and agencies to the extent we would have preferred on several of these proposals. We understand that the Council will likely receive a number of very good proposals from other entities proposing to do very similar work that we outline in our proposals. Again, we are very willing to work with both the Council and the other agencies and organizations to further seek collaborative opportunities and refine and merge competing proposals to the extent we can in the coming weeks.

You will also note that the proposals include a number of staff requests. Last year, DNR staffing requests were minimal since we were unsure the degree to which we could shift work from ongoing programs and priorities to Outdoor Heritage-funded work. We now have a better sense of the impact of this new funding source on our work, and we believe it is important that the work recommended by the Council not be completed at the expense of other DNR priorities. As you know, these funds are required to supplement existing efforts, and the staffing requests are intended to ensure that the Outdoor Heritage funding does not supplant other priority DNR work, much of which is funded by the Game and Fish Fund. We look forward to a discussion with the Council on how the DNR can best support your work and to explore alternatives for providing the necessary DNR staff support for Outdoor Heritage Fund implementation.

Finally, the Conservation Legacy Partner grant program is proposed at \$4.58 million. At the time of submission, we were unsure about the level of interest and the quality of proposals that we might receive for this new program. It now appears that there is considerably more interest in this program for FY2010 than our current funding can support, and while we have not yet conducted a technical review of these proposals, we would welcome a discussion with the Council on how best to move forward with that program.

We look forward to working with the Council on these important challenges.

Sincerely,

*Mark Holsten* COPY

Mark Holsten  
Commissioner

MH/DRS/jls; Attachment

Copy: Mr. Bill Becker, Executive Director, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, 95 State Office Bldg, Saint Paul, MN 55155  
Mr. David R. Schad, Director, DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Mr. Grant Wilson, DNR Liaison to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, FAW  
Ms. Denise Anderson, Administrator, DNR Office of Management and Budget Services

DNR Information: 651-296-6157 or 1-888-646-6367 • TTY: 651-296-5484 or 1-800-657-3929 • FAX: 651-296-4779 • [www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov)

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DNR's Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Proposals DRAFT

PROGRAM	TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED	MANAGER	DIV	PARTNERS	TYPE OF WORK	WHERE	L-SOHC Section Priorities Addressed (as numbered in Call for Funding Requests)
Aquatic Habitat Program	\$17,158,000	Michael Duval	FAW, ECO	none	Acquisition, Restoration, and Enhancement	AMAs, Easements, public waters	Northern Forest # 1 & 3; Forest/Prairie Transition # 1; Southeast Forest # 2; Metropolitan Urbanizing # 2 & 3
Stream Habitat Restoration and Enhancement AWA Acquisition \$10,206,000 Lake Habitat Enhancement \$5,893,000 \$1,059,000							
Accelerated Forest Wildlife Habitat Program	\$17,525,000	Cynthia Osmundson	FAW, ECO, FOR	none	Acquisition and Enhancement	WMAs, SNAs, state forests	Northern Forest # 2 & 3; Forest/Prairie Transition # 1; Southeast Forest # 1 & 2; Prairie # 2 & 3; Metropolitan Urbanizing # 1
Forest Acquisition \$10,343,000 Restoration and Enhancement - FOR lands \$4,161,000 Restoration and Enhancement - FAW lands \$1,719,000 Restoration and Enhancement - ECO lands \$1,300,000							
Accelerated Prairie Grassland Restoration and Enhancement Program on DNR lands and Roadside	\$12,605,000	Bill Penning	FAW, ECO	none	Acquisition, Restoration, and Enhancement	WMAs, SNAs, AMAs, Roadside	Forest/Prairie Transition # 2; Southeast Forest # 3; Prairie # 2 & 3; Metropolitan Urbanizing # 1
WMA Acquisition & Development \$6,047,000 SNA Prairie Bank Acquisition \$2,041,000 Existing WMA/AMA Habitat Work \$2,171,000 Roadside \$229,000 Eco Resources Habitat \$1,230,000 WMA Rowing Crews \$885,000							
Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement, Restoration, and Protection Partnership	\$7,841,000	Ray Norrgard & Jon Schneider	FAW	DU (co-lead)	Acquisition, Restoration, and Enhancement	WMAs, Easements, public waters	Northern Forest # 3; Forest/Prairie Transition # 1; Prairie # 1, 3 & 4
Pre-design \$1,573,000 Design \$836,000 Construction \$1,993,000 Protection \$3,439,000 DU subtotal \$5,939,000 DNR Subtotal \$1,908,000							

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PROGRAM	TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED	MANAGER	DIV	PARTNERS	TYPE OF WORK	WHERE	L-SOHC Section Priorities Addressed
Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Partnership	\$5,528,000	Tim Schlagenhaft	FAW, ECO, FOR	Audubon; Conservation Fund; BWSR; MINRC; Land Trust; PCA; NPS; TNC; TPL; USFWS; other county and local partners	Acquisition and Restoration	AMAs, WIMAs, SNAs, state forests, Easements, public waters,	Southeast Forest # 2; Metropolitan Urbanizing # 2
Restoring Fish & Wildlife Populations on the Lower St. Louis River	\$2,971,000	John Lindgren	FAW	SLRA	Acquisition and Restoration	AMAs, City of Duluth	Northern Forest # 1
Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program	\$4,580,000	Leslie Tannahill	COM	none	Acquisition, Restoration, and Enhancement	Variable	Potentially all, dependant on applicant requests

TOTAL \$68,204,000