

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: **Agenda Item #7**
DATE: July 25, 2023
SUBJECT: Review & Approval of Final Accomplishment plan - ML 2023, Chap. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(d) - DNR Forest Enhancement, Phase 3
PRESENTER: Ted Dick, Forest Habitat Supervisor, MN DNR

Suggested Motion:

Motion by Member XX to approve adoption of the final accomplishment plan for ML 2023, Chap. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(d) - DNR Forest Enhancement, Ph. 3.

Background:

At the Council meeting on June 21, 2023, the Council approved all final accomplishment plans apart from one. DNR Forest Enhancement, Phase 3 was not approved due to a significant non-proportional reduction in enhancement output acres and lack of accompanying rationale.

The program manager was asked to return to the July 25th LSOHC meeting to better explain the reduction in output acres so the Council can benefit from the additional testimony and further consider approval of the final accomplishment plan.

Additional Background:

The final ML23 appropriation recommendation as approved by the legislature for this proposal is \$1,496,000 (38.7% of the original \$3,869,700 proposal request).

The February draft Accomplishment Plan reduced Restoration acres from 121 to 15 (12.4% of original) and Enhancement acres from 13,789 to 6,626 acres (48% of original).

However, the Final Accomplishment Plan submitted in May showed a significant and non-proportional reduction in Enhancement acres to only 2,917 acres (21% of original). Hence the Council's request for further testimony and consideration at its July 25th meeting.

In preparation for the July 25th council meeting, the project manager and his team have reviewed and reevaluated the entirety of their original list of proposed enhancement and restoration sites and treatment applications. Their resulting consensus is that with the legislatively approved \$1,496,000 appropriation, they can confidently project restoration of 15 acres and enhancement of 12,917 acres. In large part, this projection is due to the previous inadvertent omission of the proposed 10,000 acres of prescribed burn sites in Mille Lacs County.

Attachments:

- Updated Final Accomplishment Plan for DNR Forest Enhancement, Phase 3