



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MN Forests for the Future / Upper Mississippi Project, Phase 1 & 2

Laws of Minnesota 2009 Final Report

General Information

Date: 05/22/2026

Project Title: MN Forests for the Future / Upper Mississippi Project, Phase 1 & 2

Funds Recommended: \$36,000,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2009, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3

Appropriation Language: \$18,000,000 in fiscal year 2010 and \$18,000,000 in fiscal year 2011 are to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire land or permanent working forest easements on private forests in areas identified through the Minnesota forests for the future program under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.66. Priority must be given to acquiring land or interests in private lands within existing Minnesota state forest boundaries. Any easements acquired must have a forest management plan as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 290C.02, subdivision 7. A list of proposed fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The fiscal year 2011 appropriation is available only for acquisitions that, by August 15, 2009, are: (1) subject to a binding agreement with the commissioner; and (2) matched by at least \$9,000,000 in private donations.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Richard F. Peterson

Title: Forest Legacy Coordinator

Organization: DNR

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Location Information

County Location(s): Itasca, Kanabec, St. Louis, Koochiching, Clearwater, Cass, Beltrami and Aitkin.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Northern Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

This program/project protected approximately 187,876 acres of forest and wetlands with permanent conservation easements and 2,745 acres with fee acquisition and provides public recreational access, provides for sustainable forest management, and supports diverse habitats for a wide array of fish and wildlife species.

Process & Methods

This proposal will protect over 190,000 acres of private forest through the use of working forest conservation easements and fee acquisition that prevents forestland conversion and parcelization. The highest priority blocks of forest within Minnesota's forested subsections will be targeted for permanent protection. Acquisitions will prevent development, assure traditional public access for hunting and fishing, and allow for sustainable forest management. The sale of large timber company holdings in Minnesota is part of a national trend. These large blocks of forest provide critical connectivity with public conservation lands. Private and public forest lands interact to create a working forest across the landscape that provides essential benefits Minnesotans care deeply about. The vision of the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program is to protect up to 530,000 acres of private forests over the next 25 years (see Minnesota Forests for the Future: A Strategic Report. April 2008). The current request reflects an accelerated acquisition program over the next 3-4 years in order to take advantage of a short window of opportunity to protect some of the largest, remaining blocks of private forestland in the state. Projects funded under this program will protect forests, prevent forest fragmentation and encourage forest consolidation – outcomes consistent with Minnesota Statutes 97A.056.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

Exceptional challenges, expectations, failures, opportunities, or unique aspects of program

What is the plan to sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

All Minnesota Forests for the Future easements have a comprehensive stewardship and monitoring plan that provide for regular landowner contacts and annual monitoring visits to ensure that the easement properties continue to provide enduring fish and wildlife habitat benefits, public access and sustainably managed forests in perpetuity. Funds for future monitoring and stewardship work will come from the Forests for the Future Monitoring account which was funded in part through the ML 2009 appropriation. The purposes of the monitoring/stewardship plans are to prevent, detect, and document violations of the easement's terms. Funding for the monitoring/stewardship is from the Forests for the Future monitoring account. Maintenance of fee parcels will be minimum based on any reforestation needs in the future but will also include maintaining boundary lines and managing public use. Funds for fee parcels will come from the Forest Investment Management Account.

Budget

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$89,100	-	-	-	\$100,000	\$89,100
Contracts	-	-	\$8,500	-	-	-	-	\$8,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	\$950,400	-	-	-	-	\$950,400
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$300,000	\$300,000	-	-	\$753,600	RIM CritHabLicPlates; TNC	\$300,000	\$753,600
Easement Acquisition	\$34,700,000	\$34,700,000	\$33,950,000	-	\$9,750,000	The Conservation Fund	\$34,700,000	\$43,700,000
Easement Stewardship	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	-	-	-	\$750,000	\$750,000
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$131,800	-	\$29,600	State Bonding	\$150,000	\$161,400
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	\$400	-	-	-	-	\$400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$36,000,000	\$36,000,000	\$35,880,200	-	\$10,533,200	-	\$36,000,000	\$46,413,400

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program coordinator - Richard Peterson funding may be split among other staff as well	0.3	3.0	\$89,100	-	-	\$89,100

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Total Revenue: -

Revenue Spent: -

Revenue Balance: \$0

Of the money disclosed above, what are the appropriate uses of the money:

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

N/A

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Acres (AP)	Total Acres (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	2,746	0	0	0	2,746
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	1,344	0	0	0	1,344	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	187,277	187,876	0	0	187,277	187,876
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	188,621	190,622	0	0	188,621	190,622

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Funding (AP)	Total Funding (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,022,200	-	-	-	\$1,022,200
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	\$36,000,000	\$34,858,000	-	-	\$36,000,000	\$34,858,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	\$36,000,000	\$35,880,200	-	-	\$36,000,000	\$35,880,200

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,746	0	2,746
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	187,876	0	187,876
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	190,622	0	190,622

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/ Urban (AP)	Metro/ Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,022,200	-	\$1,022,200
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$34,858,000	-	\$34,858,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$35,880,200	-	\$35,880,200

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

No

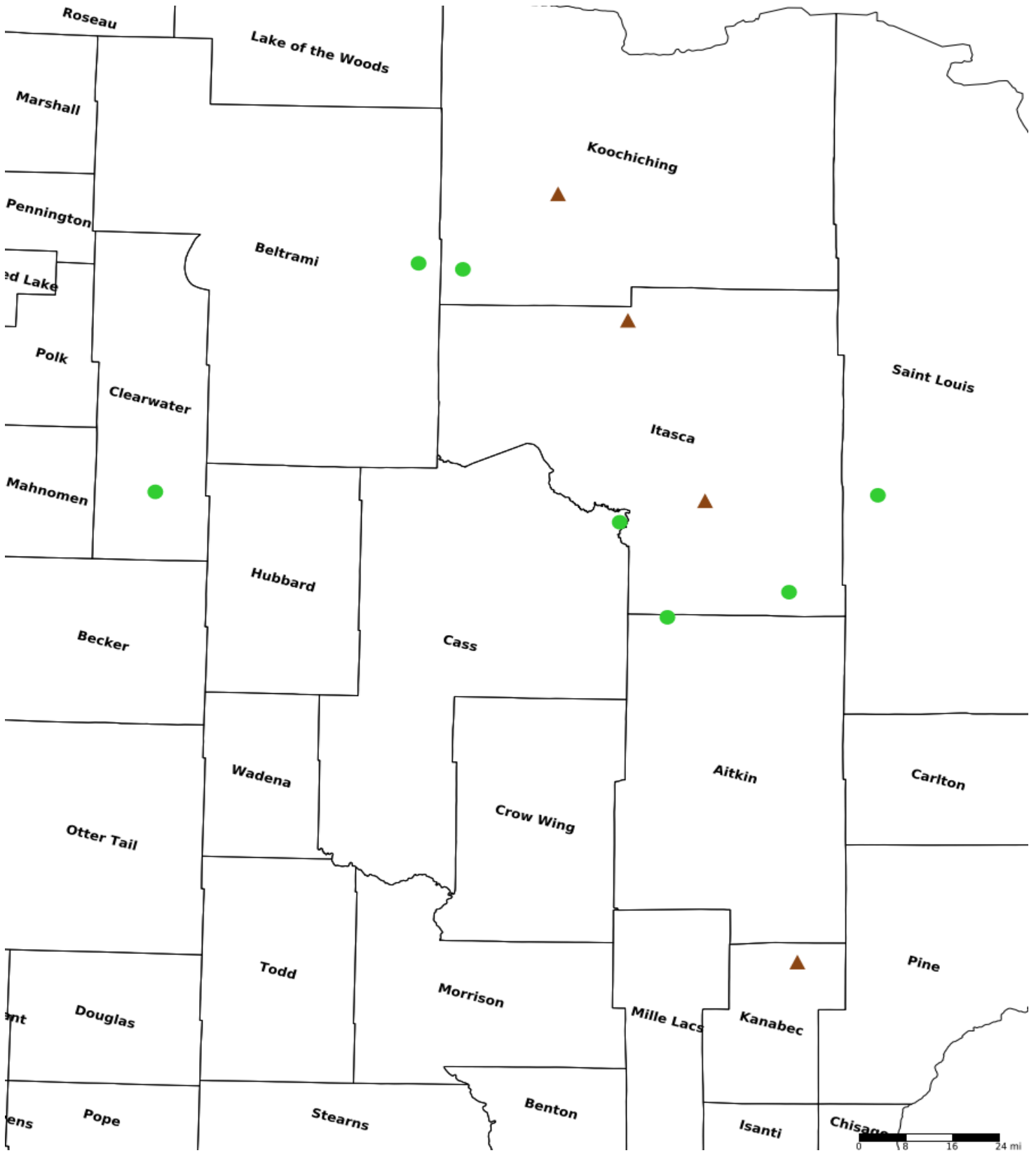
Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
keep 1B UPM/Blandin # 141610 - Fee Itasca	Itasca	05625216	141	\$32,600	No
keep 3 Big Fork # 147320 - Fee Itasca	Itasca	15025213	1,040	\$329,000	No
keep 4 Snake River SF Fee Acquisition # 147370 - fee Kanabec	Kanabec	04223223	406	\$321,400	No
keep 1A UPM/Blandin # 141610 - Fee Koochiching	Koochiching	15426219	1,158	\$267,400	No

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
keep 2 UPM/Blandin # 141610 - Ease Aitkin	Aitkin	05226204	4,936	\$892,000	No
keep 2 UPM/Blandin # 141610 - Ease Beltrami	Beltrami	15230228	560	\$101,200	No
keep 2 UPM/Blandin # 141610 - Ease Cass	Cass	14425223	80	\$14,500	No
keep 2 UPM/Blandin # 141610 - Ease Clearwater	Clearwater	14537234	160	\$28,900	No
keep 2 UPM/Blandin # 141610 - Ease Itasca	Itasca	05323210	155,091	\$28,025,600	No
keep 2 UPM/Blandin # 141610 - Ease Koochiching	Koochiching	15229234	4,539	\$820,200	No
keep 2 UPM/Blandin # 141610 - Ease St. Louis	St. Louis	05621212	22,509	\$4,067,700	No

Parcel Map



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

