

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2021 / ML 2020 Request for Funding

HA 01



Date: May 24, 2019

Program or Project Title: Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota's North Shore

Funds Requested: \$5,755,800

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County Locations: Not Listed

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Habitat

Abstract:

The magnitude, timing, and frequency of flow are key attributes governing the structure of native fish and aquatic communities. Through targeted protection and restoration projects, the Minnesota Land Trust will conserve these attributes and ensure resiliency of priority coldwater tributaries to Lake Superior. The Land Trust will protect 1,080 acres and 3 miles of shoreline and restore 200 acres of habitat by targeting high quality, priority parcels that will protect habitats for coldwater species such as trout and cisco, but will also provide habitat for a number of wildlife species such as American Woodcock and Golden-winged Warbler.

Design and scope of work:

Lake Superior and its tributaries in Minnesota have some of the most important cold-water trout habitat in the State, supporting native brook trout and naturalized populations of salmon, steelhead, and brown trout. This cold-water fishery is vulnerable to climate and landcover change as it is mostly surface water fed. Combined, these factors may result in water temperature increases and flow regime changes that threaten support of cold-water fish species such as trout and salmon.

Protection of shaded shorelines and headwaters wetlands within these tributary streams and rivers are critical for maintaining the coldwater resources and flow regimes that support this fishery. The magnitude, timing, frequency of flow are key attributes governing the structure of native fish and aquatic communities. For example, along the North Shore, stream discharge and water temperature are the major signals influencing the timing of the juvenile steelhead migration. Significant alterations to natural patterns of hydrology impact the suitability of those systems for native aquatic biodiversity.

The Ecological Limits of Hydrologic Alteration (ELOHA) 2016 study assessed management criteria to sustain healthy aquatic ecosystems in a changing climate. This study found that the combination of climate change and land use changes can be expected to result in increased intensity of storm events, increased runoff and increased erosion, which will in turn drive a series of cascading impacts to

streams, including higher temperatures, reduced dissolved oxygen, increased primary production rates, and increased biological oxygen demand. These changes will negatively impact fish and other organisms in the stream. Similar impacts are expected in deep, cold lakes that support trout, cisco and other coldwater species.

The ELOHA study recommends management actions that focus on protecting baseflows. This includes: 1) Protection of wetlands, vernal pools and floodplains that slowly release water into the system; 2) Management and maintenance of riparian zones, forest cover/shade and 3) Promotion and restoration of connectivity.

We propose to strategically procure conservation easements and undertake targeted restoration efforts within high-quality watersheds. We will work in line with the methodology developed by the ELOHA program to identify priority watersheds and target properties to protect both water temperature as well as flow regimes. Conservation easements secured under this program will be perpetual and drafted to prevent the fragmentation and destruction of existing habitat. These easements will ensure that the sensitive shoreline and headwaters habitat will remain ecologically viable and productive for fish, game and wildlife by prohibiting land uses that negatively impact the important habitat values and requiring habitat management plans to maximize the benefits of shoreland and associated forested uplands.

Outcomes from this project include: 1) healthy populations of trout and other fish species, and other species in greatest conservation need; 2) maintenance of water quality within targeted aquatic resources; 3) increased participation of private landowners in natural habitat protection and restoration projects; and 4) enhancement of prior state and local investments made in shoreland and forest conservation in the region. The Land Trust will strategically target complexes where these outcomes may be maximized.

Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

Once secured, conservation easements will protect in perpetuity the important shoreland, headwaters and associated upland habitats adjacent to some of Minnesota's premier aquatic resources. Habitat management plans will be developed and provided to the landowners for use in enhancing and maintaining each protected parcel's important habitat. Protection of these critical habitats advances a primary goal identified by the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan through stabilization of Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Protection and stewardship of private forest lands, wetlands, and grasslands will promote conservation of natural lands, fisheries, and wildlife as a priority statewide action identified in the DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Northern Forest:

- Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

The Land Trust's Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota's North Shore Program focuses on protecting some of the most important recreational and sport fisheries resources in Minnesota and helps preserve this State's proud angler heritage. When many residents endorsed the Legacy Amendment, they indicated a strong interest in seeing our water resources protected. This program takes a science based and targeted approach to protect key habitat to sustain one of Minnesota's most important cold-water fisheries.

Wildlife such as American Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Golden-winged Warbler will benefit by protection and restoration of shorelines and headwaters wetlands associated with cold water stream habitat.

This program will secure permanent conservation easements on priority lands with high quality habitats that also serve to build complexes of protected habitat. The program will enhance the State's and MLT's prior investments in habitat protection and will result in an even larger, lasting legacy thanks to the permanency of the easements and the participation of Minnesota's landowners in our State's conservation efforts. The Land Trust's program is cultivating a high conservation ethic and developing effective tools for

landowners to protect their lands and waters.

Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

The ELOHA study states that populations of coldwater fish species face limiting factors due to the area's bedrock geology including warm water temperatures, lack of suitable spawning and nursery habitat, and reduced stream connectivity. These factors coupled with low base flows and high storm flows makes these streams and the fish and other aquatic life that live there vulnerable to changes in flow as a result of climate change. The ELOHA study looks at stream vulnerability, and identifies management actions that can be taken to maintain and enhance the natural resilience of streams.

A key recommendation of the study is to mitigate impacts on baseflow and water temperatures through protection of wetlands, vernal pools, riparian areas and forest cover. This program will use the insights from the ELOHA study and other data to develop an analysis and scoring and ranking methodology to identify priority watersheds and a targeted list of critical private lands for protection.

Habitat management plans developed with each easement and restoration projects completed through this program will promote climate change resilient forests and shaded riparian areas.

Established conservation plans such as the Minnesota Land Trust's Conservation Agenda 2017-2027, State Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota DNR's Strategic Conservation Agenda, Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025, and Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework will be used to identify priority areas for work and combined with GIS analysis will identify potential project areas that fill in gaps or leverage existing land protection. Criteria used will incorporate site specific assessment of parcel quality, landscape context, return on investment, and urgency. The program will emphasize protecting shoreland habitat on coldwater lakes, streams and rivers, headwater wetlands, and spawning areas

How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species:

The natural shoreland around Lake Superior's lakes and rivers comprises one of the most biologically important systems in the state for fish, game and wildlife and is also one of its most threatened. This program will preserve critical shoreland habitats and protect headwaters of some of the most sensitive lakes, streams and rivers that flow into Lake Superior - important components of the state's natural heritage - essential to maintaining healthy populations of the region's fish and wildlife populations (trout and other fish, waterfowl, and other Species in Greatest Conservation Need) and maintaining water quality of aquatic resources. Some SGCNs that would benefit include American Woodcock, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Winter Wren, Black-backed Woodpecker and Cisco. Numerous plans have identified the protection of these habitats as a conservation priority for Minnesota, including the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan, DNR's Aquatic Management Area program, the State Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda, and Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework. The central goal of this program is to protect and restore high quality habitat by securing permanent conservation easements in strategic locations within priority watersheds of coldwater streams.

Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

DNR staff, in consultation with a variety of experts in NGOs and other agencies, have compiled a select group of species and associated quantities to be used as indicators. The metrics are derived from existing data sources and/or scientific literature, but are necessarily gross averages; they are not accurate at a site-specific scale. Therefore, they are not intended to be used to score or rank requests but represent the best information we have for immediate support to the Council's objective.

1. Forests - Two species have been identified to represent various forest habitats:

Ovenbird: Are found in relatively mature forest but can also be found in younger forests. While territories vary in size and may overlap, an average of 16 pairs for every 40 acres may be expected.

Golden-winged Warbler: Often associated with shrubland habitat and regenerating forests, a variety of forest habitats are required (a matrix of shrubby wetlands and uplands, regenerating forests, and mature forests). While territories vary in size, roughly 6 pairs for every 40 acres may be expected.

2. Aquatic Species - The information below is based on general averages for potential aquatic indicator species in Minnesota, and does not capture the variability inherent in populations of fish and mussels. Natural populations, including healthy populations with good habitat, vary among locations, and also rise and fall within lakes and rivers.

Trout: 40 lbs per acre.

Outcomes:

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors *This program will permanently protect approximately 1,080 acres of strategic northern forest region habitats and approximately 3 miles of undeveloped shoreline. In addition approximately 200 acres will be restored. Measure: Acres and feet of shoreline protected.*

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

The land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. The Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

In addition, the Land Trust prepares for each landowner a habitat management plan that provides recommendations for use in ecologically managing the property over time. The Land Trust actively encourages landowners to manage their properties in line with the conservation easement, and works with landowners to address any financial or informational obstacles that stand in the way of them doing so.

Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2023	MLT Long-Term Stewardship and Easement Fund	Annual monitoring of property in perpetuity	Enforcement as necessary	
2025	Private landowners, Other Sources	Annual monitoring	Restoration improvements if necessary	

What is the degree of timing/opportunistic urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:

The development of the State's remaining sensitive shoreland and headwaters habitat continues to be a threat identified in many of the State's resource protection plans. Many of Minnesota's most desirable lakes have been fully developed the pressure is now moving to rivers and streams. DNR and other scientists indicate that the shoreland zone is one of the most biologically diverse and important habitat types for a variety of wildlife species.

The recent lull in the real-estate market has given many landowners an opportunity to reflect on the future of their lands, providing a narrow window of time to invest in these shoreland protection projects. With the real estate market again growing, additional pressure is once again being placed on these resources. Outreach conducted under previous grants has generated tremendous landowner interest that will be met through this proposed work.

Does this program include leverage in funds:

Yes

The Land Trust encourages landowners to fully or partially donate the value of conservation easements. MLT also has private funding available to work in this landscape. The leverage portion of the easement acquisition line item is a conservative estimate of value we expect to see donated to the Land Trust.

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

Describe the relationship of the funds:

Not Listed

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, 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:

This request is not supplanting or substituting for any previous funding. This is entirely new work.

Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Not Listed

Activity Details

Requirements:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) free of any other permanent protection - **Yes**

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 - **Yes (Permanently Protected Conservation Easements County/Municipal, Public Waters)**

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

Land Use:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **No**

Will the eased land be open for public use - **No**

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, these established trails and roads are permitted in the terms of the easement and can be maintained for personal use if their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition - **Yes**

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the Land Trust's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in line with the terms of the easement will be the responsibility of the landowner.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition - **No**

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Acquire conservation easements: 1) identify priority landowners; 2) negotiate, draft and complete easements; 3) dedicate funds for stewardship	June 30, 2023
Restoration and enhancement projects completed: 1) develop plans; 2) complete work; 3) monitor establishment; 4) re-establish if necessary	June 30, 2027

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$5,755,800

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$390,000	\$0		\$390,000
Contracts	\$229,500	\$0		\$229,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$4,500,000	\$1,350,000	Landowner and private	\$5,850,000
Easement Stewardship	\$240,000	\$0		\$240,000
Travel	\$18,000	\$0		\$18,000
Professional Services	\$268,000	\$0		\$268,000
Direct Support Services	\$105,300	\$0		\$105,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$5,755,800	\$1,350,000		\$7,105,800

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Restoration Staff	0.60	3.00	\$162,000	\$0		\$162,000
MLT Protection Staff	0.80	3.00	\$228,000	\$0		\$228,000
Total	1.40	6.00	\$390,000	\$0		\$390,000

Amount of Request: \$5,755,800

Amount of Leverage: \$1,350,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 23.45%

DSS + Personnel: \$495,300

As a % of the total request: 8.61%

Easement Stewardship: \$240,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 5.33%

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program:

In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services.

What is included in the contracts line?

Restoration and enhancement accounts for \$157,500 of the contract line amount. Additional funds in the contract line are for the writing of habitat management plans via qualified vendors.

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:

Land Trust staff regularly rent vehicles for grant-related purposes, which is a significant cost savings over use of personal vehicles.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

The Land Trust encourages landowners to fully or partially donate the value of conservation easements. MLT also has private money

available to work in this landscape. The leverage portion of the easement acquisition line item is a conservative estimate of value we expect to see donated to the Land Trust.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes

Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the “economy of scale” and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:

Because this program endeavors to protect and restore/enhance multiple parcels, it is scalable. Less funding will result in fewer protected acres and lost opportunities. In addition, some of the administrative and outreach costs are more fixed. As such, there is an economy of scale to working within one appropriation.

What is the cost per easement for stewardship and explain how that amount is calculated?

The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$24,000. This figure is derived from MLT's detailed stewardship funding “cost analysis” which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates to this cost analysis with LSOHC staff.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	200	200
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	1,080	1,080
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1,280	1,280

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$401,200	\$401,200
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	\$5,354,600	\$5,354,600
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,755,800	\$5,755,800

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	200	200
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	1,080	1,080
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	1,280	1,280

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$401,200	\$401,200
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	\$5,354,600	\$5,354,600
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,755,800	\$5,755,800

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,006
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,958
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,006
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	\$4,958
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

3 miles

I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

Parcel List

Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:

Solicitation for potential projects employs a diverse strategy of direct outreach to landowners in high priority conservation areas and coordinated outreach with conservation partners such as Trout Unlimited, Encampment Forest Association, various lake associations, and local and national organizations. Leads for potential projects are pursued following initial assessment and scoring against criteria identified in established conservation plans. Criteria based scoring systems provide a standardized set of data from which multiple projects can be compared relative to each other and individual projects can be compared against a baseline. Scoring systems are a set of data, not a final, complete decision making tool. Local expertise and experience, programmatic goals, timelines, available resources, capacity, and other more subjective factors might also come into play in project selection and decision making.

The attached scoresheet provides an approach to criteria based scoring that considers: 1) Ecological Integrity/Viability as current status; 2) Threat/Urgency as a future scenario if protection is not afforded; and 3) Cost reflecting the overall value realized through the acquisition of a conservation easement (including a reflection of donative value). Ecological Integrity weights property size, condition, and context equally (at least as an initial starting point). The three primary factors, when taken together, provide a good estimate of long-term viability for biodiversity at the site: 1) Size of the parcel to be protected, 2) Condition of the habitat on the parcel, and 3) its Landscape context (both from a protection and ecological standpoint).

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

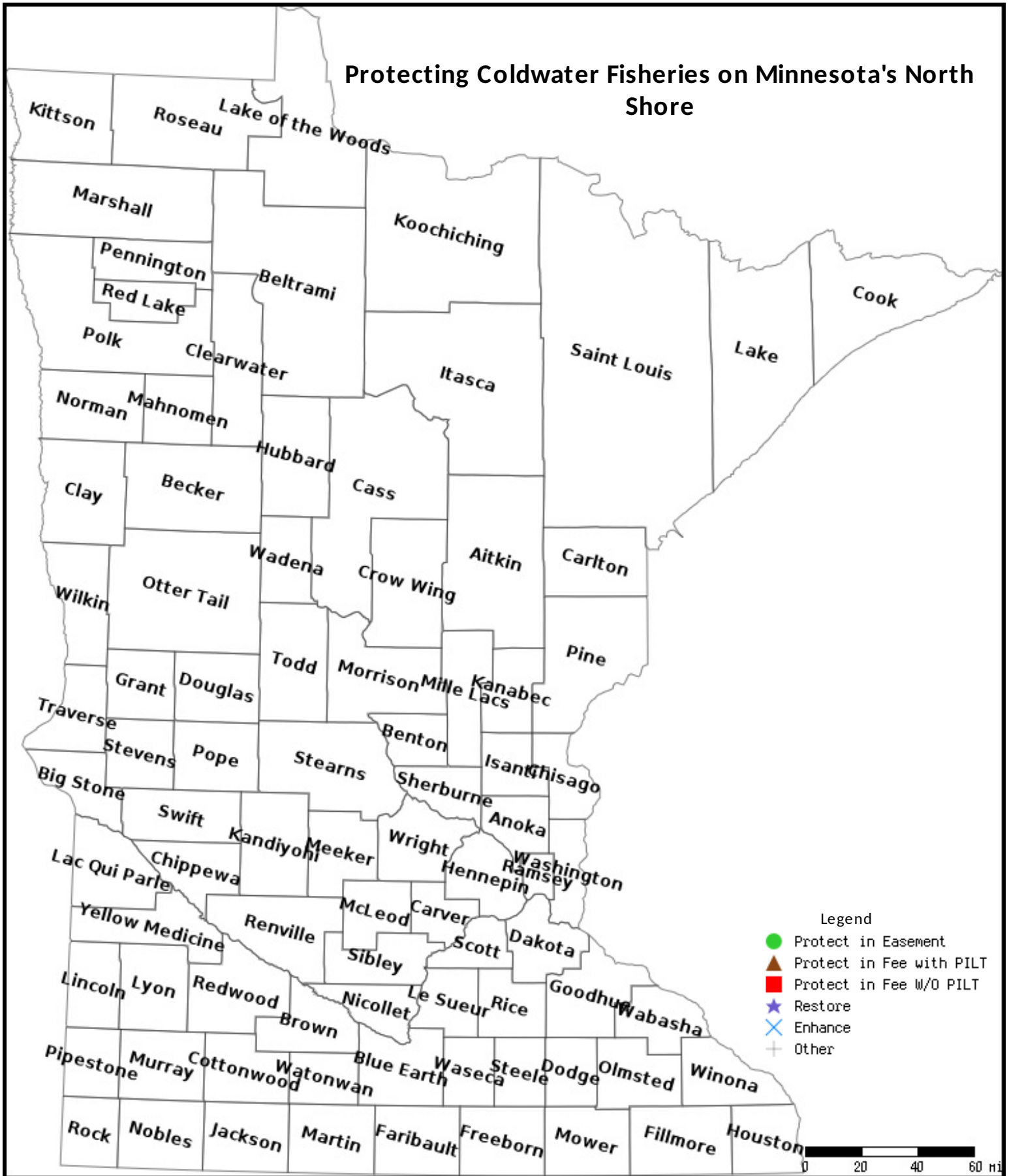
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota's North Shore



Data Generated From Parcel List



Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota's North Shore

The Minnesota Land Trust is requesting \$5,755,800 for the Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota's North Shore program.

Lake Superior and its tributaries in Minnesota have some of the most important coldwater trout habitat in the State, supporting native brook trout and naturalized populations of salmon, steelhead, and brown trout. This coldwater fishery is vulnerable to climate and landcover change as it is mostly surface water fed, resulting in water temperature increases and flow regime changes which threaten these coldwater fish species. Protection and restoration of shaded shorelines and headwaters wetlands within these tributary streams and rivers is critical for maintaining this coldwater fishery and for wildlife such as Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Golden-winged Warbler.

How Does the Program Support State Goals?

This program will preserve and restore critical shoreland headwaters of some of the most sensitive lakes, streams and rivers that flow into Lake Superior - important components of the state's natural heritage. These actions have been identified as a conservation priority in numerous plans for Minnesota, including *the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan*, *the DNR's Aquatic Management Area program*, *the State Conservation and Preservation Plan*, *Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda*, and *Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework*.



What Are the Outcomes?

- Healthy North Shore coldwater fisheries and a variety of species in greatest conservation need.
- Maintenance of water quality within targeted aquatic resources.
- Increased participation of private landowners in habitat projects.
- Enhancement of prior state and local investments made in shoreland and forest conservation in the region.

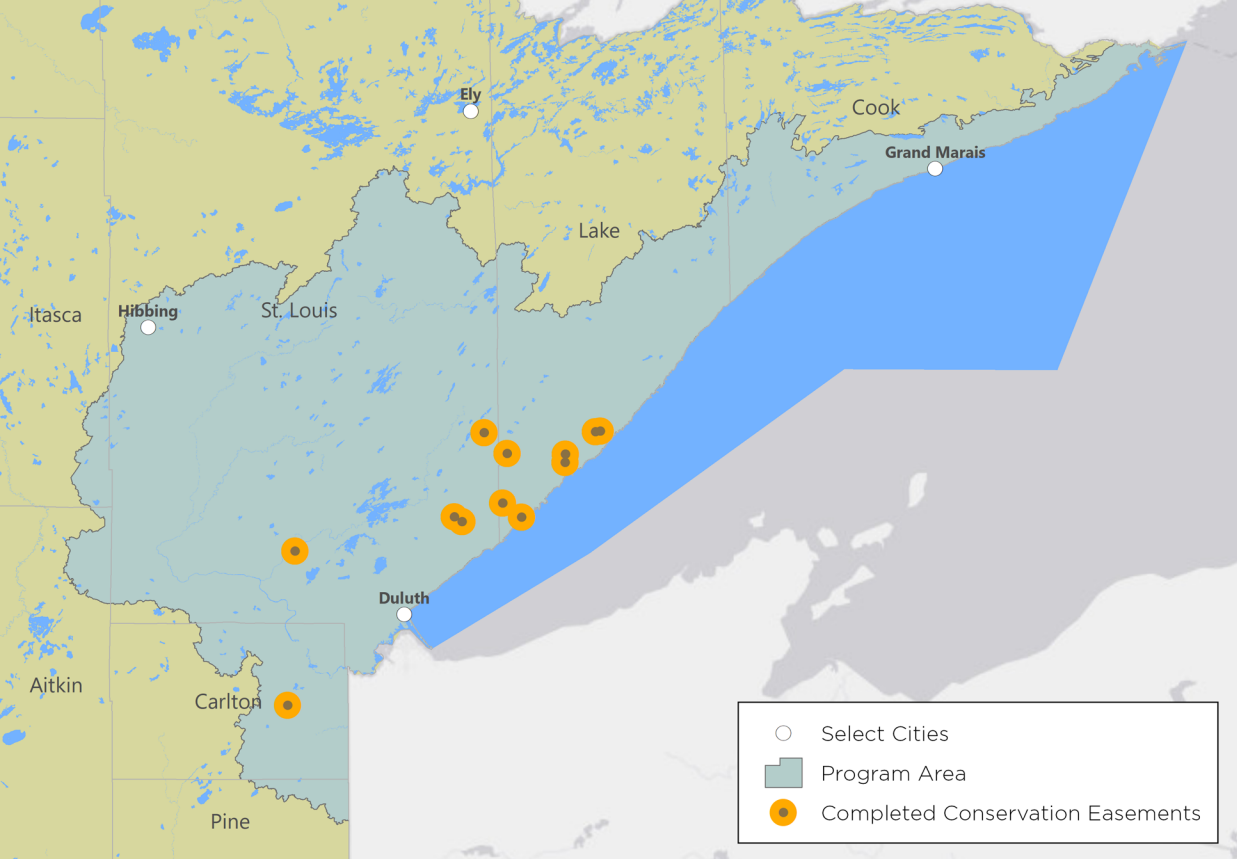
Outdoor Heritage Fund Request:

\$5,755,800 for:

- 1,080 acres of perpetual conservation easements.
- 200 acres of restoration & enhancement

The Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited conservation organization with a twenty-seven year history of protecting Minnesota's most unique wildlife habitats around the state.

For more information about this proposal, please contact Wayne Ostlie, Director of Land Protection, at 651-917-6292 or wostlie@mnland.org.



What has Been Accomplished to Date?

The Minnesota Land Trust has been protecting properties in the program area for many years through our related Critical Shorelands program.

Complete (Critical Shorelands Phases I - III):

Completed **8** conservation easements within program area protecting **2,078 acres** of habitat and **52,084 feet of shoreline** (~9.8 miles).

In Progress (Critical Shorelands Phase IV):

One conservation easement has been completed protecting **947 acres** of habitat and **37,127 feet of shoreline** (7 miles).

The Critical Shorelands Program has generated considerable awareness and interest among landowners in protecting these places. Within the program area alone, landowners have **collectively contributed over \$2.7 million in easement value as leverage to the \$3.8 million investment from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.**

Mission

The Minnesota Land Trust protects and restores Minnesota's most vital natural lands in order to provide wildlife habitat, clean water, outdoor experiences, and scenic beauty for generations to come.

Contact Us

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