

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council ML 2025 / FY 2026 Request for Proposals

Member Comments

ID#	Program Title	Suzanne Baird	Rep. John Burkel	Kristin Eggerling	David Hartwell	Mark Holsten	Rep. Leon Lillie	Tom Saxhaug	Ron Schara
PA01	Martin County WMA Acquisition - Phase 9	The proposal talks about restoration but no outcomes for restoration are listed.	Personnel - 4.24% Leverage - 4.01%		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides? Significant 2022 funds (and 32% of 2020 funds) remaining unspent.		I'm wanting to hear from all these groups...Will not be giving full funding though...		SPENT ALMOST \$10 MILLION TO RESTORE 2,000 ACRES??? HAVE ALMOST \$6 MILLION UNSPENT???
PA02	Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley - Phase XI		Personnel - 3.14% Leverage - 7.03% -		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides? Significant funds from 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 remain unspent.	Federal WPA's - 190 acers. State WMA's - 80	During discussions I would like to hear how groups are ensuring projects		NEARLY \$13 MILLION LEFT TO SPEND. TIME TO TAKE A BREAK...
PA03	RIM Grassland Reserve - Phase VI	\$8M for 1260 acres of easements seems high. There is a conflict between the abstract and the Scope of work in the acreage to be enrolled (1260 and 980).	Personnel - 4.76% Leverage - 0.00% -	no leverage	How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides?		will responds to climate changes...Also I would like to hear how groups are		\$8 million to protect in easement 1,260 acres????
PA04	RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water - Phase XI	Large amount of funding requested for easements	Personnel - 3.63% Leverage - 0.00% -	no leverage	How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides? 2021 and 2022 funds appropriated are almost totally unspent. Why the need for more now?		encouraging and using community volunteers and involving kids as can		Amost \$14 million left unspent?? Time totake a break//
PA05	Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program - Phase XVII		Personnel - 3.7% Leverage - 15.59% -		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides?		in projects.		
PA06	MN Prairie Recovery Program - Phase XIV		Maintaining anonymity of parcels is an important consideration for the organization in order to protect landowner privacy rights and to maintain the integrity of good faith negotiations.		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides?	how do you prioritize which acers to keep vs tranfer to state/feds. Carryforward a little high			
PA07	Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge - Phase XV		Personnel - 13.1 % of request		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides?				More than \$12 million left to be spent????
PA08	DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition - Phase XVII		Personnel - 2.57% Leverage - 0.00% -	no leverage	How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides? Restoration is included in acquisition budget? 2021 and 2022 funds are hardly spent.				
PRE01	Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands - Phase VIII		Personnel - 5.14% Leverage - 2.93%		Past funds have hardly been spent.				
PRE02	Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program - Phase V		Personnel - 8.01% Leverage - 8.7%			is the bennefit to using USFWS easements over RIM the match or something else?			
FA01	Minnesota Forest Recovery Project - Phase III		Personnel - 14,51% Leverage - 3.41%		Is it really logical to remove ash before it is infected - why not just plant under it and let the trees decompose? \$45K for easement stewardship is the highest I have ever seen - seems especially high for forest property. Concern that 2022 appropriation is not significantly spent.				
FA02	Itasca County Memorial Forest Project		Personnel - 2.65% Leverage - 1.37%	not scalable					

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FA03	Protecting Critical Habitat in Northeastern Minnesota while Balancing Sustainable Public Land Use and Permanent Public Access Through a Community Land Trust Model	The proposal and budget do not agree. Proposal talks about easements but no funding is set aside for easement purchase in the budget	Personnel - 6.17% Leverage - 40.72%		The proposal talks about conservation easements but the budget is for fee acquisition. Does not make sense that this property will have PILT liability. Is the homestde on the 1o acres to be acquired with leveraged funds. What is then the appraised value of the proeprty proposed to be acquired with LSOHC funds? it appears that the only building sites are near the County Road and the southern portion of property is inaccessible due to the swamp. Makes me wonder what the value of the property really is?	project belongs in CPL		CPL?	VERY CONFUSING PROPOSAL
FA04	Hardwood Hills Habitat Conservation Program - Phase 2		Personnel - 8.96% Leverage - 10.2%		% spent to daate for 2023 funds is concerning.				
FA05	Camp Ripley Sentienl Landscape ACUB Protection Program - Phase XIII		Personnel - 5.74% Leverage - 21.83%		Leverage does not seem appropraite when LSOHC is being asked to support the National Guard's turf throught this program				RECEIVED \$11 MILLION IN FIVE YEARS FOR EASEMENTS; NOT ONE ACRE OPEN TO PUBLIC
FA06	Minnesota Forests for the Future - Phase X		Personnel - .63% Leverage - 14.48%		Will leverage be scaled if project does not receive full funding?				
FRE01	DNR Statewide Forest Enhancment and Restoration - Phase V		Personnel - 2.54% Leverage - 0	no leverage	Timber harvesting is mentioned but there is no revenue from this activity to support the ongoing management needs identified in this project which seems wrong. Why is this work not done by roving crews? How would Arts and Cultural Heritage funds be involved?				
FRE02	Carver County Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Management Unit 1 Old Field Restoration		Personnel - .32% Leverage - 0	no leverage	All ash trees are giong to die. No need to survey. Invasives lke buckthorn will invade with or without tree canopy. 2029 and beyond maintenance will require more than survey. Will they remove invasives or just know they are there and not commit to long term nanagment? Contracts answer does not match budget (\$809k vs \$605 in budget. Price per acre seems very high.. Species list seems mostly speculative.	project belongs on CPL		CPL?	
WA01	Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase X		Personnel - 6.52 Leverage - 14.34%	\$10,951,142 remaining funds	How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides? Funding from 2020 forward has good availability.				
WA02	Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection and Restoration Program - Phase XIV	The proposal talks about acquisition and restoration but the output tables do not provide any outputs for restoration.	Personnel - 7.08% Leverage - 10.01%		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides?				
WA03	RIM Wetlands - Restoring the Most Productive Habitat in Minnesota	Very confusing - acquiring or restoring - not clear. Seems duplicative of PA04 - maybe should be combined into one proposal.2	Personnel - 6.68% Leverage - 0		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides? How many easement violations on LSOHC funded projects? How have they been adressed and how many have been litigated by the Attorney General's office?				
WA04	Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Program - Phase XVII	The amount of funding from this project for restoration seems low as compared to the amount for fee title acquisition. May want to do a little more restoration.	Personnel - 3.35% Leverage - 23.82%		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides?				

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WRE01	East Park WMA / Nelson Slough	The proposal lack specifics - it talks about the water control structure but that is not what the funding request is for. Lack of clarity on the length of dike to be able to determine if the budget request is appropriate.	Personnel - 0.00% Leverage - 60.86%	not scalable	Flood control project more than habitat one. Water level control is a factor for nesting birds but not so much for migratory ones.				
WRE02	Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement and Restoration Initiative - Phase XI		Personnel - 14.32% Leverage - 9.02%						PERSONNEL COSTS HIGH. ALMOST \$2 MILLION??
WRE03	Big Swamp North - Peatland Restoration Project	Restoration of a large peat complex is a high priority	Personnel - 0% Leverage - 0%	90% unspent	LSOHC funds to pay for legal process to abandon ditches (this does not seem like shovel ready but a long process that has LSOHC funds tied up for years before any work is done). Legal abandoning might be necessary as part of a project but is not restoration. construction estimated in 2030 for funds in this request. it is not near shovel ready. Why not just plug ditches rather than fill them in? Request wants funds to reduce breakout flows over a county road which is a road and not a habitat project. 2020 appropriation is 10% spent and there is a new 2024 appropriation just approved totaling \$5M.				HAVEN'T SPENT MUCH OF 2020 GRANT OF \$3 MILLION?
WRE04	Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements - Phase XVII		Personnel - 19.41% Leverage - 0%	\$9M remaining, 38.5% spent	How long does spraying cattails last before the seed bank replenishes them? \$9M left from prior appropriations from 2019 on. What is the current need? Why is funding 2 wetland specialists not supplanting as this seems to be just permanent staff?		Understand there is much unspent funds...Would prefer money goes into field now		
HA01	Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase XIV		Personnel - 9.38% Leverage - 3.19%		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides? Lots of prior appropriations left to be spent.				
HA02	Spring Road Conservation Project		Personnel - 0% Leverage - 92.53%						
HA03	Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase X		Personnel - 20.14% Leverage - 6.82 %		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides?				
HA04	Integrating Habitat and Clean Water - Phase III		Personnel - 4.44% Leverage - 0		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides? 2022 and 2023 funds are hardly spent.				
HA05	2025 St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration - Phase VI		Personnel - 8.89% Leverage - 7.64% +		Explain why such a high percentage of funds from 2021 (and 2023) not yet spent. How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides?				
HA06	Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project - Phase IX		Personnel - 7.78% Leverage - 1.13% +		"generally there would be no net gain of trails" does not provide much comfort about future use. Defining no net gain or no net gain more than 5% would be far better.				
HA07	Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration - Phase XIII		Personnel - 16.21% Leverage - 6.22% -		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides during the restoration period? Backlog of previous appropriations not spent?				
HA08	Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota's North Shore - Phase III		Personnel - 8.43% Leverage - 15.49% -		8% of 2022 funds spent?				
HA09	Metro Big Rivers - Phase XV		Personnel - 10.15% Leverage - 10.31%		How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides during the restoration period				

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HA10	Minnesota River Watershed Habitat Conservation Program		Personnel - 11.92% Leverage - 6.91%		Restoration on WMA's? Why is the roving crew not doing that? If I read this correctly, work is proposed on BWSR easements - but, they are all done with the restoration up front and the landowner responsible for it after that. So we are being asked to take responsibility for what landowners have committed by contract to doing. Not a good idea. How do you insure cooperators do not use Neonicotoid seeds or pesticides during the restoration period				
HA11	Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program - Phase XIV		Personnel - 1.85% Leverage - 2.77% +		Why is only 57% of 2020 and 36% of 2022 funds utilized?				
HA12	Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance - Phase IV		Personnel - 6.77% Leverage - 9.84%						
HA13	Shakopee Creek: Headwaters Restored; Species and Land Protected	The proposal talks about protection but does not explain how this protection will be achieved. Talks about partnerships but no evidence of partners. Would like to the investment of partners upfront for this project. Poorly explained.	Personnel - 7.96% Leverage - 0.0% +	not scalable	Not scaleable? What local stakeholders, conservation organizations and community groups are involved in this proposal? Landowners are "excited" to participate to avoid additional cost but they are not contributing to this. Why? It does not appear that there is permanent protection of the land to be restored which is against state law as the public waters does not include the banks of the stream.				
HA14	DNR Trout Stream Conservation Easements - Phase IV		Personnel - .24% Leverage - 0% -						
HA15	Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - Phase XI		Personnel - 7.99% Leverage - 9.79% -		funds left from prior appropriations seem high.				
HRE01	Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat Enhancement - Phase II		Personnel - 11.02% Leverage - 20.59%		Don't find reasons 7 & 8 compelling - just give us money and we ill find a way to spend it.				
HRE02	Restoring and Enhancing Minnesota's Important Bird Areas - Phase IV		Personnel - 18.31% Leverage - 9.94%		2022 - only 15% spent.				
HRE03	Fall River Restoration		Personnel - 0.0% Leverage - 62.79% +++						
HRE04	DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement - Phase VIII		Personnel - 18.64% Leverage - 106.25% ???		significant match which is great - Infrastructure bill which is time limited. 2022 funds are hardly spent (18%)				
HRE05	Lake Nokomis Shoreline Enhancements for Turtles and Pollinators - Phase III		Personnel - 0.0% Leverage - 19.84% ++	not scalable	Lake of the Isles has "naturalized" and a good part is just high vegetation that is full of intended species and probably impassable to turtles. What is the maintenance plan for the long term? Why would Nokomis be different than Isles? Nothing spent on 2023. A big disappointment as the money could be in the ground somewhere else.			CPL?	
HRE06	Moose Habitat Collaborative, NE MN Forest Habitat Enhancement - Phase V	Proposal is somewhat vague on the specifics of what is proposed. Not clear what the enhancements that will be used. Still have spent a small proportion of funds from 2023.	Personnel - 9.15% Leverage - 3.81% +		What is the role of timber harvest in this? Do moose move to timbered or recently timbered areas or only stay in their established range? Previous funds have not yet been spent (2121 - 65% - \$1.2M of \$1.8M, 2023 - 0%). Why more money now? Why is the RGS the lead in a moose project? Do they have special knowledge that makes them the best manager?				
HRE07	Rum River Corridor Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement - Phase III	Proposal is a little short on details of the enhancements in the detailed proposal section.	Personnel - 17.83% Leverage - 11.05%		Lots of prior appropriations not spent.				
O1	Contract Management		Personnel - 0.0% Leverage 0.0%		What is grants management doing to reduce burden on land acquisition by partners?				FULL AMOUNT
O2	Restoration Evaluations - ML 2025		Personnel - 88% Leverage - 0.0%		Looking for specific recommendations for improvement - not genral ized reports that do not highlight problems and failures.				FULL AMOUNT

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O3	DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions		Personnel - 14.79% Leverage - 3.3%		Can some of these functions be done directly by partners faster and at least as efficiently? Fund this once all proposals are allocated to.				FULL AMOUNT
O4	DNR Roving Crew - Phase 3		Personnel - 75.76% Leverage - 0.0%		No 2023 funds spent yet? Equipment seems low.				WHAT TASKS FOR ROVING CREWS ARE FORBIDDEN?
CPL	Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Ph. 17 Statewide and Metro Habitat		Personnel - 3.44% Leverage - 9.6% +		is the \$4M from proposers that have not received funds before realistic?				RECOMMEND \$10 TO \$15 MILLION FOR CPL