



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase 9

ML 2025 Request for Funding

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### General Information

**Date:** 06/03/2024

**Proposal Title:** Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project Phase 9

**Funds Requested:** \$9,170,000

**Confirmed Leverage Funds:** \$94,700

**Is this proposal Scalable?:** Yes

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Tim Terrill

**Title:** Executive Director

**Organization:** Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB)

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### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Crow Wing, Aitkin and Itasca.

**Eco regions in which work will take place:**

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Northern Forest

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Fee
- Protect in Easement

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Forest
- Habitat

## Narrative

### **Abstract**

The Mississippi Headwaters Board in partnership with Trust for Public Land and BWSR assisted by 8 County SWCDs will permanently protect 2,400 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat along the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River, its major tributaries, 9 headwaters lakes and adjacent minor watersheds. To date the Program has protected 10,736 acres and 57 miles of shoreland using fee title acquisitions and conservation easements to create/expand permanently protected aquatic and upland wildlife habitat corridors/complexes. This on-going work benefits fish, game/non-game wildlife, migratory waterfowl, reduces forest fragmentation and enhances public recreation.

### **Design and Scope of Work**

The Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project (MHHCP) Phase 9 will continue to address aquatic and upland habitat protection opportunities in the Mississippi River Headwaters (the first 400 miles), along major tributaries and Headwaters lakes in the 8 Headwaters counties (Clearwater, Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Crow Wing, Aitkin, and Morrison counties). To date, 10,736 acres and 57 miles of shoreland have been permanently protected to benefit aquatic habitat, migratory waterfowl, enhance and enlarge protected habitat corridors for game and non-game wildlife, and protect water quality for millions of people downstream who depend on the river for drinking water. Phase 9 will further permanently protect another 2,400 acres.

The headwaters of the Mississippi River are home to a variety of game fish and its adjacent lands are home to over 350+ species of animals and birds. Migratory waterfowl depend on the river for food and shelter during spring and fall migration along the Mississippi Flyway. Past MHHCP phases have reduced forest fragmentation detrimental to habitat and water quality protection, enhanced public recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, and passive recreation, and protected water quality for fish habitat/spawning and drinking water for millions of people downstream. To achieve these results, habitat complexes with aquatic shorelands and high habitat quality uplands are created by targeting land conservation projects (fee-title or RIM easements) towards privately-owned parcels adjacent to already protected public land.

There is urgency to fund this Program Phase because Phases 1-7 are spent or committed to projects and Phase 8 (ML 24) is awaited for new projects in the queue. Development pressure along the river and its tributaries is increasing as people seek to live near water. Development leads to fragmentation of forests that threaten wildlife and aquatic habitats. Public lands adjacent to undeveloped private property are in danger of losing habitat connectivity as private lands are increasingly developed resulting in destruction of wild rice beds, disruption of aquatic and upland habitat and fragmentation of forestlands, grasslands, and wetlands that dominate the Headwaters.

As a partnership, The Mississippi Headwaters Board provides program administration and coordination. Trust for Public Land acquires fee-title to priority lands and conveys permanent ownership to a public entity (MN DNR or LGU). BWSR in partnership with 8 Headwaters SWCDs completes RIM conservation easements on private lands. Parcels for land protection are identified and prioritized through a science-based prioritization process that identifies the highest priority private lands for protection. A Technical Team of project partners along with representatives from the DNR, The Nature Conservancy, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe review and approve all projects using a ranked evaluation of habitat and biodiversity, urgency and opportunity for protection, size of the parcel and amount of shoreland along with other critical habitat features. Strong local government involvement is unique to this project. For fee-title acquisitions, County Boards are notified early to seek approval and again before

closing an acquisition. This process has enhanced local government support and the resulting trust has contributed to the Program's ongoing success.

### **Explain how the proposal addresses habitat protection, restoration, and/or enhancement for fish, game & wildlife, including threatened or endangered species conservation**

The Mississippi Headwaters (8 North Central counties) is host to over 350 species of mammals and birds, including common game and non-game wildlife and most of the endangered and threatened species in Minnesota. Some of the more common threatened species include, but are not limited to: common loon, trumpeter swans, boreal owl, shortjaw cisco, long-eared bat, evening grosbeak and many others. Migratory waterfowl depend on the river for food and shelter during migration along the Mississippi Flyway. Keeping forested lands from becoming fragmented protects the water quality of the Mississippi River and adjacent lakes that support many species of game fish.

This Program uses a science-based assessment tool (RAQ) to prioritize potential parcels for protection. Parcels are scored by their riparian nature (R), the adjacency to already protected land (A) and habitat quality (Q), which is assessed against state and national databases. These databases include the Minnesota County Biological Survey; DNR Biodiversity rankings, rare species and old growth forest data; the Minnesota Wildlife Action Network, and other habitat parameters to identify priority areas of significant value for fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need and/or are threatened and endangered within the Mississippi Headwaters. The targeting also considers specific areas of species richness and/or biodiversity importance and areas where aquatic and terrestrial habitats have been compromised. This assessment process considerably narrows the focus areas and amount of parcels considered for project activity.

High scoring parcels that are adjacent to already protected land (either county, state, tribal, or federal lands or lands already enrolled in easement programs) are selected for landowner outreach. This Program focuses on creating and expanding protected wildlife habitat complexes through fee-title acquisition or easements on parcels adjacent to already protected lands to create or expand habitat complexes that provide the highest opportunity for fish and wildlife habitat protection. Large, contiguous and permanently protected habitat complexes provide the essential elements of good habitat continuity as defined by the National Wildlife Federation.

### **What are the elements of this proposal that are critical from a timing perspective?**

This Program is one of the most successful programs funded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund; accomplishments consistently exceed appropriation goals. To date, all appropriated funds (Phases 1-7) to the Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project (MHHCP) have been spent or are committed to fish and wildlife habitat protection projects on priority lands. Landowners are waiting in a queue to utilize the Program's ML24 (Phase 8) funding available July 1, 2024.

Because high quality lakes in the Headwaters are mostly developed there is increasing interest in developing along the river, its tributaries and Headwaters Lakes. Hence, there is urgency to protect high priority lands for fish and wildlife habitat protection and to ensure the continuation of this highly successful partnership between non-profits, state and local governments while development pressures are threatening forest, shoreland and upland habitat.

### **Describe how the proposal expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:**

The MHHCP focuses on creating and expanding protected aquatic and wildlife habitat complexes/corridors by adding new protected land (via fee-title or easement acquisition) to existing complexes of protected land to expand

existing habitat complexes and corridors. These large, contiguous and permanently protected habitat corridors/complexes provide the essential elements of good upland habitat continuity for animals that includes food, a place to raise their young, different types of cover from predators, and mobility for wildlife during various life stages and as adaptation to climate change. They also provide clean water for fish survival and spawning and food and shelter for migratory waterfowl along with corridor. Preventing new development and the resulting land disturbance prevents forest fragmentation.

Using the RAQ science-based parcel prioritization process, this Program identifies high priority parcels next to already protected lands (county, state, tribal, federal or properties with easements) to enhance or create new habitat protection complexes. This is achieved by adding fee-title acquisition (new public land) and/or easements (privately protected land) to adjacent existing complexes. These expanded complexes provide larger undisturbed land for game and non-game wildlife and protected shorelands for fish and migratory waterfowl.

For example in Crow Wing County, two fee-title acquisitions added to a State and County forest plus two conservation easements all adjacent to already protected state and county land created a habitat complex of 1,672+ acres of protected upland and 9+ contiguous miles of protected Mississippi River shoreland. In another example, a fee-title acquisition created the new 299-acre DNR Indian Jack WMA, which combined with adjacent easements and other state and county land, created a protected habitat complex of 594 contiguous acres, 2.5 miles of Indian Jack lake shoreland, and 3 miles of Mississippi River shoreland. With this new river access the DNR is adding a parking lot/public access on the WMA's Mississippi River shoreland to enhance public access to the river. See the attached illustration.

### **Which top 2 Conservation Plans referenced in MS97A.056, subd. 3a are most applicable to this project?**

- Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Plan
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

### **Explain how this proposal will uniquely address habitat resilience to climate change and its anticipated effects on game, fish & wildlife species utilizing the protected or restored/enhanced habitat this proposal targets.**

The MHHCP focuses on protecting the headwaters of the most important river system in the United States. The Headwaters contains over 350 species of fish and animals, including many species of greatest concern in Minnesota. Landscapes with diverse and intact functional ecosystems are expected to have the greatest resilience in a changing climate. This Program targets those lands for protection that provide the best opportunities for maintaining biodiversity and increasing habitat connectivity. Protection at a watershed scale increases the resiliency of the landscape by protecting and buffering sensitive areas which support biological diversity and ecological function while increasing connections that will facilitate species movement across the headwaters range of 400 river miles and 8 counties. Increased functional redundancy, connectivity, and biodiversity at this large scale insures there are enough connected blocks of protected habitat suitable for sustaining wildlife's need for mobility in a changing climate.

### **Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?**

#### **Forest / Prairie Transition**

- Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

## 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 this project/program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife, and if not permanent outcomes, why it is important to undertake at this time:

To date, this Program has abundantly exceeded its projected goals with each funded appropriation (Phases 1-7). Since the goal of the Program is to increase and enhance permanently protected habitat complexes and corridors, this accomplishment demonstrates that significant and permanent conservation has and will be accomplished with continued LSOHC support. Past and projected land conservation targets privately owned parcels adjacent to existing public lands to enhance large protected habitat complexes and it helps to ensure no net loss of forestland. Targeting fee-title acquisitions and conservation easements adjacent to public land creates larger, permanently protected habitat complexes to protect critical aquatic and upland habitats. It also helps build resilience into the Mississippi River Headwaters system to protect against fragmentation of forests and shorelines. It ensures quality habitat (aquatic and terrestrial) and population sustainability for healthy fish, game and non-game wildlife, and migratory waterfowl along with enhanced recreational opportunities for all Minnesotans. The Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project's success to date is demonstrated by the completed protection of 10,736 acres of upland habitat and 57 miles of shoreland. When easement projects currently in process are completed another 1,627 acres and 8 miles of shoreland will be permanently protected. The requested Phase 9 will protect an additional 2,400 acres and 5+ miles of shoreland to add to Minnesota's permanent conservation legacy.

## Outcomes

### Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Rivers and streams provide corridors of habitat including intact areas of forest cover in the east and large wetland/upland complexes in the west ~ *Conservation easements in this region have been in past appropriations and those funded with an ML 25 appropriation will be placed on parcels on or near the main stem Mississippi River and/or along major Mississippi tributaries in the region. In the eastern portion of the region, parcels are mostly forested. Easement outcomes will be measured by the number of acres protected and shoreland feet and evaluated against set goals and a ranking sheet. Easements will be evaluated into perpetuity through yearly monitoring. Fee-title acquisitions will also be evaluated by acres protected and shoreland feet and against set project goals.*

### Programs in the northern forest region:

- Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors ~ *With permanent land protection (either fee-title acquisition or conservation easements) forests will remain intact and less fragmented to maintain forest integrity. Placement of projects will focus on those that can connect with other public lands to create or expand habitat corridors. The outcome will be measured by acres protected and shoreland miles protected and evaluated against the project goals. Permanent owners of fee-title acquisitions will monitor and evaluate the condition of the lands according to their policies and easements will be monitored annually into perpetuity by BWSR and the SWCD for the county in which the easement is located.*

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

- Clean Water Fund

**Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain 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 a substitution for any previous Legacy funding used for the same purpose.

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

For conservation easements recorded through this Program, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is responsible for maintenance, inspection and monitoring into perpetuity. They partner with the Soil and Water Conservation District in the county where the easement is recorded to carry-out the oversight and monitoring of the conservation easements. Easements are inspected annually for the first five years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections and compliance checks are performed and reported to BWSR every three years. If a violation is noted, a non-compliance procedure is initiated. Stewardship money is appropriated to cover ongoing BWSR oversight, SWCD monitoring, and enforcement actions, if needed. Trust for Public Land (TPL) is responsible for the fee-title acquisitions. TPL acquires the land with Outdoor Heritage Funds and then transfers ownership to the applicable public entity, either the MN DNR or a local government, for permanent ownership and stewardship. The lands are then managed consistent with the public entity's land management policies.

**Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Source of Funds</b>	<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>
2025-2029	OHF	Work with project partners and landowners to determine RIM conservation easement interest and develop long-term fish and game habitat protection priorities.	Work with BWSR and County SWCDs to conduct landowner outreach and acquire conservation easements	BWSR and SWCDs will perform ongoing onsite inspections and monitoring and enforce conditions of the recorded easement into perpetuity.
2025-2029	OHF	Work with project partners and landowners to determine interest in a fee-title acquisition and seek state or local government permanent land ownership.	The Trust for Public Land will acquire parcels for fee-title acquisition (with or without PILT) and transfer to the appropriate public entity.	Permanent public entity owners of acquired lands (state or local government) will follow the monitoring and land management policies of their organization.
2025-2029	OHF	Work with project partners to determine fish and game habitat protection priorities; develop tools for prioritizing lands for acquisition (fee title or easement); provide outreach assistance to SWCDs; and develop/maintain trusting relationships with local government for project support	The Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) provides project coordination among project partners and other supporting organizations, including responsibility for status reports, outreach assistance to SWCDs, developing prioritization tools for project selection, facilitation of regular meetings of the Project Technical Committee to review and approve participating landowner projects, and project representation to regional conservation collaborative efforts. MHB also promotes ongoing relationships and training as needed for the 8 Headwaters County Boards.	-

**Provide an assessment of how your program may celebrate cultural diversity or reach diverse communities in Minnesota, including reaching low- and moderate-income households:**

MHHCP partner organizations have programs funded through different sources that focus primarily on engaging Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities as well as diverse economic communities. Land conservation is the primary objective of this program, representatives of the Leech Lake Band of Objibwe are invited to participate in the Technical Team meetings that review and approve all projects in an effort to be more inclusive in the program's land protection work.

There are significant benefits for all Minnesotans, including culturally diverse communities, when land is protected through fee-title acquisition and becomes managed as public land accessible to all. In particular, public land provides an opportunity for those who do not have access or financial resources to connect with private natural lands, whether that is for cultural purposes, hunting, fishing, hiking, or other outdoor recreational pursuits. Conservation easements also benefit all Minnesotans. They help to keep our air and water clean for fish habitat and drinking water downstream of the Headwaters, and help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Land conservation conserves the biological diversity that is important to all of Minnesotan's public natural resources.

TPL recently developed a mentored hunting and angling program which is a great example of inclusive community engagement. In partnership with the MN Chapter of Backcounty Hunters and Anglers, TPL is hosting and facilitating mentored hunts and angling opportunities for diverse communities on public lands and waters across MN with a focus on ones protected with Outdoor Heritage Funds. Our target audience for mentees are diverse and historically marginalized communities, with a particular outreach focus on BIPOC communities. Our program mentors are individuals from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds as well, helping to reinforce the notion that seeing those who look like us helps foster a sense of representation, belonging and inclusion in outdoor spaces.

**Activity Details**

**Requirements**

**Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought\*\* prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**

Yes

**Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?**

Yes

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

Yes

**Land Use**

**Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?**

No

**Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this proposal either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?**

No

**Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?**

No



**Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?**

Yes

**Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:**

No variation from State regulations.

**Who will eventually own the fee title land?**

- State of MN
- Local Unit of Government

**Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:**

- WMA
- AMA
- County Forest
- State Forest
- City Owned : To be determined by a particular project
- SNA

**Will the eased land be open for public use?**

No

**Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?**

Yes

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

No new trails are planned on prospective acquisitions, but if new trail segments or alignments are added, generally there would be a "no net gain of trails." In other words, if a new trail segment was created an equal amount of preexisting trail would be restored to natural habitat.

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

Yes

**How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?**

Any trails would be maintained and monitored in accordance with the permanent owner's (state or county) management policies.

**Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?**

Yes

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

No new trails are planned on prospective acquisitions, but if new trail segments or alignments are added, generally there would be a "no net gain of trails." In other words, if a new trail segment was created an equal amount of preexisting trail would be restored to natural habitat.

**How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?**

Any new trails would be maintained and monitored in accordance with the permanent owner's (state or county) management policies.

**Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this proposal's funding and availability?**

No

**Explain how, when, and source of the R/E work:**

While no specific R/E work is anticipated for fee-title acquisition; after land is acquired and conveyed to the MN DNR, initial restoration activities may occur as part of the DNR IDP plan.

For conservation easements, a small number of easements, primarily in the Prairie/Northern Forest transition zone, may have limited restoration, primarily reforestation, in their conservation plan. These would be cost-share grants with the landowner. A small amount of money (\$50,000) would be spent on this activity.

**Other OHF Appropriation Awards**

**Have you received OHF dollars through LSOHC in the past?**

Yes

**Are any of these past appropriations still OPEN?**

Yes

Approp Year	Funding Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Funding Remaining	% Spent to Date
2024	\$2,746,000	-	-	-
2022	\$5,329,000	\$4,480,400	\$848,600	84.08%
2021	\$2,901,000	\$2,152,400	\$748,600	74.2%
2020	\$3,695,000	\$3,435,500	\$259,500	92.98%
Totals	\$14,671,000	\$10,068,300	\$4,602,700	68.63%

**Timeline**

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
TPL does landowner outreach, negotiates with committed landowners, seeks final ownership (state or local government), see approval from local government, conducts due diligence on the property, acquires property, conveys to final landowner.	2029
BWSR approves and processes landowner applications that have been approved by the Project Technical Committee, responsible for ongoing monitoring of completed easements. diligence,	2029; stewardship ongoing
SWCDs do landowner outreach according to established parcel priorities, works with landowner to submit easement application and complete the easement, records the final easement.	2029
MHB provides project administration and coordination, assists with development of parcel prioritization tools and outreach, convenes the Technical Review Committee, and does project reporting	2029
Under contract to BWSR, SWCDs do annual monitoring of acquired easements	Ongoing
Final owners (state or LGU) of acquired fee-title lands do ongoing maintenance and monitoring of lands according to their respect management policies.	Ongoing

Budget

**Grand Totals Across All Partnerships**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Total Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personnel	\$561,200	-	-	\$561,200
Contracts	\$136,500	-	-	\$136,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$4,200,000	-	-	\$4,200,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$1,000,000
Easement Acquisition	\$2,574,300	-	-	\$2,574,300
Easement Stewardship	\$150,000	-	-	\$150,000
Travel	\$5,300	\$3,700	Private	\$9,000
Professional Services	\$180,000	-	-	\$180,000
Direct Support Services	\$151,900	\$100,000	Private	\$251,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$125,000	-	-	\$125,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$7,500	-	-	\$7,500
Supplies/Materials	\$3,300	-	-	\$3,300
DNR IDP	\$75,000	-	-	\$75,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$9,170,000</b>	<b>\$103,700</b>	-	<b>\$9,273,700</b>

**Partner: MHB**

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$15,000	-	-	\$15,000
Contracts	\$44,000	-	-	\$44,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Administrator	0.1	4.0	\$15,000	-	-	\$15,000

**Partner: BWSR**

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$171,200	-	-	\$171,200
Contracts	\$37,500	-	-	\$37,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$2,574,300	-	-	\$2,574,300
Easement Stewardship	\$150,000	-	-	\$150,000
Travel	\$5,300	-	-	\$5,300
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$51,900	-	-	\$51,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$7,500	-	-	\$7,500
Supplies/Materials	\$2,300	-	-	\$2,300
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Management	1.39	4.0	\$171,200	-	-	\$171,200

**Partner: TPL**

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$375,000	-	-	\$375,000
Contracts	\$55,000	-	-	\$55,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$4,200,000	-	-	\$4,200,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$1,000,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	\$3,700	Private	\$3,700
Professional Services	\$180,000	-	-	\$180,000
Direct Support Services	\$100,000	\$100,000	Private	\$200,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$125,000	-	-	\$125,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	\$75,000	-	-	\$75,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$6,110,000</b>	<b>\$103,700</b>	-	<b>\$6,213,700</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Protection & Legal Staff	0.73	3.0	\$375,000	-	-	\$375,000

**Amount of Request:** \$9,170,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$103,700

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 1.13%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$713,100

**As a % of the total request:** 7.78%

**Easement Stewardship:** \$150,000

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 5.83%

Total Leverage (from above)	Amount Confirmed	% of Total Leverage	Amount Anticipated	% of Total Leverage
\$103,700	\$94,700	91.32%	\$9,000	8.68%

**Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:**

Trust for Public Land is providing a private match of half of their direct support services costs and all travel costs.

**Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?**

Yes

**If the project received 50% of the requested funding**

**Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

**Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well. However, not exactly proportionately as program administration, coordination, development and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of the appropriation amount.

**If the project received 30% of the requested funding**

**Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

**Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?**

Program management costs (personnel and DSS expenses) will be reduced as well. However, not exactly proportionately as program administration, coordination, development and oversight costs remain consistent regardless of the appropriation amount.

**Personnel**

**Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?**

Yes

**Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?**

For MHB, the FTE listed for project administration is consistent with funds spent in the closed appropriations and those in process. Contract program coordination is provided by the same contractor and is consistent with what has been spent in the past. Only funds needed to ensure program success are spent. For TPL the FTEs listed in the proposal are an estimate of the personnel time required to produce the grant deliverables put forward in this proposal. An array of staff draw from these funds for legal work, negotiating with landowners, crafting of acquisition documents, coordinating with agency partners, and managing the grant. We use only those personnel funds necessary to achieve the goals of the grant. For BWSR, this is Phase 9 of an ongoing program; these funds will pay for staff time spent on new easements associated with this phase.

**Contracts**

**What is included in the contracts line?**

MHB contract funding is for a Program Coordinator and Outreach Assistant. BWSR contract is for SWCD assistance. TPL contract funds are for potential site clean-up and initial restoration activities.

**Professional Services**

**What is included in the Professional Services line?**

- Appraisals
- Other : Payments to SWCDs for easement acquisition assistance; environmental site assessments (aka Phase 1 environmental review)
- Surveys
- Title Insurance and Legal Fees

## Fee Acquisition

### What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?

3 acquisitions completed and investigation of 2-3 prospects.

## Easement Stewardship

### What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?

An estimated 15 easements (1100 acres) will be completed with the funding requested. Easement stewardship has been calculated per 15 easements. Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at \$10,000 per easement. This value is based on using local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations and existing enforcement authorities. The amount listed for Easement Stewardship covers costs of the SWCD's regular monitoring, BWSR oversight, and any enforcement necessary.

## Travel

### Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?

No

### Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging

None

### I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:

Yes

## Direct Support Services

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

BWSR calculates direct support services costs that are directly related to and necessary for each request based on the type of work being done. DSS requested by Trust for Public Land is based upon their federal rate, which has been approved by the DNR; 50% of TPL's DSS costs are requested from the OHF grant, 50% is contributed as leverage.

## Other Equipment/Tools

### Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?

Signage for completed projects.

## Federal Funds

### Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

No



## Output Tables

### Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	1,053	0	1,053
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	247	0	247
Protect in Easement	0	0	1,100	0	1,100
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,400</b>

### Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$4,979,000	-	\$4,979,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	\$1,161,000	-	\$1,161,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$3,030,000	-	\$3,030,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$9,170,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$9,170,000</b>

### Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	1,053	1,053
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	247	247
Protect in Easement	0	75	0	0	1,025	1,100
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>2,400</b>

### Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$4,979,000	\$4,979,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$1,161,000	\$1,161,000
Protect in Easement	-	\$187,500	-	-	\$2,842,500	\$3,030,000
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$187,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$8,982,500</b>	<b>\$9,170,000</b>

### Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$4,728	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	\$4,700	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	\$2,754	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

**Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$4,728
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	\$4,700
Protect in Easement	-	\$2,500	-	-	\$2,773
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

5+ miles

## Parcels

### Sign-up Criteria?

No

### Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

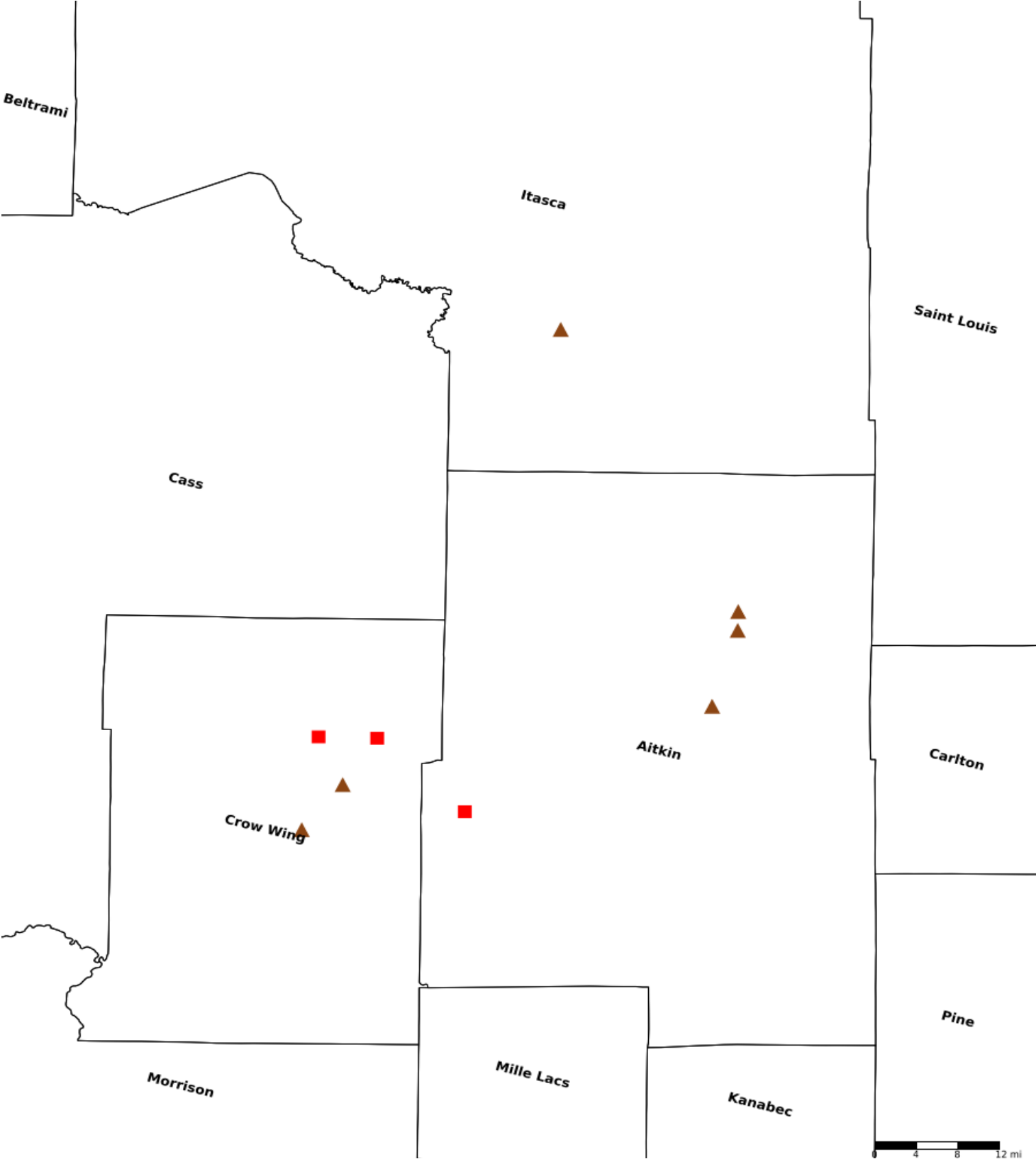
A science-based prioritization process (RAQ) is first used to narrow the field of potential outreach parcels that meet program criteria. The RAQ process, as detailed earlier, includes assessing the riparian nature of the parcel (R), its adjacency to other public land (A) and its habitat quality (Q) using a variety of state and federal databases and natural resource data. Parcels scoring in the top third are the priority outreach targets for fee-title acquisitions and easements. Parcel location in priority areas of an approved Watershed Plan in major watersheds in the Headwaters region is also used to identify potential parcels for protection.

When a landowner is interested in either a fee-title acquisition or easement the parcel(s) are presented to the Program Technical Team that is convened at least twice a year to review the proposed parcels. The Technical Team is comprised of program partners, the 8 headwater's SWCD representatives, and representatives from the Nature Conservancy, DNR, and appropriate tribal governments. The Team assesses the parcel(s) using a program-specific ranking sheet that looks at the RAQ scoring but also other factors such as size of the parcel, amount of shoreland, urgency for protection, specific forest and other land use conditions, and the professional judgement of the presenter of the project (TPL or one of the 8 SWCDs). The location within the program's designated geography is also considered by the Team that then approves or disapproves proceeding with the fee title acquisition or easement.

### Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Lily Lake	Aitkin	04727234	210	\$600,000	No
Big Sandy River	Aitkin	04824201	189	\$380,000	No
Aitkin Lake	Aitkin	05023217	151	\$850,000	No
Big Sandy	Aitkin	05023229	283	\$900,000	No
Indian Jack WMA 4	Crow Wing	13626234	80	\$689,400	No
June Lake	Crow Wing	04629209	60	\$1,400,000	No
Crow Wing County Forest Addition	Crow Wing	13625206	266	\$680,400	No
Crow Wing County Forest Addition II	Crow Wing	13626205	120	\$200,000	No
Bass Brook WMA Addition	Itasca	05526213	46	\$184,000	No

Parcel Map



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

# Mississippi Headwaters Habitat

## Corridor Project– Phase 9

Request: \$ 9,170,000

### Program Goals/Focus:

- Phase 9 will permanently protect more than **5 miles** of critical aquatic habitat and **2,400 acres** of high quality forested wildlife habitat along the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River, its major tributaries and headwaters lakes/reservoirs for the benefit of fish, game and non-game wildlife, and migratory waterfowl along the Mississippi Flyway.
- Achieve permanent land conservation via fee title acquisition and RIM conservation easements to create and expand habitat protection corridors and complexes, protect critical fish habitat, and reduce forest fragmentation.
- Enhance public recreational opportunities—fishing, hunting, trapping, and passive recreation—along the project corridor.
- Help ensure high quality drinking water for millions of people downstream.
- Focus on priority parcels identified using a GIS science-based methodology.

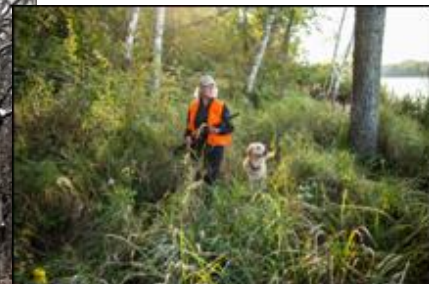
### Partners

- Mississippi Headwaters Board
- Trust for Public Land
- BWSR and 8 Headwaters SWCDs
- With stakeholder support from: The MN DNR and The Nature Conservancy

### Accomplishments To Date Through Phase

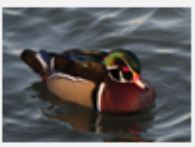
(Phase 8 is pending)

- Permanent habitat protection completed on **10,736 acres** and **57 miles** of shoreline.
- Four additions to a State Forest, 5 additions to a County Forest creation of a new 300+ acre WMA and one addition to the new WMA; 1 addition to an existing AMA; and 50 RIM conservation easements.
- 13 easement in process will protect an additional 1,687 acres and 8 miles of shoreline.
- The Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project has consistently exceeded AP acreage goals by over 200%.



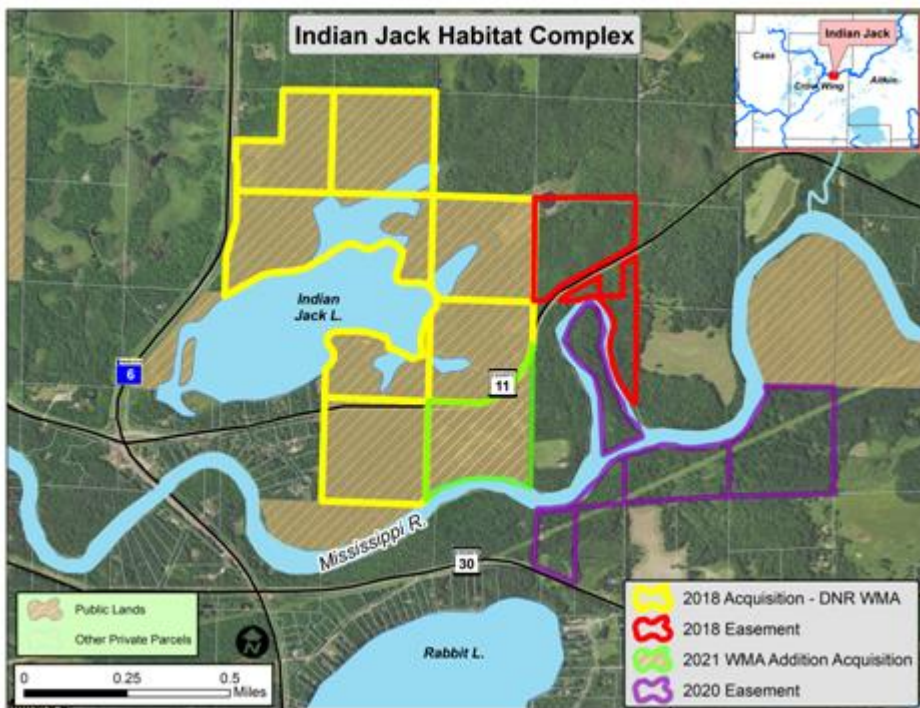
## Why permanently protect critical shorelands and create contiguous habitat complexes?

- Game and non-game wildlife have four basic habitat needs that are provided through permanently protected habitat complexes: 1) cover against predators; 2) water; 3) places to raise their young; and 4) adequate space to move around during varied life stages.
- Migratory waterfowl need food and cover along the Mississippi Flyway. Fish populations need healthy shorelines and high quality water along with safe spawning areas.
- As lakes have become increasingly developed, there is more development pressure on or near the river, its tributaries, and headwaters lakes/reservoirs, which can cause fragmentation of critical habitats such as forests, shorelands, grasslands, and wetlands.
- Shoreland and upland conservation reduce habitat fragmentation and ensures critical aquatic and upland habitat for healthy fish and wildlife populations.



### Public & Private Land Working Together for Habitat Protection

This map is one example of fee-title acquisitions and conservation easements working together with already existing public land to create a large, contiguous and permanently protected habitat complex in Crow Wing County



The Indian Jack Habitat Complex was created with a new WMA (264 acres), a WMA addition (35 acres), and 2 conservation easements (104 acres) combined with adjacent public land (190 acres) to form a permanently protected habitat complex spanning 594 acres, 2.5 miles of lake shoreland, and 3 miles of river shoreland.