



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions
ML 2025 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 05/31/2024

Proposal Title: DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions

Funds Requested: \$847,300

Confirmed Leverage Funds: \$28,000

Is this proposal Scalable?: No

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Jennifer Olson

Title: Initial Development Coordinator

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Division of Fish & Wildlife

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Location Information

County Location(s):

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Northern Forest
- Southeast Forest
- Metro / Urban
- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee
- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:**Narrative****Abstract**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) partners with eleven organizations to strategically acquire fee title land and conservation easements that are a primary benefit to fish, game and wildlife. With every partner-led acquisition, a core set of functions relating to DNR land acquisition costs ensures quality appraisals, fair price, the State's interests are protected against future liabilities, and DNR initial development needs meet minimal standards for cultural resource protection and public access. These core functions are most efficiently covered in a single annual administrative appropriation thereby replacing multiple partner release of funds to the DNR.

Design and Scope of Work

Eleven organizations coordinate and communicate with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and Minnesota DNR to strategically acquire fee title land and/or conservation easements from willing sellers. The eleven organizations include: 1) Dakota County, 2) Ducks Unlimited, 3) Fox Lake Conservation League, 4) Minnesota Land Trust, 5) Minnesota Valley Trust, 6) Northern Waters Land Trust, 7) Pheasants Forever, 8) Shell Rock River Watershed District, 9) The Conservation Fund, 10) The Nature Conservancy, and 11) Trust for Public Land. Currently, the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife is managing 51 partner-led appropriations related to DNR Land Acquisition Costs and/or DNR Initial Development Plan appropriations. Many parcels being acquired by conservation organizations will be conveyed to the Minnesota DNR to become part of the state's Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Aquatic Management Area (AMA), Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) and/or State Forest system. To ensure public accountability for the use of public funds, DNR Attachment E is the risk mitigation procedure making sure the interest in land being bought with Outdoor Heritage Funds (OHF) are quality and purchased at a fair market price. A technical appraisal review is required when the value of property is over \$1 million regardless of whether the property is conveyed to the DNR or not (see DNR Attachment E: Land Acquisition Reporting Procedures for OHF at website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/passthrough/lag.html>). This single appropriation would pay for the DNR Land Acquisition Costs and the limited DNR Initial Development Plan costs associated with partner-led fee title and conservation easement related acquisitions.

Activities that are covered by DNR Land Acquisition Costs include:

- DNR Land & Mineral Division project manager time
- Appraisal reviews
- Land survey reviews
- Title reviews
- Drainage agreement reviews
- Access agreements reviews
- Other agreements/encumbrances (lease, CRP, boundary lines, etc.)
- Property taxes
- Recording fees
- Deed taxes

Within the Division of Fish and Wildlife, an approved Initial Development Plan (IDP) is required for all land acquisitions, regardless of whether they are being acquired by DNR or one of our partners, and regardless of the funding source of the acquisition. The IDP is used to identify the funding that will be used to develop a new parcel to minimum standards. Only limited costs approved in an IDP are covered in this OHF proposal:

- Cultural resource review – Compliance with the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act and Minnesota Historic

Sites Act (MN Statutes 138.40 and 138.655)

- Boundary posts – purchased by DNR in large orders, freight cost savings
- Signs and hardware - OHF and DNR signs, posts, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.
- Fencing - if needed
- Access / parking lots – improvement of ROW, easement or approach from public road, parking capacity needs, soils (geotextile fabric, posts, gates, gravel, culvert, etc.)

If partner organizations would like the DNR to assist with site cleanup or habitat restoration, separate funds would need to be released to the DNR through the Use of Funds process.

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

Fee title acquisition and conservation easements are two tools that protect species by ensuring habitat exists and development rights are limited to the purposes designated within DNR Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Aquatic Management Areas (AMA), Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) and/or State Forest systems. Fee title purchases are voluntary transactions between a landowner (seller) and purchaser (buyer). In this case, the buyer is a partner organization that will convey the property to the DNR or the property is valued at over \$1 million and requires a technical appraisal review.

Potential acquisitions for WMAs, AMAs and SNAs are objectively scored for their habitat value. The DNR uses weighted criteria and prioritizes high scoring parcels for acquisition. For example, candidates for WMAs score higher with a prairie grouse lek, in a pheasant habitat complex, presence of shallow lakes, and occurrence of deer wintering areas. Candidates for WMAs, AMAs and SNAs score higher when they have known records of threatened, endangered, species of greatest conservation need and high quality native plant communities. AMAs which permanently protect high quality aquatic habitats and watersheds, and lakes designated as having biological significance will have high scoring parcels worthy of acquisition consideration.

Examples of native plant communities with exceptional value as wildlife habitat include southern dry prairie, dry sand-gravel prairie, mesic prairie, dry hill prairie, northern wet prairie, mesic brush prairie, wet seepage prairie, southern dry mesic oak hickory woodland, mesic hardwood forest, wet forest, forest and open rich peatlands, and northern jack pine/black spruce woodland.

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

Most private landowners will wait and work with a partner organization for a short time but won't wait indefinitely for the acquisition to be completed. A generation, or more, may pass before parcels may become available for purchase again.

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

The DNR uses GIS-based scoring systems to objectively rank potential acquisitions and develop statewide priority lists. These systems incorporate scientific data giving priority to locations within and that add to: 1) an important habitat corridor or complex (such as identified by the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Pheasant Action Plan, SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan, and the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan), 2) native plant communities and sites of outstanding and high biodiversity significance mapped by Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), and 3) parcels that adjoin existing units or other conservation lands. The end result is the prioritization of acquisitions that protect larger blocks of habitat or natural intact communities, improve riparian and terrestrial connectivity or

maintain ecosystem services through protection of climate resilient, high biodiversity areas.

I am going to cover "why" I chose the two conservation plans below since there is no space elsewhere to address it and it is relevant to this question.

The Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda (2015-2025) has two strategies under the Natural Resource Conservation goal to: 1) Conserve Natural Areas - Retain natural areas and working lands containing important habitats, especially habitats in jeopardy, such as native prairies, wetlands, shallow lakes, and shorelines. Connect fragments of high-quality habitat. Conserve endangered, threatened, rare, declining and vulnerable species, and 2) Monitor and fine-tune management actions - Track and continually improve the effectiveness of our conservation work.

Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years (2002-2052) has a statewide recommendation: The Division of Wildlife (old name) needs to work collaboratively with other agencies and units of government, public and private partners, legislators, landowners, and citizens to seek additional, creative funding to implement the recommendations in this report and find ways to expedite the WMA land acquisition process.

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

- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda
- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

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 MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife created Guidance for meeting Operational Order 131 – Climate Adaptation and Mitigation in Natural Resources Management, effective date December 10, 2015.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife Objective is to: Develop and maintain a network of large, connected conservation lands to support healthy fish and wildlife populations in Minnesota's streams, lakes, grasslands, wetlands and forests.

Specific Land Acquisition Guidance includes: In the Strategic WMA and AMA Scoring Tool, staff will prioritize WMA/AMA parcels for acquisition that meet the following criteria: Greater than 240 acres; Immediately adjacent to a conservation land; Establishes or increases connectivity between conservation lands; Under-represented native ecosystem – remnant prairie, seasonal wetlands; Provides or supports habitat for the following species – tullibee; Is within the Fish Habitat Plan priority protection area; Contains peatland; Contains restorable prairie/grassland/wetland; Contains coarse woody debris; and the Desired cover is attainable.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

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:

This proposal is working with partner organizations who are successful with fee title acquisition and/or conservation easements. These actions directly benefit the protection of habitat for fish, game and wildlife. The opportunity to purchase strategic parcels of land or limit development rights is challenging with increasing recreation and agricultural land prices. The current Outdoor Heritage Fund legislation will sunset in 2034. We can

not take for granted the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment and whether it will be successfully passed by Minnesota voters in the future. This is the time to make a difference to protect the natural landscapes on which we need for survival, recreational opportunities, health and mental wellness for current and future generations.

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the forest-prairie transition region.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Protected habitats will hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the metropolitan urbanizing region.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the northern forest region.*

Programs in prairie region:

- Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the prairie region.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

- High priority riparian lands, forestlands, and savannas are protected from parcelization and fragmentation ~ *Summarize how many partner-led fee title and/or conservation easement acquisition acres are successfully acquired by partner organizations AND conveyed to the Minnesota DNR in the southeast forest region.*

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

- N/A

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.

The Outdoor Heritage Funds supplement state small game Surcharge funds, state Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) funds, and federal Pittman-Robertson funds that are used for fee title acquisition within the MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife.

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

Long term maintenance and habitat management costs on WMA/AMAs are covered by a combination of DNR Fish and Wildlife funding including, but not limited to: Game and Fish Operations Account (license fees, Federal Aid reimbursements, etc.), Deer Management Account (deer license fee), Heritage Enhancement Account (lottery

payments in lieu of sales tax on lottery tickets), Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account (pheasant stamp), RIM funds (license plate fees), Trout and Salmon account (trout and salmon stamps), Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account (MN migratory waterfowl stamp), Wildlife Acquisition Account (small game surcharge license fee), Wild Turkey Management Account (turkey license fee), federal Pittman-Robertson funds, and/or other grant funds, etc.

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

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are key values of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). We are committed to living out these values in all of our work, whether it's getting people outdoors, creating accessible facilities in state parks, or recruiting a diverse workforce. Here are some ways we are engaging in various efforts: The Minnesota DNR opens the outdoors to people with disabilities including hosting accessible camp sites, providing accommodations to people who use powered mobility devices, offering accessible hunting areas and fishing piers, and issuing discounted permits.

The DNR hosts hunting and fishing education programs, such as Becoming an Outdoors Woman and I Can Fish! to introduce people to outdoor recreation. We also offer educational materials, including the Hunting & Trapping Regulations and Fishing Regulations, in multiple languages such as Hmong, Karen, Somali and Spanish.

We strive to be a workplace that represents the diversity of the state and includes people of all backgrounds. The DNR is a veteran-friendly Yellow Ribbon employer. We also participate in Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers, which is a college-to-careers pathway program for underrepresented STEM college students interested in pursuing a career in environmental and natural resources.

The DNR has adopted a Language Access Plan to communicate effectively with people with limited English proficiency (LEP) and to provide meaningful access to DNR program information and services for every Minnesotan.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

No

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:

According to Statute 97A.056 subd 13(j), Non-governmental organizations must notify in writing the county board and town board where the land is located and furnish them a description of the land to be acquired. NGOs do not have to seek formal approval prior to the acquisition. In cases where there is interest, NGOs are willing to attend county or township meetings to communicate their interest in the parcel and answer questions.

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

No

Describe the permanent protection and justification for additional protection:

A limited number of partner-led acquisitions may have federal or state easements on a portion of the desired tract. If a parcel has one of these encumbrances, and it is still deemed a high priority by the partnership, the partner will follow guidance established by the Outdoor Heritage Fund to proceed, or use non-OHF funding to acquire the residual value of the protected portion of the property.

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

No

Describe the expected public use:

A limited number of partner-led acquisitions may have federal or state easements on a portion of the desired tract. If a parcel has one of these encumbrances, and it is still deemed a high priority by the partnership, the partner will follow guidance established by the Outdoor Heritage Fund to proceed, or use non-OHF funding to acquire the residual value of the protected portion of the property.

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?

Yes

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:

The IDP Coordinator is not aware of any planned food plots beyond the initial restoration of farmland (most likely soybeans to native grasses) that may occur on new partner-led acquisitions. Future management goals by the end owner (DNR Wildlife Management Area) may include a food plot option. As defined by State Statute 86A.05, the primary purpose of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are "to protect those lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and to develop and manage these lands and waters for the production of wildlife, for public hunting, fishing, and trapping, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses."

At its core, wildlife management is the manipulation of food and cover (i.e. habitat) across the landscape. Management decisions are based on the local site characteristics while understanding the broader landscape setting. Area wildlife managers are charged with habitat development and management decisions on WMAs in their work areas. This includes the decision to establish food plots. Area wildlife managers have the delegated authority to enter into and sign Cooperative Farming Agreements. Regional wildlife managers have the delegated authority and must sign and approve all Cooperative Farming Agreements. Based on 2022 data, a small percentage of WMAs (less than 1%) are actively farmed (10,623 acres out of 1.37 million acres). Farming on WMAs is a wildlife management tool which is targeted and limited in scope.

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:

All fee title land that will be conveyed as Wildlife Management Area (WMA) lands will be open for hunting and fishing with no variations from State of Minnesota regulations. All fee title land that will be conveyed as Aquatic Management Area (AMA) and State Forest lands will be open for hunting and fishing with no variations from State of Minnesota regulations. It is my understanding that conservation easements purchased by partners are likely to remain under private interest.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

- State of MN
- Federal
- County
- Local Unit of Government
- Tribal
- NGO

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

- WMA
- AMA
- State Forest
- SNA
- WPA
- County Forest
- National Wildlife Refuge
- Tribal
- SRA

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:

I do not know the answer to this question since these will be partner-led acquisitions but it is possible that some parcels may have roads or trails on them prior to acquisition.

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

Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

It is possible existing roads or trail use will be allowed after OHF acquisition.

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

No

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:

This administrative proposal specifically focuses on the DNR land acquisition costs and core DNR IDP activities associated with partner-led acquisitions. There are no restoration or enhancement funds provided. If a partner wants to conduct restoration or enhancement on the parcel they acquired, they will fund that work out of their OHF appropriation. Partners will conduct the habitat work themselves, contract

the work, or if they would like the DNR to assist with the habitat work, a Use of Funds letter will be required to transfer the funds to DNR.

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
22	\$6,000	-	-	-
22	\$10,000	-	-	-
22	\$18,000	-	-	-
22	\$39,600	-	-	-
22	\$13,200	-	-	-
22	\$50,000	-	-	-
22	\$28,100	-	-	-
22	\$28,000	\$439	\$27,561	1.57%
22	\$35,000	-	-	-
22	\$40,000	-	-	-
22	\$5,000	-	-	-
21	\$25,000	\$6,508	\$18,492	26.03%
21	\$26,000	\$4,686	\$21,314	18.02%
21	\$12,000	-	-	-
21	\$60,000	\$9,016	\$50,984	15.03%
21	\$30,000	\$8,607	\$21,393	28.69%
21	\$14,400	-	-	-
21	\$7,000	-	-	-
21	\$15,000	-	-	-
21	\$25,000	-	-	-
21	\$30,000	\$16,191	\$13,809	53.97%
21	\$15,000	-	-	-
20	\$20,000	\$4,149	\$15,851	20.75%
20	\$33,000	-	-	-
20	\$5,000	-	-	-
20	\$26,000	-	-	-
20	\$60,000	\$10,219	\$49,781	17.03%
20	\$10,000	\$192	\$9,808	1.92%
20	\$15,000	\$2,047	\$12,953	13.65%
20	\$4,000	-	-	-
20	\$40,000	\$6,867	\$33,133	17.17%
20	\$30,000	-	-	-
20	\$130,000	\$95,989	\$34,011	73.84%
20	\$40,000	\$10,932	\$29,068	27.33%
20	\$25,000	-	-	-
20	\$60,000	\$3,184	\$56,816	5.31%
19	\$85,000	\$18,484	\$66,516	21.75%
19	\$5,000	\$4,286	\$714	85.72%
19	\$254,050	\$202,915	\$51,135	79.87%
19	\$40,000	\$3,716	\$36,284	9.29%
19	\$40,000	\$33,943	\$6,057	84.86%
19	\$275,400	\$249,128	\$26,272	90.46%
19	\$30,000	\$5,827	\$24,173	19.42%
18	\$174,200	\$122,802	\$51,398	70.49%

18	\$82,300	\$82,259	\$41	99.95%
18	\$11,000	\$2,301	\$8,699	20.92%
18	\$17,000	\$13,177	\$3,823	77.51%
18	\$20,000	\$2,820	\$17,180	14.1%
18	\$21,655	\$3,572	\$18,083	16.5%
18	\$20,000	\$7,019	\$12,981	35.09%
17	\$61,500	\$11,827	\$49,673	19.23%
Totals	\$2,167,405	\$943,102	\$1,224,303	43.51%

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Submit final report	November 2033
Pay for core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of eighth fiscal year.	June 2033
Submit status report	February 2033
-	August 2032
Pay for core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of seventh fiscal year.	June 2032
Submit status report	February 2032
-	August 2031
Pay for core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of sixth fiscal year.	June 2031
Submit status report	February 2031
Submit status report	August 2030
Pay for core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR. End of fifth fiscal year.	June 2030
Submit status report	February 2030
Submit status report	August 2029
Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR or that require technical appraisal review. End of fourth fiscal year.	June 2029
Submit status report	February 2029
Submit status report	August 2028
Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR or that require technical appraisal review. End of third fiscal year.	June 2028
Submit status report	February 2028
Submit status report	August 2027
Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR or that require technical appraisal review. End of second fiscal year.	June 2027
Submit status report	February 2027
Submit status report	August 2026
Pay for DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP costs on partner-led fee title acquisitions that will be conveyed to DNR or that require technical appraisal review. End of first fiscal year.	June 2026
Appropriation becomes available	July 2025

Budget

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$112,000	\$28,000	Game & Fish funds	\$140,000
Contracts	\$110,500	-	-	\$110,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
Professional Services	\$500,000	-	-	\$500,000
Direct Support Services	\$13,300	-	-	\$13,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$110,500	-	-	\$110,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$847,300	\$28,000	-	\$875,300

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Initial Development Coordinator	0.8	1.0	\$112,000	\$28,000	Game & Fish funds	\$140,000

Amount of Request: \$847,300

Amount of Leverage: \$28,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 3.3%

DSS + Personnel: \$125,300

As a % of the total request: 14.79%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

Total Leverage (from above)	Amount Confirmed	% of Total Leverage	Amount Anticipated	% of Total Leverage
\$28,000	\$28,000	100.0%	-	0.0%

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:

The Initial Development Coordinator position will be covered by 0.2 FTE out of the state Game & Fish funds. This covers time on non-OHF activities such as chronic wasting disease deer check station work, State Fair DNR staffing, professional development, trainings, etc.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?

No

Please explain why this project can NOT be scaled:

This budget is based on the most complete and recent information available, which is expected to cover all the DNR land acquisition costs and core IDP activities on partner-led fee title acquisitions. A reduction in funds may mean some core functions may not be covered in a timely manner.

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?

The IDP Coordinator position was initially funded for three years under the ML19 DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition - Phase XI grant. It then moved to a one year administrative ML22 Initial Development Coordinator grant. It was then funded in the ML23 Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions and ML24 DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions grants. The desire is to keep the IDP Coordinator position funded within the DNR Core Functions grants moving forward.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

Core initial development plan activities are in the contracts line and may include, but is not limited to, constructing parking lots, fence installation, delivering gravel, and conducting cultural resource reviews, etc.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

- Other : DNR Land Acquisition Costs - which includes DNR Land and Minerals Division staff time to review appraisals, land surveys, titles, drainage agreements, access agreements, other agreements/encumbrances, paying for property taxes, recording fees and deed taxes.

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

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?

Direct Support Services are determined by a standard DNR process taking into account the amount of funding and

the number of allocations made with that funding. We work with the DNR Office of Management and Budget Services to determine Direct Support Services.

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	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

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	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0

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	\$169,400	\$169,400	\$169,500	\$169,500	\$169,500	\$847,300
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$169,400	\$169,400	\$169,500	\$169,500	\$169,500	\$847,300

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

No

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

Eleven organizations coordinate and communicate with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and Minnesota DNR to strategically acquire fee title land and/or conservation easements from willing sellers. The partner organizations will maintain the parcel lists in their respective OHF acquisition grants. The DNR will ensure the parcels are on the partner's parcel list before OHF funds are spent.

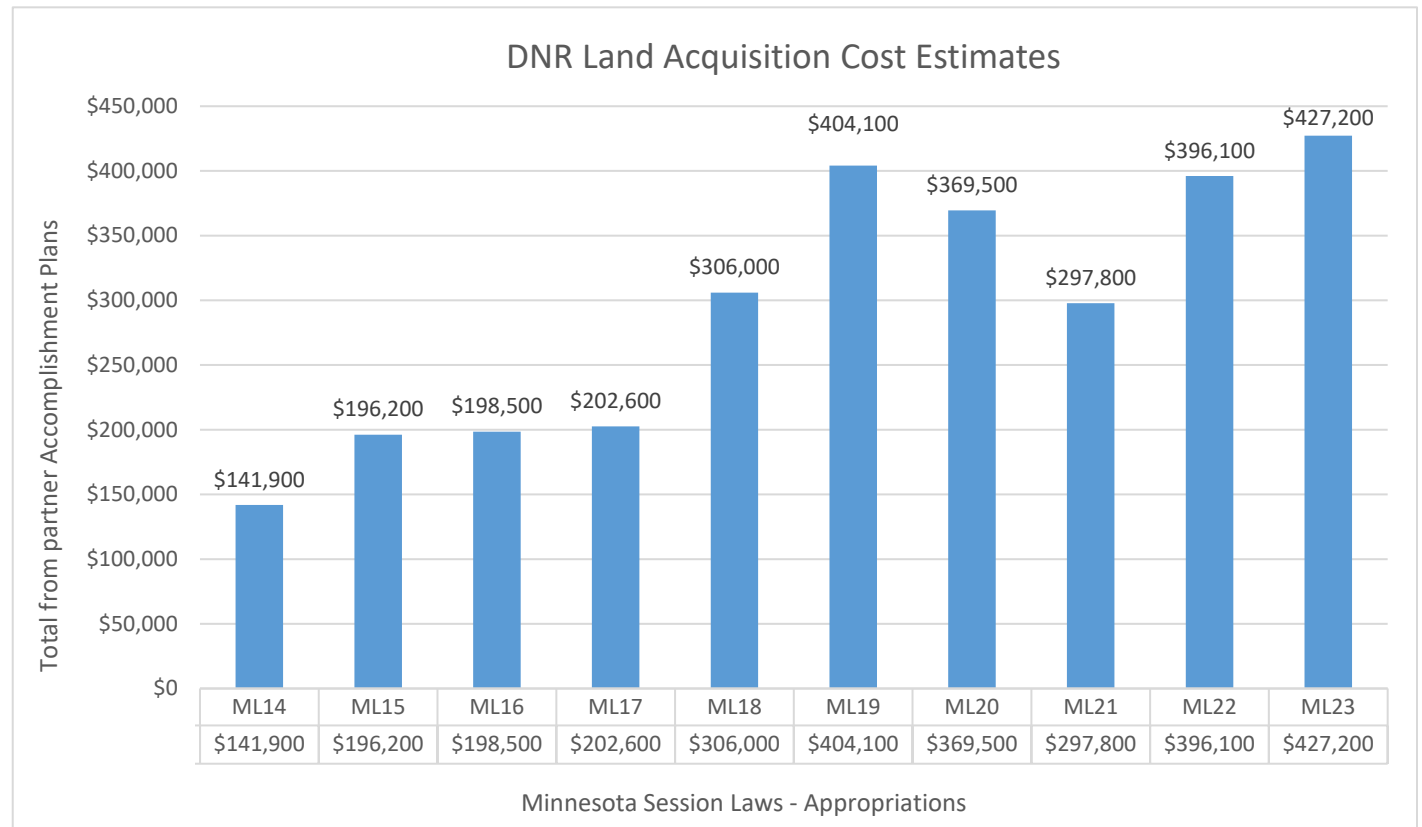
DNR Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Acquisitions

The Minnesota DNR currently partners with eleven organizations to strategically acquire fee title land and conservation easements, from willing sellers, which benefits fish, game, and wildlife. With every partner-led acquisition, a core set of functions relating to DNR land acquisition costs ensures quality appraisals, fair price, the State's interests are protected against future liabilities. The recommended DNR Land Acquisition Cost formula is \$12,000 for every \$500,000 in fee acquisition w/ PILT. Properties that will not convey to the DNR (fee acquisition w/o PILT or conservation easements) but that are valued over \$1 million require an appraisal review by DNR Division of Land & Minerals. Appraisal review cost estimates are \$3,000 for each property valued over \$1 million.

The total DNR Land Acquisition Cost estimate for ML25 = \$500,000.

DNR Land Acquisition Costs

- Appraisal review
- Land survey review
- Title review
- Drainage agreements review
- Access agreements review
- Other agreement/encumbrance reviews
- DNR Division of Land & Minerals staff time
- Property taxes
- Recording fees
- Deed taxes



Core Initial Development Plan Activities

An Initial Development Plan (IDP) is required for all fee title land acquisitions in the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife. The IDP is used to identify the funding that will be used to develop a new parcel to minimum standards. Only limited activities approved in an IDP are covered in this OHF proposal. This proposal is based on 25 approved IDPs from ML20 partner appropriations which is the most complete set and best estimates to date (\$201,000). A 10% inflation factor was also included. **The total ML25 DNR Core IDP activities estimate = \$221,000 (split between contracts and supplies/materials).**

There is great variability in the type of core IDP activities that are needed on new parcels. Some parcels have no core IDP needs and some involve all, or part, of the activities listed below:

- Cultural resource review – compliance with Minnesota Field Archaeology Act and Minnesota Historic Sites Act (MN Statutes 138.40 and 138.655)
- Boundary posts – purchased by DNR in large orders, freight cost savings for delivery to Area offices
- OHF & DNR signs and hardware – metal and wood routed signs, posts, bolts, nuts, washers, etc.
- Fencing - grazing, parking lot, etc.
- Access/parking lots – improvement of ROW or approach from public road; parking lot needs (geotextile fabric, posts, gates, gravel, culvert, etc.)

