

LSOHC Proposal Brief: DNR Forest Enhancement Phase 3.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources developed and presented a proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and this document is intended to clarify the purpose, need, scope of activities and partnerships involved in this grant.

Key Messages

- The DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife Forest Habitat Team is asking for this funding to provide forest habitat benefits that are not accomplished by traditional timber management/harvest.
- If any of these project sites have merchantable timber on them, the timber will be sold, we believe timber harvest accomplished through contracts with private loggers is the best way to improve forest habitats.
- This proposal reflects valued partnerships, advocacy, and forest management efforts of the DNR Divisions of Forestry and Eco/Water Resources. We work with partners to accomplish habitat goals.
- We agree that coordination across agencies and organizations is needed to meet shared goals.

The primary tools we are proposing to use to provide these habitat restorations and enhancements are:



Tree Planting/Seeding and Protection: Planting or seeding tree species to regenerate a new stand of more value to fish and wildlife. On some sites, trees will be protected from browsing to insure survival.

Tree Release: Favoring the growth and survival of trees that improve fish and wildlife habitat by removing competing vegetation.

Riparian Enhancement: Planting or managing trees and vegetation along streams and rivers managed for fishing to improve fish and wildlife habitat including measures that minimize erosion, provide shade, help mitigate temperatures, reduce invasive species, and favor long-lived tree species.



Forest/Brushland Prescribed Burning: Forest understory or brushland burns (that will not burn marketable timber). Used to help regenerate new stands of trees and alter vegetation to species or a condition of more value to fish and wildlife.

Invasive Species Control: Removal and control of invasive species in forest stands. Helps restore or help prevent fish and wildlife habitat degradation due to dominance by invasive species; also helps with desired timber harvest as without invasive control, timber harvest often leads to an increase in invasive species.

Mechanical Brushland/Regeneration Shearing: Includes efforts to regenerate decadent/aging trees or shrubs in forest stands along with efforts to set back succession in large open/brushland landscapes to improve wildlife habitat. Improves browse and habitat for deer, woodcock, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, sandhill cranes, and many nongame species that use brushland landscapes or brush habitats.

Summary

DNR is a trusted manager of public land habitats across Minnesota. Like the prairie and wetland habitats, our forests need an investment of effort and resources to elevate their condition to the benefit of a diverse array of species. We will use any funds awarded to work with partners including private contractors to enhance habitat while also creating healthier timber in the future.

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Ted, ...loggers and forest managers in Minnesota perform the vast majority of wildlife habitat management on forested lands in the state through thoughtful and sustainable logging practices. We can manipulate age classes, successional stages and composition, while retaining habitat features like snags, coarse woody debris and riparian areas. However, there is a great need to fund other treatments to create specific habitat conditions that can't be accomplished through logging, including invasives control, burning, mowing and strategic replanting.

MFI offers its support for the DNR Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council project application entitled, "DNR Forest Enhancement Phase 3". Working with contractors and DNR staff this project will improve forest wildlife habitat conditions.

Good luck with your application.



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