



# OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND Recommendations Bill Summary Fiscal Year 2025

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Recommendations — FY2025

## LSOHC Recommendations Highlights

In the sixteenth year of Outdoor Heritage Funding (OHF), the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council is recommending a total of 50 programs be funded by the MN Legislature for a total of \$180,711,000.

- 61,923 acres of wildlife habitat throughout Minnesota is estimated to be restored, enhanced, and/or protected.
- 77.3 miles of shoreline will be restored, enhanced and/or protected.
- An additional \$33,558,700 in federal, local government, and private conservation funding is expected to be leveraged with FY2025 OHF.
- 38 different organizations are recommended for funding (1 federal agency, 2 state agencies, 15 local units of government, and 20 non-government organizations).
- Continued investment in robust on-going programs constitutes 75% of the programs recommended.
- Activities include: native prairie protection, wetland restoration, trout stream enhancement, public wildlife land enhancements, shallow lake enhancement, forest fragmentation prevention, strategic land acquisition in fee and conservation easement, invasive species removal, restoring fish passage and pollinator habitat.



**Prairie Protection and Enhancement** – This monarch butterfly stopped to feed on a meadow blazingstar on the Steinke Tract of the Lac Qui Parle WMA in Big Stone County, MN. This tract was acquired by Ducks Unlimited utilizing ML2018 Outdoor Heritage Funds. The tract has nearly 60 acres of native prairie.



**Forest Enhancement** — Moose tracks are seen along the edge of an OHF funded forest enhancement project in northern Minnesota. The goal of the project was improving habitat for moose and other forest species.

**Constitutional Amendment - Article XI—Sec. 15.**

*...33 percent of the receipts shall be deposited in the outdoor heritage fund and may be spent only to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife;...*

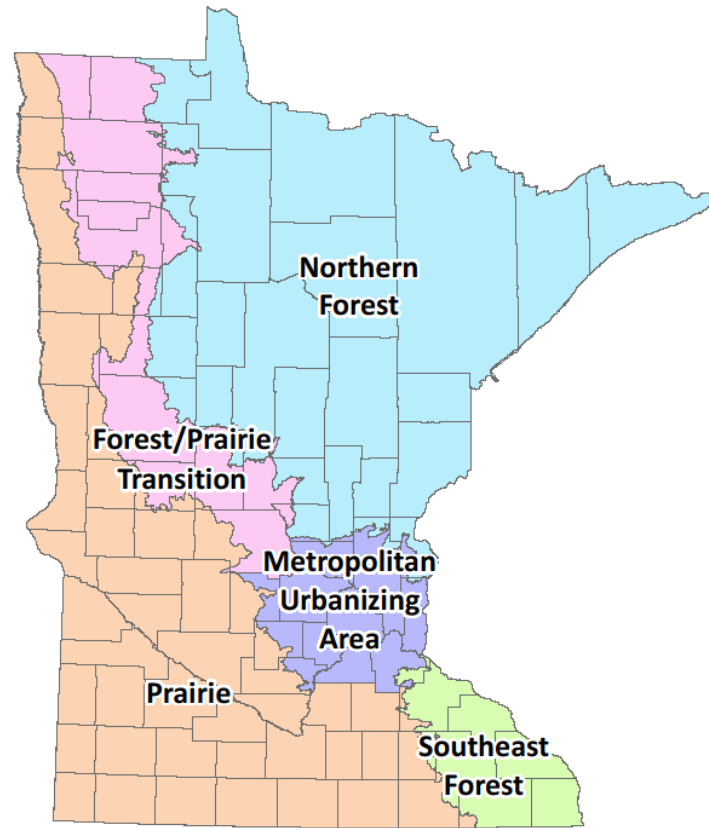
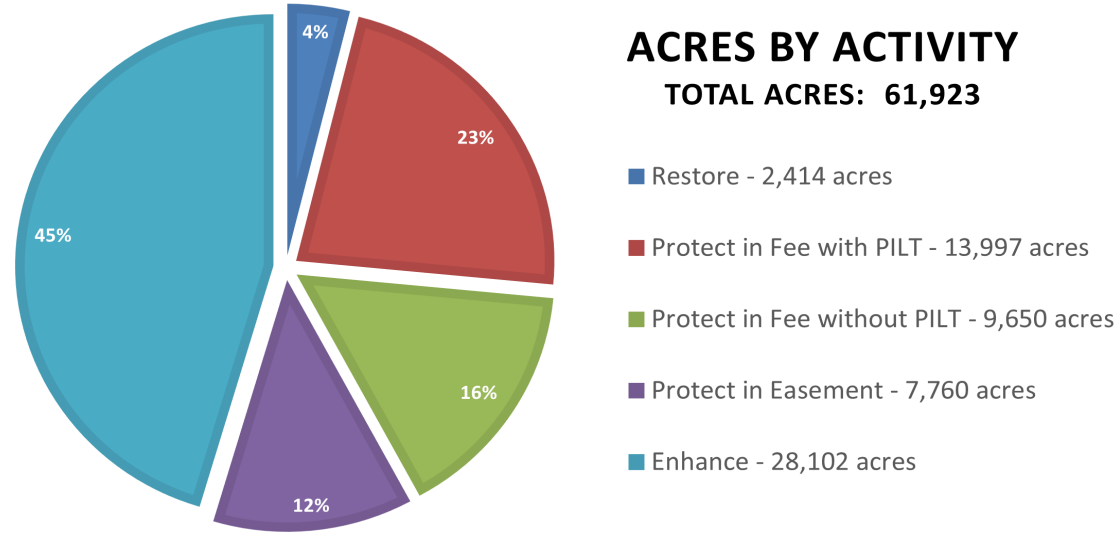
*...The dedicated money under this section must supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes and may not be used as a substitute. Land acquired by fee with money deposited in the outdoor heritage fund under this section must be open to the public taking of fish and game during the open season unless otherwise provided by law...*

Subd. 2. Prairies		6 projects totaling \$19,439,000
(a) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Phase 14	The Nature Conservancy	\$ 4,412,000
(b) Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program, Phase 16	Pheasants Forever, Inc.	\$ 5,315,000
(c) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley, Phase 10	MN Prairie Chicken Society, PF	\$ 3,794,000
(d) Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition, Phase 8	Fox Lake Conservation League, DU, TCF	\$ 2,589,000
(e) DNR Grassland Enhancement, Phase 16	MN DNR	\$ 1,427,000
(f) Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands, Phase 7	Pheasants Forever, Inc.	\$ 1,902,000
Subd. 3. Forests		6 projects totaling \$32,164,000
(a) Minnesota Heritage Forest - Transition to Public Ownership Program	MN DNR, NWLT	\$22,647,000
(b) Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Protection Program ACUB, Phase 12	Morrison County SWCD, BWSR	\$ 2,068,000
(c) Riparian Habitat Protection in Kettle and Snake River Watersheds, Phase 2	Pine County SWCD	\$ 1,569,000
(d) DNR Forest Habitat Enhancement, Phase 4	MN DNR	\$ 1,727,000
(e) Young Forest Conservation, Phase 4	American Bird Conservancy	\$ 2,229,000
(f) Floodplain and Upland Forest Enhancement - Mississippi River, Phase 5	Audubon Minnesota	\$ 1,924,000
Subd. 4. Wetlands		9 projects totaling \$38,412,000
(a) Wild-Rice Shoreland Protection, Phase 9	BWSR	\$ 2,042,000
(b) Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection & Restoration Program - Phase 13	Ducks Unlimited	\$ 7,670,000
(c) RIM Wetlands - Restoring the Most Productive Habitat In Minnesota, Phase 13	BWSR	\$ 3,202,000
(d) Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Acquisition Program, Phase 16	Pheasants Forever, Inc.	\$ 7,020,000
(e) DNR Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement, Phase 16	MN DNR	\$ 3,809,000
(f) Nelson Slough - East Park Wildlife Management Area	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Watershed District	\$ 4,174,000
(g) Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program, Phase 9	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 2,128,000
(h) Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement and Restoration Initiative, Phase 10	Ducks Unlimited	\$ 7,867,000
(i) Lake Alice Enhancement, Fergus Falls	City of Fergus Falls	\$ 500,000
Subd. 5. Habitats		26 projects totaling \$89,294,000
(a) St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase 5	Wild Rivers Conservancy, TPL, MLT	\$ 4,711,000
(b) Pine and Leech Watershed Targeted RIM Easement Permanent Land Protection, Ph. 3	Crow Wing SWCD	\$ 2,242,000
(c) Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance, Phase 3	MN Land Trust	\$ 3,321,000
(d) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program, Phase 13	Shell Rock River Watershed District	\$ 2,060,000
(e) Cannon River Watershed Habitat Restoration and Protection Program, Phase 13	Clean Rivers Partners, GRG, TPL	\$ 2,555,000
(f) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project, Phase 8	Mississippi Headwaters Board, BWSR, TPL	\$ 2,706,000
(g) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central MN Lakes, Phase 10	MLT, Northern Waters Land Trust	\$ 2,687,000
(h) Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program	Red River Watershed Management Board	\$ 5,119,000
(i) Resilient Habitat for Heritage Brook Trout, Phase 2	MN Trout Unlimited, MLT, TNC	\$ 2,486,000
(j) Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration, Phase 12	The Nature Conservancy, MLT, TPL	\$ 3,052,000
(k) Lower Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat Restoration, Phase 4	BWSR, Wild Rice Watershed District	\$ 2,345,000
(l) DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition, Phase 16	MN DNR	\$ 1,359,000
(m) Accelerating Habitat Conservation in Southwest Minnesota, Phase 3	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 2,872,000
(n) Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase 5	Sauk River WD, GRG, PF, MLT	\$ 3,965,000
(o) Metro Big Rivers, Phase 14	MVNWRT, FMR, GRG, MLT, TPL	\$ 8,123,000
(p) Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation, Phase 9	Great River Greening, SCP	\$ 1,802,000
(q) DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement, Phase 7	MN DNR	\$ 4,206,000
(r) Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat Enhancement	MN Trout Unlimited	\$ 2,308,000
(s) Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation, Phase 7	LSSA, ARDC	\$ 1,572,000
(t) DNR St. Louis River Restoration Initiative, Phase 11	MN DNR, MLT	\$ 2,163,000
(u) Roseau Lake Rehabilitation, Phase 2	Roseau River Watershed District	\$ 3,054,000
(v) Highbanks Ravine Bat Hibernaculum	City of St. Cloud	\$ 2,300,000
(w) Owanmniyomi Native Landscape and River Restoration, St. Anthony Falls	Friends of the Falls	\$ 1,918,000
(x) Silver Lake Dam Fish Passage Modification	City of Rochester	\$ 2,368,000
(y) Little Devil Track River Restoration	Cook County	\$ 3,000,000
(z) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat, Phase 16	MN DNR	\$15,000,000
Subd. 6. Administration		3 items totaling \$1,402,000
(a) Contract Management	MN DNR	\$ 350,000
(b) Technical Evaluation Panel	MN DNR	\$ 160,000
(c) Core Functions in Partner-Led OHF Land Acquisitions	MN DNR	\$ 892,000

## Output by ACRES

### ACRES BY ACTIVITY

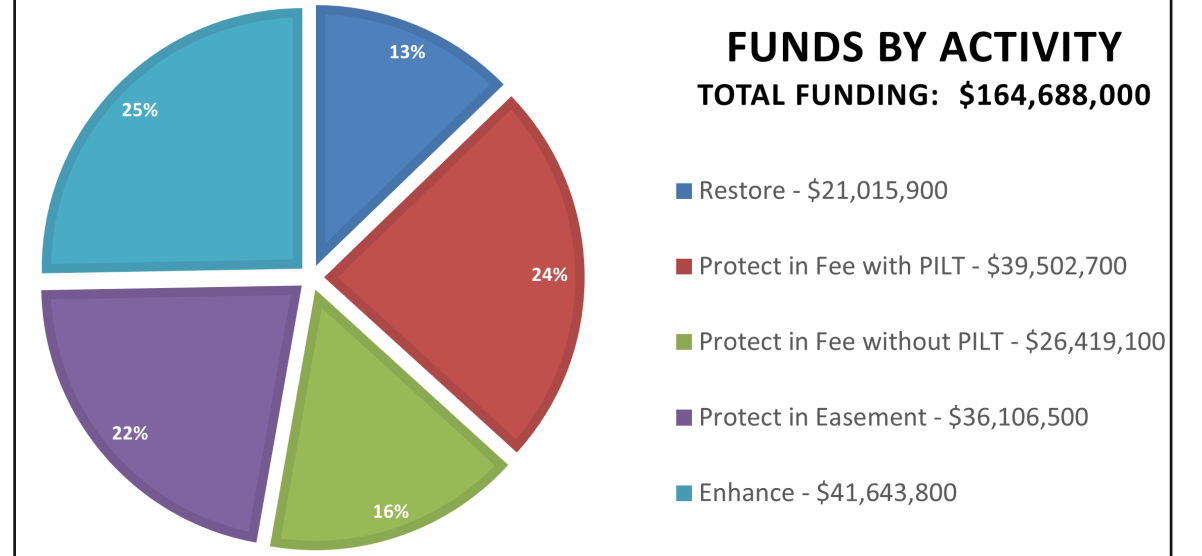
TOTAL ACRES: 61,923



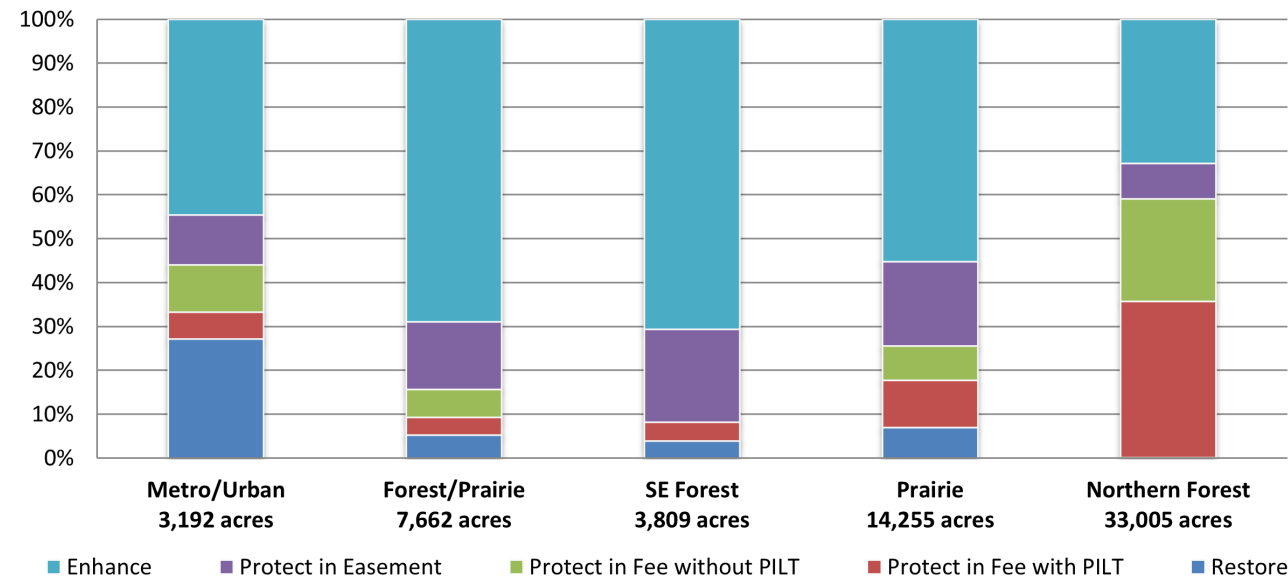
## Output by FUNDING

### FUNDS BY ACTIVITY

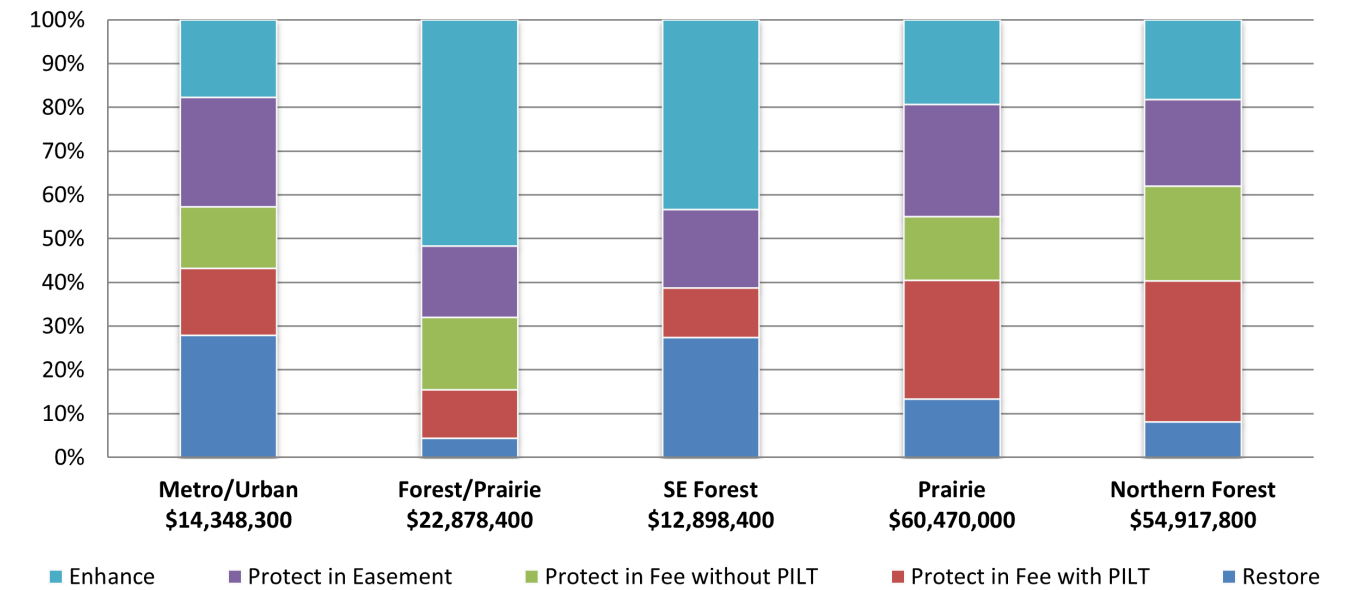
TOTAL FUNDING: \$164,688,000



### Distribution of ACRES by Ecological Section



### Distribution of FUNDS by Ecological Section



### RESOURCE TYPE (ACRES)

ACTIVITY	WETLANDS	PRAIRIES	FORESTS	HABITATS	TOTAL
Restore	699	1,265	250	200	2,414
Protect in Fee with PILT	241	1,561	10,937	1,258	13,997
Protect in Fee without PILT	140	1,530	7,680	300	9,650
Protect in Easement	272	2,360	2,137	2,991	7,760
Enhance	9,295	6,927	9,070	2,810	28,102
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,647</b>	<b>13,643</b>	<b>30,074</b>	<b>7,559</b>	<b>61,923</b>
<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>48.6%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	-

### RESEOURCE TYPE (FUNDING)

ACTIVITY	WETLANDS	PRAIRIES	FORESTS	HABITATS	TOTAL
Restore	\$2,670,300	\$3,695,900	\$821,200	\$13,828,500	\$21,015,900
Protect in Fee with PILT	\$2,759,400	\$15,373,300	\$14,037,600	\$7,332,400	\$39,502,700
Protect in Fee without PILT	\$1,226,500	\$11,907,700	\$11,852,000	\$1,432,900	\$26,419,100
Protect in Easement	\$1,423,500	\$13,078,300	\$7,368,400	\$14,236,300	\$36,106,500
Enhance	\$13,963,600	\$5,601,500	\$9,262,100	\$12,816,600	\$41,643,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,043,300</b>	<b>\$49,656,700</b>	<b>\$43,341,300</b>	<b>\$49,646,700</b>	<b>\$164,688,000</b>
<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>30.2%</b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>30.1%</b>	-