

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program (CPL)

CPL is a matching grant program created to restore, enhance, and protect prairies, forests, wetlands, and other habitat for fish, game, and wildlife in Minnesota.

How is the CPL Program Organized?

<p>Metro, Traditional, New Applicant Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger grants: \$5000-\$500,000. • Up to two grant cycles each. • Can take place on public and private land (if under permanent conservation easement). • Restoration, enhancement, and acquisition projects allowed. 	<p>Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller grants: \$5000-\$50,000. • Up to five grant cycles. • Can only take place on public land. • Only restoration and enhancement projects allowed (no acquisitions).
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Who Can Apply for CPL?

<p>Units of Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities • Counties • Tribal Governments • Federal Agencies • Conservation Districts • Public Universities • School Districts • Other Units of Government 	<p>501 c(3) Registered Non-Profits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Trusts • Lakes Associations • Charitable Organizations • Private Colleges and Universities • Fishing/Hunting Organizations • "Friends of" Groups • Other registered non-profits
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2023 Appropriation Accomplishments

<p>Statewide Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.5 Million Available • \$3.4 Million in Requests • 8 Grantees Funded. 	<p>Metro Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.5 Million Available. • \$4.2 Million in Requests. • 8 Grantees Funded 	<p>New Applicant Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3 Million Available • \$3.2 Million in Requests • 8 Grantees Funded 	<p>Expedited Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 Million Available • \$925,000 in requests after 2 rounds • 14 Grantees funded after 2 rounds
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The CPL Program by Numbers

Over 1000 Projects have been funded through CPL.

Over 260 Organizations have partnered with CPL to get projects funded.

Over 585,000 acres of habitat have been restored, enhanced or protected through the CPL program.

Over 100 Million Dollars in grant funds have been awarded to organizations throughout Minnesota.



*Tree planting and protection along a creek in Duluth.
Project by: South St. Louis SWCD.*

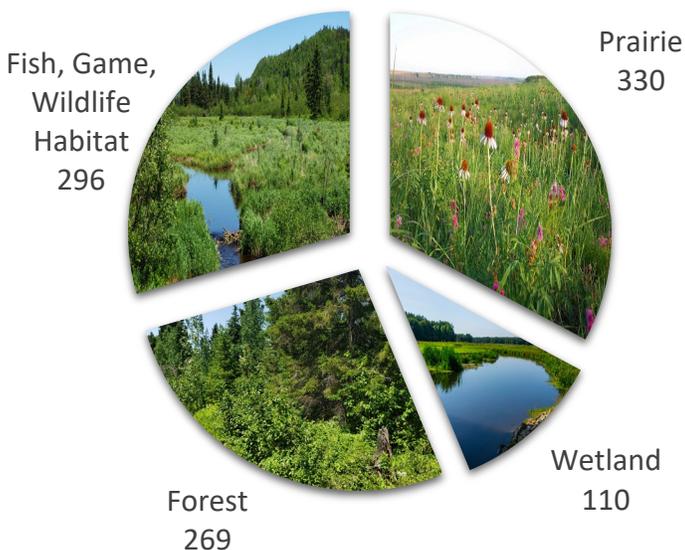


*A restored oak savanna cleared of invasive species in Carver County.
Project by: Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc.*



*Rare Great Blanket Flowers in bloom at a restored prairie in Otter Tail County.
Project by: Minnesota Land Trust.*

Projects by Habitat



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Members (February 14, 2024)



David Hartwell - Appointed by the Governor

Public member David Hartwell was originally appointed to the Outdoor Heritage Council by the Speaker of the House in 2013 and was reappointed by the Governor in 2017 and again in 2021. His current four-year term ends January 2025.

David Hartwell is an advisor/board member to/of many businesses, nonprofit organizations, and foundations. Prior to this, he was for 26 years the President of Bellcomb, Inc., a global supplier of composite panels. He has served on many nonprofit boards, often in leadership positions including the National Audubon (Vice Chair and Treasurer), Belwin Conservancy (Chair), Conservation Minnesota, Land Trust Alliance, Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (Co-Chair), Minneapolis College of Art and Design (Chair), Minnesota Audubon (Chair), Minnesota Land Trust (Founder and Chair), Minnesota Nature Conservancy (Treasurer), and the Mississippi River Fund (Treasurer). He is an avid birdwatcher and gardener. He and his wife travel whenever they get the opportunity and have 4 children and 7 grandchildren.



Jamie Swenson - Appointed by the Governor

Public member Jamie Swenson was originally appointed to the Outdoor Heritage Council by the Governor in 2017 and was reappointed by the Governor in 2021. Her current four-year term ends January 2025.

Jamie was born and raised in rural Le Sueur in the Minnesota River Valley and has lived in the 507-area code for most of her life. She graduated from Saint Cloud State University with a degree in Community Development/Planning and Heritage Preservation. Ms. Swenson later attended Minnesota State University-Mankato and obtained a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science. Her career spans almost fifteen years focusing on natural resources and environmental management. She spent nearly ten years at a family-owned engineering and architecture firm as an environmental consultant working on government, industry, agriculture, energy, and conservation projects. She currently works in the non-metallic mining industry as the Director of Land Management working on land transactions, environmental compliance, and water, restoration and sustainability objectives throughout locations in North America. She has a keen knowledge of land and environmental regulations and conservation programs in Minnesota and an in-depth expertise of surface and groundwater, water use, industry, wetlands, prairie restoration, and outdoor recreation. She is an avid waterfowler (with her lab), upland bird hunter (with her two Irish setters), shooting enthusiast, and all-round outdoors woman. She spends much of each summer out on the lakes fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and travels at every opportunity. She supports many state and national conservation organizations. Above all, she enjoys engaging and sharing outdoor experiences with others, fostering a land and outdoor ethic in youth, and working to conserve the remarkable natural resources we are fortunate to have in this state.



Tom Saxhaug - Appointed by the Governor

Public member Tom Saxhaug was appointed to the Outdoor Heritage Council by the Governor in 2019 and again in 2023. His current four-year term ends January 2027.

A son of Northern Minnesota, Grand Rapids specifically, Tom has had a life-long interest in assuring the lakes and forests he grew up with thrive for generations to come. To this end, he has served both in volunteer positions and as an elected official. Community service has always been a part of Tom's makeup - from serving as President of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and various other boards as well as belonging to Ducks Unlimited and the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association. He founded and chaired the Itasca County Forest Resource Network which evolved into the Forestry Affairs Committee of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. He also served on the Highway 38 National Scenic Byway Leadership Board.

To become more involved in policy making he served on the Grand Rapids City Council, followed by the Itasca County Board of Commissioners, and finally ran for a seat in the Minnesota State Senate. He served there for 14 years, accomplishing much for our state and Northern Minnesota in particular. The last six years in the Senate he served on the LSOHC.

Tom and Nancy have been married for 49 years and have two adult children, one a teacher and one a musician, as well as 2 grandchildren. Fully retired now, he and Nancy love to travel - internationally and on road trips in the U.S. Tom likes to hike and snowshoe in his spare time.



Dudley Edmondson - Appointed by the House

Public member Dudley Edmondson was appointed to the Outdoor Heritage Council by the Speaker of the House in 2021. His four-year term ends January 2025.

As a young boy, Dudley Edmondson discovered the power of nature and its ability to heal both the mind and body. This led Mr. Edmondson on a lifelong path to follow his passion and instill his love and knowledge of the outdoors in others and inspire them to discover their personal understanding and respect for everything nature offers.

Mr. Edmondson was one of the first to highlight the involvement of African Americans in the public lands system. Unsatisfied with the representation of people of color among those he encountered in his outdoor pursuits, he set out to create a set of Outdoor Role Models for the African American community by writing his landmark book, *Black & Brown Faces in America's Wild Places* (Adventure Keen Publications 2006). His latest book entitled *What's That Flower: A Beginners Guide to Wildflowers* (DK Publishing, London 2013), details the more common wildflowers of the eastern United States.

For three decades Mr. Edmondson has photographed nature and wildlife across the country. His work has been featured in numerous national galleries and over 100 publications, ranging from the state-specific flora and fauna field guides by author Stan Tekiela, to *Bird: The Definitive Visual Guide*, by Audubon (DK Publishing, London).

Inspiration is at the heart of all of Mr. Edmondson's work. He has worked with numerous communities across the county to help urban youth and youth of color to experience nature and the beauty of the outdoors, a privilege for so many. He has seen first-hand the difference bringing young people into nature can make in their life. This inspires young people to seek out the outdoors and all that nature offers and inspires Mr. Edmondson to continue to bring young people of color into nature.

Mr. Edmondson attended Ohio State University and currently resides in Duluth, Minnesota. He is an avid outdoorsman, enjoying several recreational activities including birdwatching, mountain and fat biking, fly fishing, and trail running, just to name a few.



Kristin Eggerling - Appointed by the House

Public member Kristin Eggerling was appointed to the Outdoor Heritage Council by the Speaker of the House in 2019 and again in 2023. Her current four-year term ends January 2027.

Kristin Eggerling is passionate about preserving wild places, the arts, travel, politics, community development and exposing kids to the outdoors. Currently, she works as a freelance writer. She is also the Promotions Specialist for the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, the Communications Coordinator at C&M in Hallock and the author of *Breath of Wilderness: The Life of Sigurd Olson*. She chairs her local library board and serves on the boards of the North Dakota Museum of Art and Hallock Main Street. She has worked in the public health field, coordinated watershed education, taught sociology, and was the administrator of the Environment and Agriculture Budget Committee at the Minnesota Senate. She has also served on the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources. Kristin holds a B.A. in sociology from Augsburg College and an M.A. in sociology from the University of Manitoba. Kristin lives in Hallock in the far northwest corner of Minnesota - twenty miles from Canada - and Minneapolis and is originally from Iowa. Kristin and her husband Paul Blomquist own two car dealerships and have two adult children.



Mark Holsten - Appointed by the Senate

Public member Mark Holsten was originally appointed to the Outdoor Heritage Council by the Senate in 2019 and was reappointed by the Senate in 2021. His current four-year term ends January 2025.

Mark served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from 2003-2007 before being appointed as Commissioner of the DNR by Governor Pawlenty from 2007 to 2011. Prior to that Mark was elected six times to the Minnesota House of Representatives. While in the Legislature, he served as the Chair of the House Environment and Natural Resource Finance Committee for four years and was the original House author of the 3/16ths for Conservation Heritage Enhancement Fund Amendment. Mark lives in Stillwater with his wife Lisa of 31 years where they raised their two children Cody and Hannah.



Ron Schara - Appointed by the Senate

Public member Ron Schara was originally appointed to the Outdoor Heritage Council by the Speaker of the House in 2011, was reappointed by the Senate in 2019, and again in 2023. His current four-year term ends January 2027.

Today, Ron Schara is a writer and television personality who's been sharing outdoor stories with readers and viewers for four decades. He brings to life the joys of living the outdoors through nature watching, fishing, hunting, camping and the like. Ron's soft-spoken delivery and friendly on-camera presence have made him a popular icon as an outdoor communicator with a passion for the outdoor lifestyle. Ron's introduction and knowledge of the outdoors began as a boy growing up in a small town, Postville, located in the rugged northeast corner of Iowa.

Later, Ron combined two passions, music and journalism. He may be the only young man in America who once sang nightly in a Minneapolis nightclub and graduated from Iowa State University in 1966 with degrees in journalism and fish and wildlife biology. This was just the beginning.

In 1968, Ron became an outdoor columnist for the Minneapolis Tribune, a position that eventually led him into radio and television. Today Ron is founder/executive producer of Ron Schara Enterprises, a full-service video production company with six Emmy Awards. The company's video programs have aired on a variety of networks, including NBC, History Channel, ESPN2, Outdoor Channel, Versus and many other local broadcast markets.

Ron's outdoor credits include many awards for writing and television production. He's been enshrined in the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame and the Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame. He's a life member of Pheasants Forever, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association. Ron was founder of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Ron is also in high demand as a public speaker about the life values of the outdoor experience. He's written four books, including *The Minnesota Fishing Guide* and *Minnesota Bound*, a collection of scripts from the popular television show. Ron Schara is a storyteller. It's a skill Ron learned as a boy sitting on the lap of his Grandpa Clate Dickens.

Currently, Ron is a weekly co-host of *Live Outdoors* heard on WCCO 830 on CBS. Ironically, the real star of Ron's many programs is his dog, Raven, a black lab who is seen on three shows, including *Minnesota Bound on KARE-TV*, *Backroads with Ron and Raven* and *Pheasants Forever TV on the Outdoor Channel*.

Married to Denise and the father of two grown daughters, Ron also has one grandson, Jake. It may explain why Ron ends most of his stories with: "Remember, introduce a kid to the great outdoors."



Rep. Leon Lillie (DFL, District 44B) – Chair, House Legacy Finance Committee



Rep. John Burkel (R, District 01A)



Senator Fong Hawj (67, DFL) - Assistant Majority Leader, Chair – Senate Environment, Climate, & Legacy Committee.



Senator Andrew R. Lang (16, R)



Lessard–Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Outdoor Heritage Fund

FY 2025/ML 2024 Call for Funding Request

April 1, 2023

Deadline for Submission: Friday, May 26, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Constitutional Amendment – Article XI

Sec. 15. Outdoor heritage.....funds.....are dedicated, for the benefit of Minnesotans.....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.

Available Funding

The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) is charged with making annual recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature for appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF). The Council currently **estimates approximately \$130 million will be available for appropriation recommendations** from the OHF in fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025). This estimate may be revised after November, 2023. The Call for Funding Request is open to all who want to apply.

Successful applicants must:

1. Complete the electronic application form found at www.lsohc.leg.mn/FY2025 by **4:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, Friday, May 26, 2023**. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to the applicant upon successful completion of application;
2. Request a minimum of \$500,000. Proposals less than \$500,000 should be submitted to the [Conservation Partners Legacy Program \(http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/cpl/index.html\)](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/cpl/index.html);
3. Be consistent with the Minnesota Constitution, statute, and state law, and laws on tribal self-governing harvest regulations; including MN Statutes [97A.056](#), and MN Statutes [84.973](#) (Pollinator Habitat Program);
4. Be current with all reporting requirements for past Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations;
5. Be available to make a formal presentation, testify at meetings, answer questions as necessary and be queried by LSOHC members and staff based on accurate completion of the details provided;
6. Be recommended for funding by the LSOHC; and

7. Be appropriated funds in the 2024 Minnesota Legislative Session, with funding availability beginning fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025).

Proposal Requirements

Through this Call for Funding Request, the Council is seeking habitat program or project proposals to recommend for funding that:

1. Are consistent with the Minnesota Constitution, statute, and state law, and laws on tribal self-governing harvest regulations; including MN Statutes [97A.056](#), and MN Statutes [84.973](#) (Pollinator Habitat Program)
2. Are of primary benefit to fish, game, and wildlife;
3. Address the LSOHC Ecological Section Vision and Priorities (attached) in this Call for Funding Request;
4. Demonstrate a capability to successfully manage and implement the project/program(s) being requested;
5. Demonstrate the ability to identify and establish the financial and managerial controls needed to successfully and fully implement the proposed project/program;
6. Provide an up-to-date external financial audit or its equivalent of your organization with no serious adverse findings;
7. Are transparent, understandable, and accessible by the public for input and review;
8. Protect and advance the public interest;
9. Are grounded in science and reflect “best practices” for natural resource management;
10. Take into account existing conservation delivery systems;
11. Encourage efficient and effective conservation solutions;
12. Request a realistic monetary amount given the stated scope and timeframe (shorter time frames are viewed positively by the Council).
13. Request funding or identify funding for the restoration and enhancement of acquired parcels. Restoration and enhancement of acquired parcels should be completed during the appropriation period.

Note: Individual applicants cannot submit multiple requests for funding on the same project. If this is done, the Council reserves the right to reject those proposals.

Terms of the Funding

Payment

The expenses must be direct to and necessary for the program or project, as determined by the state’s fiscal agent, and must protect, enhance or restore prairies, wetlands, forests or habitat for fish, game and wildlife. The funds may not be used for general organization support or overhead. Funds may not be used for fundraising from other sources. Funds may be used for planning and evaluating habitat programs or projects paid for with the OHF; however, the evaluation and planning expenses must be direct to and necessary for the program or project, as presented to the Council. For non-state entities, payment is reimbursement for expenses incurred.

Timing

Recommendations that come forth from this Call for Funding Request will go before the 2024 Legislature. Reimbursable expenses may be incurred on or after July 1, 2024, or the date on which the LSOHC approves the accomplishment plan, whichever is later. Unless otherwise provided by the legislature during the appropriations process, the funds are available as follows:

Acquisition Programs (all work is taking place on acquired parcels)

Acquisition Funds: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2028 (4 years)

Restoration and Enhancement Funds (on acquired parcels): 4 years after date of acquisition with a maximum end date of June 30, 2032.

Restoration and/or Enhancement Only Programs (work is taking place on previously protected lands)

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2029 (5 years)

Acquisition and Restoration and/or Enhancement Programs (work is taking place on acquired and previously protected lands)

Acquisition Funds: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2028 (4 years)

Restoration and Enhancement Funds (on acquired parcels): 4 years after date of acquisition with a maximum end date of June 30, 2032.

Restoration and Enhancement Funds (on previously protected lands): July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2029 (5 years)

Schedule

April 1, 2023	Call for Funding Issued
May 26, 2023	Deadline: Call for funding proposals due
July 7, 2023	Deadline: LSOHC members submit selections for proposal presentations
July 25, 2023*	Council Meeting: Review proposals and select proposals for hearings
August 28-30, 2023*	Council Meeting and Proposal Hearings
September 25, 2023	Deadline: LSOHC members submit individual allocation selections
October 5, 2023*	Council Meeting: Initial allocation selection
October 23, 2023	Deadline: Draft accomplishment plans submitted that reflect allocation recommendations for programs selected for funding
November 16, 2023*	Council Meeting: LSOHC members review draft accomplishment plans
December 7, 2023*	Council Meeting: Final bill adopted for recommendation to legislature
June, 2024	Council Meeting: Final accomplishment plans approved
July 1, 2024	First day of project period

* Project managers are asked to attend to provide information.

Note: Dates are subject to change. Always check the [LSOHC website](#) for the current schedule.

<p><i>For information and assistance:</i></p> <p>Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. State Office Building, Room 55 St. Paul, MN 55155 www.lsohc.mn.gov Fax: (651) 297-3697</p>	<p><i>LSOHC Staff</i></p> <p>Mark Wm. Johnson, Executive Director 651-296-6397 mark.johnson@lsohc.mn.gov</p> <p>Joe Pavelko, Assistant Director 651-297-7142 joe.pavelko@lsohc.mn.gov</p> <p>Sandy Smith, Project Analyst Manager 651-297-7141 sandy.smith@lsohc.mn.gov</p> <p>Amanda Schnabel, Commission Assistant 651-284-6430 amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov</p>
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Hearing Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed and scored by LSOHC members based on the following criteria. The scoring process will be used to help evaluate proposals and aid in the recommendation process. High scorers are not guaranteed funding and low scorers are not necessarily excluded from receiving funding.

HEARING CRITERIA	Max Points
1. Proposal abstract provides a clear and succinct overview of the proposal activity, outputs, and outcomes.	10
2. Proposal is clearly written and adequately addresses: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How.	10
3. Proposal addresses habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species.	10
4. Degree of timing/opportunistic urgency.	10
5. Proposal will leverage or expand corridors and/or complexes, and/or address habitat fragmentation.	10
6. Proposal outcomes will help address habitat climate resilience and will provide benefit to associated fish and wildlife species in a meaningful way.	10
7. Proposal addresses priority actions and outcomes of one or more of the ecological sections and is likely to produce and demonstrate significant and/or permanent conservation legacy and/or habitat outcomes for fish, game and wildlife.	10
8. Performance measures are clearly identified and have a specific plan for measuring and evaluating outcomes.	10
9. Proposal outcomes will be maintained over time.	10
10. Proposal includes leverage.	10
11. Proposed budget is appropriate to accomplish the outcomes described in the scope of work.	10
12. Proposal seems reasonable in its size (full score) or seems inflated to compensate for potential of reduced funding (low score).	10
Maximum Points Possible	120

Northern Forest Section Vision

The Council's vision for the Northern Forest Section contains clear view of the desired future condition for the section's forest lands, lakes and wetlands, and wildlife habitat.

Forestland should be universally accessible for forest management purposes as well as protected from development and fragmentation. Private in-holdings in public forests and key properties for habitat and stand management, adjacent to existing ownership should be acquired, with an eye toward ensuring no net loss of forestland. Of special concern is the condition of brushlands within the forestlands. These lands, along with early successional forest habitat are crucial for game species and non-game species and need restoration and enhancement work so as to ensure ample availability of this habitat type.

Lakes and wetlands supporting healthy fish populations are fundamental to the future of the Northern Forest Section. Lakes and streams with protected shoreland and restored watersheds will produce quality warm and cold-water aquatic systems. Those resources will provide the aquatic habitat required to support excellent fish populations and other aquatic organisms.

The Northern Forest Section is home to both cherished and unique Minnesota wildlife populations. It is imperative that the wildlife habitat of this Section support those populations. Healthy wild rice wetlands and shallow lakes that provide important habitat for a wide range of game and non-game wildlife are clearly front and center in the Council's vision. These and other key habitats are envisioned to protect habitat for endangered, threatened and species of special concern and more common species.

Priority Actions for the Northern Forest Section with Examples of Outcome Measures

Priorities actions are not in order of preference or importance.

- Protect shoreland and watersheds to restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas.
 - Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation (*acres protected from development and fragmentation; average size protected complex; acres of forestlands with high connectivity to other forestlands protected*)
 - Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, or special concern species, species in greatest conservation need, and more common species – emphasis on unique species (*Population levels of focal forest game species, focal species in greatest conservation need; number and acreage of native plant communities with high biodiversity significance*)
- Provide access to manage habitat on landlocked public properties or protect forest land from parcelization and fragmentation through fee acquisition, conservation or access easement.
 - Greater public access for wildlife and outdoors-related recreation (*# of access points, % population with access within distance*)
 - Landlocked public properties are accessible with increased access for land managers (*# of landlocked properties accessed, % decrease in landlocked properties*)
- Restore and enhance habitat on existing protected properties, with preference to habitat for rare, endangered or threatened species identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.
 - Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors (*acres, habitat connectivity*)

- Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in aerial extent in recent decades.
 - Improved aquatic habitat indicators (*index of biotic integrity and other aquatic habitat indicators*)
 - Increased availability and improved condition of habitats that have experienced substantial decline (*e.g., acres of pine and brushland*)
- Protect from long term or permanent endangerment from invasive species.

Forest/Prairie Transition Section Vision

The Council's future for the Forest/Prairie Transition Section envisions diverse and productive remnant tracts of native prairie, forests grasslands, wetlands, lakes and rivers, and their associated fish and wildlife habitat.

The Council sees a future when ample grasses and other vegetation on shorelands and higher in the watershed keeps water on the land. This will yield clean lakes and streams, steady lake and stream levels, and improved aquatic vegetation, providing a plentiful supply of habitat for fish, game and wildlife in the Section, especially habitat for waterfowl and upland birds.

These rivers and streams and their surrounding vegetation will provide corridors of habitat including intact areas of forest cover in the eastern reaches of the Section, and large wetland/upland complexes in the more westerly areas. These wetland/upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands and restored shallow lakes and wetlands.

Priority Actions for Forest/Prairie Transition Section with Examples of Outcome Measures

Priorities actions are not in order of preference or importance.

- Protect, enhance and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and non-game wildlife.
 - Protected, restored, and enhanced aspen parklands and riparian areas (*evidence of successful projects, connectivity of protected habitats, connectivity of forest habitats via corridors*)
 - Wetland/upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands (*# and type grassland bird conservation areas protected and restored; average size of complex, grassland and wetland acres; ratio grassland/upland; Increased grass cover %; # protected sites connected via corridor*)
- Protect, enhance and restore rare native remnant prairie.
 - Wetland/upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands (*# and type grassland bird conservation areas protected and restored; average size of complex, grassland and wetland acres; ratio grassland/upland; increased grass cover %; # protected sites connected via corridor*)
 - Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands (*Acres/percent of priority prairie wetland complexes protected under conservation management; # and type grassland bird conservation areas protected and restored; average size of complex, grassland and wetland acre (minimum of 40% grass and 20% water in prairie core areas); % and # protected sites connected via corridor*)

- Protect, enhance and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success.
 - Water is kept on the land (*due to abundant grasses and other vegetation on shorelands and higher in the watershed*); (*#/miles protected floodplain, saturated, and fen wetlands; # protected high gradient stream reaches; evidence of restored natural hydrology*)
 - Improved aquatic vegetation (*Evidence of healthy aquatic vegetation, low turbidity*)
 - Rivers and streams (and surrounding vegetation) provide corridors of habitat including intact areas of forest cover in the east and large wetland/upland complexes in the west (*Evidence of use in migration, connectivity of protected lands, # and extent of complexes; acres restored riparian vegetation*)
 - Increased waterfowl and upland bird migratory and breeding success (*Population levels of focal game species and species in greatest conservation need, # small basins and permanent wetlands, wetlands in high density nesting areas, wetlands with adjacent grassland*)
- Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need (*evidence of successful projects, connectivity of protected habitats, # MCBS sites*)
- Protect from long term or permanent endangerment from invasive species.

Metro Urbanizing Vision

The Council's vision for the Metropolitan Urbanizing Section is the protection of a network of natural lands in the Section providing wildlife habitat, birding sites, quality fisheries, especially cold-water fisheries, and a forest land base that contributes to the habitat picture.

These natural lands in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Section include complexes of restored and perpetually protected wetlands, prairies, and forests, providing habitat benefits and access. These will have core areas spaced proportionally throughout the section with protected highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities including native prairies. Where possible, the habitats will connect, making corridors for wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation, and hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting. The Section's game lakes will be significant contributors of waterfowl production, due to efforts to protect uplands adjacent to game lakes. In the corridors, the streams, rivers and lakes will be protected by vegetative buffers and bank stabilization along riparian areas. Remnant oak savanna will be protected and its health restored, as will forests contributing to quality fisheries. As a result, cold-water streams and lakes will provide high quality fisheries within an hour's drive of the majority of the state's population. Where possible, invasive species will have been permanently eradicated.

Priority Action for Metropolitan Urbanizing Area with Example of Outcome Measures

Priorities actions are not in order of preference or importance.

- Protect, enhance and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity.
 - Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities including native prairies. (*% of 2010 remaining prairie and oak savanna protected, % protected sites that are MCBS sites, % adequately buffered/connected, average size of core complexes, evidence of successful R/E projects*)

- A forest land base that contributes to the habitat picture (*High quality forests, including oak savanna and Big Woods complexes are restored/protected, evidence of use by species dependent on these habitats, particularly SGCN, evidence of successful watershed approaches...e.g., reduced erosion*)
- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain.)
 - A network of natural land habitats will connect, making corridors for wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation (*Corridors connecting protected areas, evidence of SGCN and other wildlife using corridors, acres of “green infrastructure” corridors protected*)
 - Protected habitats will hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting. (# *access points, user satisfaction*)
- Enhance and restore coldwater fisheries systems.
 - High quality aquatic habitat (*streams, rivers and lakes protected by vegetative buffers along riparian areas, aquatic indicators...mussels, fish populations, increased water quality and water on a site*)
- Protect, enhance and restore riparian and littoral habitats on lakes to benefit game and non-game fish species.
 - Game lakes are significant contributors of waterfowl population, due to efforts to protect uplands adjacent to game lakes (# *impaired lakes, evidence of lake use/success, nesting success, etc.*)
- Protect from long term or permanent endangerment from invasive species.

Southeast Forest Section Vision

The Council recognizes the Southeast Forest Section of Minnesota is a unique place, largely untouched by recent glaciers that covered most of Minnesota. The underlying karst geology and overlying remnants of the Big Woods are not found elsewhere in Minnesota. The ages have left a legacy of warm and cold water streams and rivers, floodplains, hardwood forests, remnant bluffland prairies, and striking topographic relief that provides diverse habitat worthy of protection.

In the forested parts of the Southeast Forest Section the Council sees a future of restored and protected oak savanna and mixed deciduous forest lands making up large blocks of protected property, accessible for resource management purposes.

The cold and warm water streams of the region will be protected and enhanced by work in and along streams as well as work streamside to the top of the watershed to slow runoff and keep aquatic habitat clean and productive, with prolific fish, game and wildlife populations.

Southeast Forest Section wildlife habitat will be established in large corridors and complexes of restored and protected, biologically diverse habitat typical of the un-glaciated region. As a result, the Section’s endangered or threatened species will find habitat, such as goat prairies, in which to survive, alongside more common species of interest to Minnesotans. The Mississippi River and associated floodplain and bluffs, as well as the feeder streams will be an important part of this network of corridors and complexes.

Priority Actions for Southeast Forest Section with Examples of Outcome Measures

Priorities actions are not in order of preference or importance.

- Protect forest habitat through acquisition in fee or easement, to prevent parcelization and fragmentation and to provide the ability to access and manage landlocked public properties.
 - Forestlands and savannas are protected from parcelization and fragmentation and accessible for resource management purposes (*acres protected from development and fragmentation, acres of forestlands with high connectivity to other forestlands protected, # landlocked properties accessed, % decrease in landlocked properties*)
- Protect, enhance and restore habitat for fish, game and non-game wildlife in rivers, cold water streams and associated upland habitat.
 - High priority riparian lands are protected from parcelization and fragmentation (*acres protected*)
 - Stream to bluff habitat restoration and enhancement will keep water on the land to slow runoff and degradation of aquatic habitat (*index of biotic integrity and other aquatic and shoreline habitat indicators, acres of riparian forest, increased water infiltration*)
 - Rivers, streams and surrounding vegetation provide corridors of habitat (*Evidence of use in migration, connectivity of protected lands, # and extent of complexes*)
- Protect, enhance and restore remnant goat prairies.
 - Remnant goat prairies are perpetually protected (*% of remnant goat prairies protected, evidence of increased goat prairie habitat quality*)
- Restore forest-based wildlife habitat that has experienced substantial decline in aerial extent in recent decades.
 - Large corridors and complexes of biologically diverse wildlife habitat typical of the unglaciated region are restored and protected (*Connectivity of wildlife habitat, average size protected complex, # and acreage of native plant communities with high biodiversity significance, evidence of migratory success*)
 - Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species (*population levels of focal game species, focal species in greatest conservation need*)
- Protect from long term or permanent endangerment from invasive species.

Prairie Section Vision

The Council sees the future of the Prairie Region as vital to the future of waterfowl, grassland birds and other wildlife dependent on native and restored prairies, shallow lakes, wetlands, and grasslands. The prairie region of Minnesota was once home to some of the largest herds of grazing animals the world has ever known. It also contains within its borders, a portion of the Prairie Pothole Region; the birthplace of 70 percent of North America's waterfowl. Unique components of this section are the prairie rivers, large and small, from the Red and Minnesota Rivers to their tributaries in adjacent watersheds. This section also contains some of the largest freshwater marshes in North America.

The Prairie Section of Minnesota is now one of the most altered rural landscapes in the world, with 90 percent of its native prairie and wetlands now under plow. The native prairie and wetlands that remain should be perpetually protected. Where possible these remnant native prairies should be part of large complexes with a goal of nine square mile parcels. These parcels should include restored prairies, grasslands, large and small wetlands that will create buffers to the native prairie and provide the density

of habitat needed by fish, game and wildlife. Key core parcels should be set aside as areas managed for game species as well as refuges for fish, game or wildlife, and endangered or threatened species. Special emphasis should be put on extremely uncommon Minnesota species with unique or specific habitat requirements.

The Prairie Section waters, affected by agricultural practices which increase run off over natural levels, will have benefitted from revitalized and expanded shoreland buffers and work to enhance shallow lake productivity for a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl. As a result of concentrated work of this type, combined with restored and enhanced upland habitat, historically significant resources for migratory waterfowl, such as the Heron Lake and Swan Lake Watersheds will once again be important landscapes for many species of migrating birds. Likewise, the Red River Valley will provide abundant wildlife habitat while simultaneously keeping water on the land to reduce flood potential.

The Prairie Section is the home to a critical portion of the state's wildlife-related lands. The Council sees these being increasingly productive in the future, as the result of restoration and enhancement of native prairie, grassland and associated watershed, including the shallow lakes of this section. In the southeastern part of the Section there are precious remnants of the Big Woods and oak savanna. They will also be targeted for protection.

Priority Actions for the Prairie Section and Examples of Outcome Measures

Priorities actions are not in order of preference or importance.

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes.
 - Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife (*acres/percent of priority key parcels protected in fee or permanent easement*)
 - Increased participation of private landowners in habitat projects (*acres habitat P/R/E in private adjacent/near projects*)
 - Improved condition of habitat on public lands (*evidence of successful R/E projects*)
 - Restored and enhanced upland habitat (*evidence of successful restoration/enhancement projects*)
 - Agricultural lands are converted to grasslands to sustain functioning prairie systems. (*Acres/percent of priority key parcels are converted*)
 - Improved access to public lands (*# access points, acres of protected lands open for public access, % population with access within distance*)
 - Water is kept on the land to reduce flood potential and degradation of aquatic habitat (*Watershed yield (indic. in dev.); evidence of restored natural hydrology; #/area/miles of protected floodplain, saturated, and fen wetlands*)
- Protect, enhance and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests and oak savanna.
 - Protected, enhanced and restored remnants of big woods and oak savanna (*% of large remnants (>500 acres) of big woods and oak savanna protected*)
 - Remnant native prairie and wetlands are perpetually protected and adequately buffered (*Percent of remnant native prairie and wetlands protected, acres of remnant prairies with adequate buffers*)
 - Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands (*Acres/percent of priority prairie wetland complexes protected under conservation management; # and type grassland bird conservation areas protected and restored;*

average size of complex, grassland and wetland acre (minimum of 40% grass and 20% water in prairie core areas); % and # protected sites connected via corridor)

- Restore or enhance habitat on public lands.
 - Increased wildlife productivity (evidence of increased productivity on specific lands; population levels of focal game and Species in Greatest Conservation Need)
- Protect, restore and enhance shallow lakes.
 - Protected, restored and enhanced shallow lakes (% of priority shallow lakes protected, evidence of successful restoration/ enhancement projects)
 - Improved aquatic vegetation (Evidence healthy aquatic vegetation, low turbidity)
 - Enhanced shallow lake productivity (degree of use by shorebirds and waterfowl)
- Protect expiring Conservations Reserve Program (CRP) lands.
 - Key core parcels are protected for fish, game and other wildlife (*Acres/percent of priority key parcels protected in fee or permanent easement*)
- Protect, enhance and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success.
 - Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for migratory and unique Minnesota species
 - (*degree of fall use of significant resources by migratory waterfowl; evidence of successful projects, connectivity of protected areas via riparian corridors*)
- Protect from long term or permanent endangerment from invasive species.



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;...

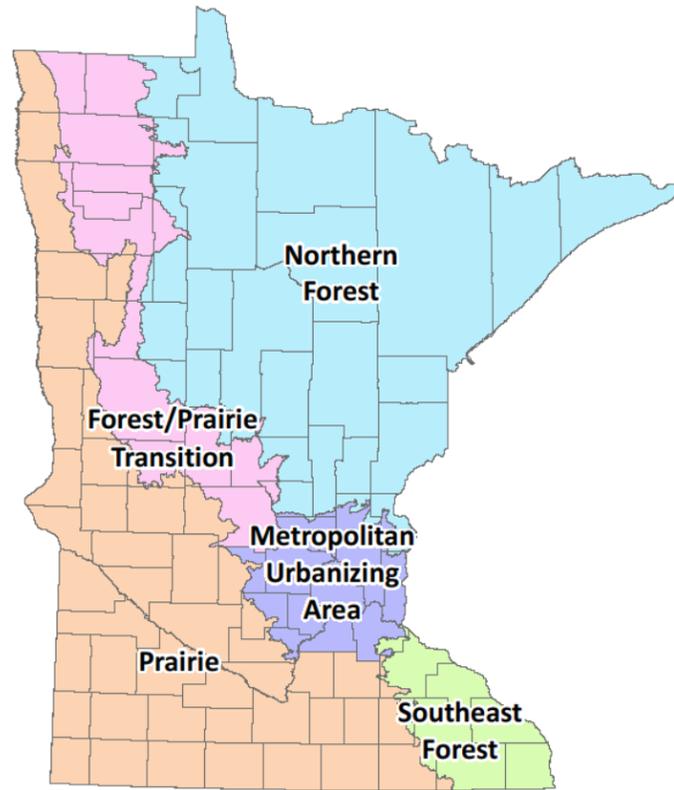
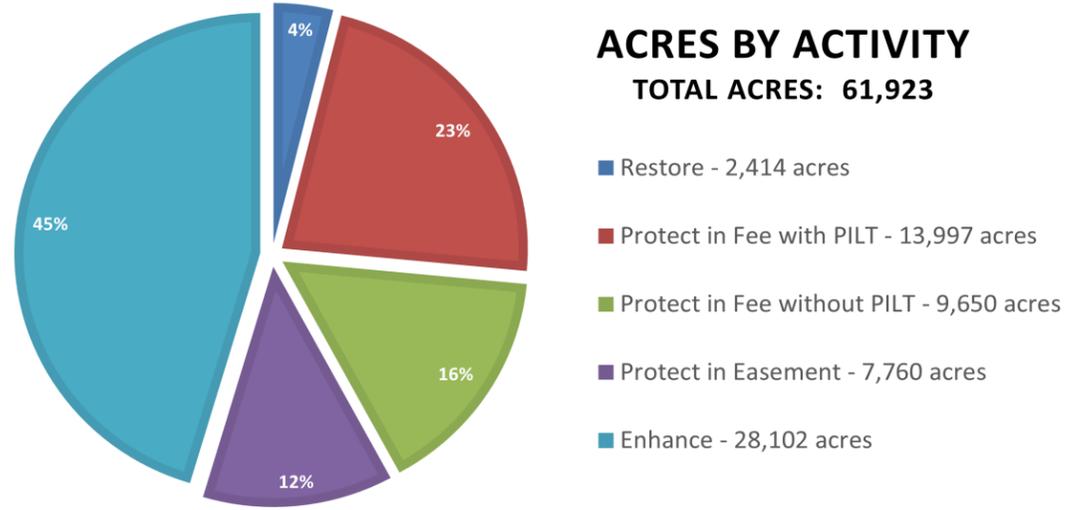
...The dedicated money under this section must supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes and may not be used as a substitute. Land acquired by fee with money deposited in the outdoor heritage fund under this section must be open to the public taking of fish and game during the open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

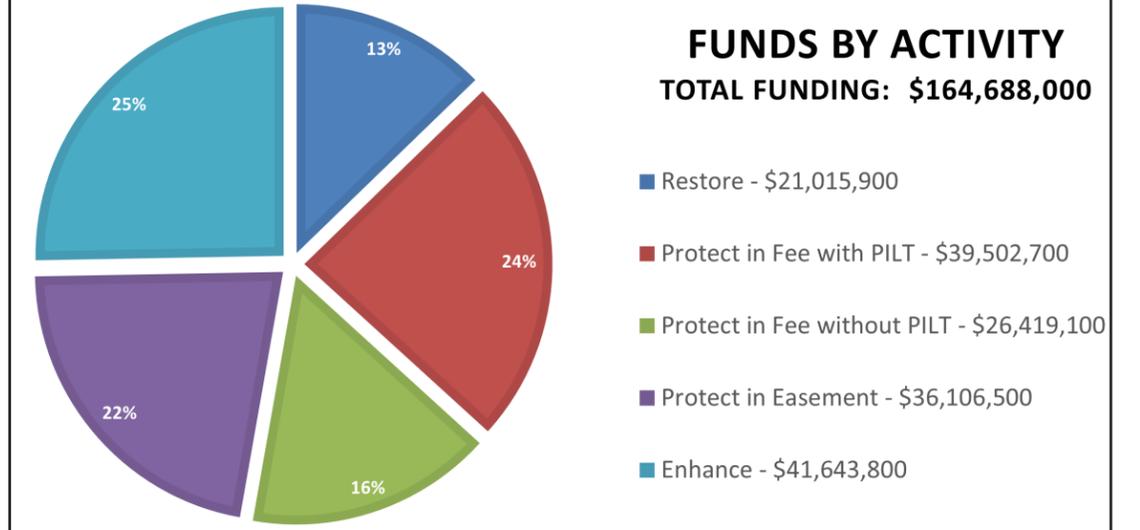
TOTAL ACRES: 61,923



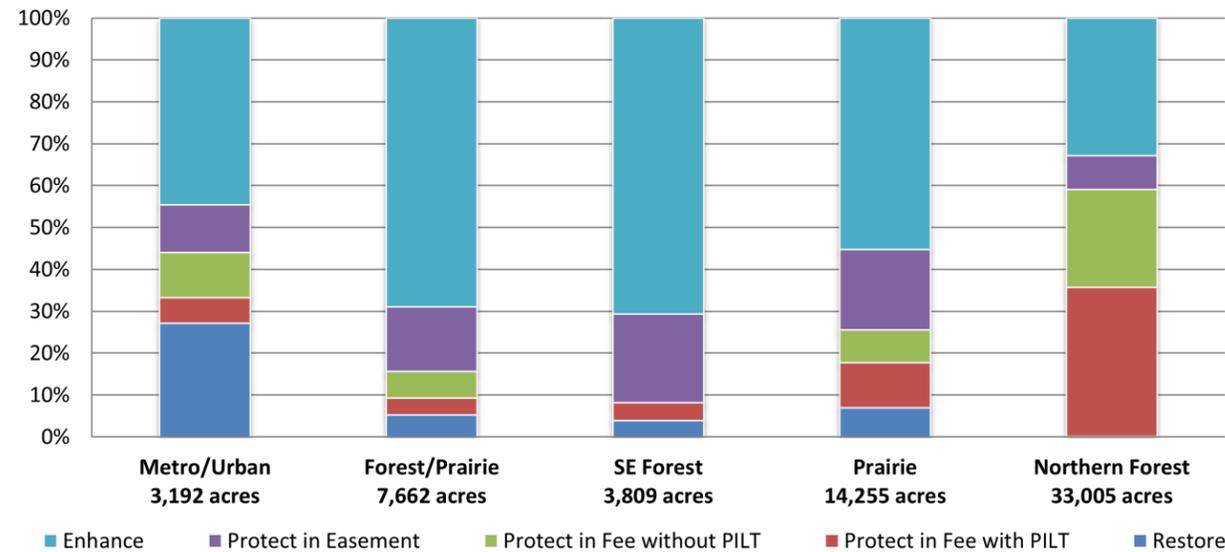
Output by FUNDING

FUNDS BY ACTIVITY

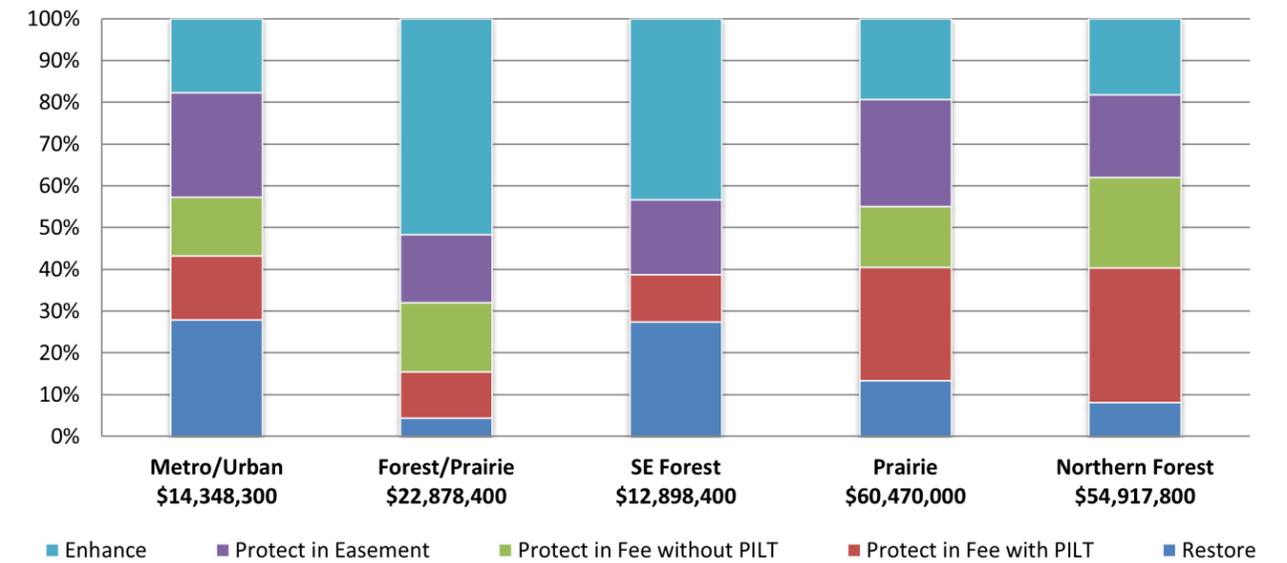
TOTAL FUNDING: \$164,688,000



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
TOTAL	10,647	13,643	30,074	7,559	61,923
PERCENT	17.2%	22.0%	48.6%	12.2%	-

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
TOTAL	\$22,043,300	\$49,656,700	\$43,341,300	\$49,646,700	\$164,688,000
PERCENT	13.4%	30.2%	26.3%	30.1%	-