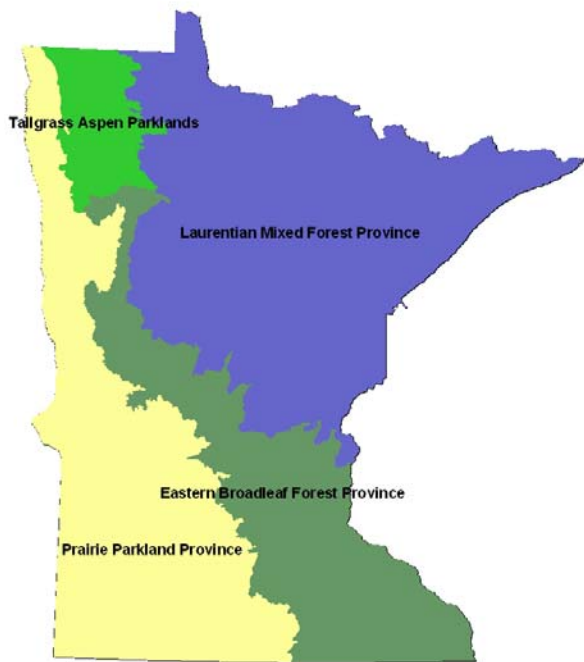


Forest Protection, Enhancement and Restoration in Minnesota

A Forest Collaborative Proposal to the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council

The Forests of Minnesota: Background and Current Status

The pre-settlement forests of Minnesota covered approximately 31.5 million acres, primarily in the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province of northern Minnesota and in the Eastern Broadleaf Forest and the Tallgrass Aspen Provinces that ran diagonally across the state from southeast to northwest. Forest cover in the Prairie Parkland Province was sparse and forests were restricted to stream and river valleys in areas well protected from fires. Forestland decline began during the 1850s and continued into the early 1900s when millions of acres were converted to agricultural and other purposes. An estimated 19 million acres of forest remained in the state when the first statewide forest inventory was conducted in 1935. Since then, the State's forests have been further reduced by nearly 3 million acres.



Ecological Provinces of Minnesota

Figure 1. Ecological Provinces

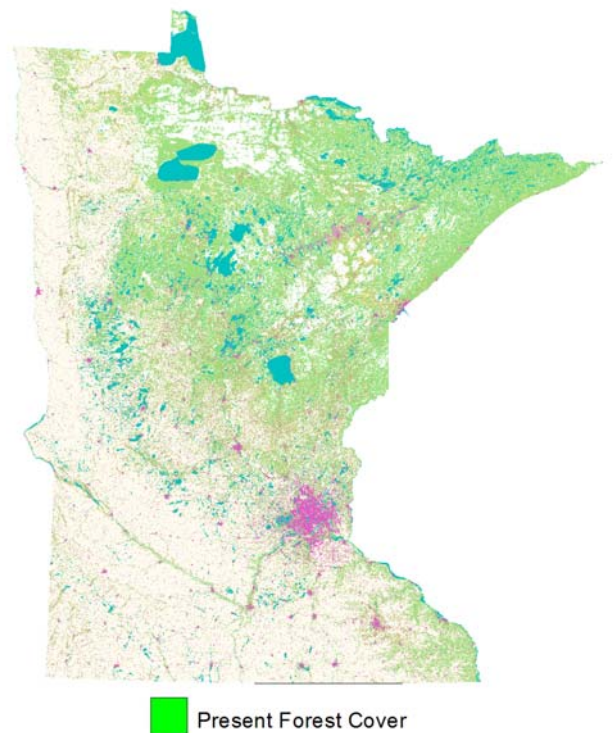


Figure 2. Present Forest Cover

Today, Minnesota supports a diversity of forest types covering nearly 16.2 million acres or roughly 32% of the land area of the state. Aspen is the largest forest type in Minnesota, accounting for 31% of Minnesota's forestland acres, followed by the northern hardwood type and the black spruce type. In total, deciduous forest types account for approximately two-thirds

of the timber types found in the state. Forested areas are also found in greenbelts, parks and natural areas within the urban areas of the state.

Just over half of the forestland in Minnesota is publicly owned. The State of Minnesota administers about 24%; county/local governments administer 16%; the federal government including tribes manages 17%. Most of the public ownership is located in the northern and central parts of the state except for a small area of state ownership in the southeast. The remaining area of forest land is privately owned with corporations, investors, and timber industry owning approximately 8% and an estimated 173,000 family forest landowners hold the remaining 35% of Minnesota's private forest land.

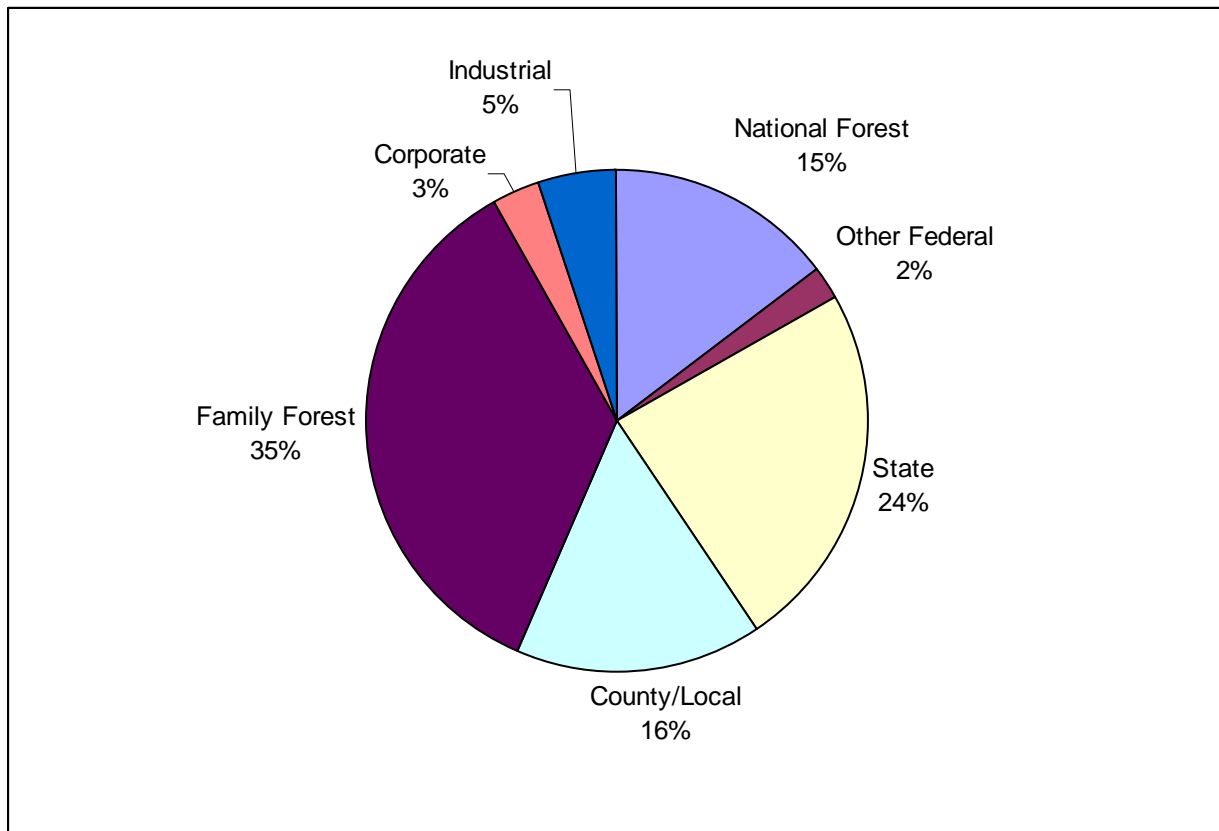


Figure 3. Ownership of Minnesota's 16.2 million acres of Forestland

Minnesota's forests are an important contributor to the state's environmental and economic health. They provide fish and wildlife habitat, biodiversity, clean water, watershed protection, carbon sequestration, recreational opportunities, and many other benefits. Currently, 7.5 million acres across all ownerships in Minnesota have been certified as meeting sustainable forest management standards for the protection of environmental values including wildlife habitat, water quality and soil resources.

The State's forests support a large forest products industry that is an important segment of the State's economy and which employs nearly 40,000 people with wages of nearly \$1.92 billion (2006 data). The industry includes pulp and paper, oriented strand board (OSB), cabinets and

cabinet parts, windows and doors, store fixtures, furniture, pallets, millwork, and wood shavings. In addition, woody biomass is increasingly being used or proposed for use in renewable energy production facilities. The Minnesota Forest Resources Council has identified the following as priority forest resource issues affecting the sustainability of Minnesota forests:

- **Forest land base:** Economic, ecological, and social impacts of forestland ownership changes, parcelization, and development on private and public lands that may result in fragmentation or loss of forested land.
- **Forest biomass and biofuels harvest:** Economic and ecological impacts and benefits of forest biomass harvesting.
- **Forest carbon sequestration:** The role of forests and forest products in carbon sequestration.
- **Threats to forest health:** Economic, ecological, and social impacts of declining forest health, especially related to invasive terrestrial plants, insects, and diseases across the landscape.

High Priority Conservation Projects and Programs

The conservation partners involved in this collaborative proposal have identified high-priority, ready-to-go projects for consideration by the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council. These include protection projects, restoration projects, and enhancement projects. These proposals include on-the-ground forest conservation projects developed by the participants that add in measurable and substantive ways towards the conservation of Minnesota's forests.

This collaborative and others in the forest conservation community welcome the opportunity to continue to participate with the Council in developing and refining a 25-year vision for forests, for developing forest-wide objectives, standards and guidelines that contribute to reaching the 25-year vision, and with planning and implementing the site-level projects that contribute in measurable ways to the achievement of the 25-year vision.

Tools and Techniques for Forest Protection, Enhancement and Restoration

There is a wide array of tools and techniques available to achieve protection, enhancement and restoration of forest habitats. Each proposal included in this packet identifies specific activities, expenses and goals. Appropriate tools and measures of success include but are not limited to the following:

1. Forest Protection Tools: Forest protection tools applicable to the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council include fee title acquisition, land exchanges (a variation of fee acquisition), large-scale landscape level conservation easements, family forest (small scale) conservation easements and the implementation of easement monitoring programs to assure continuation of public benefits over time.

The measures of protection include acres protected by fee acquisition (including land exchange), acres protected by permanent conservation easements, and acres of conservation easement projects covered by sustainable monitoring programs. In addition, for each easement or fee project, the acres and areas open to public hunting and fishing are additional measures. As projects are closed, details of the project, acres protected, public access information (where appropriate) and a brief description of the habitat and ecological properties protected will be posted on the web site.

2. Forest Enhancement Tools: There are a multitude of tools, techniques, and management activities applicable to the task of enhancing the value forest and woodland ecosystems for wildlife. These include the following silvicultural and management treatments: prescribed burning; cutting; mowing or sheering of woody vegetation; planting, seeding or encouraging natural regeneration; selective cutting and thinning; timber stand improvement; seedling protection measures (bud capping, etc); herbicide treatments; prescribed fire, retention of various structural and compositional wildlife habitat elements during timber harvesting (snag trees, down logs, mast trees, etc) and others.

For each site managed, the acres affected, the species and/or habitats enhanced, and the location of the activity will be reported on the web site.

3. Forest Restoration Tools: There are a variety of tools and techniques that can be applied to restore or regenerate a forest to a desired conservation condition. These include restoring forests habitats through tree planting, seeding, natural regeneration or a combination of these practices. Other mechanical, silvicultural, and chemical treatments as well as prescribed fire may be used in conjunction with these restoration or regeneration tools to achieve the desired restoration goals.

For each site restored, the acres restored, the before and after habitat conditions, the location of the project and general description of the restoration methods will be listed on the web site.

Collaborative Process Described

This collaborative process and the resulting forest conservation proposal included the participation of a number of organizations and individuals representing many entities whose activities include forest conservation. Known organizations active in the area of forest conservation were invited to a round table on January 28 to develop a process and guidelines for a collaborative application. Ground rules were adopted (Figure 4) and the budgetary needs were outlined. The expressed demand for LOHC funding exceeded the amount potentially available from LOHC. The group used the ground rules and a group process to reduce the original \$93 million dollar proposal to approximately \$60 million. The council should take in mind that several good projects were eliminated and/or reduced to reach the \$60 million target and that additional project requests could be presented if desired.

Process Participants (Organization and Key Contact)

Non-Governmental Organizations and Agencies

Audubon Minnesota – Mark Peterson

Belwin Conservancy - Steve Hobbs

Friends of the Mississippi River – Tom Lewanski

Great River Greening – Deborah Karasov, Wayne Ostlie

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy – Don Arnosti

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck

Minnesota Land Trust – Kris Larson

Minnesota Native Landscapes – Jim Eckberg
National Wild Turkey Federation – Dave Neu
The Conservation Fund – Tom Duffus
The Nature Conservancy – Tom Landwehr
Trust for Public Land - Shaun Hamilton
The Ruffed Grouse Society – Russ Sewell

Government Organizations and Agencies

Lake County – Tom Martinson
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board – Ralph Sievert, Mike Kimble
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 Division of Ecological Resources – Kurt Rusterholz, Ann Pierce
 Division of Ecological Services , SNA Program – Peggy Booth
 Division of Forestry – Richard Peterson
 Division of Fish and Wildlife Section of Wildlife - Cynthia Osmundson
Minnesota Forest Resources Council – Dave Zumeta
St. Paul Parks and Recreation – Adam Robbins
Three Rivers Park District – Paul Kortebein
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rice Lake NWR – Walt Ford
Washington County Parks – Peter Mott

Current Statewide Plans

There is no single forest plan in Minnesota that addresses the protection, enhancement and restoration for forests and woodlands. Forest management plans have been developed for much of the public land, for most of the industrial lands, and for some of the family forestlands. The Minnesota Forest Resources Council Landscape Plans are regional landscape plans covering the 6 major forest landscapes in the state and cross all ownerships. National Forest Plans for the Chippewa and Superior National Forests (including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness) cover approximately 3.6 million acres in northern Minnesota. Subsection Forest Resource Management Plans cover 4.8 million acres of MNDNR Forestry and Wildlife administered lands. County Land Management Plans guide forestland management on approximately 2.8 million acres primarily in northern Minnesota. Site plans have been prepared that cover the forested areas within Parks, Wildlife Management Areas and SNAs managed by DNR. Industrial Forest Management Plans cover some 1 million acres of forestland in northern and central Minnesota. Tribal Forest Management Plans have been developed for the several hundred thousands of acres of tribal forestland. Over eight thousand private landowners in the state have developed Forest Stewardship Plans covering over 1.4 million acres of family owned forestland statewide.

In addition, a number of other plans have dealt with forest and woodland protection, enhancement, and restoration either directly or indirectly. These include:

- Campaign for Conservation Fifty-Year Vision identifies the conservation and protection of high-value forested uplands and large blocks of contiguous forest as conservation goals.
- The Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership Action Plan that recommends the conservation of important forest areas in Minnesota as identified in their GIS analysis.

- The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan recommends the protection of large blocks of forestland and supports the expanded use of sustainable forestry practices on working forestlands.
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare identifies 376 species of greatest conservation need in the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province and the Eastern Deciduous Forest Province that would benefit from protection, enhancement or restoration activities.
- The Forest Legacy Program: Statewide Assessment of Need identifies the protection of large blocks of forestland as the highest priority for the program in the state.
- The Minnesota Forests for the Future Program recommends the protection of large blocks of industrial forest land in northern Minnesota as the highest program priority and calls for over 500,000 acres of industrial lands and family forestlands to be protected over the next 25 years.
- The Driftless Area Initiative's forest bird habitat plan covering the southeastern portion of the state identifies high value forest bird habitats and makes specific protection, enhancement and restoration recommendations to benefit interior forest bird species.
- The DNR Division of Forest 20-Year Land Asset Management Plan has identified nearly 165,000 acres of fee acquisition and 108,000 acres of land exchange parcels to help consolidate State Forest Lands and provide larger blocks of contiguous forest habitat.

Figure 4. Forest Habitat Outdoor Heritage Fund Collaborative Ground Rules
(as adopted by participants)

1. Participants should endorse this set of operating guidelines (or an amended version) by consensus.
2. Partners should agree to identify a Collaborative Coordinator for purposes of developing and submitting a FY10 proposal. Since procedures for submitting proposals in FY11 will likely be different, partners agree that the current proposal does not imply any precedent for future proposals. It is acknowledged that other proposals will be submitted for short-term funding.
3. Partners agree to provide information in a timely manner as requested by the Coordinator or lose the opportunity to participate on the proposal (by group consensus).
4. Total dollars available for FY10 is around \$65M (~\$78M anticipated revenue minus a \$5M Conservation Partners allocation and minus \$8M contingency, likely to be declared by Council). We agree to a Forest Habitat package that should not exceed \$60 M.
5. All partners should develop programmatic requests (versus project-specific requests) on a standard form approved by the group.
6. Partners agree to not submit identical requests to multiple Outdoor Heritage Fund sources.
7. No partner should request more than 80% of the funding unless unanimously agreed upon by other partners.
8. For programmatic requests of less than \$100,000, partners should seriously consider applying for a Conservation Partners grant from LOHC as an alternative; it will be easier and funding would be more certain (most likely!). Otherwise, any partner that can implement on-the-ground conservation should be welcome to participate.
9. For FY10 proposal, partners should only request funding for those projects that can be substantially completed (e.g., more than 80% of protection funding spent by June 30, 2010, most restoration and enhancement money spent by June 30, 2011).
10. A goal of the collaborative is to foster public and private participation.
11. All other elements as laid out in Council guidelines (see: http://www.lohc.state.mn.us/materials/2009_rec_dev_proc.pdf) must be complied with or provided.

Forest Conservation Collaborative Proposal to the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council, Feb. 23, 2009

Program	Partner	LOHC request	Other state funds	Other non-state funds	Total	Grant acres	Cost per Acre\$	
Acquisition								
F1	Industrial Forestland Investment Program	Cass County Land Department	\$5,000,000		\$91,000	\$5,091,000	3,100	\$1,642
F2	Clair Nelson Memorial Forest Acquisition	Lake County Forestry Dept.	\$1,900,000	\$900,000	\$859,600	\$3,659,600	6,085	\$601
F3	Family Forestland Protection Initiative	MN Land Trust	\$910,000		\$1,000,000	\$1,910,000	900	\$2,122
F4	Habitat Enhancement & Restor'n MN River	Nat. Wild Turkey Federation	\$3,817,000		\$152,000	\$3,969,000	2,000	\$1,985
F5	TPL Cooperative Forest Protection Initiative	Trust for Public Land	\$6,000,000		\$1,300,000	\$7,300,000	318	\$22,956
F6	Crow-Hassan Park Nat. Area Exp'n	Three Rivers Park District	\$1,232,400			\$1,232,400	39	\$31,600
F7	Forests for the Future/Upper MS River Proj.	MN Dept. Natural Resources	\$39,700,000	\$60,000	\$9,195,000	\$48,955,000	187,277	\$261
	Subtotals		\$58,559,400	\$960,000	\$12,597,600	\$72,117,000	\$199,719	\$361
Restoration and Enhancement								
F8	Forest & Savanna Rest'n and Bioenergy	Audubon Minnesota	\$1,000,000		\$269,000	\$1,269,000	800	\$1,586
F9	St. Croix Bluffland Forest Restoration	Great River Greening	\$312,000	\$5,000	\$9,500	\$326,500	400	\$816
F10	Intensive Ruffed Grouse Habitat Managmt	Ruffed Grouse Society	\$550,000		\$56,700	\$606,700	1100 mi	n/a
F11	Urban Forest Managemt and Reforestation	St. Paul Parks and Rec. Dept.	\$450,000		\$125,000	\$575,000	125	\$4,600
F12	Washington County Forest Health Initiative	Washington County	\$300,000			\$300,000	217	\$1,382
	Subtotals		\$2,612,000	\$5,000	\$460,200	\$3,077,200	1,542	\$1,995
Totals			\$61,171,400	\$965,000	\$13,057,800	\$75,194,200	201,261	\$374

Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal – F1

Forest Habitat Type

Your name: Josh Stevenson, Norm Moody
Your organization: Cass County Land Department
Mailing address: PO Box 25, Backus, MN 56435
Phone/fax number: 218-947-3338/218-947-3230
Email address: cassland@tds.net

Program/project short name: Industrial Forest Land investment and Productivity Program
FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested: \$5,000,000
Additional funds leveraged and source: \$91,000 (County)
Expected outcomes at completion: 3,100 acres protected per year.

Short narrative of program/project, location(s), timeline for completion and measures of success: This project will: 1) prevent the fragmentation of our industrial forest lands, 2) allow for consolidation of State, County and Industrial Forest Land ownerships and 3) promote better efficiencies of forest management activities. This project will focus on industrial forest lands in Cass and Koochiching Counties, but could be extended to other interested counties.

Secure forest recreation opportunities and permanent recreational trail corridors, guarantee optimization of fiber production including round wood and biomass consistent with sustainable silvicultural practices.

Management of the acquired Industrial Forest Land may include long term leases to a forest product industry or sale of select parcels with recreational rights reserved to the state. Lease revenue would be shared between the Township, School Districts, County and State

Generalized budget: For 10 years

Budget Item	Outdoor Heritage Fund \$\$	Other State Funds \$\$	Other Non-State Funds \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Salaries/benefits			70,000	70,000
Contracts			5,000	5,000
Equipment (> \$5000)			2,000	2,000
Materials, supplies			3,000	3,000
Travel			1,000	1,000
Land (fee, easement)	50,000,000			50,000,000
Other (list)			10,000	10,000
Total			91,000	50,091,000

Describe how long-term costs for sustaining project, monitoring and/or addressing property tax implications will be met: This project is self-sustaining – revenue from long term leases, or timber sales will be available as revenue to be distributed to the Townships, School Districts, County and State.

Describe how local governments will be involved/informed if relevant: The County or Counties interested in preserving the industrial Forest Land Base would negotiate the acquisition and direct the subsequent disposition of the lands.

Describe how many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs this will provide: The project will result in the retention of the logging, trucking and manufacturing jobs associated with provision of guaranteed fiber from the intensive and sustainable management of the Industrial Forest Lands.

Describe how this proposal will provide access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation: All lands acquired under this program will be open to public recreation at all times. Over 31,000 acres of Industrial Forest Land will be preserved and open to public recreation.

Other considerations: Investment in this program will result in retention of jobs, produce revenue, guarantee recreation and improve forest management efficiencies. A minimum of 700 acres of timber sales will be made available every year.

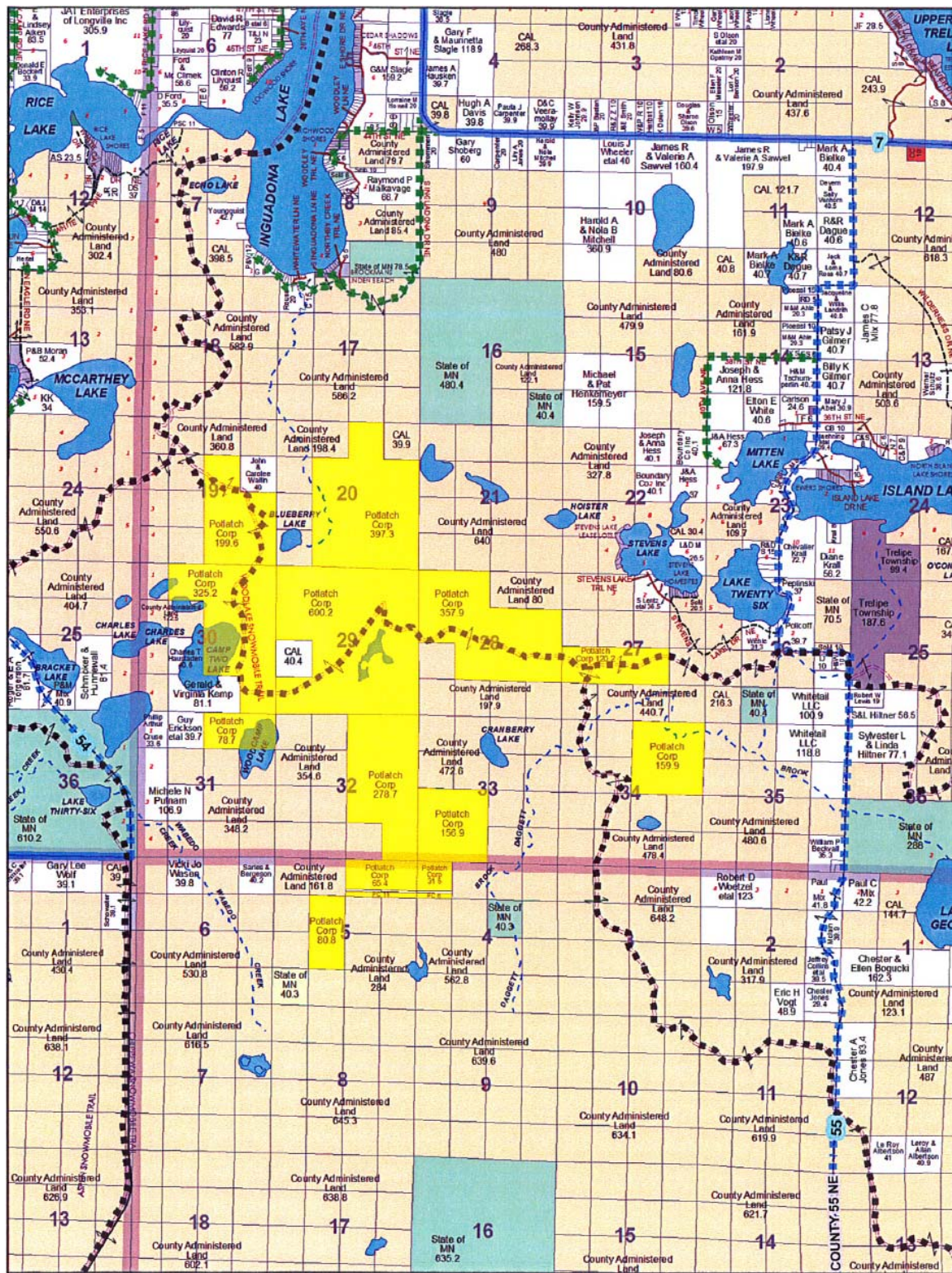
Through this project, partners will work actively to exchange acquired lands with State and County lands where appropriate to consolidate ownership into more effective blocks or tracts of contiguous managed lands.

The Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan recognizes the importance of working forests for the state's economy and quality of life and recommends the development and evaluation of tools that will enhance and protect their abilities to provide economic and ecological benefits. As land use decisions reduce the amount of working forest and pressures on remaining working forests increase, it will be essential to optimize the benefits they provide. Maintaining the industrial forest land base as an integrated segment of our working forests is critical to maintaining our forest productivity and forest industry (jobs).

The Northern and North Central Regional Landscape Committees strongly support this project.

This project supports the further implementation of the goals in the Northern Committee's landscape plan including: 1) Stabilize and improve employment and incomes by sustainable use of landscape assets, 2) Diversify the Local economy, 3) Maintain or increase timber harvest in the Northern Landscape in a sustainable manner consistent with site-level guidelines, 4) Maintain and/or increase access to public lands and waters, and private lands open to the public, for sustainable multiple use, and 5) Ensure the sustainability of natural resource uses.

This project supports the further implementation of the goals in the North Central Committee's landscape plan including: 1) Protect Forestland, 2) Protect Natural Shoreline, 3) Increase Conifers and 4) Maintain Natural Patterns and Functions.



Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal – F2

Forest Habitat Type

Your name: Tom Martinson

Your organization: Lake County Forestry Department

Mailing address: 601 3rd Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616

Phone/fax number: 218-834-8340, 218-834-8346

Email address: tom.martinson@co.lake.mn.us

Program/project short name: Clair A. Nelson Memorial Forest Acquisition

FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested: \$1,900,000.00

Additional funds leveraged and source: \$ 1,759,650.00

Matching funds involved in the purchase of the Clair A. Nelson Memorial Forest (Forest) include:

- TNC donation of land to the DNR generating \$900,000.00 in RIM credits to enable the DNR to purchase the Forest Conservation Easement.
- TNC Donation of \$200,000.00 to Lake County to lower purchase price of the Forest
- TNC donation of 246.1 acres of land within the Forest, to Lake County, at a cost of \$159,650.00, purchased from MNPower.

Lake County has spent more than 1.5 million dollars in the past 5 years to consolidate public ownership of important forest lands in Northeast Minnesota. Lake County has prevented fragmentation of forest lands adjacent to Lake County tax forfeit land, Minnesota DNR Forestry Trust Fund lands, and Nature Conservancy lands, including lands within the Manitou Collaborative Management area. A portion of the \$1,500,000.00, approximately \$500,000, has already been spent on the Clair A. Nelson Memorial Forest loan.

Expected outcomes at completion: 6085 acres of wildlife habitat and forest protected with the following conservation benefits:

- Preventing fragmentation of a large block of land with important water resources including the Manitou and Baptism Rivers
- Retention of a large block of important Moose habitat
- Preserves snowmobile trail access
- Preserves access for public hunting, fishing, hiking, etc
- Retains the Forest as a resource that can managed for ecological, social and economic benefits

Short narrative of program/project, location(s), timeline for completion and measures of success:

This project involves the purchase of 6,085 acres that make up the Clair A. Nelson Memorial Forest, located entirely within the Manitou Collaborative landscape in Northeast Minnesota. Lake County has already purchased the land and is requesting the funds for an immediate payment to complete the purchase. Dramatic changes to the forest products industry have greatly altered the economics of this project and have forced the County to address this major burden. The funds for this request would be used complete the payment; therefore the timeline for the use of funds would occur in FY 2010.

Generalized budget:

Budget Item	Outdoor Heritage Funds \$\$	Other State Funds \$\$	Other Non-State Funds \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Salaries/benefits				
Contracts				
Equipment (> \$5000)				
Materials, supplies				
Travel				
Land (fee)	\$1,900,000	\$900,000 RIM Credits - TNC land donation to DNR for Conservation Easement	\$500,000 Lake Co. Land payments \$159,650 TNC Land Donated	\$3,659,650
Other (list)			\$200,000 Cash Donation from TNC	\$200,000
Total	\$1,900,000	\$900,000	\$859,650	\$3,859,650

Describe how long-term costs for sustaining project, monitoring and/or addressing property tax implications will be met: Future net revenues from sustainable management of the Forest will be retained as funds to be distributed to the townships, school district, and county. The 6,000+ acre Forest has been included in Lake County's 157,000 acre Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified forest. Proceeds from the larger forest can be spent for projects in the Clair A. Nelson Memorial Forest. The value of private lands purchased and removed from the tax rolls must be made up by selling an equal value of tax forfeit lands (County Board Policy). Non-Conservation tax forfeit lands such as those located in residential areas are sold to offset the loss of taxes. These lands are usually higher in value which results in less tax forfeit acres sold to offset the lost value of private lands. There is no time table for the sale of tax forfeit lands.

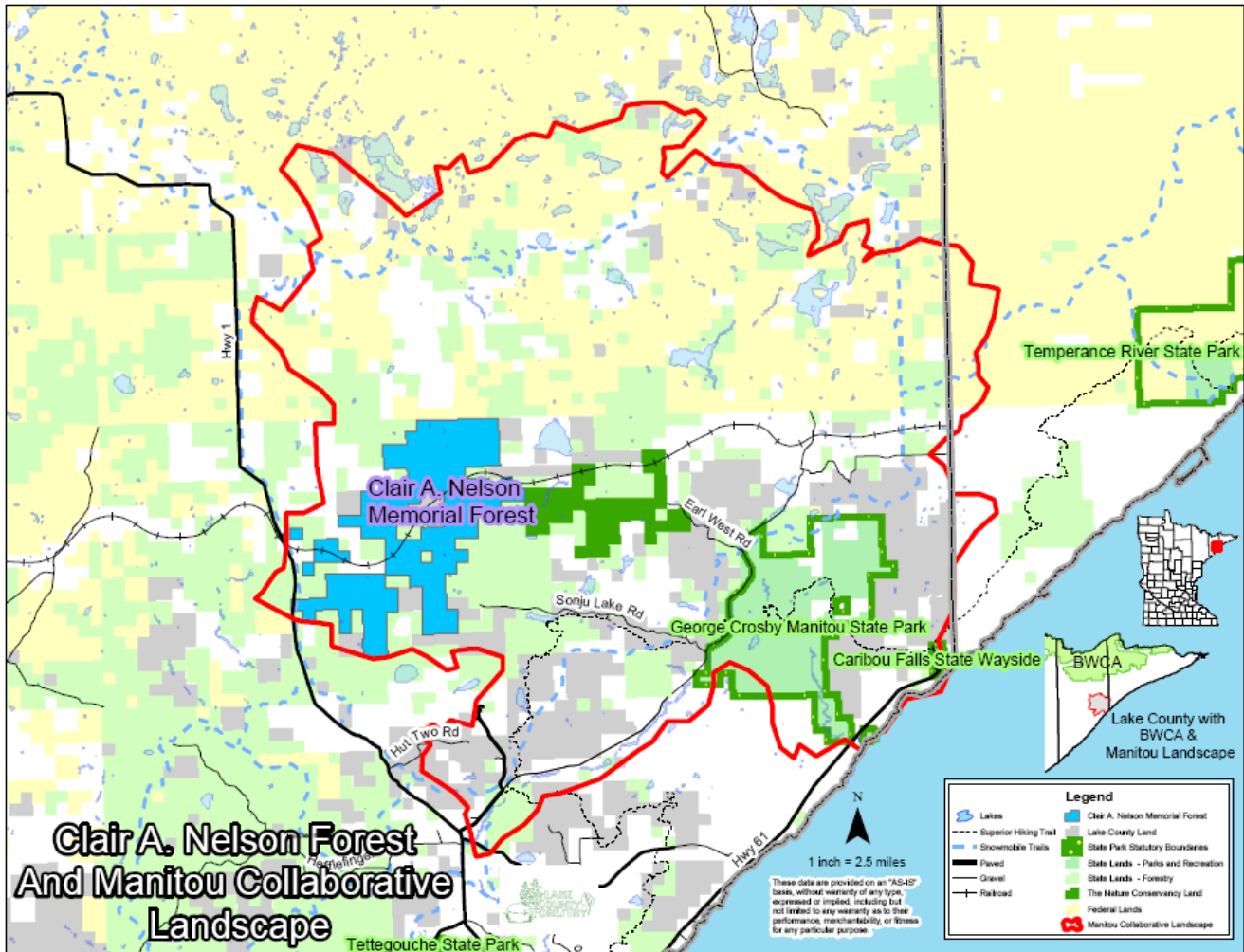
Describe how local governments will be involved/informed if relevant:

The County has taken the lead in managing all aspects of communications and working relationships with the townships and school district. Special State legislation was passed in 2007 which allowed Lake County to retain net revenues, rather than apportioning them to the School District and Townships, until the Forest was purchased. School District 381 and Lake County Townships agreed to forgo apportionment until the balance of the loan was paid in full.

Describe how many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs this will provide:

There will be no FTE's specifically hired for this project. However, the project will result in the retention of the logging, trucking and manufacturing jobs associated with provision of guaranteed fiber from the intensive and sustainable management of these former Industrial Forest Lands. Local businesses will be hired for site prep work for conifer restoration of approximately 1,800 acres within the Forest. Trees will be purchased and tree planting bids will be sent out. A snowmobile Trail will remain open and the land will remain open for public hunting and other recreational activities, all necessary for many local businesses.

Describe how this proposal will provide access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation: All lands acquired for the Clair A. Nelson Memorial Forest will be open to public recreation and will be protected and managed by the County as specified in the Conservation Easement. The Forest includes a high density Moose population and accompanying habitat and sections of the Manitou and Baptism Rivers.



Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal – F3

Forest Habitat Type

Your name: Kris Larson

Your organization: Minnesota Land Trust

Mailing address: 2356 University Ave. W., Suite 240, St. Paul, MN 55114

Phone/fax number: 651-647-9590; fax: 651-647-9769; Duluth: 218-722-4641

Email address: kl Larson@mnland.org

Program/project short name: Family Forestland Protection Initiative

FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested: \$910,000

Additional funds leveraged and source: \$1,000,000 in donated easement value and other private contributions

Expected outcomes at completion: 6-8 perpetual conservation easements held by the Land Trust protecting 800-1,000 acres of family forestland with important wildlife habitat and other public benefits.

Short narrative of program/project, location(s), timeline for completion and measures of success: This initiative’s goal is to protect important working family forest tracts in northern Minnesota from fragmentation and development through conservation easements. The Land Trust has a long track record of protecting critical forest habitat and has already identified 25 new potential projects which total more than 4,500 acres in three of the Land Trust’s critical landscapes: the Headwater Lakes complex between Brainerd and Grand Rapids; the Wilderness Lakes near the BWCA; and the North Shore of Lake Superior. Protection of 6-8 properties in this first year will provide important wildlife habitat and keep forests available for responsible harvests and other public benefits.

Generalized budget:

Budget Item	Outdoor Heritage Funds \$\$	Other State Funds \$\$	Other Non-State Funds \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Salaries/benefits	120,000			120,000
Contracts and Easement Purchase Transaction Costs	60,000			60,000
Equipment (> \$5000)				
Materials, supplies	5,000			5,000
Travel	5,000			5,000
Conservation Easement Purchase	600,000			600,000
Other (conservation easement stewardship)	120,000			120,000
Total	910,000		1,000,000*	1,910,000

*Includes donated conservation easement value and other private contributions

Describe how long-term costs for sustaining project, monitoring and/or addressing property tax implications will be met: These easements will be held by the Land Trust and will be sustained long term through the Minnesota Land Trust accredited Conservation Easement Stewardship Program. The conservation easement properties will be monitored annually, appropriate easement management and record keeping conducted and any potential violations enforced as appropriate. Funds from this grant will be dedicated to the Land Trust's Stewardship Fund for this purpose. Additionally, forest management plans will be required for protected properties as appropriate. Property taxes will still be paid by the landowner.

Describe how local governments will be involved/informed if relevant: The Minnesota Land Trust has a history of working with local governments throughout Minnesota to achieve mutual conservation objectives. Where appropriate, these local governments will be informed of the easement acquisitions, while simultaneously respecting issues of landowner confidentiality. The Land Trust routinely consults local plans when evaluating private conservation projects.

Describe how many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs this will provide: Minnesota Land Trust: 1.5 FTEs including new and existing staff.
Contracts/others: Other jobs that will benefit are attorneys, appraisers, GIS specialists, resource professionals, title companies, and others.

Describe how this proposal will provide access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation: These properties will be available for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation by the landowners and members of the public with their permission. Because these are private lands, however, the easements will not mandate public access.

Other considerations: While there has been considerable attention and resources focused on the protection of large working forest conservation easements on industrial lands, smaller family forestlands are also essential to the health of Minnesota's forest economy and wildlife habitat networks. Many of the state's conservation plans recognize the importance of protecting these resources, especially when they are located as in-holdings or are adjacent to existing public or other protected lands. Moreover, protection of these properties provides multiple public benefits, including wildlife habitat, water quality, fish habitat, climate mitigation, and others. The Land Trust has an effective and tested easement program which provides an important alternative to landowners who are ineligible or unwilling to work with government entities. Finally, because of its unique niche in working with easements that are typically all or partially donated, the Land Trust's programs have provided incredible leverage, historically providing nearly ten dollars of matching funds for every dollar of public money contributed.

Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal –F4

Forest Habitat Type

Your name: Dave Neu, Senior Regional Wildlife Biologist, CWB

Your organization: National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf)

Mailing address: 265 Lorrie Way; De Pere, WI 54115

Phone/fax number: (920) 347-0312

Email address:

Program short name: Habitat Enhancement and Restoration in the Minnesota River Watershed

FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested: \$3,817,000

Additional funds leveraged and source: \$152,000 (total in-kind from private landowners)

Expected outcomes at completion: We will acquire conservation easements on 1,000 acres and restore approximately 1,000 acres through on-the-ground restoration efforts.

Short narrative of program/project, location(s), timeline and measures of success:

NWTf will hire a project-specific staff to identify riparian areas in the Upper Minnesota River Watershed (Big Stone, LacQui Parle, Chippewa and Swift Counties) for habitat enhancement and restoration activities in an effort to restore and connect blocks of riparian corridors. The project will begin in July 2009 and conclude in June 2011.

Project activities are as follows:

- Identify potential participants (landowners).
- Secure conservation easements on selected properties via Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).
- Provide trees, shrubs, mats and tubes (oak, other hardwoods and mast producing shrubs).
- Hold at least one training session for agency and private partners to increase awareness of wild turkey habitat needs within riparian areas.
- Hold at least two Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Days within project area to educate landowners about riparian management and wild turkey biology.
- Provide participating landowners with an interactive land management CD

Project success will be measured by the number of acres affected by the project.

Generalized budget:

<i>Budget Item</i>	<i>OHF \$\$</i>	<i>Other Fund \$\$</i>	<i>Total Funds \$\$</i>
Salaries/benefits	410,000	152,000	562,000
Equipment (> \$5000)	12,000		12,000
Materials, supplies			
Travel	17,000		17,000
Land (fee, easement)	2,750,000		2,750,000
Other (restoration activities, field and training days, etc.)	628,000		628,000
Total	\$3,817,000		\$3,969,000

Describe how long-term costs for sustaining project, monitoring and/or addressing property tax implications will be met: BWSR will hold the permanent easements. The NWTf Minnesota State Chapter's Super Fund will fund any long-term costs necessary to sustain this project.

Describe how local governments will be involved or informed (if relevant):

The local government will be involved in recording conservation easement agreements, as conservation easements must be recorded in the county where the property is located.

Describe how many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs this will provide:

This project will provide three full-time positions: two (2) Project Technicians and one (1) Project Biologist. The Project Technicians, who will be housed in either NRCS or SWCD offices, will implement the program and the Project Biologist will oversee the program and interface with NWTf regional staff and volunteers; these are two-year positions. In addition, this project will help fund the Regional Biologist who will manage the project and supervise project staff. This project will also fund two and a half (2.5) FTEs for BWSR (or LWCD) through the 10% addition to the easement cost estimate. It will also support local tree nurseries by purchasing Minnesota-grown plant materials.

Describe how this proposal will provide access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation: This project will increase wildlife populations in the Minnesota River Watershed, thereby increasing wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities for the public.

Other considerations: The Minnesota Forest Resources Council defined a riparian area as the area of land and water forming the transition from aquatic to terrestrial ecosystems and denoted the riparian management zones (RMZs) along streams, lakes and open water wetlands as of special concerns. These RMZs are intended to retain relatively continuous forest cover for protection and maintenance of aquatic and wildlife habitat, aesthetics, recreation, and forest products. In the *Riparian Forests in Minnesota: A Report to the State Legislature*, DNR concluded that new projects related to riparian areas were needed; and that educational efforts should continue in order to teach landowners about the function and value of riparian areas, and about the use of applied forest management guidelines.

Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal – F5

Forest Habitat Type

Your name: Robert McGillivray

Your organization: The Trust for Public Land (TPL)

Mailing address: 2610 University Ave W, Suite 300, St. Paul, MN 55114

Phone/fax number: 651-999-5300/651-917-2248

Email address: Robert.McGillivray@tpl.org

Program/project short name: TPL Cooperative Forest Protection Initiative 2010

FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested: \$6,000,000

Additional funds leveraged and source: \$1,300,000; various: city, county, state, Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, federal, landowner donations, and RIM match.

Expected outcomes at completion: At the completion of this program, approximately 318 acres of forestlands will be protected in public ownership for long-term stewardship and for public use and enjoyment.

Short narrative of program/project, location(s), timeline for completion and measures of success: The Trust for Public Land will assist natural resource agencies in acquiring forestlands that have been prioritized by the agency for protection. Acquisition efforts underway to be completed by June 30, 2010 include approximately 38 acres of frontage on Leech Lake (Cass County), 200 acres of Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS)-quality forested lakeshore for protection in Kandiyohi County as a Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) and approximately 80 acres of MCBS-quality forest near the St Croix River as an SNA.

Generalized budget:

Budget Item	Outdoor Heritage Fund \$\$	Other Fund \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Salaries/benefits			
Contracts			
Equipment (> \$5000)			
Materials, supplies			
Travel			
Land (fee)	\$6,000,000	\$1,300,000	\$7,300,000
Other (list)			
Total	\$6,000,000	\$1,300,000	\$7,300,000

Describe how long-term costs for sustaining project, monitoring and/or addressing property tax implications will be met: This acquisition program will be sustained with help from The Trust for Public Land, which uses privately-raised funds to cover its acquisition activities including due diligence costs. The land will ultimately be conveyed to a public agency, which will be responsible for paying property taxes or for making payments in lieu of taxes. TPL will work with permanent stewards to plan for funding of stewardship costs.

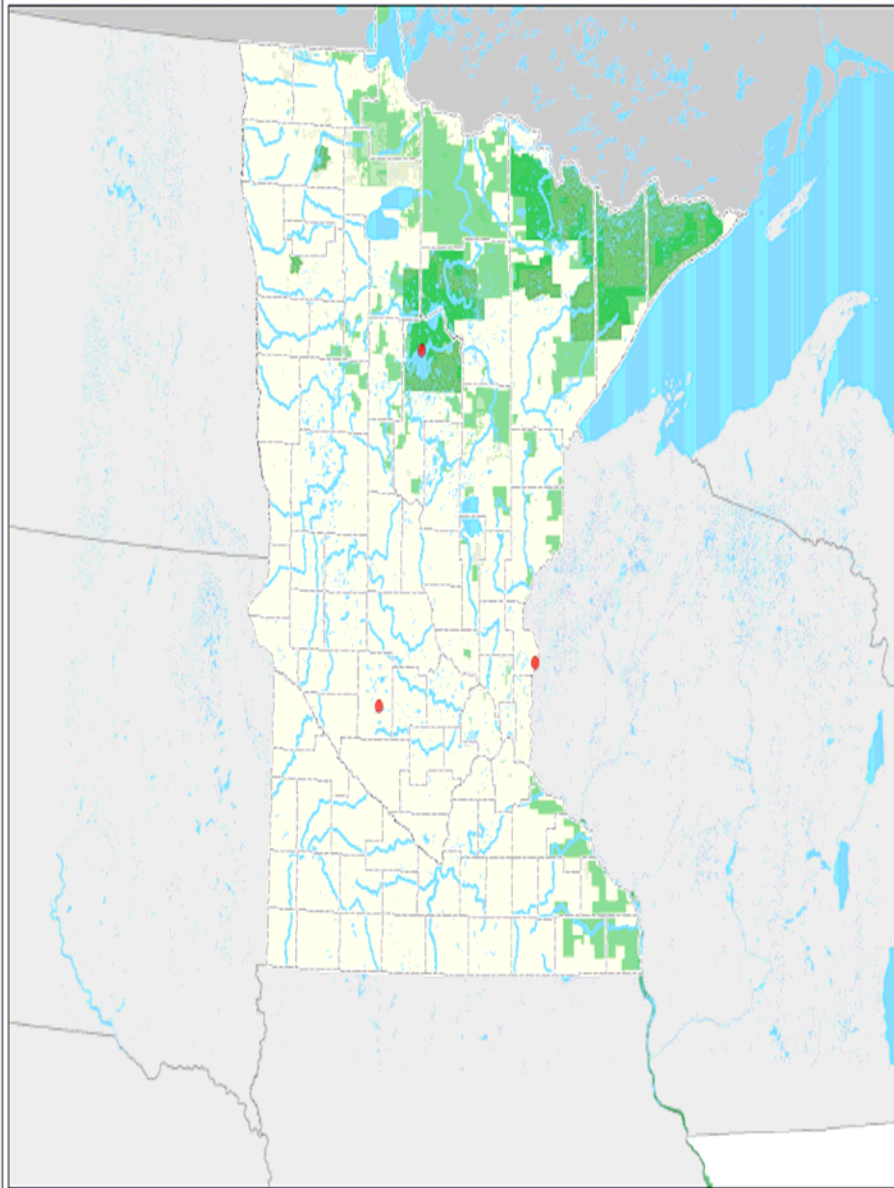
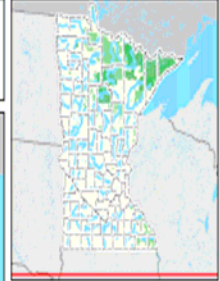
Describe how local governments will be involved/informed if relevant: The projects within this program have a range of involvement of local units of government. In some cases, the local unit of government has requested TPL's assistance in acquiring high priority lands, in which case the local unit of government will be the long-term steward of the lands acquired and may be providing matching funds where possible. For any land acquisitions in which the ultimate landowner is the State, any required township notification will be made and County approval will be sought.

Describe how many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs this will provide: This funding will be used to match private funds that support approximately 1.5 FTE. These include TPL staff and those who TPL would contract with including appraisers, surveyors, environmental consultants, and title companies. Landowners with whom we work will also likely be hiring attorneys and tax/financial consultants to advise them. Landowners will use revenue generated from the sale of their land to fund other investments, purchases, and in some cases in which landowner is a business, the funds will be used to pay operational expenses, including staff.

Other considerations: The Trust for Public Land is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting land for people. TPL works to achieve communities' conservation goals through conservation finance and conservation real estate services. We rely on our legal, real estate, and finance expertise to successfully complete complicated conservation transactions that public agencies may not have the staff or resources to do themselves. We offer a professional and streamlined approach, and bring extra hands and minds to assist often over-extended government staff. Since TPL's founding 36 years ago, we have conserved over 2.4 million acres with a fair market value of approximately \$5.3 billion in over 3,600 separate conservation transactions across the United States. In Minnesota, we have protected over 84,000 acres of important conservation lands since 1986.



The Trust for Public Land's LOHC Forest Projects



Legend

- County Boundary
- Major Rivers
- Major Waterbodies
- Metro Parks
- Wildlife Management Areas
- State Forests
- Scientific and Natural Areas
- NWR-NFWS
- National Forests

1:4,726,611



149.2 0 74.60 149.2 Miles

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THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Notes

02/9/09

Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal – F6

Forest Habitat Type

Your name: Paul Kortebein

Your organization: Three Rivers Park District

Mailing address: 3000 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441-1299

Phone/fax number: ph: 763-694-7843, fax: 763-557-4943

Email address: pkortebein@threeriversparkdistrict.org

Program/project short name: Crow-Hassan Park Reserve Natural Area Expansion.

FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested: \$ \$1,232,400

Additional funds leveraged and source:

- 1) \$19,510 worth of volunteer labor, including a minimum of 200 individuals, (1,000 total hours @ \$19.51/hour)
- 2) \$50,000 minimum in post-project follow-up management by either Three Rivers Park District or Minnesota Conservation Corps. personnel (weed control and watering for at least 5 years).

Expected outcomes at completion: 1) Acquisition of 39 acres at the NW corner of Crow Hassan Park Rd. and Park Dr. in the NW corner of Hennepin County (see attached map).
 2) The reforestation of 38 acres, using only native plants propagated by the Park District.
 3) Restoration and rehabilitation of a 1 acre wetland in the NE corner of the property.

Short narrative of program/project, location(s), timeline for completion and measures of success (100 words or less): This project will expand the existing Three Rivers Park District property boundaries by purchasing 39 acres adjacent to the SE corner of Crow-Hassan Park Reserve for the purposes of permanently converting it to natural area. The site is currently an abandoned farm field and in need of rehabilitation. The Park District proposes to plant this parcel to oak-aspen forest in accordance with the existing master plan for the park reserve. The reforestation will be performed using native plants, propagated from locally collected seed, and grown at the adjacent District Nursery.

Generalized budget:

Budget Item	Outdoor Heritage Funds \$\$	Other State Funds \$\$	Other Non-State Funds \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Salaries/benefits	\$34,000			\$34,000
Contracts				
Equipment (> \$5000)	\$28,000			\$28,000
Materials, supplies	\$80,400			\$80,400
Travel				
Land (fee, easement)	\$1,090,000			\$1,090,000
Other (list)				
Total	\$1,232,400			\$1,232,400

Describe how long-term costs for sustaining project, monitoring and/or addressing property tax implications will be met:

- This project will fund the purchase of a 39 acre parcel adjacent to Crow-Hassan Park Reserve. Once under park district control it will have permanent protection and be designated as natural area as per the master plan for the park reserve.
- After reforestation and restoration work is completed, District forestry staff will assume all maintenance work using District operational funds.

Describe how local governments will be involved/ informed if relevant:

This project will be performed nearly in its entirety by Three Rivers Park District staff. Three Rivers Park District is an independent, special park district established by the State Legislature in 1957. Additionally, Hassan Township has indicated that it will approve a master plan amendment incorporating this parcel as park district property.

Describe how many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs this will provide:

Site Preparation: 13 FTE
Site Planting: 13 FTE
Site Maintenance: 8 FTE
Equipment Operators: 4 FTE
Project Direction, Management and Administration: 2 FTE

Describe how this proposal will provide access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation:

Three Rivers Park District wildlife staff does administer hunting programs on an annual basis. Staff will organize annual hunts on park property where feasible under local ordinance.

Other considerations: The proposed acquisition and restoration of this 39 acre parcel is a logical extension of Crow-Hassan Park Reserve, a Three Rivers Park District property. This park reserve is one of the largest expanses of uninterrupted land bordering the Crow River. The proposed parcel would serve as a buffer to park district nursery, which is directly adjacent to the parcel, as well as help fulfill the Park District's master plan for the park reserve. Historically, the parcel has been farmed; however it is currently abandoned. The proposed project would restore native oak-aspen forest to the site as per the existing master plan for Crow-Hassan Park.

Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal – F7

Forest Habitat Type

Your name: Richard Peterson, Minnesota Forests for the Future Program Coordinator

Your organization: MN Department of Natural Resources

Mailing address: 1810-30th St. Northwest Faribault, MN 55021

Phone/fax number: (507) 333-2012 x222

Email address: richard.peterson@dnr.state.mn.us

Program/project short name: Minnesota Forests for the Future/Upper Mississippi Forest Project

FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested: \$39,700,000 (to be revised mid-March when appraisal/offered completed)

Additional funds leveraged and source: \$9,150,000 if balance of need funded (Blandin Foundation \$7.150 million (to be confirmed 3/27/09); Anonymous foundation \$2 million)

Expected outcomes at completion:

- 187,277 acres permanently protected with a conservation easement and 1,344 acres in fee.
- Protect jobs - over 3,200 working families are directly impacted by the *Upper Mississippi Forest* property as well as hundreds more in related businesses.
- Conserve over 60,000 acres of wetlands, 280 miles of stream and lake shore.
- Permanent access for all fish and game seasons and species.
- Assurance of sustainable forest management by requiring forest certification standards, forest management plan, site level guidelines, the use of the Ecological Classification System.
- A funded easement monitoring program to assure continuation of benefits through time.
- Forest fragmentation prevented by prohibiting all development and subdivision
- Creates a new segment for the North Country National Scenic Trail
- Permanent access provided to more than 82 miles of trails for snowmobiles and more for ATV use with safeguards to protect the environment.
- Permanent access provided for cross-country skiing, hiking, snow-shoeing, birdwatching, berry-picking and use of the property's road network.
- Continued flow of forest products from the *Upper Mississippi Forest* to over 17 facilities in Minnesota.
- Small fee purchase parcels consolidate existing public lands and habitat.

Short narrative of program/project, location(s), timeline for completion and measures of success (100 words or less): The *Upper Mississippi Forest Project* is an exceptional, time-limited forest conservation opportunity. It meets all project selection criteria in the *MN Forests for the Future Program*, is a priority in the *Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan* and meets MN Forest Resource Council's Landscape Objectives. This project maintains large blocks of undeveloped forest habitat, provides permanent public access for hunting & fishing and keeps working forestlands intact and available for sustainable forestry and jobs. A perpetual conservation easement guarantees no development or divisions. The project stitches together 4,000 square miles of public lands and would be **ready to close by December, 2009.**

Generalized budget:

Budget Item	Outdoor Heritage Fund \$\$	Other State Funds \$\$	Other Non-State Funds \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Professional and transactional services (including appraisal, survey, title, environmental review, preparation of property report, closing costs, preparation of monitoring plan, etc.)	\$150,000	\$30,000	\$195,000	\$375,000
DNR salary/benefits for project implementation	\$100,000	\$30,000		\$130,000
Land (easement)	\$38,000,000		\$9,000,000	\$47,000,000
Land (fee)	\$700,000			\$700,000
Easement Monitoring Fund	\$750,000			\$750,000
Total	\$39,700,000	\$60,000	\$9,195,000	\$48,955,000

Budget Notes:

1. *Land amounts:* the cost will be adjusted mid-March when DNR's appraisal process is complete and the offer is accepted by the landowner. The amount is likely to go down slightly.
2. *Other non-state funding:* Blandin Foundation's conditional pledge (\$7 million) will be confirmed on March 27, 2009 and could change. The balance of the private capital is a pending request.
3. *Other non-state funding:* If the private funding requests are successful, these grants will come off the top of the easement amount regardless of the appraised value (e.g. if the easement value goes down, the benefit goes to the Outdoor Heritage Fund).

Describe how long-term costs for sustaining project, monitoring and/or addressing property tax implications will be met: The property will remain privately owned and on the tax rolls. A conservation easement monitoring fund will be established to provide funds to MN DNR for annual monitoring (see budget). Protection of this property will reduce future local governmental expenditures to otherwise service potential remote development.

Describe how local governments will be involved/informed if relevant:

This project has extensive local support, including: Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Blandin Foundation, Itasca Economic Development Council, Itasca County Parks and Recreation, Itasca County Trails Task Force, Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation, and others. The Itasca County Board is being briefed on the project February, 2009; Northern Counties Land Use Board is being briefed on the project February, 2009.

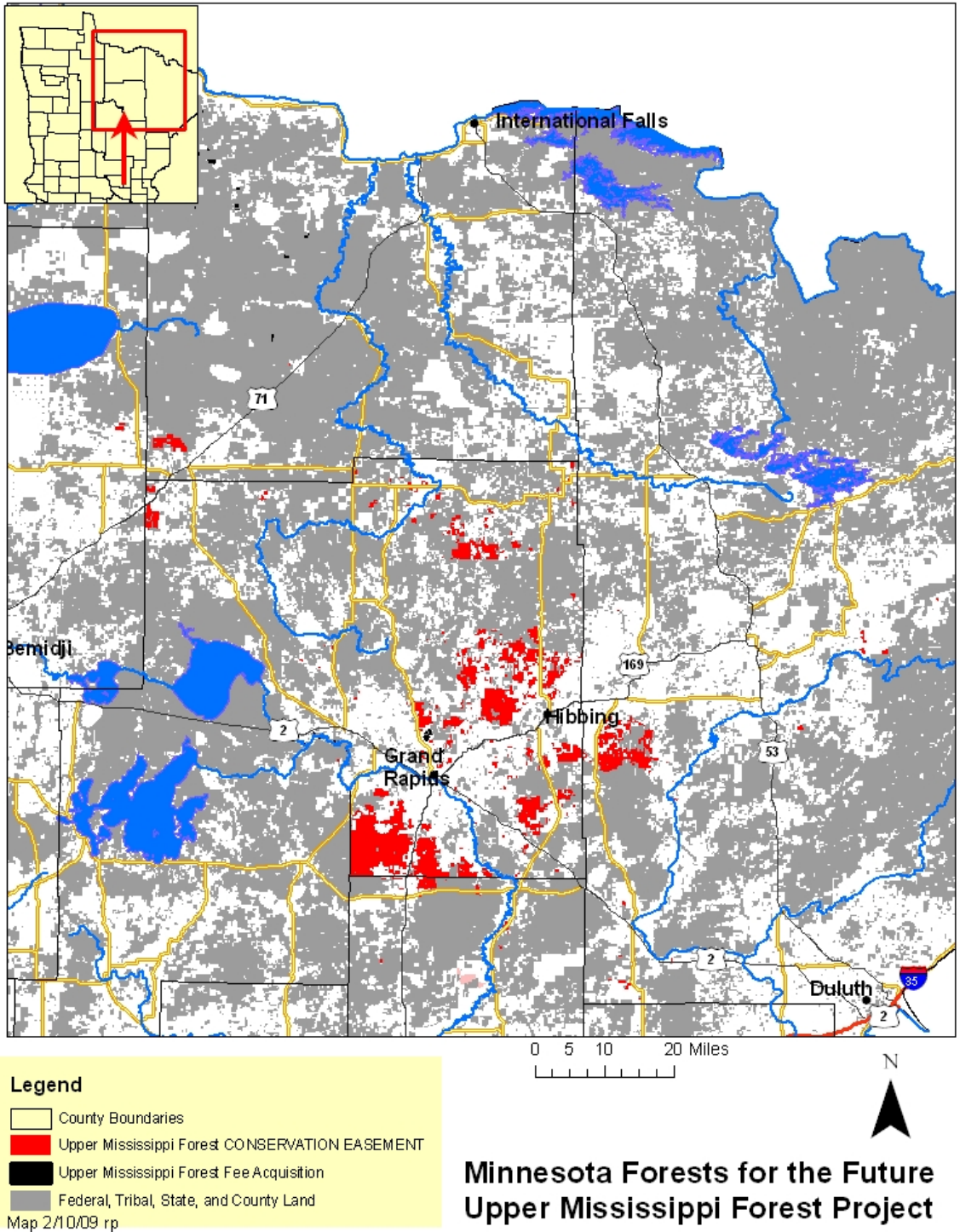
Describe how many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs this will provide:

3,200 families are directly impacted by this property – it is a working forest that provides jobs in the woods, jobs at 17 mills in Minnesota, and hundreds of jobs in recreation and tourism in the Grand Rapids area. Job retention benefits include 550 employees of UPM/Blandin Paper Mill as well as those in other facilities. Conservation of this property will secure a significant land base for the state's forest products industry, regional loggers, mill workers, truck drivers, foresters, contractors, as well as the area's recreational industry.

Describe how this proposal will provide access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation: See above. The state is acquiring through this conservation easement the permanent right for the public to hunt, fish, trap, access the property via snowmobiles and ATV's, hike, etc.

Other considerations: The Forest Legacy Partnership is raising significant private capital for this project, showing deep interest in the project, concern about the short window of opportunity, and to encourage Outdoor Heritage funding for this and other priorities. In addition to public access, significant habitat restoration, enhancement and protection is achieved through requirements for ecological management of the property.

Map: Minnesota Forests for the Future – Upper Mississippi Forest Project



Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal – F8

Forest Habitat Type

Your name: Don Arnosti

Your organization: Audubon Minnesota¹

Mailing address: 2357 Ventura Drive, Suite #106, Woodbury, MN, 55125

Phone/fax number: 612-718-3626 (cell)

Email address: donarnosti@gmail.com

Program short name: *Linking Forest and Savanna Habitat Restoration to Bioenergy*

FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested: \$1,000,000

Additional funds leveraged and source: \$ 269,000 (cash and in-kind)

- 1) \$39,000 partner matching salaries/benefits, materials (partner's funders, 15% of biomass revenue²)
- 2) \$100,000 landowner funding/complementary work (landowner staff, grants, 85% of biomass revenue²)
- 3) \$80,000 Volunteer labor minimum value: 1000 individuals & 4000 hours @ \$19.52/hour Federal rate
- 4) \$50,000 Pre-project planning and site preparation³

Expected outcomes at completion:(actual acres and tons would depend on specific habitats restored)

- 1) 800 +/- acres natural habitat restored and enhanced
- 2) 25,000 tons of biomass for renewable energy or other biomass markets
- 3) 500 tons of wood provided to other markets

Short narrative of program locations, timeline for completion and measures of success:

Linking Forest and Savanna Habitat Restoration to Bioenergy will restore and enhance habitat while utilizing biomass markets to provide funds for further restoration work, and eliminate costs to dispose of woody vegetation on-site. This program will remove invasive woody vegetation, plant native species, and support burns and other treatments to restore and enhance 800 acres of quality wildlife habitat within 75 miles of metro biomass markets by the summer of 2011. More than 7000 suitable acres of woodlands and oak savannas have been identified on dedicated conservation lands. All lands will be open to public access for appropriate recreational use.

¹ Project Partners: Anoka County, Audubon Minnesota, Belwin Conservancy, City of Burnsville, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, Minnesota Conservation Corps, City of St. Paul, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ruffed Grouse Society, MN Sharptailed Grouse Society.

² \$80,000 Est. biomass revenue (25,000 tons X \$3/ton + 500 tons X \$10/ton - depending on markets at time of work) These funds will be invested in further project work @ 85%/15% contracts/management.

³These activities, while not formally a part of the project, are preparation necessary to achieve restoration objectives.

Generalized budget:

Budget Item	Outdoor Heritage Fund \$\$	Other Fund \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Salaries/benefits	\$ 112,000/\$31,000	\$27,000/\$8,000	\$178,000
Contracts	\$800,000	\$180,000	\$980,000
Equipment (> \$5000)			
Materials, supplies	\$4000	\$3000	\$7000
(educational signage)	\$3000	\$1000	\$4000
Travel	\$8000		\$8000
Land (fee, easement)			NA
Other: Financial mgmt, audits, Liability Insur.	\$42,000		\$42,000
Project Total	\$1,000,000	\$219,000	\$1,219,000
Pre-project work		\$50,000	\$50,000
Grand Total	\$1,000,000	\$269,000	\$1,269,000

How long-term costs for sustaining project and monitoring will be met:

Project funds will only be invested with properties that have:

- Permanent dedication to conservation;
- High ecological value or recovery potential or other outstanding public conservation purpose (such as high community or educational benefit) - priority will be given to sites ranked as outstanding or high by the Minnesota County Biological Survey;
- A current Management Plan (10 years old or less) that clearly articulates ecological restoration goals, as well as management and monitoring activities necessary to achieve those goals;
- Demonstrated resource capacity and commitment by landowner and/or partners for longer-term management follow-up work to fully achieve and maintain ecological restoration goals; and
- Demonstrated capacity of the landowner/partners to provide project management services to coordinate all aspects of this project including the tracking and reporting of fiscal information, and the assumption of appropriate liability relating to the project activities.

How local governments will be involved and informed: Some projects will take place on city, county or township conservation properties. Interest has already been expressed by private and public partners for projects in: Anoka, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Rice, Sherburne and Wright counties; and for sites in the cities of Saint Paul, Blaine, Burnsville, and Roseville. Units of DNR lands have been proposed for restoration, including WMAs, forests, and SNAs. Project coordination will include informing adjoining landowners and communities of management activities, with the opportunity for utilizing project biomass staging areas to deposit biomass removed from other properties in the area. (Cross-the-fence coordination to expand ecological benefits and limit the reintroduction of undesirable species.)

Describe how many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs this will provide: 18

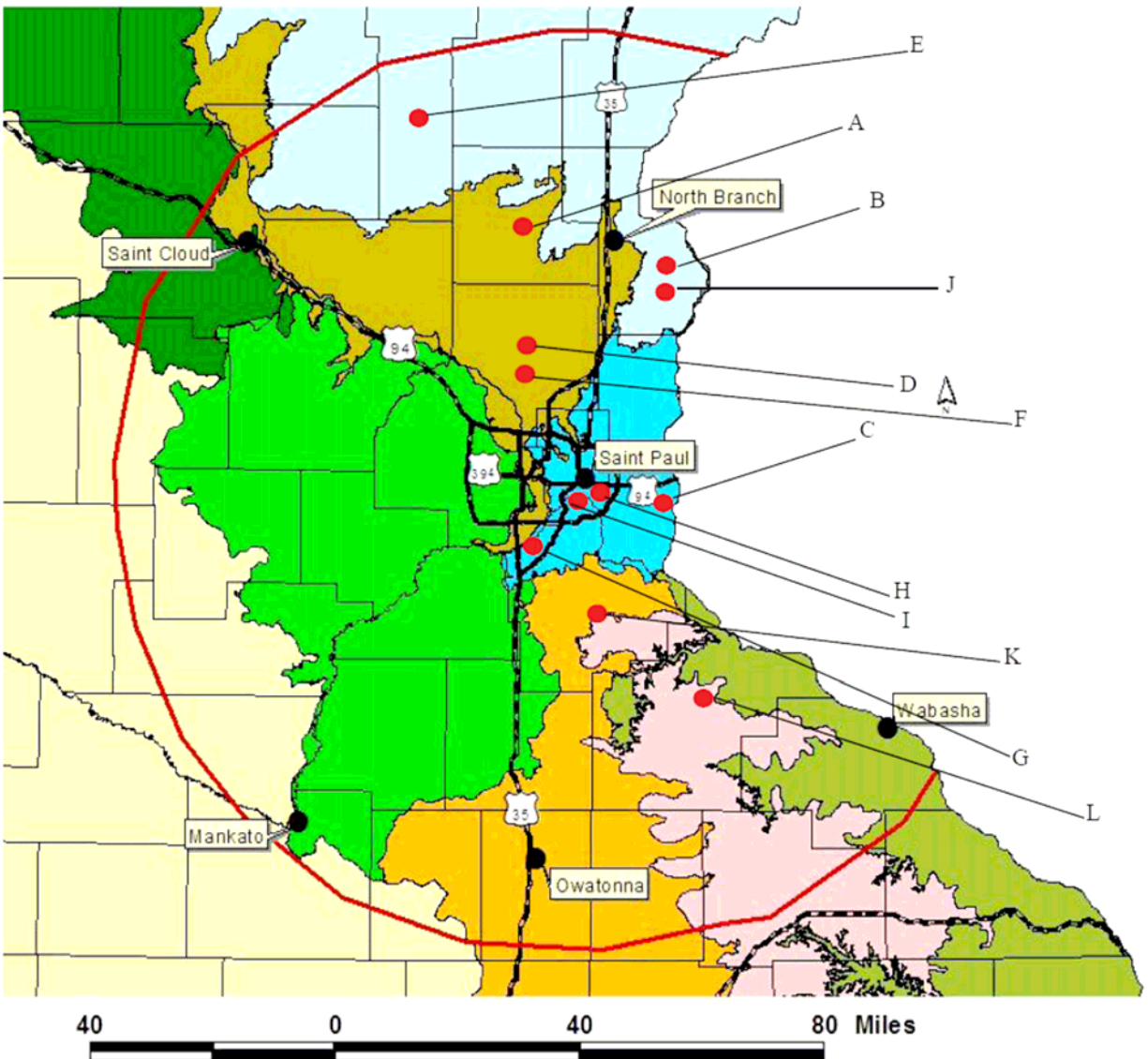
- Hand harvest, planting and/or burn crews: 8 FTE
- Professional harvest equipment operators: 1.5 FTE
- Grinding and Trucking of Biomass: 1.5 FTE
- Landowner planning, management coordination and volunteer supervision: 2 FTE
- Landowner matching management activities: 2 FTE
- Project Direction, Management and Administration: 3 FTE

How this proposal will provide access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation:

All projects will be conducted on land open for public recreational use including fishing and hunting, if compatible with the conservation purposes of the land. All private lands will be open to public use.

Other considerations: With the decline in the economy, the cost for hiring contractors for such work has declined precipitously in the past year; this is the time to achieve more conservation work for the money. This program will link the interest in renewable energy to habitat restoration, creating a new economic model for conservation. Audubon Minnesota will coordinate a Program Advisory Committee composed of NGO and public agency partners to select projects that ensure timely restoration and enhancement of high quality wildlife habitat, open for public use.

75-mile radius around St. Paul



- A: Dalbo Wildlife Management Area - Isanti County - 150 acres of oak woodland restoration
- B: Janet Johnson Wildlife Management Area - Chisago County: 20 acre savanna restoration
- C: Belwin Conservancy - Washington County (along St. Croix, Katie) 150 acres oak woodlands, oak savanna and prairie
- D: Anoka County - 65 acre oak savanna - Coon Rapids Dam
- E: Four Brooks Wildlife Management Area - Mille Lacs County - 200 acres of aspen age-class and species diversification (cutting and planting) for wildlife management purposes
- F: Blaine Airport Rich Fen SNA - Anoka County - 50 acre oak savanna restoration and burn
- G: City of Burnsville - up to 200 acres of oak savanna and oak woodland
- H: Highwood Nature Reserve, Henry and Indian Mounds Regional Park - City of St. Paul, 27 acres of oak savanna restoration
- I: Crosby Farms and Lilydale Regional Park - City of St. Paul, sites adjacent to MCBS High Biodiversity forest - 18 acres of Oak forest lowland/floodplain forest restoration within the Twin Cities Mississippi River Important Bird Area, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
- J: Franconia Bluffs SNA - Chisago County (southern, along River, Katie) MCBS High Biodiversity Site: remove 14 acre conifer plantation, oak woodland and savanna restoration
- K: Vermillion Highlands WMA - 15 acres of oak savanna restoration in Dakota County
- L: Hoffman Springbrook Valley WMA - 10 acres of Bluff Prairie in Goodhue County



Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal – F9
Forest Habitat Type

Your name: Wayne Ostlie
Your organization: Great River Greening
Mailing address: 35 W Water Street, Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55107
Phone/fax number: 651-665-9500 x19
Email address: wostlie@greatrivergreening.org

Program/project short name: St. Croix Bluffland Forest Restoration (Franconia-Scandia Corridor)

FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested: \$312,000

Additional funds leveraged and source: \$14,500

Expected outcomes at completion: Restore and enhance – through removal of woody/alien invasive species and planting of native plants/seeds – 400 acres of oak forest and floodplain habitat within publicly-owned managed areas of the Franconia-Scandia Corridor.

Short narrative of program/project, location(s), timeline for completion and measures of success: The deciduous forests along the west banks of the 6-mile stretch of the St. Croix River between Scandia and Franconia, Minnesota are identified as critical wildlife habitat². However, this wildlife habitat has received little active management or restoration attention. Invasive species are just now beginning to make a foothold in the area and without immediate intervention will greatly impact the quality of this habitat and elevate the cost of remediation. This proposal – focused on public lands (NPS St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and two DNR SNAs) – complements an existing Landowner Incentive Program administered by Great River Greening focused on private lands in the Corridor. Timeline: September 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011.

Generalized Budget:

Budget Item	Outdoor Heritage Funds \$\$	Other State Funds \$\$	Other Funds \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Salaries/benefits	230,000	2,000	9,000	\$241,000
Contracts	32,000			\$32,000
Equipment (> \$5000)	5,000	3,000		\$5,000
Supplies (seed, plants, herbicide, etc.)	45,000		500	\$45,500
Travel	3,000			\$3,000
Land (fee, easement)				
Other (list)				
Total	\$312,000	5,000	9,500	\$326,500

² As identified in Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. The site is also included within an Audubon Society Important Bird Area.

Describe how long-term costs for sustaining project, monitoring and/or addressing property tax implications will be met:

Since wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement is an ongoing need at these sites, it is critical that strong partnerships develop to deliver funding and expertise to ensure long-term benefits in line with management goals. After initial restoration work is completed, respective management agencies will maintain these areas over the long term in line with current management plans. Project partners will continue to work with these agencies to secure funds and continue enhancement of these lands for the benefit of wildlife populations. Project partners and respective agencies will include long-term monitoring plans within site management plans to ensure efforts are producing desired results and to adaptively manage their respective sites.

Describe how local governments will be involved/informed if relevant:

The project team will actively and regularly communicate the project goals and corresponding progress with townships, counties and watershed districts in the Corridor. Our team will encourage local communities to become active participants in the project. Linking local communities to the restoration and management of these habitats and their wildlife is a goal of the project.

Describe how many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs this will provide:

4.5 FTE. Restoration Crews (3 FTE); Restoration project management and coordination (1.5FTE). Indirect FTEs approximates 0.8 FTE.

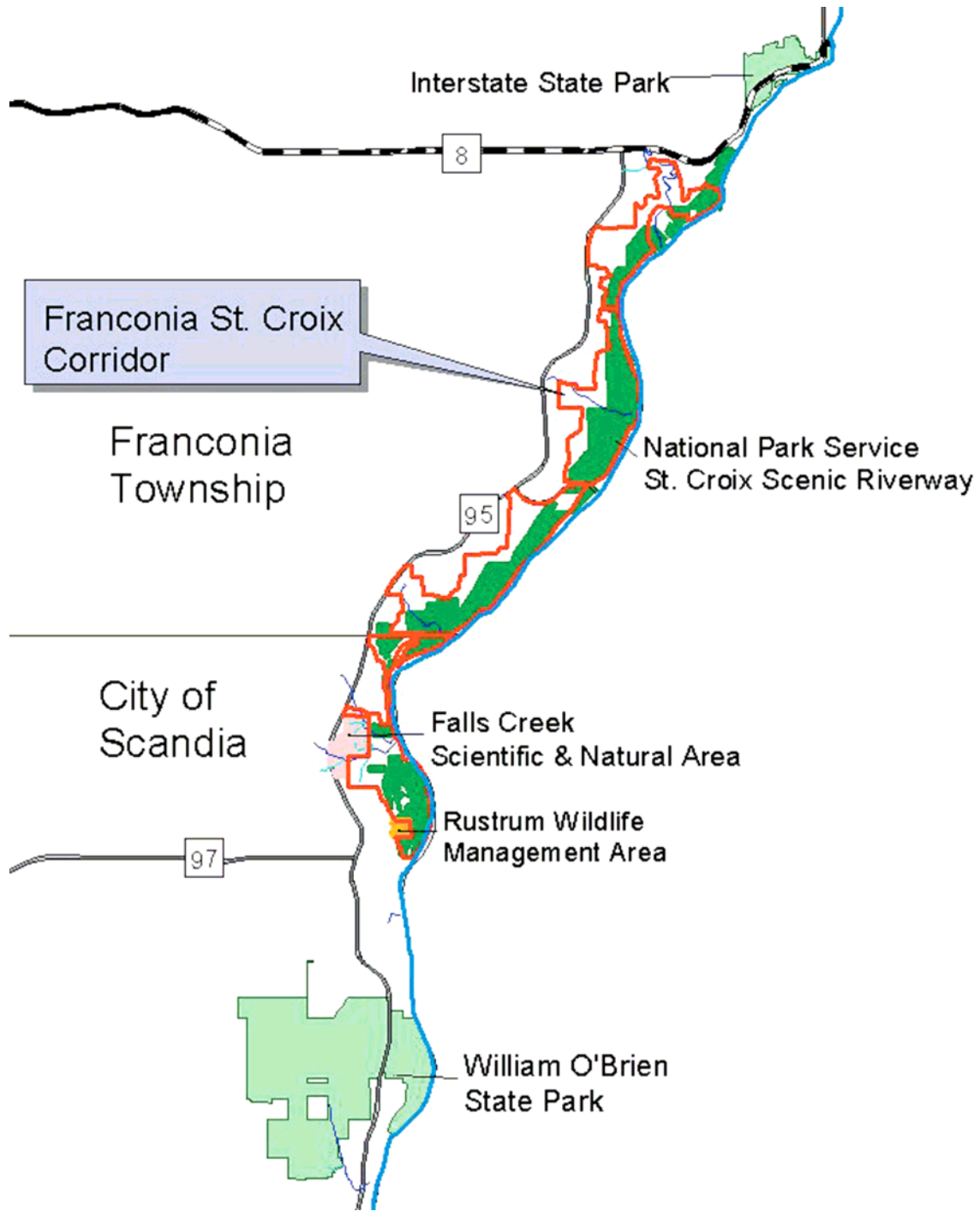
Describe how this project will provide public access for hunting, fishing and other recreation:

All lands the focus of restoration activities are open for public access, and most if not all for hunting and fishing in line with respective management plans. Restoration actions are designed to enhance the quality of habitat to the benefit of associated wildlife; as such, the quality of the experience – particularly for hunters, bird watchers, and other recreational users – will be significantly enhanced.

Other considerations:

Specific restoration activities include:

- 1) Planting of 15-acre old field to oak woodland at Franconia SNA
 - a. collection of seed for germination/growing at State Forest Nursery
 - b. collection and direct seeding of oak acorns
 - c. purchase and erection of deer exclosure fence
- 2) Buckthorn and garlic mustard control over 400 acres of SNA and NPS lands



Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal – F10 Forest Habitat Type

Your name: Russell Sewell

Your organization: Ruffed Grouse Society

Mailing address: 69820 Wolf Creek Road, Bruno, MN 55712

Phone/fax number: 320-838-3608 (O), 612-390-0204 (C)

Email address: rgsmn@frontiernet.net

Program/project short name: Meeting Hunter Expectations Through Intensive Ruffed Grouse Habitat Management

FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested: \$ 550,000.00 – total with following assumptions – average of \$500 / mile of trail rehabilitation and \$250 / acre of shrub or aspen regeneration on 1100 miles of access trails.

Additional funds leveraged and source: \$54,000.00 –requested with following assumptions – \$300 / day for personnel costs from county, state, federal, and Ruffed Grouse Society managers and staff needed to identify and administer treatments for 90 days per annum for 2009 and 2010.

Expected outcomes at completion:

Short narrative of program/project, location(s), timeline for completion and measures of success:

Aspen forest habitats are essential to Minnesota’s ruffed grouse, American woodcock, and numerous other wildlife species, including neo-tropical songbirds. State and Federal Agency land management plans project a significant, long-term loss of aspen and other young forest habitats. To meet the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) goal of sustaining the ruffed grouse harvest at 650,000 per year, to meet the goals outlined in the newly released “ American woodcock Conservation Plan” and the “ Ruffed Grouse Conservation Plan”, and to maintain funding generated from wildlife watching in MN, it will be imperative to intensify aspen habitat management. Intensive management on public lands throughout central and northern Minnesota will include establishing or refurbishing herbaceous openings to provide forage for mature ruffed grouse and insects for young chicks, as well as breeding grounds for woodcock. In addition, areas of upland shrubs and aspen will be regenerated to diversify habitat conditions.

General Budget:

Budget Item	Outdoor Heritage Fund	Other Fund	Total Funds
Salaries/ Benefits		\$54,000.00	\$54,000.00
Contracts	\$550,000.00		\$550,000.00
Equipment			
Materials, Supplies			
Travel		\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
Land (fee, easement)			
Other			
Total Funds	\$550,000.00	\$56,700.00	\$606,700.00

Long-term Maintenance: The Ruffed Grouse Society will build upon its existing efforts to encourage local Society Chapters or area sportsmen's clubs to adopt one or more specific project sites to maintain the long-term integrity of these herbaceous openings. This will be accomplished either by raising outside funding to contract the necessary on-the-ground work or through volunteer workdays.

Collaboration with Local Governments: Close coordination between the Ruffed Grouse Society and natural resource managers at the County, State and Federal levels will aid in the selection and distribution of specific project sites that will optimize habitat benefits to ruffed grouse, woodcock, songbirds and other wildlife that depend upon young forests for their survival.

Employment Provided: Approximately 6 Full-Time Equivalents will be required to complete the on-the-ground implementation of the proposed habitat management activities.

Public Access Benefits: Currently overgrown logging roads or foot-trail systems will likely account for the majority of project sites scheduled for management. Due to reductions in available funding over the past 10-15 years, most agencies have significantly reduced the maintenance of these sites and thus severely reduced public access opportunities – both for hunting and other forms of recreation. The re-establishment of these systems will greatly enhance public access to public forestlands for all user groups. Data suggest that the average ruffed grouse hunter (120,000 in MN) spends a minimum of \$500 per year on grouse hunting related expenditures.

Additional Benefits: The development of these herbaceous and young-forest openings will benefit numerous species of game and non-game wildlife. The legumes commonly used to revegetate these openings retain their nutritional value late into the fall and provide a source of quality forage early in the spring. This nutritious forage at these times of the year when other sources of food are limited can be extremely important to white-tailed deer, black bear and wild turkey, as well as ruffed grouse.

Numerous species of nongame wildlife will benefit by sustaining upland shrub and young aspen habitats through periodic management. These include the brown thrasher, golden-winged warbler, mourning warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, and eastern towhee, all of which are experiencing significant long-term population declines throughout eastern North America. Indeed, the golden-winged warbler is one of the most imperiled songbirds of our eastern deciduous forests. Shrub-dominated and young forest habitats in north-central Minnesota, which is the very heart of the range of the golden-winged warbler, support approximately 42% of the global population of this species. The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2006 Americans spent \$45 Billion dollars watching, photographing, and feeding wildlife. Thirteen billion dollars was spent on lodging, food and transportation

Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal – F11

Forest Habitat Type

Your name: Adam Robbins

Your organization: Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

Mailing address: 1100 Hamline Ave N., Saint Paul, MN 55108

Phone/fax number: 651-632-2457(phone) 651-632-5115(fax)

Email address: adam.robbins@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Program/project short name: Urban Forest Management & Reforestation

FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested: \$450,000

Additional funds leveraged and source: \$150,000

- \$40,000 City and partner cash and in-kind salary match
- \$60,000 materials and equipment in-kind
- \$50,000 in-kind volunteer labor
- \$50,000 *National Park Service (pending approval)*

Expected outcomes at completion:

- Restore 125 acres of highly significant forest habitat
- Plant 6,250 bareroot trees and shrubs
- Involve 850 community volunteers in the restoration process

Short narrative of program/project, location(s), timeline for completion and measures of success: This program will restore and enhance 125 acres of native woodland through non-native woody species removal and reforestation efforts. Project work will occur in 340 acres of native woodland habitat identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as having high biological diversity, or within unique forest restoration opportunities identified in site-specific management plans. Projects will be completed by June 30, 2011. Removal of non-native invasive species will increase connectedness of high-quality forests, increase the probability of a self-sustaining forest community, reduce sedimentation of impaired waterbodies, and improve habitat for wildlife.

Generalized budget:

Budget Item	Outdoor Heritage Fund \$\$	Other State Funds \$\$	Other Non-State Funds \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Salaries/benefits	\$170,000 (2 FTE tree workers – tree removal, monitoring, watering) \$20,000 (contractor management)		\$40,000	\$230,000
Contracts	\$150,000 (1 FTE – incl. 1,100 – 1,500 trees) \$60,000 (1 FTE – brush hauling & burning)			\$210,000
Equipment (> \$5000)			\$50,000	\$50,000
Materials, supplies	\$35,000 (trees/shrubs/seed) \$15,000 (erosion materials, herbicide)		\$10,000	\$60,000
Other (volunteer labor)			\$50,000	\$50,000
Total	\$450,000		\$150,000	\$600,000

Describe how long-term costs for sustaining project, monitoring and/or addressing property tax implications will be met:

- Saint Paul Parks Natural Resource staff, along with various partnering agencies, engaged over 3,200 volunteers totaling 11,000 hours in our natural areas in 2008, our goal is to increase this volunteer commitment.
- Saint Paul Parks and Recreation has previously, or is in the process of, restoring parkland adjacent to the proposed project locations. Current management activities can be easily modified to include new acreage created through this program
- Management plans exist for these sites. These plans identify well-timed maintenance, site monitoring activities, and overall ecological goals and objectives.
 - Cherokee Park Prairie Ecological Inventory and Management Plan (2002)
 - West Side Bluff Ecological Inventory and Vegetation Management Plan (2001)
 - Natural Resource Inventory and Management Plan of Indian Mounds Park (2007)
 - Crosby Farm Regional Park Ecological Inventory and Management Plan (2005)
 - Highwood Park Nature Preserve Management Recommendations (2001)
 - East Mississippi Bluffs Management Plan (2002)
 - Lilydale Regional Park Natural Resources Management Plan (2009)

Describe how local governments will be involved/informed if relevant:

The Saint Paul City Council, affected district councils, and district council committees will be notified and encouraged to participate in the marketing of this program. As Saint Paul Parks and Recreation relies on volunteer involvement to maintain the natural areas within our park system, we will solicit volunteers from the surrounding neighborhood and the greater Saint Paul community through press releases, on-site publicity, postcard mailings, and through partnering agencies.

Describe how many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs this will provide: 4 FTE

Describe how this project will provide public access for hunting, fishing and other recreation:

City of Saint Paul ordinance prohibits hunting on parkland unless authorized through special permit. All city parkland is open to public fishing. Specifically, these projects will improve fish and wildlife habitat through the enhancement of native woodland ecosystems, they will provide erosion and sediment control adjacent to impaired waterbodies (the Mississippi River, Lake Como, Pigs Eye Lake, and Pickerel Lake), and provide for enhanced wildlife viewing opportunities.

Other considerations:

- This program will focus on significant land parcels within the Mississippi River Critical Area. Restorations will occur within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) and the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge Important Bird Area.
- \$50,000 in project proposals have been submitted to the federal government, by the National Park Service, for lands adjacent to our proposed project areas. These funds could be used as a direct cash match for this program.
- Due to budget constraints, approximately 0.5 FTE of tree worker time is dedicated to managing natural areas in our park system. The natural areas comprise over two-thirds of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation parkland. Program funding will supplement our current forest management practices to include high-quality urban forests in these natural areas.
- Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (11/01/2008) recommendations fulfilled by this program: H1 – Protect priority land habitats, H4 – Restore and protect shallow lakes, H5 – Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds, and H7 – Keep water on the landscape.

Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal – F12

Forests Habitat Type

Your name: John Elholm

Your organization: Washington County

Mailing address: 11660 Myeron Road North, Stillwater, MN 55082

Phone/fax number: (651) 430-4300

Email address: john.elholm@co.washington.mn.us

Program/project short name: Washington County Forest Health Initiative

FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested: \$300,000

Additional funds leveraged and source:

Expected outcomes at completion: 217 acres restored

Short narrative of program/project, location(s), timeline for completion and measures of success: This program restores native forests throughout Washington County. Washington County owns 217 acres of forests identified by the DNR's County Biological Survey as rare and unique plant communities. Locations have been identified in approved stewardship plans to restore 217 acres of forest. Work would begin in the fall of 2009 with invasive species removal & disease tree removal. Foliar treatments of woody invasive and herbicide treatments of invasive groundcover would occur in the spring of 2010. Native plants would be seeded and installed in the spring of 2011. The new plots would be incorporated into the County's current natural resource management program, which includes periodic controlled burns. Success will be measured by the species diversity, absence of non-native species, and acreages restored.

Generalized budget:

Budget Item	Outdoor Heritage Fund \$\$	Other State Fund \$\$	Other Fund \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Salaries/benefits				
Contracts	\$200,000			\$200,000
Equipment (> \$5000)				
Materials, supplies	\$100,000			\$100,000
Travel				
Land (fee, easement)				
Other (list)				
Total	\$300,000			\$300,000

Describe how long-term costs for sustaining project, monitoring and/or addressing property tax implications will be met: All lands proposed for restoration are county-owned. The projects will be monitored and sustained through the County's Natural Resource Management Program. Activities include spot spraying of invasive species, inter-seeding and planting of native groundcover, and planned controlled fire. Cost efficiencies are realized because County staff is trained in prescribed burns and the County owns appropriate equipment including tractors, mowers, and water trucks.

Describe how local governments will be involved/informed if relevant: Washington County has an excellent working relationship with local units of government and will inform and involve them when applicable. Local units of government are currently working in partnership with the Washington County on similar projects.

Describe how many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs this will provide: This project will involve the use of some existing staff, however, the bulk of the restoration work will involve private sector contractors and other local businesses. The exact number of FTEs is not known.

Describe how this project will provide public access for hunting, fishing and other recreation:

Local laws do not allow for hunting on these lands, however, other outdoor recreation activities such as wildlife watching and education would be enhanced by this project. Washington County also works collaboratively with local sportsmen groups to improve habitat and educate the public. Public access for hunting is located nearby.

Other considerations: Substantial investment is needed to halt the ecological decline of these habitats. Once re-established, the restoration areas will require far less investment to maintain.