Subd. 2. Prairies	**11 projects totaling $35,901,000**	
(a) RIM Grasslands Reserve, Phase 7	BWSR	$ 2,303,000
(b) Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program, Phase 18	Pheasants Forever	$ 4,460,000
(c) DNR Wildlife Management Area and Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Phase 18	MN DNR	$ 3,455,000
(d) Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition, Phase 10	Fox Lake Conservation League, DU, TCF	$ 2,977,000
(e) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Phase 16	The Nature Conservancy	$ 3,046,000
(f) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Program, Phase 14	The Nature Conservancy	$ 3,445,000
(g) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of Southern Red River Valley, Phase 12	Pheasants Forever	$ 3,053,000
(h) RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water, Phase 12	BWSR	$ 3,694,000
(i) Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program, Phase 6	Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever	$ 4,448,000
(j) DNR Grassland Enhancement, Phase 17	MN DNR	$ 2,111,000
(k) Enhanced Public Land – Grasslands, Phase 9	Pheasants Forever	$ 2,909,000
Subd. 3. Forests	**4 projects totaling $36,780,000**	
(a) Northern Forests Legacy Project	MN DNR, St. Louis County	$ 25,090,000
(b) Sand Lake and Sever Beavers Acquisition and Enhancement	The Nature Conservancy	$ 7,248,000
(c) Hardwood Hills Habitat Conservation Program, Phase 3	MN Land Trust, St. John's University	$ 2,524,000
(d) DNR Forest Habitat Enhancement, Phase 6	MN DNR	$ 1,918,000
Subd. 4. Wetlands	**8 projects totaling $32,755,000**	
(a) Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Acquisition Program, Phase 18	Pheasants Forever	$ 5,358,000
(b) RIM Wetlands—Restoring Most Productive Habitat in Minnesota, Phase 15	BWSR	$ 3,455,000
(c) Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection and Restoration Program, Phase 15	Ducks Unlimited	$ 6,005,000
(d) Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program, Phase 11	MN Land Trust	$ 3,167,000
(e) Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement and Restoration Initiative, Phase 12	Ducks Unlimited	$ 6,571,000
(f) Talcot Lake	MN DNR	$ 1,000,000
(g) Roseau Lake Rehabilitation, Phase 3	Roseau River Watershed District	$ 3,505,000
(h) Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement, Phase 18	MN DNR	$ 3,694,000
Subd. 5. Habitats	**27 projects totaling $81,330,000**	
(a) Riparian Habitat Protection in Kettle and Snake River Watersheds, Phase 3	BWSR, Pine County SWCD	$ 1,122,000
(b) Cannon River Watershed Habitat Restoration and Protection Program, Phase 15	Clean River Partners, TPL	$ 2,847,000
(c) DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition and Trout Stream Easement Acquisition	MN DNR	$ 2,153,000
(d) Washington County Habitat Protection and Enhancement Partnership, Phase 2	Washington County, MLT	$ 2,774,000
(e) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes, Phase 12	Northern Waters Land Trust	$ 2,286,000
(f) Greenbelt, Phase 1	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	$ 1,448,000
(g) Integrating Habitat and Clean Water, Phase 4	BWSR	$ 1,803,000
(h) Metro Big Rivers, Phase 16	MVNWRT, FMR, GRG, TPL	$ 6,685,000
(i) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project, Phase 10	Mississippi Headwaters Board, BWSR, TPL	$ 2,733,000
(j) Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on Minnesota's North Shore, Phase 4	MN Land Trust	$ 1,673,000
(k) Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance, Phase 5	MN Land Trust, NWLT	$ 2,943,000
(l) Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program, Phase 2	RRWMB, BWSR	$ 3,867,000
(m) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program, Phase 15	Shell Rock River Watershed District	$ 2,039,000
(n) Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration, Phase 14	Trust for Public Land, TNC, MLT	$ 7,849,000
(o) St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase 7	Wild Rivers Conservancy, TPL, MLT	$ 3,807,000
(p) Upper Mississippi Flyway Habitat Conservation Program	Minnesota Land Trust	$ 2,127,000
(q) A River of Birds in the Sky: Conserving Minnesota's Flyway	National Audubon Society	$ 1,211,000
(r) Bone Lake South, Phase 2	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	$ 1,413,000
(s) DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement, Phase 9	MN DNR	$ 6,429,000
(t) Little Cannon River Stream Habitat Restoration	Clean River Partners, GRG, TU	$ 500,000
(u) Mission Creek Watershed Connectivity	MN DNR	$ 1,279,000
(v) Mud River Enhancement Project	Red Lake Watershed District	$ 2,917,000
(w) Oak Savanna Restoration for Living Landscapes	BWSR	$ 1,679,000
(x) Swift Coulee Channel Restoration and Enhancement, Phase 2	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD	$ 2,635,000
(y) Woods Creek Restoration	Cook County	$ 750,000
(z) Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat Enhancement and Protection	Trout Unlimited	$ 750,000
(aa) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat, Phase 18	MN DNR	$13,611,000
Subd. 6. Administration	**5 items totaling $2,156,000**	
(a) Contract Management	MN DNR	$ 450,000
(b) Core Functions in Partner-Led OHF Land Acquisitions	MN DNR	$ 1,377,000
(c) Technical Evaluation Panel	MN DNR	$ 189,000
(d) Legislative Coordinating Commission	LCC	$ 140,000

OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND
Recommendations Bill Summary
Fiscal Year 2027

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Recommendations — FY2027

LSOHC Recommendations Highlights

In the eighteenth year of Outdoor Heritage Funding (OHF), the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council is recommending a total of 53 programs be funded by the MN Legislature for a total of $188,922,000.

- 68,754 acres of wildlife habitat throughout Minnesota is estimated to be restored, enhanced, and/or protected.
- 40 miles of shoreline will be restored, enhanced and/or protected.
- An additional $15,129,000 in federal, local government, and private conservation funding is expected to be leveraged.
- 29 individual organizations are recommended for funding: 2 state agencies, 11 local units of government, 1 university, and 15 nonprofit organizations.
- Continued investment in robust, ongoing programs constitutes 75% of the recommended funding.
- 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.

Prescribed Fire / Invasive Cattail Removal
Voyageurs National Park utilized Outdoor Heritage Funding to treat and remove large areas of invasive non-native cattails within the Park. Invasive cattails have become an increasing threat within the Park and throughout the entire state of Minnesota.
(Photo Courtesy of VNP)

Rock Arch Rapids - The failing Pelican Rapids Dam in Pelican Rapids, MN was replaced with a rock arch rapids that improves aquatic habitat, allows fish passage, and enhances public safety. The Lessard-Sams Council toured the site in June 2025.

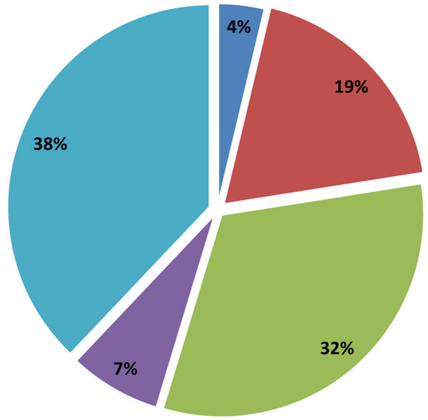
Constitutional Amendment - Article XI—Sec. 15.

...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...

www.lsohc.mn.gov

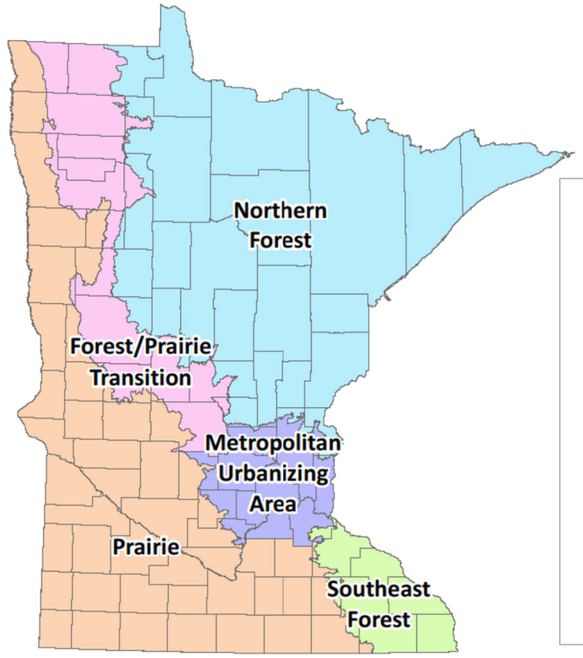
Output by ACRES



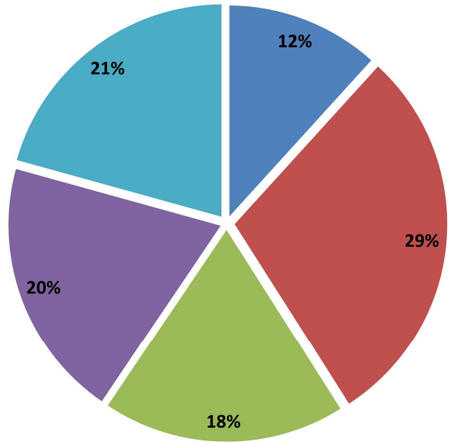
Acres by Activity

Total Acres: 68,852

- Restore - 2,566 acres
- Protect in Fee with PILT - 12,936 acres
- Protect in Fee w/o PILT - 22,149 acres
- Protect in Easement - 5,091 acres
- Enhance - 26,110 acres



Output by FUNDING

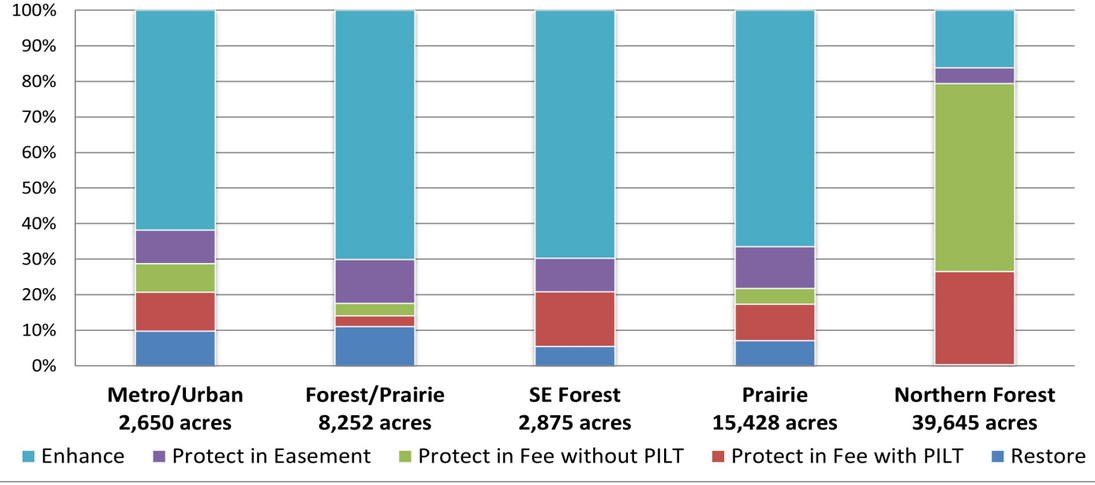


Funds by Activity

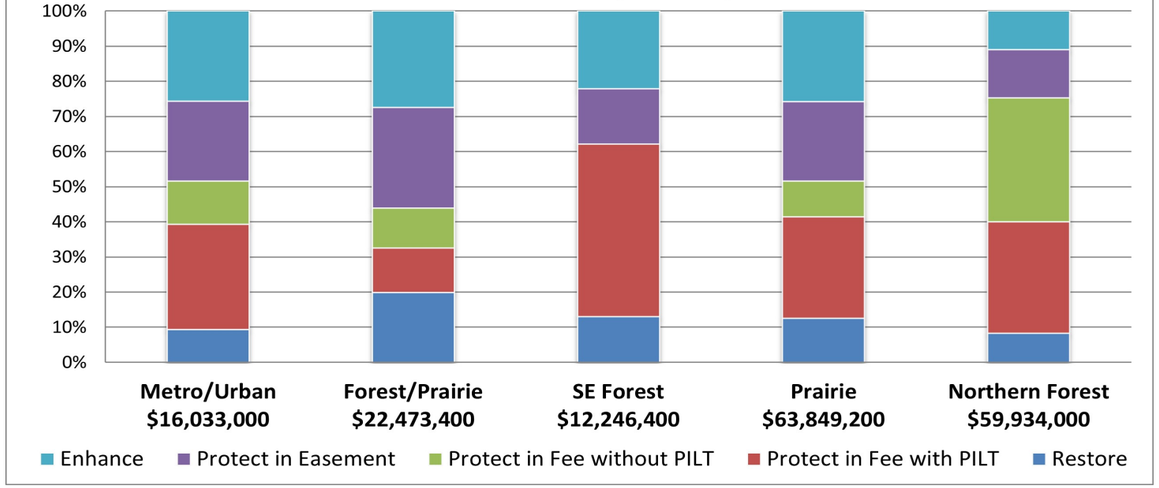
Total Funding: $174,407,000

- Restore - $20,476,600
- Protect in Fee with PILT - $51,011,500
- Protect in Fee w/o PILT - $32,199,200
- Protect in Easement - 34,622,000
- Enhance - $36,097,700

Distribution of ACRES by Ecological Section



Distribution of FUNDS by Ecological Section



RESOURCE TYPE (ACRES)

ACTIVITY	WETLANDS	PRAIRIES	FORESTS	HABITATS	TOTAL
Restore	733	791	514	528	2,566
Protect in Fee with PILT	168	1,445	9,933	1,390	12,936
Protect in Fee without PILT	153	939	20,880	177	22,149
Protect in Easement	317	1,955	1,567	1,252	5,091
Enhance	5,383	14,325	3,153	3,249	26,110
TOTAL	6,754	19,455	36,047	6,596	68,852
PERCENT	9.8%	28.3%	52.3%	9.6%	-

RESOURCE TYPE (FUNDING)

ACTIVITY	WETLANDS	PRAIRIES	FORESTS	HABITATS	TOTAL
Restore	$6,499,300	$2,483,100	$950,700	$10,543,500	$20,476,600
Protect in Fee with PILT	$2,105,200	$15,874,700	$14,706,600	$18,325,000	$51,011,500
Protect in Fee without PILT	$1,617,000	$8,744,600	$20,202,400	$1,635,200	$32,199,200
Protect in Easement	$2,504,000	$16,177,000	$6,105,000	$9,836,000	$34,622,000
Enhance	$12,448,500	$11,644,000	$4,123,000	$7,882,200	$36,097,700
TOTAL	$12,448,500	$54,923,400	$46,087,700	$48,221,900	$174,407,000
PERCENT	14.4%	31.5%	26.4%	27.6%	-