Request for Funding Form
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Fiscal Year 2011

Program or Project Title: **#35 Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Partnership**

Date: November 2, 2009

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	Council Funding Request	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
Funds Requested ($000s)	**FY 2011**	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	**$5,528**	$12,969	$4,569	$12,800

A. Summary: The Mississippi River is one of our nation's greatest treasures. Originating in Minnesota, we bear a responsibility as citizens of this state to protect and keep this mighty river flowing clean and with an abundance of fish and wildlife. This partnership, with funding from the LSOHC, will restore habitat connectivity and improve water quality in critical areas along the Mississippi River corridor from the Twin Cities to the Iowa border by reconnecting tributaries to the floodplain, revitalizing backwaters and channels, and protecting and enhancing floodplain wetlands, forests, and prairies that are essential to sustaining the incredible diversity of plants, animals, and human uses that are provided by this great river.

B. Background Information

1. **What is the problem or opportunity being addressed?** Once one of the nation's most diverse ecosystems, with an abundance of fish and wildlife, the Mississippi River has been degraded. Historically, this reach of the Mississippi from the Twin Cities to the Iowa border was an important travel corridor that attracted many cultures with its abundance of timber, fish and game, fertile prairies, floodplain wetlands, adjacent bluffs, and clear and numerous spring-fed streams. For centuries, native cultures traveled, camped and lived along this magnificent reach of river. In the mid 1800's, however, European settlers arrived and

forever changed the landscape by logging forests, converting prairies to farmland, channelizing and constructing levees along the tributaries, building cities and towns, and constructing wing dams and other structures for navigation.

Major tributaries, including the Root River and Zumbro River were channelized and leveed in their lower reaches near the Mississippi River in the early 1900's, isolating them from their floodplains except during high water events. Forests, wetlands, and prairies behind the levees were converted to agriculture or urban uses. Over 15,000 acres of native habitats were lost, fragmenting the natural habitat corridors that connected the Mississippi River to its tributaries and their watersheds that were essential to the many species of fish and wildlife that roamed this area. This was especially damaging to high quality wetlands that were found in these floodplains.

Construction of locks and dams in the 1930's changed the river into a series of navigation pools. Pools 1 (Minneapolis) through 9 (MN/IA border) are located in Minnesota. Initially, these pools increased marsh and wetland areas, creating numerous islands and deep backwaters. Fish and wildlife were abundant, with waterfowl hunting and fishing in the backwaters world renowned. Over time, however, the pools began filling with sediment and wind and boat waves eroded away islands. Increased drainage and turbid water runoff from southern Minnesota tributaries (especially the Minnesota River), along with urban pollution from the Twin Cities caused the reach from the mouth of the Minnesota River to Lake Pepin to become very turbid. By the 1960's, few fish were able to survive, aquatic vegetation nearly disappeared, and hunting, fishing, and other recreational opportunities in the river above Lake Pepin were almost non-existent.

The Clean Water Act in the 1970's helped reduce point source pollution, resulting in improved water quality and subsequent improvements to some fish and wildlife species. While conditions have improved from their worst levels, there remain serious problems. Sediment from non-point sources continues to be a detriment throughout this reach, currently filling Lake Pepin at a rate nearly ten times greater than occurred historically. Lake Pepin is now the sink for nearly 900,000 metric tons of sediment per year, mostly from the Minnesota River. At the current rate of filling which is equivalent to one city block covered with 100 feet of sediment each year, Lake Pepin will fill in just 300 years. The channels and backwaters along this reach (Twin Cities to Lake Pepin) remain one of the most degraded sections of the entire Upper Mississippi River System (Minneapolis to the mouth of the Ohio River).

Floodplain forests and oak savannas have also been impacted. Where the Vermillion and Cannon Rivers join the Mississippi, considerable state, federal, and private lands create one of the largest contiguous blocks of forest near a metropolitan area in the entire Mississippi River basin. These forests have been impacted by encroachment, invasive species, lack of floodwater scouring (resulting in reduced tree regeneration), and artificially high water levels from the locks and dams. Forest stand diversity (age and species of trees), along with interior forest birds that need large blocks of intact forest, have declined.

Combined these changes have resulted in the loss or degradation of approximately 700,000 acres (60%) of native prairie, wetland, and forest in the blufflands region of southeastern MN, which includes the 170 mile reach of the Mississippi River from the Twin Cities to the Iowa border. Fish and wildlife populations have suffered, with 82 species now considered rare, threatened, or endangered. The Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan lists more

species in greatest conservation need for the blufflands subsection than for any other subsection in Minnesota.

2. **What action will be taken?** Acquisition of fee title or permanent conservation easements will be completed in the lower reaches of the Cannon, Zumbro, and Root Rivers adjacent to the Mississippi River (from their mouth at the Mississippi River approximately 10 miles upstream). Landowners have expressed written or verbal interest in fee title acquisition or permanent conservation easements for all parcels included in this proposal. Once acquired, these sites will be managed as State Wildlife Management Areas, State Forests, Scientific and Natural Areas, Aquatic Management Areas, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge lands, or remain in private ownership but protected by a permanent conservation easement. Floodplain forest, prairie, and wetlands will be protected and/or restored on these sites to reestablish the large and connected habitat corridors that previously existed for fish and wildlife. Prairie restoration will include oak savanna, goat prairies on steep bluffs adjacent to river floodplains, and wet prairies.

   Islands that have eroded and disappeared over time will be reconstructed in Mississippi River Pool 2 and Pool 3 (in/near the Twin Cities metropolitan area) to increase aquatic vegetation and improve fish and wildlife habitat in the severely degraded pools above Lake Pepin. Similar islands have been built in other Mississippi River Pools further down river with good success. In addition, backwater areas adjacent to the islands will be dredged to top the islands with soils suitable for establishment of prairie and/or forest. Dredging will increase depth and improve habitat for fish, especially during winter when many species require deeper water for survival.

   Low summer water levels which occurred naturally prior to the locks and dams will be restored by completing water level drawdowns in Mississippi River Pools 2 and 3. Drawdowns of 1.5 feet at Lock and Dam #5 (north of Winona) and Lock and Dam #8 (near LaCrosse) were successful in increasing aquatic vegetation and improving habitat for fish and wildlife. Similar results would be anticipated from 1.5-2' drawdowns in Pools 2 and 3. Funding is needed to complete additional dredging to maintain navigation and recreational access.

   Combined, these actions will help meet the life history needs of important bird and other fish and wildlife species that depend on large tracts of intact and healthy forests, wetlands, rivers, and prairies. Rare species will especially benefit from increased habitat and greater connectivity. Protection will also prevent the habitat degradation and soil erosion that would result from urban developments in this fragile region.

3. **Who will take action and when?** The following partners have been actively involved in implementing projects and programs along the Mississippi River corridor and throughout the watersheds of the Cannon, Zumbro, and Root Rivers for many years. These partners have protected and restored forests, wetlands, and prairies through their individual acquisition and private lands assistance programs, and helped reduced turbidity and sediment in the Mississippi and its tributaries through TMDL and watershed conservation efforts. This proposal brings together these partners to better integrate programs and projects, with each partner providing unique expertise and local contacts that are necessary to implement a project on this scale. Partners will participate as follows:

   - **Audubon**

- Public outreach – project promotion and public education
- Project planning and coordination
- Volunteer recruitment
- Resource inventory and monitoring

- **Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota (BALMM**)
  - Coordination with local governments and watershed districts/organizations
- **Cannon River Watershed Partnership**
  - Outreach and volunteer coordination for Cannon River watershed
- **Conservation Fund**
  - Acquisition of high priority tracts for transfer to state or federal agency
  - Provide gap financing as necessary
- **Friends of the Mississippi River**
  - Landowner outreach and negotiation
- **Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance**
  - Advocacy for Lake Pepin TMDL implementation
  - Public outreach and stakeholder involvement
- **MN Board of Water and Soil Resources**
  - Administer and coordinate acquisition of RIM easements on private lands through SWCD's
- **Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources**
  - Lead agency – will provide overall partnership coordination
  - Coordinate acquisition process with party vendors
  - Administer funding and coordinate restoration activities
  - Own and manage acquired properties
- **Minnesota Forest Resources Council**
  - Technical assistance for forest restoration
- **Minnesota Land Trust**
  - party vendor for acquisition and/or donations of permanent private conservation easements
  - Landowner contacts
  - On-going stewardship of permanent private easements held by Minnesota Land Trust
  - Annual monitoring of permanent private easements held by Minnesota Land Trust
- **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**
  - Coordinate TMDL planning and implementation efforts with local governments and watershed groups
- **National Park Service**
  - Education, outreach and communication
  - Coordination with local stakeholders
- **Soil and Water Conservation Districts** – Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, Houston Counties

        - Coordination and project implementation for the Mississippi Makeover Project (island and drawdown projects) – Dakota County
        - Continued collaboration with local governments and watershed management organizations to implement watershed standards, install best management practices, and carry out educational programs
        - Work with landowners to implement permanent easements
        - Assist landowners with private lands technical assistance
    - **Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board**
        - Coordination with local governments
    - **The Nature Conservancy**
        - party vendor for land acquisition
        - Landowner contacts
        - Project promotion and education
    - **The Trust for Public Land**
        - Negotiate acquisition agreements and obtain site control from landowners
        - Perform due diligence such as appraisals, environmental assessments, title investigation, etc.
        - Develop public support for projects
        - Help raise additional funding and financing for acquisitions
        - Coordinate final disposition and restoration activities
    - **US Fish and Wildlife Service**
        - Provide personnel and equipment to assist with restorations, management, and maintenance
        - Own and manage properties that are acquired as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System
        - Utilize the USFWS acquisition process if needed
        - Landowner contacts
        - Private lands funding for restoration efforts on non-fee title lands
        - Offer currently protected lands for restoration and management
        - Provide support for island building and water level management projects
    - **Zumbro Watershed Partnership**
        - Education/outreach
        - Planning/coordination

4. **How will you coordinate this program with other Constitutional Funding?** This partnership will benefit primarily habitat, however, there will be secondary benefits for clean water. Any related efforts will be coordinated with other funding sources, such as Clean Water Council and LCCMR.

   In addition to Constitutional Funding from Minnesota, there are federal programs that could help accomplish the work outlined in this proposal. The Federal Environmental Management Program (EMP) provides funding for habitat restoration projects on the Mississippi River from the Twin Cities to St. Louis. Projects on federal lands are funded at 100% federal cost, while projects on non-federal lands require a 35% cost share. The

island construction projects identified in this proposal could potentially be completed with 35% cost share, however, these projects would need to compete for limited funding with projects in other states along the Mississippi River. The process of project selection takes several years and funding is not certain.

Also, the Navigation Environmental Sustainability Program (NESP) was authorized by Congress in 2007 and could potentially provide 100% federal funding for the island construction and drawdown projects identified in this proposal. However, funding is tied to the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and is not anticipated to be available for NESP projects until 2018. In addition, projects under NESP would undergo a competitive prioritization and ranking process and funding is not certain.

Island construction and drawdown projects on the main channel or backwaters of the Mississippi River will require permits and other documentation (i.e. environmental review) from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

5. **What specific habitat changes will occur if this item is funded?** There will be multiple habitat benefits resulting from this proposal including an increase in the number of forested acres, wetlands, prairies, and Mississippi River backwater acres protected and restored. Specifically, there will be 268 acres of forest protected; 330 acres of forest restored; 40 acres of wetlands protected; 377 acres of wetlands restored; and 40 acres of prairie restored. In addition, design and engineering will be completed for island and drawdown projects that will lead to 1,000 acres of Mississippi River backwaters restored (including 122 acres of forested islands and 1,000 acres of restored aquatic vegetation). In addition, these projects will improve water quality and reduce sedimentation in the Mississippi River, Lower Cannon, Lower Zumbro, and Lower Root Rivers.

6. **When do you expect to see these habitat changes?** Acquisitions for funding provided in FY2011 would be completed by 2013 and restoration and enhancement projects on acquired parcels completed by 2014. Additional acquisitions and restoration activities will be completed if funding is available in subsequent years. Design and engineering for island projects and drawdowns would be completed by 2012. This work is essential to completing the island and drawdown projects if funding is provided for construction in subsequent years.

7. **Will your Outdoor Heritage Fund dollar request complete the planned accomplishments?**

   __X__ YES _____ NO

8. **How will you pay for the maintenance of the accomplishments?** Maintenance will be completed by partner agencies. For state owned lands, it will be primarily the responsibility of the MN Dept. of Natural Resources. Lands acquired that are within the authorized acquisition boundary of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge will

become part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's and managed and maintained as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. For permanent easements held by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (working through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts) and the Minnesota Land Trust, the private landowner is responsible for compliance with the terms of the conservation easement and the Board of Water and Soil Resources and Minnesota Land Trust are responsible for annual monitoring for compliance and enforcement of easement terms.

It is important to note that additional responsibilities without additional staff will be challenging and future maintenance funding from LSOHC should be considered. However, the partners are willing to take on this additional work load if necessary.

9. **How does this action directly restore, enhance, or protect prairies, wetlands, forests, or habitat for fish, game, and wildlife?** The activities of this partnership are focused directly on restoration and protection of prairies, wetlands, forests, and habitat. All activities from acquisition to restoration will result in "on the ground" projects that increase the amount and quality of habitat. Conversion of agricultural lands in flood prone areas to prairie, wetland, and forest is an important objective of this effort.

10. **If you are restoring or enhancing property, is the activity on permanently protected land?**

    __X__ YES _____ NO

    All properties would be either publicly owned (state or federal wildlife management areas, state forests, or Scientific and Natural Areas) or under permanent easements, such as Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM).

11. **How will you ensure transparency and provide information about your work and use of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars?** Frequent updates will be provided to the partnership and Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council describing acquisition and restoration activities. Reports and news releases summarizing progress and results will be made available to the LSOHC and interested public. All funds expended will be tracked and monitored using MN Dept of Natural Resources and/or MN Board of Water and Soil Resources administrative processes. Websites of the various partners will be linked to provide consistency in information delivery.

12. **Why will this strategy work?** This proposal brings together the priorities of multiple partners that have been working for many years to protect and restore the Mississippi River corridor and adjacent blufflands. This strategy meets the goals and objectives of a variety of regional, statewide, and basin-wide plans including: MN State Wildlife Action Plan; 50-year Conservation Vision; Richard J. Dorer Memorial Forest Acquisition Plan; The Nature Conservancy Zumbro/Weaver Dunes and Root River Conservation Action Plans; Lower Cannon River, Root River, Zumbro River, Lower Vermillion River, and Lake Pepin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies; Metro Greenways Conservation Corridors; Mississippi

Makeover Project; Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan; Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota (BALMM) Basin Plan Scoping Document; Zumbro River Watershed Management Plan; County Local Water Plans; River Resources Forum's Mississippi River Environmental Pool Plans; Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan; Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee "A River that Works and a Working River"; US Army Corps of Engineers Habitat Needs Assessment; UMR-IWW System Navigation Feasibility Study; and Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans for the Blufflands Subsection. As described in question #2, many of the actions recommended in these plans have been successfully used in other areas of the Mississippi River. By meeting these goals, protection and restoration of the Mississippi River corridor will ensure a healthy floodplain ecosystem and abundant populations of fish, game, and wildlife.

13. **Who might make decisions that assist or work against achieving the expected impact program?** In some counties there has been hesitancy by county governments to support land acquisition by state and federal agencies, in large measure due to concerns about loss of property tax base and associated revenues. Payments in lieu of taxes will continue to be made to local governments for properties acquired as part of this proposal. In addition, the state is required to obtain approval from the counties for land acquisitions. In the recent past, counties have been supportive of acquisition opportunities and there have not been any rejected proposals. Soil and Water Conservation District staff represent local governments and work closely with landowners and can help address concerns that arise. However, if sentiments within the counties change, this could affect future acquisitions.

14. **If this is acquisition of land, has the local government formally approved the acquisition?** As presented in question 13 above, state agencies are required to obtain county approval before a land acquisition can be completed. As landowners accept acquisition offers, these parcels are presented to the county for approval. It is anticipated that counties in the project area will continue to approve these acquisitions; however, they will be completed on a case by case basis.

15. **If this is fee simple acquisition of land, is the land free of any other permanent protection such as a conservation easement?**

    __X__ YES _____ NO

16. **If this is an easement acquisition, will the eased land be open to public use?**

    ____ YES ___X__ NO

    Conservation easements will be permanent; however, most parcels will remain under private ownership. This does not preclude public access and use; however, hunting and fishing will be dependent upon landowners allowing access. It is important to note that forest, wetland, and prairie restoration on these sites will permanently improve habitat in the general area and increase fish and wildlife populations. With considerable federal and state lands already located in these project areas, plus additional lands acquired as part of this

proposal, permanent easements will improve fishing and hunting opportunities overall. In addition, habitat for rare species will increase, providing greater protection for these species.

17. If easement acquisition, will the easement be a permanent conservation easement as described in MS 2009, Chapter 84C.01, specifically protecting the natural resource values of real property forever?

__X__ YES _____ NO

18. If you are proposing funding for a new or ongoing program how long into the future do you expect this program to operate? This proposal brings together the ongoing efforts of multiple partners into one program. Partners recognize it will take 15 years or longer to complete all of the acquisition and restoration projects that are anticipated. Historically, acquisition opportunities in these areas have been sporadic, often related to significant flooding events or changes in ownership. Outdoor Heritage Funding offers an opportunity to take advantage of these opportunities when they arise.

19. Which planning sections will you work in?

____ Northern Forest
____ Forest/Prairie Transition
_X__ Southeast Forest
____ Prairie
_X__ Metropolitan Urbanizing Area

20. Does the request address an urgent conservation opportunity that will be lost if not immediately funded?

__X__ YES _____ NO

There have been lost opportunities in these areas in the past due to lack of funding, and/or the length of time it takes to complete an acquisition. In some cases, landowners approached the state about selling their property, but there was no funding available to complete the acquisition and the opportunity was lost. These same parcels later became available, and were acquired, but at a much higher cost than if they were purchased the first time they were considered. There have been other cases where landowners were interested in selling, and the funding was available, however the process for acquisitions was too protracted and the landowners sold to other private parties. Many of these lands have been developed and restoration opportunities have been lost. A consistent funding source, combined with utilizing third party vendors as proposed in this partnership to accomplish acquisitions more quickly, would resolve these issues. Finally, some landowners view the opportunity to permanently protect their lands either through DNR acquisition or through acquisition of permanent private easements as leaving behind a legacy for future generation. The demographics of the Southeast Forest region suggest that there is a limited window of opportunity to complete transactions for this particular group. As lands transfer between generations, the opportunity for permanent protection may be lost forever.

21. Does the request restore and/or enhance habitat on existing state-owned Wildlife or Aquatic Management Areas or Scientific and Natural Areas?

__X__ YES _____ NO

- Mississippi River Pool 3, North and Sturgeon Lakes – adjacent to Gores Wildlife Management Area
- Mississippi River Pool 2, Spring Lake – new DNR Wildlife Management Area

22. Is this request based on assessment through a science based strategic planning and evaluation model similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation Model?

__X__ YES ___ __ NO

While the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation Model (SHC) was not used specifically, all of the projects in this proposal are based on scientific understanding and models developed for other purposes, as described in question 23 below. The plans and models used to develop this proposal include partnering and adaptive management which are fundamental to the intent and in the spirit of the SHC model.

23. Explain the scientific foundation for your project, and the benefits it will produce?
Numerous planning efforts incorporate the scientific justification for the projects identified in this proposal. The Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee's "A Working River and A River that Works", the River Resources Forum's "Environmental Pool Plans", the US Fish and Wildlife Service Comprehensive Conservation Plan; and the Navigation Environmental Sustainability Program Feasibility Study are only a few examples of reports that outline the scientific and technical basis and need for floodplain restoration, water level management, and island construction projects along the Mississippi River corridor. These activities are considered essential to restoring the health of the Mississippi River system, and will provide benefits not only to these specific locations, but also to the entire Mississippi River from the Twin Cities to the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition, a stakeholder driven effort involving citizens and technical experts from state and federal natural resource agencies developed indicators of restoration success for the Mississippi River upstream of Lake Pepin. This effort is part of the Mississippi Makeover Project, and resulted in indicators for water clarity, sedimentation, aquatic vegetation, fish, invertebrates, and waterfowl. Scientifically based targets were established for each indicator based on historical and current information, reference locations, and modeling results. The projects identified in this LSOHC proposal for Mississippi River Pool 2 and Pool 3 will help meet those targets.

24. How do you set priorities? All parcels that become available within the project areas of the Lower Cannon and Vermillion Rivers, Lower Zumbro River, and Lower Root River would be considered for acquisition and restoration/enhancement. Priority would be given to those parcels that provide the greatest acreage increases for forest, prairie, and wetland, or for parcels that provide unique habitats for fish, game, and wildlife, especially listed species. The partnership would work by consensus if funding is limited to identify priority parcels.

C. Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and other Published Resource Management Plans. This proposal helps meet the goals and objectives in the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan by focusing on the protection and restoration of conservation corridors along the Mississippi River floodplain and tributaries. This effort will restore wetlands, forests, and prairies and protect critical shorelines of major tributaries and the Mississippi River main stem. In addition, and as described in questions 12 and 23, this proposal also meets many of the objectives identified through a variety of other planning efforts.

D. Budget

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel (2-FTE's)	$160,000	$160,000	
Contracts			
• Island and drawdown design, environmental review	$100,000	$300,000	
• Restoration costs – prairie, forest, wetland establishment - $1000/acre	$373,000	$374,000	
• Acquisition costs – title, appraisal, closing costs, etc. ($25,000 per transaction)	$112,000	$113,000	
• Negotiations and legal work (5% of appraised value)	$87,000	$88,000	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
• Equipment, supplies, office space for FTE's housed in partner facilities	$15,000	$15,000	
Fee Acquisition	$1,752,000	$1,753,000	
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Professional Services*	$62,000	$64,000	
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	$2,661,000	$2,867,000	

* Professional services include contracted costs for shared services activities including DNR Office of Management and Budget Services, Human Resources, Management Resources and Information & Education base level services; and land transfer costs to state.

E. Personnel Details

Title	Name	Amount
Acquisition Development Specialist		$80,000/fiscal year
Habitat Restoration Specialist		$80,000/fiscal year

Acquisition Specialist will split time between landowner contacts and assisting with transactional and other administrative functions. Habitat Restoration Specialist will coordinate restoration plans and implementation with project partners. Both positions will be DNR employees that are housed in the field offices of one of the partnering agencies, either Soil and Water Conservation Districts, The Nature Conservancy, or Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources.

F. All Leverage

Source of Non-State Leverage	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Audubon • Staff time for outreach, volunteer recruitment, monitoring	$1,000	$1,000	
MN Board of Water and Soil Resources • Staff time for easement and partnership coordination	$1,000	$1,000	
MN Dept. of Natural Resources • Staff time, fleet (in-kind at $40/hour) • Island and drawdown coordination and planning ($40/hour)	$9,000 $10,000	$9,000 $10,000	
Minnesota Land Trust ▪ Conservation easement value donation	$10,000	$10,000	
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency • Staff time for coordination with TMDL efforts	$3,000	$3,000	
National Park Service ▪ Staff time for			

island building projects	$5,000	$5,000
The Trust for Public Land ▪ Staff time and costs associated with due diligence	*$20,000*	$20,000
Soil and Water Conservation Districts ▪ Funding for restoration projects in the Lower Vermillion River and Spring Lake	$20,000	$20,000
▪ Staff time for Mississippi Makeover Project Coordination	$2,500	$2,500
Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board ▪ Staff time for coordination with local governments	$1,000	$1,000
The Nature Conservancy ▪ Staff time for Zumbro and Root River projects	$5,000	$5,000
US Fish and Wildlife Service ▪ Staff time for site visits, administration, materials and	$12,000	$12,000

equipment ▪ Private lands assistance and grants	$13,000	$13,000
TOTAL	$112,500	$112,500

Outcomes:

1) *In the first table below, quantify the outcomes you plan to achieve with the recommended funds.*
2) *In the second table show list the sections where outcomes will occur.*
3) *In the third table, allocate your recommended funds to each cell with outcomes listed in table1.*
4) *In the fourth table show the leverage to be applied to each cell with outcomes listed in table 1. and*
5) *If you have any outcomes listed in the "protect" row in table1, account for them according to the type of acquisition and PILT status in table 5*

Table 1 Accomplish-ments	**Wetlands**	**Prairies**	**Forests**	**Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife**
Restore	*377 acres*	*40 acres*	*330 acres*	*1000 acres*
Protect	*40 acres*		*268 acres*	
Enhance				

Table 2 Sections Impacted and Impact Quantifier	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	*SE Forest*	*SE Forest*	*SE Forest*	*Metropolitan urbanizing area – Mississippi River backwaters*
Protect	*SE Forest*		*SE Forest*	
Enhance				

Table 3 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	*$1,833,000*	*$194,000*	*$1,604,000*	*$400,000*
Protect	*$194,000*		*$1,303,000*	
Enhance				

Table 4 Leverage $	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore	*$73,000*	*$8,000*	*$64,000*	*$20,000*
Protect	*$8,000*		*$52,000*	
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability	***417 acres*	*40 acres*	*598 acres*	
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

*****Note above: Table 5 includes all lands that will be acquired, some of which will need only protection, others that will include restoration. Payment in lieu of taxes or revenue sharing (USFWS) will be made to local governments.

H. Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	**Date**	**Measure**
Acquisition of 268 acres of forest and 40 acres of wetland.	June 30, 2013	308 acres
Acquisition and restoration of 330 acres of forest, 377 acres of wetland, and 40 acres of prairie.	June 30, 2013	747 acres
Design and permitting completed for islands and drawdowns in Mississippi River backwaters.	June 30, 2013	plans, permits

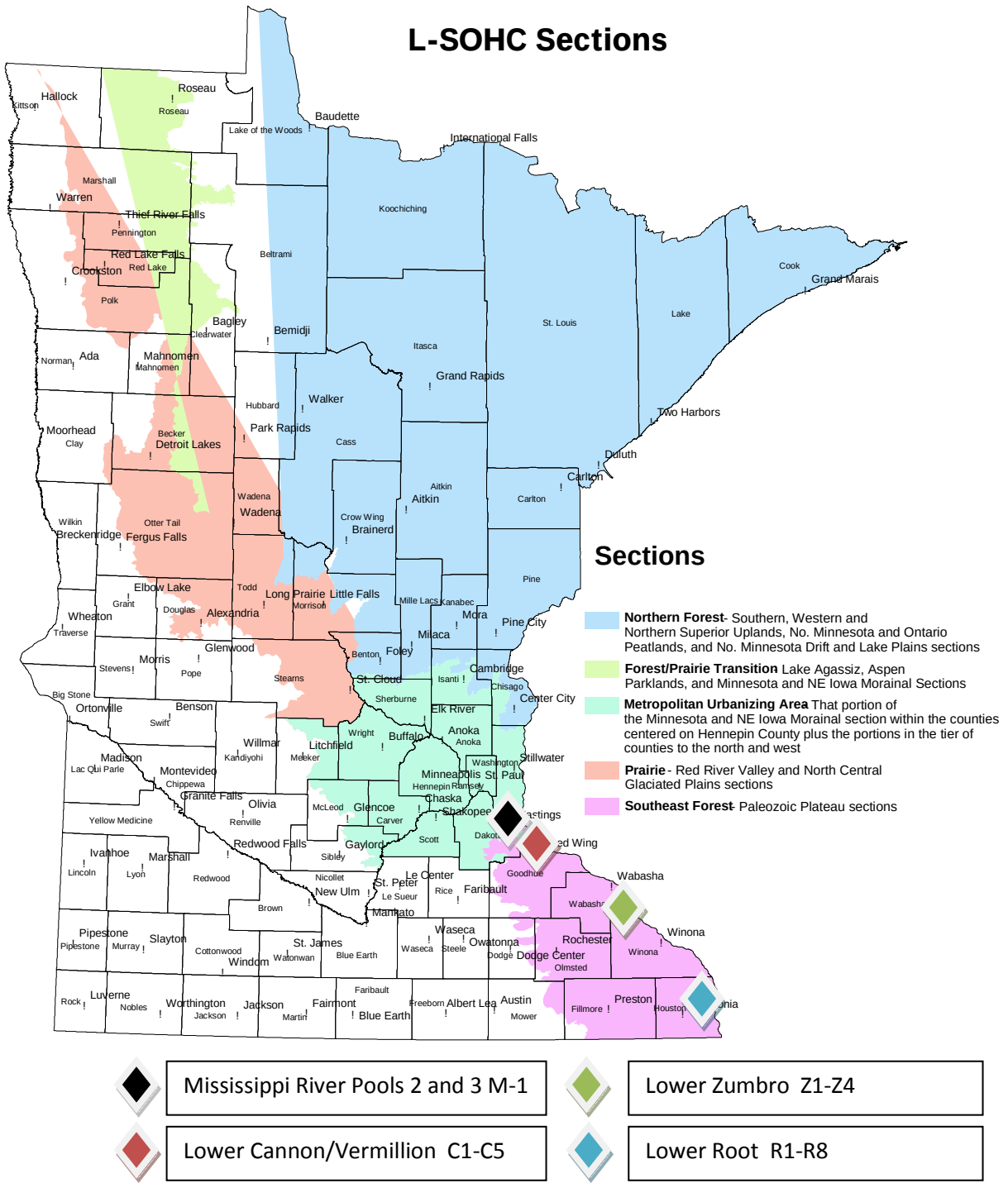
Projected Future Accomplishments (should additional funding become available in subsequent years):

Acquisition of 404 acres of forest, 45 acres of wetland, and of wetland, and 25 acres of prairie.	June 30, 2015	474 acres
Acquisition and restoration of 125 acres of forest, 20 acres of wetland, and 242 acres of prairie.	June 30, 2015	387 acres
Islands constructed in Mississippi River Pool 2 and drawdown completed in Pool 3.	June 30, 2015	1000 acres
Acquisition of 404 acres of forest, 45 acres of wetland, and 25 acres of prairie.	June 30, 2016	474 acres
Acquisition and restoration of 125 acres of forest, 20 acres of wetland, and 242 acres of prairie.	June 30, 2016	387 acres
Islands completed in Mississippi River Pool 3, and drawdown completed in Pool 2.	June 30, 2016	1000 acres

I. Relationship to Your Current Budget. This program does not supplant existing budgets. However, it will affect future budgets for program partners because it does not provide funding for future maintenance and management of acquired and restored parcels, or for payments in lieu of taxes. Those activities will be completed by program partners under their existing budgets, which are never certain long-term. This is a concern of the partners that should be addressed by the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for future funding cycles.

J. How will the Habitat Improvements be Sustained? Program partners will manage and maintain parcels as part of their operating budgets and standard management practices for prairie, wetland, and forest habitats.

K. Attach a list of your projects listing their county location and edit the map of Minnesota on the next page to show each project as a symbol. Attached.


L-SOHC Sections
Sections
Northern Forest- Southern, Western and Northern Superior Uplands, No. Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands, and No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains sections
Forest/Prairie Transition Lake Agassiz, Aspen Parklands, and Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal Sections
Metropolitan Urbanizing Area That portion of the Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal section within the counties centered on Hennepin County plus the portions in the tier of counties to the north and west
Prairie - Red River Valley and North Central Glaciated Plains sections
Southeast Forest- Paleozoic Plateau sections
Mississippi River Pools 2 and 3 M-1
Lower Zumbro Z1-Z4
Lower Cannon/Vermillion C1-C5
Lower Root R1-R8

Project List

Site Number	County	Total acres	Total Cost $$ - estimated to nearest $1,000	Forest acres protected	Forest acres restored or enhanced	Wetland acres protected	Wetland acres restored or enhanced	Mississippi River backwater acres restored or enhanced	Prairie acres restored or enhanced
M-1	Dakota, Goodhue	1000	400,000					1,000	
C-1	Goodhue	60	332,000	60					
Z-1	Wabasha	220	1,172,000	40	120		60		
R-1	Houston	358	1,405,000	168	90	40	60		
R-2	Houston	83	376,000				83		
R-3	Houston	18	83,000				18		
R-4	Houston	70	317,000				40		30
R-5	Houston	65	295,000				65		
R-6	Houston	166	749,000		120		46		
R-7	Houston	15	70,000				5		10
Total		2055		268	330	40	377	1,000	40

Bill of Rights have been signed for all of the above parcels. Costs for M-1 are contracts for design and engineering for islands and drawdowns. Costs for acquisition for each parcel are calculated as follows. For protected acres, costs include landowner and transactional. For restored acres, costs include landowner, transactional, and restoration.

- Lower Cannon/Vermillion River
  - $5,000/acre for landowner
  - $25,000/transaction for title, survey, appraisal
  - 5% of fair market value for negotiation and legal work
  - $2,000 per transaction for transfer to state
  - $1,000/acre for restoration
- Lower Zumbro River
  - $4,000/acre for landowner
  - $25,000/transaction for title, survey, appraisal
  - 5% of fair market value for negotiation and legal work
  - $2,000 per transaction for transfer to state
  - $1,000/acre for restoration
- Lower Root River
  - $3,000/acre for landowner
  - $25,000/transaction for title, survey, appraisal
  - 5% of fair market value for negotiation and legal work
  - $2,000 per transaction for transfer to state
  - $1,000/acre for restoration
- Mississippi River Pools 2 and 3
  - $400,000 for design, engineering and permits