Legacy Amendment

Minnesota voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to the Minnesota Constitution in 2008. The Legacy Amendment funds efforts to protect drinking water resources; protects, enhances, and restores wetlands, prairies, forest, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; preserves the arts and cultural heritage; supports parks and trails; protects, enhances, and restores lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

The Legacy Amendment increased the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent beginning on July 1, 2009 and continuing until 2034. The additional sales tax revenue is distributed into four funds as follows: 33 percent to the clean water fund; 33 percent to the outdoor heritage fund; 19.75 percent to the arts and cultural heritage fund; and 14.25 percent to the parks and trails fund.

OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND
Thirty-three percent of the sales tax revenue from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment is distributed to the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Those funds “may be spent only to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forest and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.”

LESSARD—SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL
The Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) was established by the legislature to provide annual recommendations on how the Outdoor Heritage Funds should be used. The council makes recommendations on appropriations of money from the Outdoor Heritage Fund that are consistent with the Constitution and state law and that take into consideration recommendations of the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan that directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie.
In the first 10 years of Outdoor Heritage Funding (OHF), the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) has recommended over 300 programs be funded by the MN Legislature for a total of $968,836,000. Funding recipients have included: 2 state agencies, 25 non-profits, 9 counties, 3 cities, 13 soil and water/watershed districts, and 3 other local government bodies. Within the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (CPL), over 650 grants located throughout 81 counties have been awarded.

Learn More:
lsohc.leg.mn | (651) 284-6430
dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/cpl | (651) 296-6157

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Julie Blackburn (Treasurer)
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Ryan Bronson
Jim Cox
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