

OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND

Lessard—Sams Outdoor Heritage Council



"...restore, protect, and enhance Minnesota's wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife..."

Legacy Amendment

In 2008, Minnesota's voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to the Minnesota Constitution to: protect drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve arts and cultural heritage; to support parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

The Legacy Amendment increases 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.



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;...

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Accomplishments to Date

FY 2010 through FY2021



"...restore, protect, and enhance Minnesota's wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife..."

Outdoor Heritage Fund Highlights — Dollars Spent

- In the first 12 years of Outdoor Heritage Funding the Minnesota Legislature has allocated over **\$1.2 Billion** from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to restore, enhance, and/or protect wildlife habitat throughout Minnesota.
- An additional **\$460 Million** of federal, state, and private conservation funding has or will be leveraged.
- To date **\$91,475,000** has been allocated to the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program (CPL). In addition, CPL grants have generated nearly 5 million dollars of leveraged funding and in-kind contributions as well as engaged thousands of local volunteers.

Outdoor Heritage Fund — Acres Achieved

- More than **1 Million acres** of wildlife habitat throughout Minnesota have been restored, enhanced, and/or protected during the first twelve years of Outdoor Heritage Funding .
- Designed to engage small groups at the local level, the Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) small grants program has funded over **800 grants**. These small grants have restored, enhanced, and/or protected more than **275,000** acres.
- Notable 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.



In the thirteenth year of Outdoor Heritage Funding, the Lessard—Sams Outdoor Heritage Council received 52 proposals totaling over \$320 million. The Council recommended 47 programs totaling approximately \$127 million. The Council's ML2021 / FY2022 Outdoor Heritage Fund recommendations will be addressed during the 2021 legislative session.