

Protecting Forest Lands and Aquatic Habitats: Tullibee Lakes Project Information Sheet



The Minnesota Forests for the Future Program is partnering with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) Division of Fisheries, Aquatic Habitat Program to protect forested lands in key watersheds of high quality cisco (tulibee, *Coregonus artedii*) lakes. The watershed of a lake or river is the area of land in which all the water that runs off it flows into one location, a lake or river. By protecting the forests in the watersheds of high quality lakes we preserve the filter that protects lakes from increases in nutrients and sediment. Increases in nutrients and sediment into lakes can degrade water quality and fish habitat for species such as cisco.

Eligible lands will be primarily forest lands. Limited area of other land uses may be considered.

High quality cisco lakes included in this program are: Big Sand and Kabekona Lakes in Hubbard County, Ten Mile Lake in Cass County, and Big Trout and Pelican Lakes in Crow Wing County. See map on the second page for details.

Purpose of the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program: The overall purpose of the Minnesota Forests for the Future Programs is to protect and conserve private working forests through the use of permanent conservation easements and other tools.

Purpose of the Aquatic Habitat Program: To work with partners to protect and restore high quality fish habitats in lakes and stream in Minnesota.

Applications: Applications will be prioritized based on a competitive application process as determined by MN DNR and are subject to funding availability. All acquisitions are conducted on a willing seller/willing buyer basis. The State's purchase of a conservation easement cannot exceed fair market value of the conservation easement as determined by an appraisal meeting state appraisal standards.

Deadline for consideration in the priority ranking process is July 2016. Applications received after this date may be considered pending the availability of funds.

Tullibee (*Coregonus artedii*)



Questions? Or to request an application Contact:

Heather Baird-Aquatic Habitat Specialist Sr.
Department of Natural Resources –Fisheries
1601 Minnesota Drive
Brainerd, MN 56401
Phone: 218-203-4345
Email: Heather.Baird@state.mn.us

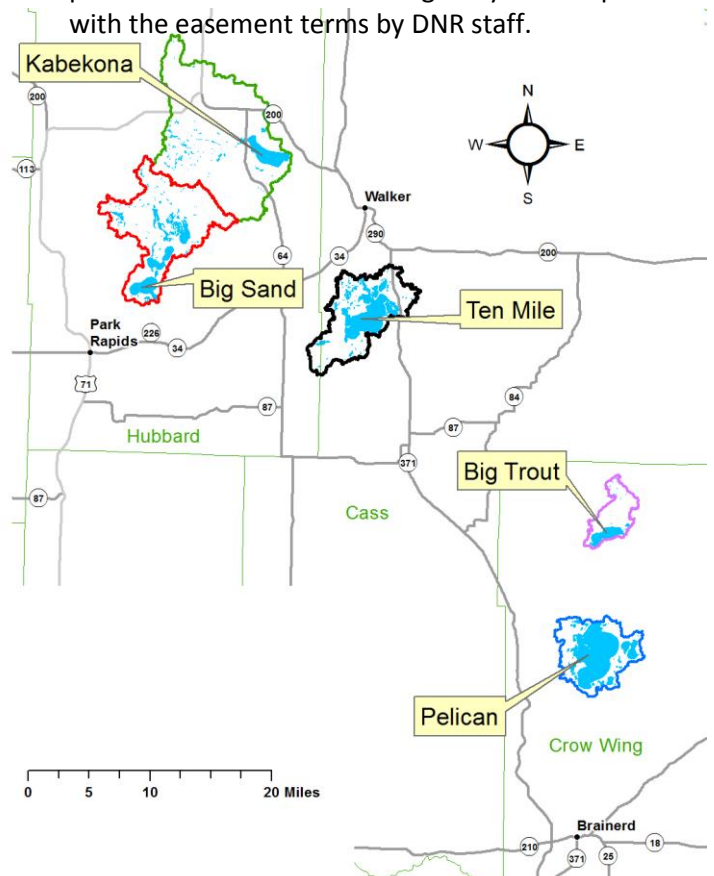
or:

Richard Peterson – Forest Legacy Coordinator
Department of Natural Resources –Forestry
1810-30th St. NW
Faribault, MN 55021
Phone: 507/333-2012 x222
Email: Richard.F.Peterson@state.mn.us

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between the holder of the easement and a landowner that places permanent restrictions on the land for long-term conservation purposes. Lands with conservation easements remain in private ownership. The easement property may be sold or transferred, but the conservation easement will permanently encumber the land. The following terms are typically part of a forest conservation easement.

- Development and subdivision. This would limit the rights of the landowner to subdivide, construct buildings or have commercial, industrial or residential developments or uses on the easement property. Existing houses, barns, or other buildings or developed areas are generally not included as part of the easement property. Forest management activities and recreational uses are allowed.
- The easement would restrict surface disturbances such as mining, drilling or excavation.
- Roads and trails are allowed subject to some limitations.
- All conservation easements must have a current, DNR approved multi-resource forest management plan such as a Forest Stewardship Plan. Any forest management activities would be subject to the plan and would require that the landowner follow best management practices to protect habitat, water quality and other natural resources.
- The easement would prohibit the conversion of forest to non-forest uses. Forests must remain as forest.

- On a case by case basis, limited non-forest areas may be included in the easement areas.
- The easement would prohibit trash dumps, waste disposal and hazardous materials on the property.
- While public access is sometimes sought, public access is **not** required by the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program.
- The State of Minnesota will be the holder of the easement and the easements will be administered by DNR Forestry.
- All easements properties will have a monitoring plan and will be monitored regularly for compliance with the easement terms by DNR staff.



Map indicating the five tullibee lake watersheds targeted for protection in north central Minnesota.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, public assistance status, age, sexual orientation, disability, or activity on behalf of a local human-rights commission. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4049 or to the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

Minnesota Forests for the Future Program Application-Tullibee Lakes Project

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry

1: Applicant Information

Landowner Name –list all owners: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Designated contact for owner (if different): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2: Property Information

Property Address (if different from above): _____

County: _____ Forest Legacy Area (if applicable): _____

Property is located in: Section(s): _____ Township: _____ Range: _____

Parcel ID # (if known) _____

Total Property Acres: _____ Total Forested Acres: _____ Total Wetland Acres: _____

How many acres of this property are you interested in considering for the program? _____

Forest acres: _____ Open land or non-forest acres _____

What are the current uses of the property i.e. recreation, hunting, timber management, nature observation, farming, grazing, etc.? _____

What is the current zoning of the property? _____

Is there legal access for the property? Yes _____ No _____

Is this property enrolled in a forest property tax program: Yes _____ No _____

If yes, which program: _____ Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA)

_____ 2c Managed Forest Land Classification (Class 2c)

Are there any other known encumbrances or liens on the property including mortgages, easements, contracts, leases, covenants or outstanding rights of record? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please identify: _____

Has your property been on the market for sale in the past 5 years or is it currently on the market? Do you have any plans to place it on the market in the future? _____

Do you have a written forest management plan such as Forest Stewardship Plan? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please send a copy with your application.

Are there any buildings, structures or improvements such as houses, barns, sheds, roads, gravel pits, power lines, or dams on the land proposed for the program? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, please describe:

To the best of your knowledge, are there any known present or past environmental hazards or waste or dump sites on the property or abutting properties? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, please describe:

3: Property Characteristics: Help us understand the uniqueness of your property. Your comments will help us in evaluating the property for the program.

Please describe the following as they pertain to your property:

A. Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Describe how your property contributes to the maintenance or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitats. List habitats present (such as forest types i.e. aspen, red pine, oak, bogs, wetlands, streams etc.) and species found on the property.

B. Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species including Unique Habitats and Forest Communities:

List and describe any rare plants, animals or habitats located on your property. Are there species in greatest conservation need found on or near your property?

C. Watersheds and Water Quality: Describe the importance of your property to water related benefits. List the amount of shoreline frontage for lakes, streams and rivers located on the property. Does your property adjoin a trout stream?

Linear feet of lakeshore _____ **Linear feet of shoreline along stream or river** _____

If there is lakeshore frontage describe the habitat on your lakeshore.

D. Forest Productivity and Forest Management Considerations: Describe any forest management activities conducted on the property including timber harvesting, reforestation, maple syrup production, Christmas trees etc. Are you actively following a forest management plan prepared by a professional forester?

- E. Other ecological, cultural and scenic resources:** List any documented cultural or scenic resources found on your property including old logging camps and pioneer home sites, or designated scenic roads, routes and rivers.
- F. Connectivity and adjacency to other forested areas including protected forests (state, county, federal forests):** Describe any adjacent or nearby protected forests including state, county or federal lands. Is your property part of a large contiguous forest block?
- G. Local, Regional, or Statewide Conservation Initiative:** Describe how your property contributes to a local, regional, or statewide conservation effort or plan such as a county water plan, a regional forest landscape plan, or a statewide species protection plan.
- H. Forest Land Conversion Threats:** Describe threats to the forest that are occurring in your area that make forest land conversion to non-forest uses more likely such as forest-to-housing conversions or forest-to-agriculture conversions. Also note if there is significant subdivision occurring for forest parcels in the surrounding area.
- I. Partnership for Protection:** Have you discussed placing your land in permanent protection with any other group or organization such as Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, MN Land Trust, a local government, DNR Forestry or other DNR Manager? If so, please describe.
- J. Additional Comments:** Add any additional comments you want to make about your property.

4: Financial Information: The following estimates are preliminary only. **Any final offer cannot exceed fair market value as determined by an appraisal meeting federal and/or state appraisal standards.**

- A. What is the estimated total value of this property?
- B. How was this value determined? (Examples: landowner's personal estimate, licensed appraiser, realtor, county tax records).

If appraised, what is the date of the appraisal?

- C. Are you willing to donate a part of the easement value? Yes _____ No _____ What percentage? _____%
- D. Is there another source, such as a Land Trust or other agency willing to fund part of the purchase price? Yes _____ No _____

5: Easement Terms: A conservation easement will place permanent restrictions on the land for long-term conservation purposes. The easement may be sold or transferred, but the conservation easement will permanently encumber the land. The following rights are typically restricted with a working forest conservation easement. Checking **AGREE** (agrees with the restriction or term)or **DISAGREE** (does not agree with the restriction or term) does not commit you to anything, it merely assists Minnesota DNR in evaluating your property for the program.

The following restrictions are included in Forest Legacy and Minnesota Forests for the Future Conservation easements. Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the restriction or prohibition.

- **Prohibition on subdivision.** Subdivision of properties will generally be prohibited and only allowed in very limited circumstances.
Agree: _____ Disagree _____ Unsure _____
- **Prohibition on industrial, residential, or commercial uses and structures within the forest.** This restriction generally prohibits developments or uses of the property not consistent with protecting the forest. There are exceptions for structures like sugar shacks or small sheds associated with allowed forest management activities. Houses, barns or developed areas are generally not included as part of the easement property.
Agree: _____ Disagree _____ Unsure _____
- **Prohibition on surface disturbances such as mining.** Limited sand and gravel excavations may be permitted for use on the property. Agree: _____ Disagree _____ Unsure _____
- **Requirement for the development and adherence to a multi-resource forest management plan such as a Forest Stewardship Plan.** The Forest Management Plan must be approved by MN DNR- Division of Forestry. The landowner retains the right to use the property for traditional forest uses such as forest management (including timber harvesting) as well as for non-commercial recreational purposes. Roads and trails consistent with forestry and recreational uses are allowed. Agree: _____ Disagree _____ Unsure _____

- **Prohibition on the conversion of forest to non-forest uses.** The easement requires the landowner to manage the property in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of the program and that the landowner shall not convert the property to non-forest uses. Agree: _____ Disagree _____ Unsure _____
- **Limitation on non-forest areas included in the easement area.** The purpose of these programs is to protect forest land. In some situations a limited amount of compatible non-forest areas such as pasture, grassland, agricultural fields or other open lands may be included in the easement area. When allowed, agricultural practices must be performed in ways consistent with conserving soil, water and other natural resources. Agree: _____ Disagree _____ Unsure _____
- **Prohibition of trash dumps, waste disposal and hazardous materials.** No part of the easement property can be used for such purposes. Agree: _____ Disagree _____ Unsure _____
- **Public Access is not** required by either the Forest Legacy Program or the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program. Public access is at the sole discretion of the landowner. Agree: _____ Disagree _____ Unsure _____
- **Access by MNDNR:** Landowner will allow access by Minnesota DNR for the purpose of easement monitoring. MN DNR will annually visit the property to ensure compliance with the easement. Agree: _____ Disagree _____ Unsure _____

6: Testimony and Permission:

The information in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I (we), as the landowner(s) or landowner's authorized agent (proof of authorization must accompany the application) agree to allow inspection, appraisal, and survey of my property being offered for consideration under Minnesota's Forest Legacy Program and/or Minnesota Forests for the Future Program. I agree to allow members of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Forest Legacy committee or their designated staff to inspect my property at any mutually agreeable time for the purposes of this application. I understand I shall be notified in advance of all inspection visits.

I also understand that this property will not be purchased if negotiations do not reach an amicable agreement or if the property does not meet the needs or qualifications of the Minnesota Forest Legacy Program or Minnesota Forests for the Future Program. Conservation easements will only be purchased from willing sellers.

Signature(s) of landowner(s) or legal agent	Date	Mail completed application to:
_____	_____	Richard F. Peterson Forest Legacy Coordinator MN DNR Division of Forestry 1810-30 th St. NW Faribault, MN 55021 Phone: 507/333-2012 x222
_____	_____	
_____	_____	

Must be signed