

# Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Easement & Acquisition Program



## Overview

The Mississippi Headwaters Board, The Trust for Public Land, Board of Water & Soil Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and Dept. of Natural Resources has developed a program to protect and preserve the natural qualities of the Mississippi River. Under this habitat program, landowners will have options to consider: An acquisition opportunity to permanently protect by selling their land to a conservation partner, or an easement program that protects their values while still retaining ownership of the land. Both opportunities are focused on protecting the Mississippi River and its values.

## Program Priorities

- The acquired parcels must meet the natural value criteria of identifying and promoting protection of critical habitat flora and fauna as described in the Mississippi Headwaters Board Comprehensive Management Plan.
- The acquired parcels



should be **targeted** toward the Mississippi River; headwaters lakes and reservoirs, and connecting streams, to focus on hunting, fishing, and outdoor heritage opportunities. Easements should have the same focus and benefit but landowners will have the option to deny public access to hunting and fishing on their land.

- Acquisition and easement priorities should focus on parcels that provide access to existing County, State, and Federal public lands along the Mississippi River, headwaters lakes, and connecting streams to increase habitat and corridor connectivity.

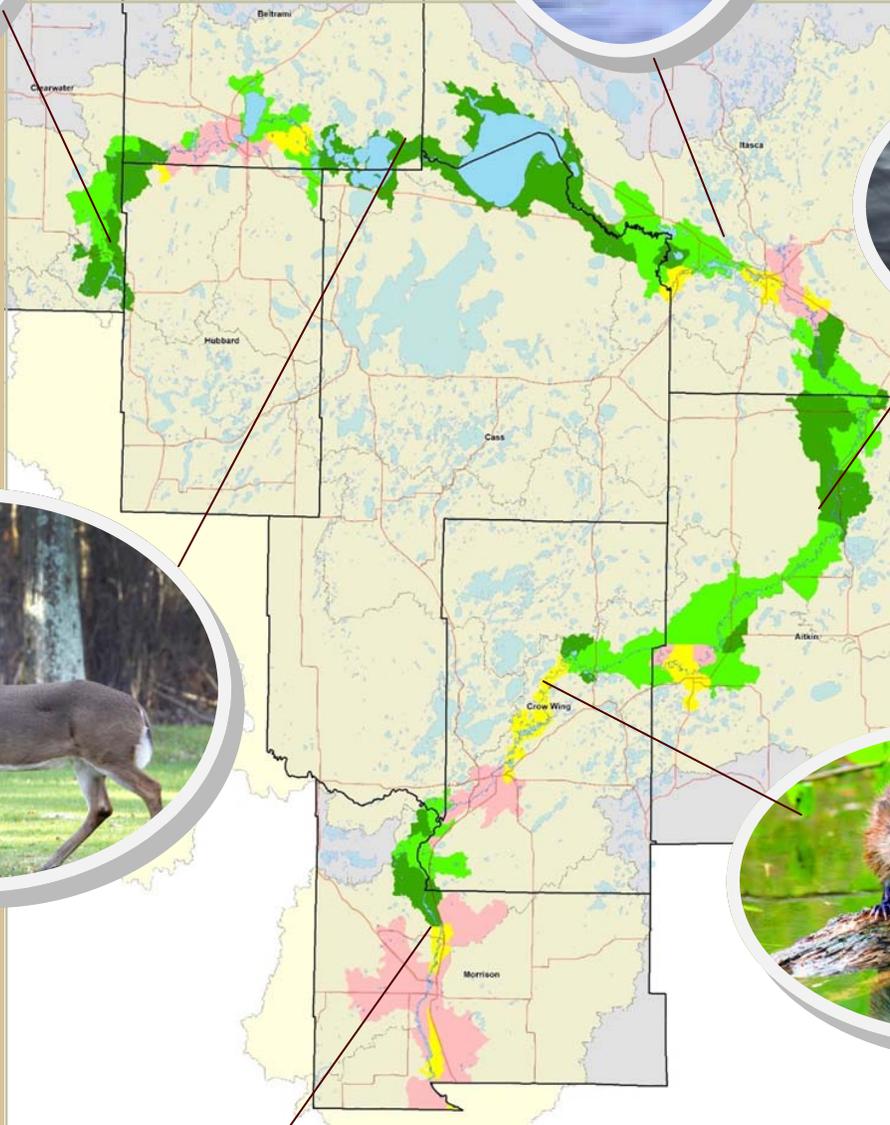
## Eligibility

All land in priorities areas are eligible for this program. A Project Review Team will prioritize and rank applications that protect the habitat values of the River and those that maximize the protection of contiguous acres devoted to habitat.

## How To Apply

For **easements**, landowners may contact their local Soil & Water Conservation District located in their county.

For fee-title **acquisitions**, landowners may contact Bob McGillivray at the Trust For Public Land at (651) 999-5307.



- Contains more than 350 species of animals, mammals, and birds.
- Is the flyway for neotropical birds and waterfowl.
- Over 16% of all the land in MN resides in the 8 MHB Counties.