



Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor Project

Protecting Critical Fish and Wildlife Habitat in the Mississippi Headwaters

This Program offers private landowners along or near the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River or on a major tributary or headwaters lake, an opportunity to protect critical fish and wildlife habitat by permanently protecting the natural resource value of their land.



Partners

- **Mississippi Headwaters Board**
- **The Trust for Public Land**
- **MN Board of Water and Soil Resources and Headwaters County SWCDs**
- **With stakeholder support from:**
The MN DNR
The Nature Conservancy



Program Goal

Funded by the Outdoor Heritage Fund created from the 2008 Clean Water Land & Legacy Constitutional Amendment, the program goal is to create and expand contiguous habitat complexes of permanently protected uplands and shoreland for the benefit of fish and wildlife habitat, migratory waterfowl, reduction of forest fragmentation, enhanced public recreational opportunities and the protection of water quality.

Land protection is achieved via fee-title acquisition or by enrolling land in the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) conservation easement program.

Why Create Habitat Complexes?

- To meet the basic needs of game and non-game wildlife such as cover from predators, water, safe places to raise young, and adequate area to move around during different life stages and the protection of water quality and spawning areas for fish.
- To insure good water quality for fish and as a source of drinking water for the Twin Cities and beyond.
- To provide migratory waterfowl food and cover along the Mississippi Flyway.
- To reduce land use changes that result in fragmentation of critical habitats such as forests, shorelands, grasslands, and wetlands.

Accomplishments:

Since this program began in 2016, over **6,500 acres** and **50 miles** of shoreland have been protected. Projects on 1,500 additional acres and 7 miles of shoreland will be completed soon.



