

Current SLAM Acquisition Goals

Connecting people to the outdoors through strategic management of our public lands

DNR's SLAM acquisition goals represent a holistic set of priorities the department uses to evaluate acquisition projects across all of DNR's land acquiring divisions. The DNR works to sustain the interdependent values of a healthy environment, a sustainable economy, and livable communities, and each division emphasizes specific land acquisition criteria, which may more naturally align with any of the six goals outlined below. Transactions need not, and rarely will, meet all goals. Instead, these goals support land acquisition decision-making across the portfolio of DNR land acquisitions over time. This is a living document: DNR updates SLAM acquisition goals regularly as new science becomes available.

Goal 1: Increase close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities

1. **Acquisition is within 30 miles of a population center over 50,000 people; OR Parcels are located in counties with less than 5% public lands;**
2. **AND, it increases or improves recreational opportunities on DNR-administered lands.** These include parcels that directly expand hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, biking or other recreational opportunities including access to public waters.
 - a. NOTE: Parcels purchased within outdoor recreation units for direct purposes other than recreation (e.g. to eliminate a trespass or improve management access) do not meet this goal.

Goal 2: Protect significant and/or rare natural resources

1. **Acquisition protects existing, high quality significant or rare natural resources that fall into at least one of the following categories:**
 - a. Designated shallow lakes
 - b. Wetlands, as identified in the National Wetlands Inventory (including calcareous fens)
 - c. Threatened, endangered and special concern species (NHIS data – element occurrences)
 - d. Native prairie, the prairie subset of NPC data, or core areas of the Prairie Conservation Plan
 - e. S1 and S2 or G1 and G2 native plant communities
 - f. MBS Sites ranked as having high or outstanding biodiversity significance
 - g. Large (>80 acres) blocks of productive forestlands

Goal 3: Protect and restore water resources

To meet this goal, acquisition must meet one of the criteria in any of the three categories listed below.

1. **Acquisition protects and restores critical lakes, streams, wetlands and springs.** Parcel is located within at least one of the following GIS polygons:
 - a. Existing or restorable wetlands (including calcareous fens)
 - b. Identified areas of sensitive shoreline
 - c. Lakes of biological significance
 - d. Designated trout streams or trout stream tributaries
 - e. Karst feature inventory points
 - f. Minnesota spring inventory
 - g. Sensitive and/or priority water and fisheries resources (Lake Indices of Biological Integrity data layer includes fish and plant indices that are at or above the impairment threshold, or exceptional)
2. **Acquisition protects lakes and stream reaches at highest risk of becoming impaired**
 - a. It occurs in a catchment upstream of any of the priority streams in the WRAPS Stream Protection Priority data layer (includes entire catchment); or,
 - b. It occurs within a catchment, or within 1000 feet of the shoreline as a Lake of Phosphorus Sensitivity Significance ranked "highest."
3. **Acquisition protects a public water supply, particularly in high demand areas**

- a. It occurs within or immediately adjacent to a Wellhead Protection Area (WPA) or drinking water supply management area (DWSMA); or,
- b. It is located within a pilot Groundwater Management Area (GWMA).

Goal 4: Mitigate and adapt to climate change

To meet this goal, acquisition must meet one of the criteria in either of the two categories listed below.

- 1. Acquisition maintains or increases carbon storage, carbon sequestration and/or landscape resiliency:**
 - a. Acquisition results in conversion of land from another use to forest, prairie, wetland or other native plant community; OR,
 - b. Acquisition is at imminent or high risk of conversion to agricultural use from forest, prairie, wetland or other NPC; OR,
 - c. Acquisition results in conservation of mature forest (>120 years old); OR,
 - d. Acquisition protects land that is located in a [high soil carbon area](#) (>1 SD above the mean of soil carbon map).
- 2. Acquisition will create significantly larger blocks of habitat or natural intact communities, improve riparian and terrestrial connectivity or maintain ecosystem services through protection of climate resilient, high biodiversity areas:**
 - a. The parcel will increase the size of an existing contiguous complex of protected lands by at least 10%.
 - b. Parcel is located in an [SNA Conservation Prioritization \("Marxan"\) Map](#) "Medium," "High" or "Very High" priority area AND it has a better than average resiliency rating via the [TNC Resilient Lands Mapping tool](#); OR
 - c. Parcel is located in a [Wildlife Action Plan](#) priority area AND it has a better than average resiliency rating via the [TNC Resilient Lands Mapping tool](#); OR
 - d. Parcel is located in a [Prairie Plan](#) core or strategic habitat complex AND it has a better than average resiliency rating via the [TNC Resilient Lands Mapping tool](#); OR,
 - e. Parcel is located in the [Pheasant Action Plan](#) or, as it is updated, Duck Action Plan areas AND, it has a better than average resiliency rating via the [TNC Resilient Lands Mapping tool](#).

Goal 5: Expand access to existing land holdings

- 1. Acquisition provides new or additional access to existing DNR-administered lands, through easement or fee title transaction, to either:**
 - a. expand the public's ability to access existing public lands; or,
 - b. improve DNR's ability to manage existing landholdings.

Goal 6: Consolidate land ownership, creating larger, contiguous blocks of DNR lands

- 1. Acquisition is within the statutory or management boundary of existing DNR-administered units; OR,**
- 2. Acquisition completes critical trail corridor connections between existing holdings; OR,**
- 3. Acquisition shares a boundary with existing DNR-administered lands; OR,**
- 4. Acquisition reduces the boundary feet of a unit.**