



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2015 Request for Proposal

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

www.lccmr.leg.mn

Funding Priorities for 2015

- Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information
- Water Resources
- Environmental Education
- Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species
- Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy
- Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat
- Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Funding Beginning: July 1, 2015

Deadline to Submit: 4:30 PM on Friday, March 28, 2014

- Electronic submission of proposals required.
- Please **carefully review** the full text and **follow the instructions** of this document before submitting a proposal.
- LCCMR staff are available to assist and review draft proposals if submitted by Friday, March 21, 2014. Early submission of drafts is recommended to receive the most detailed guidance.

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Issued December 2013



FUNDING AVAILABILITY:

- The LCCMR makes recommendations to the MN Legislature for project funding appropriations of up to 5.5% per year of the existing value of the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF).
- This Request for Proposal (RFP) is for funds available beginning July 1, 2015. For that period, approximately \$42 million from the ENRTF is expected to be available for project funding.
- Through this RFP the LCCMR intends to make funding recommendations to the 2015 Minnesota Legislature.
- This RFP is part of an annual cycle and the next RFP is expected to be issued in January 2015 for funds available July 1, 2016.

Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund:

Minnesota Constitution Art. XI, Sec.14: "The assets of the fund shall be appropriated by law for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LCCMR MEMBERS

Jeff Broberg
Tom Cook
Sen. Gary Dahms
Sen. Kari Dziedzic
William Faber
Rep. Dan Fabian
Nancy Gibson
Bonnie Harper-Lore
John Herman
Sen. John Hoffman
Rep. Leon Lillie
Norman Moody
Rep. John Persell
Sen. David Tomassoni
Rep. Paul Torkelson
Rep. Jean Wagenius
Sen. Torrey Westrom

Co-Chairs
Nancy Gibson
Sen. David Tomassoni
Rep. Jean Wagenius

Co-Vice Chairs
Jeff Broberg
Sen. Gary Dahms
Rep. Paul Torkelson

The LCCMR is an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

PLEASE CAREFULLY REVIEW THE FULL TEXT AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THIS DOCUMENT BEFORE SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

ELIGIBILITY—OPEN TO ALL:

The spirit and intent of the LCCMR is to provide access to EVERYONE for **innovative** ideas for environmental or natural resource projects that could provide multiple ecological and other public benefits to Minnesota, are consistent with the LCCMR's Six-Year Strategic Plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and address the adopted funding priorities described in this RFP.

LCCMR staff are available to review drafts and assist in proposal development.

Lobbying or professional grant-writing experience is not necessary for success.

AMOUNT OF REQUEST

There is no minimum or maximum amount that can be requested by a proposal. Final recommendation amounts are determined by the dollars available and an aim to create a balanced package of projects addressing a variety of issue areas around the state.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

4:30 PM, Friday, March 28, 2014

THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE.

SUBMIT PROPOSAL:

Online Submission of Proposals Required*.

Go to: www.lccmr.leg.mn and select "2015 LCCMR Proposal Submission Form".

Save a copy of your submission for your records. **Upon receipt, all submitted proposals and budgets will be posted on the web for the public to view.**

*Contact LCCMR staff if unable to use the online proposal submission form.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

Funding for selected projects will be available beginning July 1, 2015, following appropriation of funds by the legislature and work plan approval by the LCCMR. **Funds for non-state entities are awarded on a reimbursement basis.**

EXPENSE ELIGIBILITY:

See p. 13 for guidance on allowable expenses.

PROPOSAL ASSISTANCE:

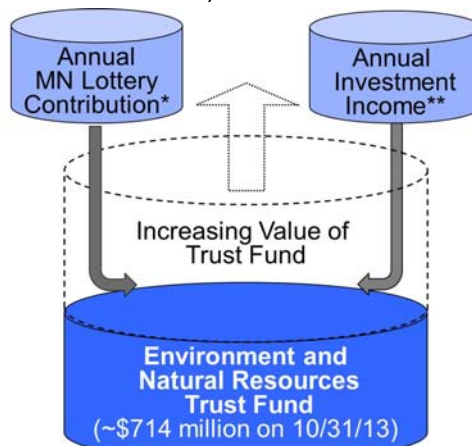
LCCMR staff are available to provide assistance, answer questions, or review and provide feedback on drafts of proposals. **Proposers are encouraged to submit proposal drafts to help ensure proposals are focused, clear, and contain all necessary information.** Drafts must be received by Friday, March 21, 2014, to allow adequate time for staff review. Early submission of drafts is recommended to receive the most detailed guidance.

If you have questions or would like proposal assistance, including direction on other state funding opportunities that may be appropriate for a project, contact LCCMR staff:

Phone: (651) 296-2406

Email: lccmr@lccmr.leg.mn

Address: Room 65 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155



* 40% of net MN Lottery profits or ~7¢ of every dollar spent on Lottery tickets.

**Grows Trust Fund at average rate of ~6% of market value each year.



2015 PROPOSAL AND FUNDING PROCESS

DECEMBER 2013-MARCH 2014

- LCCMR determines funding priorities and adopts 2015 Request for Proposal (RFP).
- 2015 RFP issued.
- LCCMR staff available to review and provide feedback on any draft proposals submitted by March 21, 2014.

MARCH 2014

- Friday, March 21, 2014: Last day to submit draft proposals for LCCMR staff review.
- **Friday, March 28, 2014: Final Proposal Submission Deadline at 4:30 PM.**

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

- All proposals are reviewed and evaluated using the criteria on page 7 of this RFP.
- Based on the evaluations a subset of proposals is selected for further consideration and those proposers are invited in to give presentations before the LCCMR.
- After presentations final selection is made by LCCMR of proposals to be recommended to 2015 Minnesota Legislature for funding.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS

Recommended scientific research proposals undergo peer review.

PROJECT WORK PLANS

All recommended proposals submit detailed work plans to the LCCMR.

JANUARY-MAY 2015 (Legislative Session)

- The LCCMR funding recommendations are considered and acted upon by the Minnesota Legislature (House and Senate) and signed into law by the Governor.

JUNE-JULY 2015

- June 2015: LCCMR approves work plans for funded proposals authorizing projects to begin July 1, 2015.
- **July 1, 2015: Money from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund becomes available for projects to begin.**

REPORTING DURING PROJECT PERIOD AND PROJECT COMPLETION

- Projects are required to provide status update reports twice per year, or approximately every six months.
- Projects are required to submit a final report on project outcomes and results approximately 4-6 weeks after a project's designated completion date of June 30 of the year determined by the project's length.

The next RFP for funding beginning July 1, 2016 is expected to be issued in January 2015.

2015 FUNDING PRIORITIES

Projects are sought that provide multiple ecological and other public benefits, are consistent with the LCCMR Six-Year Strategic Plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/documents/strategic_plan/2009/lccmr_strategic_plan.pdf), and address at least one of the adopted funding priorities detailed below. Projects should be **innovative** and must accelerate or supplement, not supplant, existing efforts.

Note:

- Project Eligibility: Projects being done to meet regulatory requirements will not be considered for funding. Additionally, see specific limitations indicated in *italics* within individual funding priorities.
- Other Funding Opportunities: As applicable, projects eligible for established, topic-specific state agency grant programs—such as for renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, clean water implementation, local parks and trails, and habitat acquisition and restoration—are encouraged to go directly to the particular state agency grant program as funds may be available in a more timely manner. Contact LCCMR staff for more information and guidance about these other established grant programs.
- As appropriate, projects involving citizen science and community involvement in scientific efforts are encouraged.

Proposals must address one or more of the seven funding priorities detailed below. The order of the priorities below does not indicate a level of priority within the priorities.

A. Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information

Proposals must address one or more of the following:

1. Data acquisition, information management, research, or analysis to develop foundational natural resource or wildlife data and information.
2. Coordination, facilitation, or training pertaining to statewide sharing, distribution, or innovative application of natural resource data (e.g., maps, inventories, and surveys) and information tools (e.g., Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), and other remote sensing techniques).

B. Water Resources

Proposals must address one or more of the following:

1. Protect or restore water quality by reducing soil erosion, reducing peak water flows, reducing nitrogen loss, or improving water and land use practices. Projects must include monitoring and evaluation.
2. Research and evaluation to identify the causes of observed changes in the health of fish and wildlife that may pertain to contaminants of emerging concern.
3. Research or engineering design to protect the health of humans and aquatic and terrestrial species by i) advancing development or implementation of standards for nitrates or other contaminants; or ii) broadly reducing levels of nitrates, phosphates, estrogenic, pharmaceutical, or other contaminants in ground and surface waters.
4. Research, monitoring, or evaluation pertaining to i) ground and surface water interaction, protection, conservation, and sustainability, or ii) lake ecosystems, including Lake Superior.

2015 FUNDING PRIORITIES

C. Environmental Education

Proposals must address education, information dissemination, and training efforts that will increase the knowledge and skills of students or the public to cultivate a sustainable lifestyle, improve and maintain water quality, reduce and monitor energy and water consumption, or restore and maintain a healthy and biodiverse natural environment. *Funding for capital projects (e.g., buildings) will not be considered.*

Priority will be given to projects that address one or more of the following:

1. Efforts that are locally-led, involve broad-based partnerships, provide outdoor experiences, or are committed to building a long-lasting and action-based conservation ethic in a community.
2. Efforts that deliver and implement existing curriculum, especially integration of environmental education into school curriculum. *Proposals to develop new curriculum will not be considered.*

D. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species

"Invasive species" includes any plants, animals, insects, and diseases that are non-native, introduced species in the state and that are currently having, or pose a threat to have, significant adverse impacts on Minnesota's native ecosystems and biodiversity. Proposals must address one or more of the following:

1. Prevent introduction or provide early detection of new invasive species.
2. Reduce the spread of invasive species with best management practices along streams, rivers, land transportation routes, and other vectors.
3. Alternative control techniques for containing or suppressing invasive species already present in Minnesota. *Standard control, removal, and maintenance activities of invasive species will not be considered.*
4. Restore lands with native vegetation as practicable following implementation of invasive species control techniques on disturbed lands where a native seed bank no longer exists.
5. Inform and educate landowners about all invasive species threats to their land and offer actions they can take in response.

E. Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy

Proposals must address one or more of the following:

1. Innovative approaches to air quality improvement that reduce impacts on human health, the environment, or natural resources.
2. Acquisition of data at a scale appropriate to assess natural resource changes attributable to climate change.
3. Research to help understand how to mitigate, adapt, or make Minnesota's ecosystems more resilient to climate change impacts, including drought and extreme weather events.
4. Implementation of innovative efforts aimed at mitigating, adapting, or making Minnesota's ecosystems more resilient to climate change impacts, including drought and extreme weather events.
5. Evaluation of applicability and/or effective implementation of clean energy technologies (e.g., biofuels, solar, geothermal, wind) or energy conservation in Minnesota. Examples include efforts involving carbon emissions reduction; community-based, locally-produced renewable energy technologies; renewable energy life cycle costs and impacts; or smart energy technologies. *Funding for capital projects will not be considered.*
6. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through new and innovative approaches to increasing recycling and composting. *Standard, required, and ongoing efforts will not be considered.*

2015 FUNDING PRIORITIES

F. Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat

Proposals must address one or more of the following (see p.7 for additional project requirements pertaining to this category):

1. Innovative protection, restoration, or enhancement of lands with high-quality natural resources, habitat, ecological value, or water protection value.
2. Long term preservation of native forest, wetland, or prairie plant genetics and viability. ~~through long term storage in seed banks or other related efforts.~~
3. Technical assistance for prairie stewardship, forest stewardship, stewardship of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands and other agricultural lands, or aquatic buffer management to improve water quality.
4. Planning and implementation of community-based efforts to permanently conserve natural resources and reduce habitat fragmentation impacts on natural resources, including the impacts of transportation and other infrastructure.

G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Proposals must address fee title or permanent conservation easement acquisition of strategic lands with high quality natural resources, habitat, ecological value, and/or recreational value, and the greatest capacity to contribute multiple conservation benefits to wildlife, humans, and ground and surface water quality. All lands to be acquired should be part of an adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plan and a restoration/enhancement or management plan for the site must be created. Proposals should provide an explanation as to how such plans will be developed, implemented, and funded.

Priority will given to projects that address one or more of the following (see p.7 for additional project requirements pertaining to this category):

1. Efforts based on precision conservation methods and analysis that quantifiably identify the lands most critical to acquire. Precision conservation is an emerging practice that considers lands in terms of the interconnected systems of which they are a part. As a practice, precision conservation compiles and integrates multiple types of available data layers and analysis (e.g., terrain analysis, soil productivity, habitat potential, economic analysis, erosion potential, proximity to surface water) to identify and guide efforts that will maximize conservation benefits.
2. Efforts involving Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) or that aim to protect unique ecosystems or rare, endangered, or threatened species, particularly areas that may not presently qualify as a priority for other State of Minnesota funds directed toward land acquisition for habitat or recreation.
3. Efforts that enhance habitat connectivity, benefit ground or surface water quality, improve access for natural resource management, or increase public access for recreation, particularly in areas of the state with limited protected public lands.
4. Efforts expanding outdoor recreational opportunities through additions to a state or regional park or trail.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Project Requirements

- Expenditures must strictly adhere to Article XI, Section 14 of the Minnesota Constitution and M.S. 116P.08, the laws governing expenditure of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (pg. 14).
- Sponsor organizations must have a current external financial audit, or equivalent, with no serious negative findings.
- Funds requested are generally expected to be expended and activities completed within 36 months or less. If additional time is needed, explain in the “Timeline Requirements” section (section III-C) of the main proposal.
- Fee-title and conservation easement acquisition projects have the following additional requirements:
 1. First priority must be given to lands with high quality natural resources that provide multiple benefits and that provide natural buffers to water resources.
 2. Lands should not already be fully or partially protected by state ownership or state funds, per M.S. 116P.18.
 3. Targeted lands must be identified in an adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plan.
 4. Conservation easements must be perpetual and include provisions to perpetually monitor and enforce the conditions of the conservation easements.
 5. Explanation must be provided for how a restoration/enhancement or management plan for the site will be developed, implemented, and funded (through this funding request or other funds).
 6. A list must be provided that identifies proposed acquisitions and restorations by parcel name, geographic coordinates (latitude/longitude), estimated cost, county, ecological significance, activity description, proposed number of acres, proposed shoreline miles, type of landowner, and proposed title/easement holder (if applicable). A list template with instructions is available at www.lccmr.leg.mn.
- Restoration/enhancement projects:
 1. Must occur on public lands or lands that are otherwise permanently protected.
 2. Should refer to MN Board of Water and Soil Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” (http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/native_vegetation/seeding_guidelines.pdf) for guidance.
- Any royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products or assets resulting from a project are subject to revenue sharing requirements outlined in M.S. 116P.10.
- All projects are subject to additional requirements including accessibility, data availability, land acquisition requirements, energy conservation and sustainability guidelines, and recyclable material requirements. Information located at www.lccmr.leg.mn titled “Additional Proposal Requirements”.

Evaluation Criteria

All proposals should strive to maximize efficiency and return on investment for the proposed expenditures. Additionally the following criteria, as applicable, will be considered in evaluating proposals (additional explanation of evaluation criteria is available at www.lccmr.leg.mn titled “Additional Explanation of Evaluation Criteria”):

1. **FUNDING PRIORITIES:** Responds to RFP funding priorities and LCCMR Six-Year Strategic Plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund articulated and adopted by the LCCMR.
2. **MULTIPLE BENEFITS:** Delivers multiple benefits to Minnesota’s environment and natural resources.
3. **OUTCOMES:** Identifies clear objectives likely to result in measurable, demonstrated, and meaningful outcomes.
4. **KNOWLEDGE BASE:** Contributes to the knowledge base or disseminates information that will benefit other efforts.
5. **EXTENT OF IMPACTS:** Results in broad, long-term impacts of statewide or regional significance.
6. **INNOVATION:** Employs or demonstrates innovative approaches to more effectively and efficiently solve specific environment and natural resources issues.
7. **SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL BASIS:** Reflects current scientific and technical knowledge, standards, and best practices.
8. **URGENCY:** Addresses an issue for which immediate future action is necessary and essential to avoid undesirable consequences.
9. **CAPACITY AND READINESS:** Demonstrates capacity and readiness for efforts to be managed and completed in a timely, accountable, and effective manner.
10. **LEVERAGE:** Leverages collaborative partnerships and additional efforts, resources, and non-state funds.
- ~~11. **RESULTING ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT:** Employs a significant number of additional or new employees or students in natural resources jobs that are direct to the funding request. [Staff recommends dropping due to experience that this has proven very difficult to effectively or fairly evaluate or quantify at this stage in the process.]~~

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

FIRM DEADLINE: 4:30 PM ON FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2014

**ALL FORMS AND TEMPLATES REQUIRED FOR PROPOSAL
SUBMISSION CAN BE FOUND AT www.lccmr.leg.mn**

LCCMR staff are available to review draft proposals if submitted by Friday, March 21, 2014. Early submission of drafts is recommended to receive the most detailed guidance. Submit drafts using the online proposal submission form—indicate DRAFT by entering “Y” in the appropriate field of the submission form.

PROPOSAL SECTIONS CHECKLIST

1	2015 LCCMR Proposal Submission Form: Go to www.lccmr.leg.mn , select “2015 LCCMR Proposal Submission Form” on the Home Page, and provide all requested information, as detailed on p. 9 of this RFP.
Proposal sections 2 through 7 (as applicable) are submitted through the online submission form as individual document attachments. See guidelines for attachments below.	
2	Main Proposal (2-page limit): Download the template (MS-Word) and fill out according to instructions on pages 10-11 of this RFP.
3	Detailed Project Budget (1-page limit): Download the template (MS-Excel) and fill out according to instructions on page 12 of this RFP.
4	Visual or Map (1-page limit): Visual illustration of proposal information or site-specific map (see below).
5	Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List: If applicable (see below). Download the template (MS-Excel) and fill out according to instructions stated in the template.
6	Project Manager Qualifications & Organization Description (1-page limit—total)
7	Letter or Resolution (1-page limit): If applicable (see below).

Guidelines for Attachments

FOR ALL ATTACHMENTS

- 8 1/2” x 11” pages; 11 pt. font minimum, except for “Detailed Project Budget”, which can be 10 pt.
- Proposal title clearly marked on top of each page.
- Blank 1-inch margin on bottom of each page.
- Any information exceeding the page limits indicated will not be reviewed as part of your proposal.

GUIDELINES FOR SPECIFIC ATTACHMENTS

#2: Main Proposal (2-page limit)

Main proposal must provide concise information summarizing proposed project, activities, outcomes, and strategy and timeline. See template instructions (p.10-11).

#3: Detailed Project Budget (1-page limit)

Project budget must clearly account for how all requested funds would be used and explain what (if any) other funds would be used during the project. See template instructions (p.12).

#4: Visual or Map (1-page limit)

- **Proposals NOT INVOLVING land acquisition or restoration:** Provide a graphic, table, photo(s), figure, map, or other visual element that illustrates or elaborates on information in the main proposal.
- **Proposals INVOLVING land acquisition or restoration:** Map of the specific proposed project area is **required**.

Map must be legible as black & white printout, include north arrow and scale, and illustrate **specific site location** within city, county, region, and/or state.

#5: Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List

Proposals INVOLVING land acquisition or restoration: a list is **required** that identifies proposed acquisitions by parcel name, geographic coordinates (latitude/longitude), estimated cost, county, ecological significance, activity description, proposed number of acres, proposed shoreline miles, type of landowner, and proposed title/easement holder (if applicable). See instructions in template.

#6: Project Manager Qualifications & Organization Description (1-page limit—total)

- Include summary of project manager qualifications and responsibilities **pertaining specifically** to project proposal. A complete resume or CV is not requested.
- Organization description should be a simple, concise explanation of organization and its mission.

#7: Letter or Resolution (1-page limit)

Non-profits and local units of government **must submit** a letter or resolution authorizing proposal submission from their governing board. State and federal agencies and colleges/universities do not need a resolution but must have an authorized person submit the proposal.

2015 LCCMR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM INSTRUCTIONS

1. The "2015 LCCMR Proposal Submission Form" is located at www.lccmr.leg.mn — click on "2015 LCCMR Proposal Submission Form" and follow the instructions. **Online submission of proposals is required.** Contact LCCMR staff if unable to use the online submission form,
2. Draft proposals intended for staff review prior to final submission should be submitted using the online proposal submission form. Indicate draft by entering "Y" in the appropriate field. Drafts must be submitted by Friday, March 21, 2014 to receive review. Early submission of drafts is recommended to receive the most detailed guidance.
3. Provide all requested information. The tab key on your keyboard will take you from field to field. **An asterisk (*) denotes a required field for submission.**
4. Attach: Main Proposal, Detailed Project Budget, Visual or Map, Acquisition/Restoration List (if required), Project Manager Qualifications & Organization Description, and Letter or Resolution (if required).
5. Before pressing "SUBMIT" review the information you provided for accuracy and ensure that all necessary attachments have been attached. After you press "SUBMIT" you will be able to review a copy of the information you provided; please save or print this page for your records.

2015 LCCMR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

***Is this a DRAFT of a proposal intended for staff review?** [Enter "Y" if draft or "N" if final submission.] ____

***Project Title:** [Limit 8 words within the allowable space.] _____

***LCCMR 2015 Funding Priority:** [Select the funding priority to which your proposal most closely responds.] ____

***Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request:** [Dollar request to LCCMR.] \$ _____

***Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** [Enter number of years—1, 2, or 3—and start date/end date in format: [#] years, July 2015 to [End Date: Month Year].] _____

Project Manager: *First Name: _____ *Last Name: _____ [List one person only. Project team members can be listed under "Project Team/Partners" (Section III-A) in the Main Proposal.]

***Sponsoring Organization:** _____

Mailing Address: *Street Address: _____

*City: _____ *State: _____ *Zip: _____

***Telephone Number:** (Area Code) _____ - _____ [Provide a reliable phone number, including area code, in case of questions.]

***Email:** _____ [Provide a reliable email address.]

Website: _____ [if available]

Location: [What area will the project impact? Be as specific as possible in terms of region, county, and city/township—see p.15 for a map of MN divided by geographic region. To select multiple, hold "ctrl" while left clicking with the mouse.]

*Region: _____ *County: _____ City/Township: _____

*PROJECT SUMMARY

[The summary is LIMITED TO 30 WORDS within the allowable space and must be a free standing summation of the proposed project. Be specific. Provide a clear, concise summary of the proposed project's activities and outcomes. It is important that the summary be able to stand on its own as a description of the proposal because it will be used along with the project title to refer to the proposal during proposal review.]

***Alternate Text for Visual or Map:** _____ [For accessibility purposes, include a brief description of what is shown in the visual or map being submitted in case it cannot be viewed.]

ATTACHMENTS [NOTE: Individual attachment files cannot exceed 2 MB each]

Attach :

- *Main Proposal (MS-Word format)
- *Detailed Project Budget (MS-Excel format)
- *Visual or Map
- Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List (if required)
- *Project Manager Qualifications & Organization Description
- Letter or Resolution (if required)

NOTE: An asterisk (*) denotes a required field for submission.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2015 Main Proposal

Project Title: *[Insert "Project Title" here in document header]*

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (2 PAGE LIMIT)

(2-page limit, single-sided, 11 pt. font minimum. Retain bold text and DELETE all instructions typed in italics)

- MS-Word template of the Main Proposal can be downloaded from the LCCMR web page: www.lccmr.leg.mn. Click on **"2015 Main Proposal template"**.
- Attach Main Proposal, in MS-Word format, to your **"2015 LCCMR Proposal Submission Form"**.

PROJECT TITLE:

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

In this section, provide a summarizing overview statement (1/2 page or less) that is very specific to the proposal and clearly and succinctly states:

1. *WHY this project needs to be done (i.e., the context or problem to which it is responding; the opportunity, challenge, issue, or need the project would address).*
2. *Overall GOALS of the project (e.g., reduce forest fragmentation, improve water quality) and the specific, direct OUTCOMES you aim to achieve (e.g., populations served, geographic areas served, resources impacted, species impacted).*
3. *HOW the project will achieve those goals (i.e., the project itself and types of activities involved).*

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

In this section break the project into individual activities (i.e., distinct efforts, phases of effort, types/categories of effort) and their outcomes. Be specific. List as many activities as needed using the format indicated below. For each activity:

- *Provide a short, descriptive title for the activity.*
- *Indicate the budget amount intended to be allocated specifically to the activity.*
- *Provide a clear and concise description of the activity indicating specific tasks involved, goals to be achieved, and any explanation of plans for evaluating the activity outcomes.*
- *If an activity involves land acquisition, address the parcels proposed, the criteria used to select those parcels, and the name of the organization or entity who will hold title—be specific.*
- *State specific, measurable outcomes that will be achieved as a result of the activity.*

EXAMPLE:

Activity 1: (Title of Activity) _____

Budget: \$ _____

Include clear and concise description of the activity you are proposing to do here.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Specific, measureable outcome #1	
2. Specific, measureable outcome #2	
3. Specific, measureable outcome #3	
Etc.	



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2015 Main Proposal

Project Title: [Insert "Project Title" here in document header]

Activity 2: (Title of Activity) _____

Budget: \$ _____

Include clear and concise description of the activity you are proposing to do here.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Specific, measureable outcome #1	
2. Specific, measureable outcome #2	
3. Specific, measureable outcome #3	
Etc.	

ADD ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AS NEEDED USING THE SAME FORMAT AS ABOVE. Please mark as Activity 2, 3, 4, etc.

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Describe the project team and partners that will be carrying out the proposed activities. List names and affiliations of team members or partner organizations, and explain the specific role each will play in carrying out the project. Delineate which partners are proposed to receive money from this Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund request and which partners are proposed to be contributing funds or resources from other sources.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

What is the long-term strategy for the proposed project? For example, in terms of its utility to Minnesota's environment and natural resources, dissemination of findings, implementation of results, or ongoing contributions that will derive from it. Additionally, is this proposal a component of a specific, larger, longer-term, or multi-phase project or effort that will require additional investment over time than is being requested here? If so, please explain the broader project/effort (including previous efforts or project phases leading up to this request), identify what sorts of longer-term efforts and investments will be required to make it sustainable, and comment on long-term strategies for ongoing financial support and project progress and/or completion. Be explicit about what other funds are currently secured or have been applied for to support the effort. If additional funding requests for directly related efforts or phases might be submitted to the LCCMR in the future, be very specific as to what is presently anticipated. If your proposal is for additional efforts or phases of a project that has previously received ENRTF support, indicate specific plans for transitioning to other sources of funding or becoming self-sustaining.

C. Timeline Requirements

Explain the timeline requirements specific to the proposed project. Timeline requirements are the project timeline being requested to carry out the project and the rationale, such as any particular conditions or stages required or assumed in order to carry out the project under the timeline (e.g., if project requires a certain number of field seasons under certain conditions). If a proposed project would require more than 36 months to complete, explain here. If a proposed project is a distinct phase of some larger effort and additional funding beyond this request is anticipated to be needed for a future phase, explain in section III-B above.

2015 DETAILED PROJECT BUDGET

Project Title: *[Insert "Project Title" here]*

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

MS-Excel template can be downloaded from LCCMR web page: www.lccmr.leg.mn. Click on "2015 Detailed Project Budget template". Attach budget, in MS-Excel format, to your "2015 LCCMR Proposal Submission Form".

(1-page limit, single-sided, 10 pt. font minimum. Retain bold text and DELETE all instructions typed in italics. ADD OR DELETE ROWS AS NECESSARY. If budget item row is not applicable put "N/A" or delete it. All of "Other Funds" section must be filled out.)

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET: *[Insert # of years for project] years*

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses", p.13)	AMOUNT
Personnel: <i>In this column, list who is getting paid to do what and what is the % of full-time employment for each position. List out by position or position type—one row per position/position type. For each, provide details in this column on the inputs: i.e., % dollars toward salary, % dollars toward benefits, time period for position/position type, and number of people in the position/position type.</i>	\$
Contracts: <i>In this column, list out proposed contracts. Be clear about whom the contract is to be made with and what services will be provided. If a specific contractor is not yet determined, specify the type of contractor sought. List out by contract types/categories—one row per type/category.</i>	\$
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: <i>In this column, list out general descriptions of item(s) or item type(s) and their purpose—one row per item/item type.</i>	\$
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): <i>In this column, indicate the proposed number of acres and name of organization or entity who will hold title.</i>	\$
Travel: <i>Be specific. Generally, only in-state travel essential to completing project activities can be included.</i>	\$
Additional Budget Items: <i>In this column, list any additional budget items that do not fit above categories. List by item(s) or item type(s) and explain how number was reached. One row per type/category.</i>	\$
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$

V. OTHER FUNDS *[This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.]*

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	STATUS
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional non-state cash dollars secured or applied for to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	\$	Indicate: Secured or Pending
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional state cash dollars (e.g., bonding, other grants) secured or applied for to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	\$	Indicate: Secured or Pending
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional in-kind service(s) secured or applied for to be spent on the project during the project period. For each type of service, list type of service(s), estimated value, and indicate whether it is secured or pending. In-kind services listed must be specific to the project.</i>	\$	Indicate: Secured or Pending
Funding History: <i>Indicate funding secured but to be expended prior to July 1, 2015, for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request, including past and current ENRTF funds. State specific source(s) of funds and dollar amount.</i>	\$	
Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation: <i>Specify dollar amount and year of appropriation from any current ENRTF appropriation for any directly related project of the project manager or organization that remains unspent or not yet legally obligated at the time of proposal submission. Be as specific as possible. Indicate the status of the funds.</i>	\$	Indicate: Unspent? Not Legally Obligated? Other?

GUIDANCE ON ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Eligible expenses are those expenses **solely** incurred through project activities that are **directly related to and necessary for** producing the project outcomes described in the proposal. **All proposed expenses must be specified in the proposal submitted.** Please note that for non-state entities all funds are awarded on a reimbursement basis, unless otherwise authorized, and all eligible expenses will need to be documented. **Eligible expenses may include:**

- a. Eligible expenditures incurred only after the effective date as approved by LCCMR.
- b. Wages and expenses of salaried Recipient employees if specified, documented, and approved. For State Agencies: use of unclassified staff only OR request approval for the use of classified staff accompanied by an explanation of how the agency will backfill that part of the classified staff salary proposed to be paid for with these funds. This is subject to specific discussion and approval by LCCMR.
- c. Fringe benefit expenses limited to salary, FICA/Medicare, retirement, and health insurance of Recipient's employees if specified.
- d. Professional services specified in the approved Work Plan that are rendered by individuals or organizations not a part of the Recipient;
- e. Materials and supplies specific to the project and incoming freight charges for them.
- f. Capital expenditures for facilities, equipment, and other capital assets as expressly approved. For expenditures greater than \$3,500, the Recipient must provide an explanation as to how all the equipment purchased with the appropriation will continue to be used for the same program through its useful life, or, if the use changes, a commitment to pay back to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund an amount equal to either the cash value received or a residual value approved by the director of the LCCMR if it is not sold.
- g. Publication and printing/copying expenses (including the process of composition, plate-making, press work, binding, and the end products produced) necessary for contract administration, work products production, and semi-annual reports relating to accomplishments.
- h. In-state transportation and travel expenses such as lodging, meals, and mileage of personnel directly involved in the Project in the same manner and in no greater amount than provided for in the current "**Commissioner's Plan**" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget and as provided by LCCMR or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan found at <http://policy.umn.edu/policies/finance/travel/travel.html>. Allowable meal and lodging expenses are for employees only. Purchasing meals for others is not an allowable expense.

GENERALLY INELIGIBLE EXPENSES—UNLESS EXPLICITLY APPROVED

Generally ineligible expenses for reimbursement mean all expenses not defined as eligible expenses, but for which an explicit exception can be sought from LCCMR if the expenses can be **clearly justified and individually documented as directly related to and necessary for** a project. **No broad allocations for costs in either dollars or percentages are allowed.** In deciding whether to seek exception for these costs consider that cash and in-kind leverage are criteria considered in proposal evaluation. **Generally ineligible expenses include but are not limited to:**

- a. General operations, overhead, and other indirect expenses, including office maintenance, office utility expenses, and office materials and supplies.
- b. Office rental fees (including storage space rental).
- c. Communication expenses incurred for telephone calls, web access, postage, and similar services.
- d. Insurance, except title insurance.
- e. Attorney fees, except to acquire and clear title to land.
- f. Purchase of communication devices such as pagers, cell phones, or smart phones.
- g. Purchase of computers or audiovisual equipment.
- h. Generally available food and refreshments, except if explicitly approved for certain types of events.
- i. Conference attendance and associated costs and fees, except if to participate in formal presentation of project findings.
- j. Out of state transportation and travel expenses.

PROHIBITED EXPENSES

Prohibited expenses for reimbursement mean all expenses indicated below, **including but not limited to:**

- a. Any expenses incurred before the project is authorized, before July 1, 2015, or before LCCMR work plan approval—whichever is latest.
- b. Fundraising.
- c. Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services.
- d. Lobbyists or political contributions.
- e. Advertising and marketing expenses.
- f. Loans, grants, or subsidies to persons or entities for development.
- g. Bad debts, late payment fees, finance charges, or contingency funds.
- h. Interest or investment management fees.
- i. Directors or officers salary.
- j. Merit awards and bonuses.
- k. Memberships (including subscriptions and dues).
- l. Publications, periodicals, and subscription fees.
- m. Employee worksite parking.
- n. Entertainment, decorations, gifts, and prizes.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND: MN CONSTITUTION AND STATUTORY EXPENDITURES

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Minnesota Constitution Art. XI, Sec.14: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Established

<http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/about/language-index.html>

A permanent environment and natural resources trust fund is established in the state treasury. Loans may be made of up to five percent of the principal of the fund for water system improvements as provided by law. The assets of the fund shall be appropriated by law for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. The amount appropriated each year of a biennium, commencing on July 1 in each odd-numbered year and ending on and including June 30 in the next odd-numbered year, may be up to 5-1/2 percent of the market value of the fund on June 30 one year before the start of the biennium. Not less than 40 percent of the net proceeds from any state-operated lottery must be credited to the fund until the year 2025. [Adopted, November 8, 1988; Amended, November 6, 1990; November 3, 1998]

MS 116P.08 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Expenditures and Exceptions

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=116P&view=chapter#stat.116P.08>

Subdivision 1. **Expenditures.** Money in the trust fund may be spent ONLY for:

- (1) the reinvest in Minnesota program as provided in section 84.95, subd. 2;
- (2) research that contributes to increasing the effectiveness of protecting or managing the state's environment or natural resources;
- (3) collection and analysis of information that assists in developing the state's environmental and natural resources policies;
- (4) enhancement of public education, awareness, and understanding necessary for the protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancement of air, land, water, forests, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources;
- (5) capital projects for the preservation and protection of unique natural resources;
- (6) activities that preserve or enhance fish, wildlife, land, air, water, and other natural resources that otherwise

may be substantially impaired or destroyed in any area of the state;

- (7) administrative and investment expenses incurred by the state board of investment in investing deposits to the trust fund; and
- (8) administrative expenses subject to the limits in section 116P.09.

Subdivision 2. **Exceptions.** Money from the trust fund may not be spent for:

- (1) purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response action under chapter 115C;
- (2) purposes of municipal water pollution control under the authority of chapters 115 and 116;
- (3) costs associated with the decommissioning of nuclear power plants;
- (4) hazardous waste disposal facilities;
- (5) solid waste disposal facilities; or
- (6) projects or purposes inconsistent with the strategic plan.

Minnesota (by geographic region)

Use for determining region location for proposal submission form (see p.9)

