

From: Booth, Peggy (DNR) <peggy.booth@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 12:41 PM
To: Diana Griffith
Cc: Tidemann, Jason (DNR)
Subject: ML17 SNA revised LCCMR work plan

Hello LCCMR colleagues,

Attached are a revised ML17 SNA work plan and budget which targets meeting the deliverables listed in the appropriation language. It is predicated on a number of changes and assumptions listed below. The appropriation was cut to 55% of the LCCMR recommendation & the comments below include how much each activity was cut.

1. Activity 1. Acquisition/Protection (61% of LCCMR recommended \$s)
 - a. The assumed \$s/acre in landowner payments was reduced from \$6000/acre to \$3600/acre. This means that this appropriation can only be used to acquire cheaper sites. Some higher priority sites, particularly prairies in prime farm land areas as well as sites at most risk for development (e.g. lakeshore, near-Metro sites, etc) will not be able to be acquired with this appropriation.
 - b. Proactive landowner contact work is reduced to 39% which means that we will be further behind in cultivating future SNA land acquisition projects (particularly since no funding was provided for this in the ML16 ENRTF appropriation).
 - c. Outcomes related to acquisition prioritization & natural area registry were totally cut. We have small amounts of funding left for this in the ML15 ENRTF appropriation that can be used in FY18, but will have no funding after that for these key land protection tools.
2. Activity 2. Restoration/Enhancement/Site Improvements (51% of LCCMR recommended \$s)
 - a. The 55-acres of restoration (plant community reconstruction & rehabilitation) in the original work plan was totally cut. The woody removal/invasives control work in the original work plan was reduced from 340 acres to 300 acres. Instead 700 acres of prescribed burning (or other prescribed disturbance) activities will be done. This is necessary since restoration and woody removal cost much more per acre.
 - b. Site development work is reduced to 20% of the original work plan. No interpretive signs would be done. Site improvements for parcels acquired under this appropriation may have to be done with ML16 or future funding.
 - c. Outcomes related to partnership coordination, adaptive management plans, and ecological monitoring/database were totally cut. We have funding left for this in ML16 ENRTF that can be used in FY18-19, but would have no funding for these key restoration-related tools after that. This also means that ecological management plans for sites acquired by this funding would have to be done with future appropriations.
3. Activity 3. Citizen Science & Outreach (55% of LCCMR recommended \$s)
 - a. Because this work was not funded in the ML16 appropriation and because the SNA program has no other funding for outreach, this is my highest priority for retaining funding in ML17 despite the fact that no specific deliverables are tied to it in the appropriation language.
 - b. Three SNA outreach/interpretive staff positions depend upon ENRTF funding & yet this work plan only has less than 1.5 FTEs over 2 years budgeted for them. So in essence, it is only 1 year of funding for them. So unless we receive more ENRTF funding for this work in ML18 (or other funding not previously received), we will have to stop most of our outreach work in FY19.
 - c. We had to totally cut the proposed 2 new CCM individual placement positions to support citizen science work, other events & our site steward network.

- d. Together, these reduction seriously compromise our intention to launch a number of citizen science projects and our proposed number of events has been cut to about 42%.

These cuts make do impact substantively our SNA work to protect and sustain rare resources on behalf of the people of Minnesota. However, we understand that these changes are necessary to meet the appropriation language.

Thanks for your support.

Peggy (Margaret) Booth

Program Supervisor | Scientific and Natural Area Program

Division of Ecological and Water Resources

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Rd N, Box 25

St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

Phone: 651-259-5088

Email: peggy.booth@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov



State Scientific and Natural Areas

Minnesota Statutes 2016 86A.05

Subd. 5. **State scientific and natural areas; purpose; resource and site qualifications; administration; designation.**

(a) A state scientific and natural area shall be established to protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed natural state those natural features which possess exceptional scientific or educational value.

(b) No unit shall be authorized as a scientific and natural area unless its proposed location substantially satisfies the following criteria:

(1) embraces natural features of exceptional scientific and educational value, including but not limited to any of the following:

(i) natural formations or features which significantly illustrate geological processes;

(ii) significant fossil evidence of the development of life on earth;

(iii) an undisturbed plant community maintaining itself under prevailing natural conditions typical of Minnesota;

(iv) an ecological community significantly illustrating the process of succession and restoration to natural condition following disruptive change;

(v) a habitat supporting a vanishing, rare, endangered, or restricted species of plant or animal;

(vi) a relict flora or fauna persisting from an earlier period; or

(vii) a seasonal haven for concentrations of birds and animals, or a vantage point for observing concentrated populations, such as a constricted migration route; and

(2) embraces an area large enough to permit effective research or educational functions and to preserve the inherent natural values of the area.

(c) State scientific and natural areas shall be administered by the commissioner of natural resources, in consultation with qualified persons, in a manner which is consistent with the purposes of this subdivision to preserve, perpetuate and protect from unnatural influences the scientific and educational resources within them. Interpretive studies may be provided for the general public. Physical development shall be limited to the facilities absolutely necessary for protection, research, and educational projects, and, where appropriate, for interpretive services.

(d) An area designated as a state scientific and natural area shall not be altered in designation or use without holding a public hearing on the matter at a time and place designated in the notice of the hearing, which shall be published once in a legal newspaper in each county in which the lands are situated at least seven days in advance of the hearing. At the hearing the commissioner shall provide an opportunity for any person to be heard. The

commissioner may designate these areas by written order published in the State Register. Designations are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 and section 14.386 does not apply.

(e) At the discretion of the managing agency, each scientific and natural area shall be designated as one of the following types:

(i) Research unit. Use is limited to programs conducted by qualified scientists and college graduate and postgraduate students.

(ii) Educational unit. Permitted uses include all activities specified in paragraph (i) above and primary, secondary, and college undergraduate programs.

(iii) Public use unit. Permitted uses include all uses permitted in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above and interpretive programs for the benefit of the general public.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2017 Work Plan

Date of Report: June 1, 2017
Date of Next Status Update Report: November 1, 2017
Date of Work Plan Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2020
Does this submission include an amendment request? __

PROJECT TITLE: Scientific and Natural Areas Acquisition and Restoration, Citizen Science, and Engagement

Project Manager: Margaret (Peggy) Booth
Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecological & Water Resources
Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
City/State/Zip Code: St Paul, MN 55155-4025
Telephone Number: (651)259-5088
Email Address: peggy.booth@state.mn.us
Web Address: mndnr.gov/snas

Location: statewide

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$2,500,000
	Amount Spent:	\$0
	Balance:	\$2,500,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b

Appropriation Language:

\$2,500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire at least 250 acres of land with high-quality native plant communities and rare features to be established as scientific and natural areas as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 5, restore and improve at least 1,000 acres of scientific and natural areas, and provide technical assistance and outreach, including site steward events. At least one-third of the appropriation must be spent on restoration activities. A list of proposed acquisitions and restorations must be provided as part of the required work plan. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. When feasible, consideration must be given to accommodate trails on lands acquired. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2020, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Citizen Science & Engagement

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Conservation of the state's rarest resources through the state Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) will be strengthened through strategic acquisition and land protection, monitoring-based restoration and improvements, and citizen science-based action and outreach. About 250 acres of at risk native plant communities and wildlife habitat of state significance identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) and the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan will be acquired and designated as SNAs. Ecological information and monitoring will help guide or evaluate native habitat restoration, enhancement, and site improvement activities on about 1000 acres of SNAs threatened by human impacts, invasive species, and lack of natural disturbance regimes. Furthermore, in cooperation with Conservation Corp of Minnesota, science-based information and citizen science projects will be basis for an expanded SNA outreach initiative including 50 events and a network of SNA site stewards at 130 SNAs.

III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of November 1, 2017:

Project Status as of April 1, 2018:

Project Status as of November 1, 2018:

Project Status as of April 1, 2019:

Project Status as of November 1, 2019:

Project Status as of April 1, 2020:

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Acquisition & Protection of Sites of Biodiversity Significance

Description:

The SNA Program will protect and buffer MBS-recommended sites of biodiversity significance by acquisition and SNA designation of ~250 acres. Proactive landowner contacts will be targeted in 4 high priority opportunity areas identified in the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan, including prairie core areas in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan. In order to be acquired and designated as SNA, the site must be recommended for SNA designation in an Ecological Evaluation report which serves as the site's baseline assessment for fee acquisitions. Candidate sites are numerically evaluated with priority to MBS-mapped outstanding and high biodiversity significance sites that are predominantly MBS-mapped native plant communities with habitat for rare species and Species in Greatest Conservation Need. The attached ML2017 Parcel List and ML17 SNA Projects map set identify priority project areas for this appropriation. The DNR may request to add other qualifying sites to the list. Most acquisition will be of fee title, but if more appropriate, acquisition could be of an SNA-administered conservation easement with SNA designation.

Consideration will be given to accommodating trails on lands acquired with these funds using criteria including: 1) statutory purpose of SNAs to "protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed natural state those natural features

which possess exceptional scientific or educational value” and statutory direction that “physical development shall be limited to facilities absolutely necessary for protection, research, and educational projects, and where appropriate, for interpretive services;” 2) measures needed to appropriately protect and manage specific natural features the site would be designated to protect; 3) pre-existing trail corridors and corridors of disturbance; and 4) a commitment to long term monitoring and management responsibilities by a third party.

Conservation easement monitoring will be done on about 3 SNA-held conservation easements. The SNA Program manages 20 SNA-related conservation easements (protecting over 1510 acres within or adjoining 10 SNAs). The goal of the SNA Program is to monitor each easement every 3 years, so through this appropriation about 6 easements would receive a formal on-site monitoring visit with results entered into the department land records, landowners contacted, management opportunities identified, and follow-up visits conducted if needed to address issues discovered.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 1,081,780

Amount Spent: \$ 0

Balance: \$ 1,081,780

Outcome	Completion Date
1a. acquisition as SNA of ~250 acres of high quality habitat	6/30/20
1b. proactive landowner contact in ~4 priority areas for acquisition/protection	6/30/20
1c. monitoring for ~3 SNA conservation easements	6/30/20

Note: budget for this Activity includes \$5,630 for direct & necessary services which are prorated across all costs except budgets for landowner payments; no direct & necessary charges are budgeted for the \$0.9M in landowner payments nor \$100K in transaction costs; actual charges will be based on actual expenditures.

Activity Status as of November 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of November 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019:

Activity Status as of November 1, 2019:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2020:

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 2: Native Habitat Restoration, Enhancements & Improvements

Description:

Native habitat enhancement and site improvements activities will be completed on about 1000 acres at about 40 state designated SNAs as guided by ecological data and monitoring.

Habitat enhancement and improvement activities will be carried out by DNR staff/SNA crews, Conservation Corps of Minnesota, contractors Sentence to Service, and/or volunteers. Activities include invasive species treatment and woody encroachment removal; prescribed burns (or alternative prescribed disturbance for ecological management purposes, such prescribed haying, mowing or grazing, necessary where use of fire is limited); site clean-up, signing, fencing (removal or installation as needed for management purposes).

Enhancement of degraded and rare land features helps implement the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan and achieve Habitat Recommendation 5 of the SCPP. This activity may include work to bring acquired parcels up to the DNR's minimum standards.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 1,011,281
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 1,011,281

Outcome	Completion Date
2a. ~300 acres of woody removal & exotics species treatment	6/30/20
2b. ~700 acres of prescribed burns	6/30/20
2c. development work on ~10 sites	6/30/20

Note: total budget for this Activity includes \$60,881 for direct & necessary services which are prorated across all costs except budgets for CCM contracts and MNIT service level agreement (SLAs); no direct & necessary charges are budgeted for the estimated \$127K in CCM contracts; actual charges will be based on actual expenditures.

Activity Status as of November 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of November 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019:

Activity Status as of November 1, 2019:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2020:

Final Report Summary:

Activity 3: Citizen Science & Public Engagement in Natural Areas

Science-based information will drive the engagement of Minnesotans in citizen science, monitoring and education activities on SNAs. A partnership with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota will sustain a network of 130 SNA volunteer site stewards; organize about 50 events focusing on citizen science monitoring and bio-blitzes, plus volunteer work days, and recreation-educational events (guided nature hikes, etc.) and evaluating the effectiveness of these actions. Ecological and safety training, guidance, and support materials will be provided for site stewards as necessary to recruit and retain these volunteers and ensure their work on SNAs is safe and ecologically appropriate. New and refined electronic/social media communications tools, maps, brochure, and interpretive information will be developed and disseminated to advance the public's understanding of natural systems and biodiversity science and to enhance appropriate recreational use of SNAs. Work will be accomplished in part with the involvement of two CCM individual placement positions each full time for 2 years.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 406,939
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 406,939

Outcome	Completion Date
3a. SNA website, e-book, social media, maps, brochure & other interpretive info	6/30/20
3b. ~ 50 citizen science & volunteer events (management work days & ed. events)	6/30/20
3c. network of volunteer site stewards at ~130 SNAs	6/30/20

Note: total budget for this Activity includes \$22,605 for direct & necessary services which are prorated across all costs except budgets for CCM contracts and MNIT service level agreement (SLAs); no direct & necessary charges are budgeted for the estimated \$76K in CCM contracts; actual charges will be based on actual expenditures.

Activity Status as of November 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of November 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019:

Activity Status as of November 1, 2019:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2020:

Final Report Summary:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

Dissemination will primarily be achieved through the SNA webpage on the DNR website: mndnr.gov/snas, through the SNA Facebook page, and through *Nature Notes* – the SNA Program e-newsletter distributed through GovDelivery.com to subscribers and possibly through Tweets on the DNR Twitter site. Specifically, the DNR website will be updated with information on the new or expanded SNAs. Announcements of the acquisitions and some enhancement-related activities will be posted on the SNA Facebook page.

Activity Status as of November 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of November 1, 2018:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2019:

Activity Status as of November 1, 2019:

Activity Status as of April 1, 2020:

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 802,600	Coordinators & Planner (0.9 FTE for 2 yrs); spec's, tech's & naturalists (3.9 FTE for 2 yrs); laborers, seasonal field crews & clerical (1.4 FTE for 2 yrs)
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$ 430,000	Contractors will be selected following state procurement & bidding processes:

		Professional/Technical Contracts –Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM) individual placement doing outreach <u>Service Contracts</u> (including CCM) – woody encroachment removal & invasives treatment; prescribed burning, haying, mowing, browsing, & grazing; site development (fences, signs, etc)
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 36,984	parts, tools, repair costs & supplies for invasives treatment, prescribed burning, haying, mowing or grazing, management plans, & monitoring; signs & posts, fencing, & other site development tools & supplies
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 900,000	~250 acres in 3-6 parcels to be designated as SNA & owned in fee by DNR
Professional Services for Fee Title and Easement Acquisition:	\$ 100,000	Includes real estate transaction costs & LAM billings; appraisal & review; boundary survey; attorney general; closing costs; recording fees & taxes; etc. <\$20K/parcel
Printing:	\$ 6,500	State register printing of acquisition designation orders; outreach materials (e.g. brochure, maps, etc.)
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 132,750	Fleet charges for trucks, cars, & equipment (e.g. mowers, seeders), mileage, lodging & meals as per state contracts. The fleet charges are use charges (by mile traveled or monthly charge which we pro-rate) for the specific equipment utilized for this project.
Other:	\$ 91,166	Computer & phone charges for CCM individual placement (\$2050); Direct & Necessary Services for the appropriation (\$89,116)
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 2,500,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: Consistent with approved work plans for previous ENRTF appropriations for the SNA Program, this funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for classified and unclassified staff paid mostly with special project funds. These positions would not exist, but for special project funding received through the ENRTF and other funds. Each year these positions are assigned work based on the particular combination of soft funding available to address priority SNA Program activities.

Direct and Necessary expenses are for Department Support Services (Human Resources, IT Support, Safety, Financial Support, Communications Support, Planning Support, and Procurement Support. Department Support Services are described in the agency Service Level Agreement, and billed internally to divisions based on rates that have been developed for each area of service. These services are directly related to and necessary for the appropriation. Department leadership services (Commissioner's Office and Regional Directors) are not assessed. Those elements of individual projects that put little or no demand on support services such as large single-source contracts, land acquisitions, and funds that are passed-thru to other entities are not assessed Direct and Necessary costs for those activities. For this work plan, landowner payments (~\$900,000), acquisition professional services (\$100,000), and CCM contracts (~\$203,000) have not been assessed Direct and Necessary costs. In addition to itemized costs captured in the proposal budget, direct and necessary costs cover HR/People Support (\$18,211), Safety Support (\$5,101), Financial Support (\$16,910), Communication Support (\$6,580), IT Support (\$36,769), Planning Support (\$4,560), and Procurement Support (\$985) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: 6.2 FTE each for two years spread over 25-35 positions – for a total of 12.4 FTEs

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF

Appropriation: up to 5.0 FTE for 1 year for CCM & 1.5 FTE fieldwork contractors for 1 year – for a total of 6.5 FTEs

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state	\$0	\$0	We seek landowner and partner donations for acquisitions. If any other funds are used for landowner payments for acquisitions funded in part with this appropriation, accomplishments will be pro-rated by the actual expenditures per funding source.
State**	\$0**	\$0**	Some SNA acquisitions are funded with a combination of state appropriations (e.g. OHF and RIM). If any other funds are used for landowner payments for acquisitions funded in part with this appropriation, accomplishments will be pro-rated by the actual expenditures per funding source. In-kind contributions by the project manager to administer this project and office/computer/phone costs for DNR staff work on this project will not be tracked.
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$0	\$0	

** As indicated below, Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations for acquisition and prairie restoration and enhancement occur concurrently with this ENRTF appropriation. These OHF funds are used for similar but separate projects as the ENRTF funding. Because of the multiple, overlapping appropriations, it would not be accurate to list those as match here. Also, the SNA program typically annually receives an internal general fund grant for about \$30,000 for similar but separate invasive species projects.

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Partners receiving ENRTF funding – none.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

Achieving the goals of the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan to protect 136,000 more acres as SNAs this century, as well as the science-based land management and public engagement depends upon ongoing support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund of \$5M to \$10M per biennium. Annual/biennial appropriations will also be sought from the Outdoor Heritage Fund and state bonding.

C. Funding History:

Funding Source and Use of Funds	Funding Timeframe	\$ Amount
ENRTF ML13, Ch 52, Sec 2, Subd 4b: SNA acquisition, restoration, enhancement & public	July 2013-June 2016	\$ 1,500,000
ENRTF ML14, Ch226, Subd 7a: SNA acquisition, restoration, enhancement & public engagement	July 2014-June 2017	\$ 2,540,000
ENRTF ML15, Ch76, Sec 2, Subd 9c: SNA acquisition, restoration, enhancement & public engagement	July 2015-June 2018	\$ 4,000,000
ENRTF ML16, Ch186, Sec 2, Subd 91a: Scientific and Natural Area restoration	July 2016-June 2019	\$ 1,386,000
ENRTF ML16, Ch186, Sec 2, Subd 91b: Minnesota Point Pine Forest SNA addition	July 2016-June 2019	\$ 500,000
OHF ML12, Ch262, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4h: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2012-June 2017	\$ 276,940
OHF ML13, Ch137, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4g: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2013-June 2018	\$ 144,170
OHF ML13, Ch137, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4c: SNA & NPB acquisition (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2013-June 2018+	\$ 246,500
OHF ML14, Ch256, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4h: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2014-June 2019	\$ 285,650
OHF ML15, 1SS, Ch1, Art1, Sec2, Subd 2a: SNA acquisition	July 2015-June 2020+	\$ 1,000,000
OHF ML15, 1SS, Ch1, Art1, Sec2, Subd 2k: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2015-June 2020	\$ 762,000
OHF ML16, Ch171, Art1, Sec2, Subd 2a: SNA acquisition	July 2016-June 2021+	\$ 228,000
OHF ML16, Ch171, Art1, Sec2, Subd 2j: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2016-June 2021	\$ 527,900
State Wildlife Grant (federal) – SNA management plans	March 2012-August 2013	\$ 49,800

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- The project is for 3 years, will begin on July 1, 2017, and end on June 30, 2020.
- Periodic project status update reports will be submitted November 1 and April 1 of each year.
- A final report and associated products will be submitted by August 15, 2020 (or as soon as possible after state fiscal year closeout).

IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S): See attached ML17 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects map set.

X. FEE TITLE ACQUISITION/CONSERVATION EASEMENT/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. Parcel List: See attached list.

B. Acquisition/Restoration Information:**Fee Title Acquisition**

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

To be acquired and designated as SNA, the site must be recommended for SNA designation in an Ecological Evaluation report which serves as the site's baseline assessment for fee acquisitions. All such sites are predominantly MBS-mapped native plant communities and contain habitat for rare species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need. In addition, SNA staff use the "*SNA Candidate Site Evaluation Guide*" (initially developed through the ENRTF-funded SNA strategic planning process) which incorporates criteria to rate which sites are currently pursued. Criteria include diversity and quality of the native habitat, occurrence of rare species, occurrence of native plant communities under-represented in SNA system, parcel size, location of parcel in relation to biodiversity hotspots (particularly MBS-mapped areas of outstanding and high biodiversity significance) and other conservation lands (including *SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan's* Conservation Opportunity Areas and *Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan's* Core Areas), potential for long-term management, and additional factors (e.g. landowner readiness, urgency, and willingness to donate; degree of threat, and partnership opportunities).

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.

- *SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan* – www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/sna/plan
- *Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan* – www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwcs
- *Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan* – www.dnr.state.mn.us/prairieplan

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

Each parcel acquired as a new SNA in fee will have an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) or if as an addition to an existing SNA, that SNAs Management Plan may be amended to add the new parcel. The AMPs include goals, ecological description, priority features with indicators, and management recommendations. The intended outcome of management of SNAs is that 1) all the lands be native plant communities or restored to plant communities that would have been native to the site, 2) these plant communities are sustained over time, and 3) that visitors are accommodated safely (unless visitor access is restricted by designation order). The goals for the SNA's management are based upon soils, topography, geology, and other factors necessary to sustain the plant community. Each plan includes an implementation timetable which summarizes ongoing management needs and a statement on funding. Long-term management costs (e.g. invasive species treatments, prescribed fire, and monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination funding sources, including, but not limited to, ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF), federal grants, and other funds as appropriated. Each AMP is kept in a DNR internal shared electronic filing system accessible to all SNA staff.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

The DNR follows Minnesota Statutes 84.033 which require that any land acquired for designation as a SNA must have county board approval as prescribed under MS 97A.145.

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

As part of the DNR acquisition process, all SNA acquisitions are required to have approval of the Ecological and Water Resources Division Director and land conveyances are accepted by the Director or Deputy Director of Division of Lands and Minerals who have delegated authority to approve this for the Commissioner.

Restoration

- 1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.**

All restoration/enhancement-related activities done with this appropriation are on lands designated as SNA which the state owns in fee or easement.

- 2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.**

Each restoration/enhancement project will be based upon an ecological restoration and management plan and/or project plan with goals for reconstructing plant communities that are native to the site that are based upon soils, topography, geology, and other factors necessary to sustain the plant community. Each plan includes an implementation timetable which summarizes ongoing management needs. Each restoration and management plan and project plan is kept in a DNR internal shared electronic filing system accessible to all SNA staff.

- 3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.**

The SNA Program follows or exceeds the recommendations found in the BWSR “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines”. SNA restorations typically follow the current BOWSR Guidelines, including Project Guidance, Plant Community Restoration, Temporary Cover and Forest/Woodlands. The SNA Program follows the general direction of the BWSR Guidelines for “Recommended Steps for Obtaining Plant Materials”, and has additional and more restrictive requirements for restoration material sources. Specifically, restoration and management of DNR lands are governed by DNR Operational Order #124 on “Plant Material Standards for Native Plant Community Restoration” and #130 on “Pollinator Habitat” (which include BMPs).

- 4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.**

Long-term management costs (e.g. invasive species treatments, prescribed fire/disturbance, and monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination of funding sources, including, but not limited to, ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF), federal grants, and other funds as appropriated.

- 5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.**

DNR has a standing general contract with CCM under which the SNA Program often does project or activity specific agreements. For restoration and site improvement projects, CCM has been and will continue to be used when appropriate for hand seed harvest, invasive species treatment, prescribed burning, and will be considered on restoration projects for post-planting weed control.

- 6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.**

Plant community reconstruction and rehabilitation projects will be evaluated and a report submitted to the LCCMR to ascertain how well the native plants have been established and non-natives controlled. Each evaluation report will include a summary of management plan outcomes, activities completed through the project, map of the project area, statement of ongoing management needs and funding, and summary of the evaluation.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2017 Project Budget
Project Title: Scientific and Natural Areas Acquisition and Restoration, Citizen Science, and Engagement
Legal Citation: M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b
Project Manager: Margaret (Peggy) Booth
Organization: MnDNR
M.L. 2017 ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,500,000
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2020
Date of Report: June 1, 2017

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 3 Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Protection of Sites of Biodiversity Significance			Native Habitat Restoration, Enhancement & Improvements			Citizen Science & Public Engagement in Natural Areas				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$68,600	\$0	\$68,600	\$469,100	\$0	\$469,100	\$264,900	\$0	\$264,900	\$802,600	\$802,600
Position Type 1: Coordinators & Planner - Activity 1: ~0.18 FTE acquisition-related for 2 yrs; Activity 2: ~0.09 FTE resto-related for 2 yrs; Activity 3: ~ 0.62 FTE outreach-related for 2 yrs - all spread over ~5 positions											
Position Type 2: Specialists, Technicians, & Naturalists - Activity 1: ~0.27 FTE acquisition-related for 2 yrs; Activity 2: ~2.59 FTE resto-related for 2 yrs; Activity 3: ~ 1.04 FTE outreach-related for 2 yr - all spread over about ~14 positions											
Position Type 3: Laborers, Seasonal Field Crews & Clerical - Activity 2: ~1.29 FTE for 2 yrs; Activity 3: ~0.11 FTE for 2 yrs - spread over ~9-15 positions											
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$354,000	\$0	\$354,000	\$76,000		\$76,000	\$430,000	\$430,000
Professional/Technical Contracts											
Act 3. CCM individual placement (1 FTE for 2 yrs = 2.0 FTE total) (\$76K)											
Service Contracts											
Act. 2a. woody encroachment removal & invasives treatment (~\$295K at ~\$1000-\$10,000/ac) - priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes											
Act 2b. prescribed burning, haying, mowing, browsing or grazing (~\$55K at ~\$100-\$1000/ac - priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes											
Act 2c. site development (fences, signs, etc) (~\$4K) - priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes											
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,500	\$0	\$22,500	\$14,484	\$0	\$14,484	\$36,984	\$36,984
Activity 2: parts, tools, repair costs & supplies for restoration, invasives treatment, prescribed burning, etc (this is largely for SNA tools, such as chain saws, pump cans, drip torches, fire racks, pulaskis, other handtools, backpack sprayers, portable pumps & hose, personal protective equipment, etc, & supplies such as herbicides, spreading oils, flagging, stakes, etc) (~\$13.5K); signs (entry, boundary & rules signs), posts/hardware, fencing, gravel, & other site development tools & supplies (~\$10K). Activity 3: citizen science, volunteer events & site steward supplies (including safety items, hand tools, training materials, temporary signs, stamps, envelopes, etc) (~\$14,484).											
Fee Title Acquisition	\$900,000	\$0	\$900,000							\$900,000	\$900,000
~250 acres in 3-6 parcels to be designated as SNA & owned in fee by DNR											
Professional Services for Acquisition	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000							\$100,000	\$100,000
Includes real estate transaction costs & LAM billings; appraisal & review; boundary survey; attorney general; closing costs; recording fees & taxes; etc. ~\$20K/parcel											
Printing	\$600	\$0	\$600		\$0	\$0	\$5,900	\$0	\$5,900	\$6,500	\$6,500
Activity 1: State Register publication (required to designate acquired parcels) (\$0.6K) ; Activity 3: brochure, maps, pocket cards, citizen science, educational & volunteer materials (\$5.9K).											
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$6,950	\$0	\$6,950	\$104,800	\$0	\$104,800	\$21,000	\$0	\$21,000	\$132,750	\$132,750
Fleet charges for trucks, cars, & equipment (e.g. mowers, seeders), mileage, lodging & meals as per state contracts											
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,050	\$0	\$2,050	\$2,050	\$2,050
* Computer & phone charges for CCM individual placement (\$2,050)											
Other	\$5,630	\$0	\$5,630	\$60,881	\$0	\$60,881	\$22,605	\$0	\$22,605	\$89,116	\$89,116
* DNR's direct and necessary costs (\$89,116 total) pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated programs/projects. In addition to itemized costs captured in our proposal budget, direct and necessary costs cover HR/People Support (\$18,211), Safety Support (\$5,101), Financial Support (\$16,910), Communication Support (\$6,580), IT Support (\$36,769), Planning Support (\$4,560) and Procurement Support (\$985) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.											
COLUMN TOTAL	\$1,081,780	\$0	\$1,081,780	\$1,011,281	\$0	\$1,011,281	\$406,939	\$0	\$406,939	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2017 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List

Project Title: Scientific and Natural Areas Acquisition and Restoration, Citizen Science, and Engagement

Project Manager Name: Margaret (Peggy) Booth

Organization: Mn Department of Natural Resources

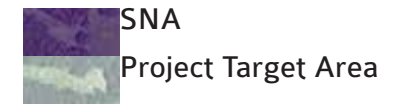
ENRTF \$ Request: \$2,500,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2010

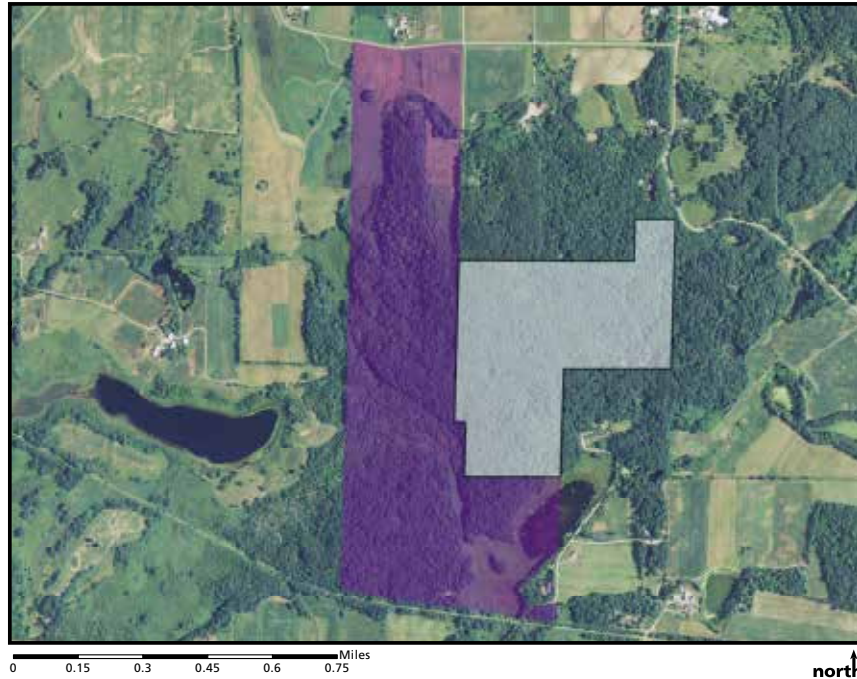
Date of Report: May 31, 2017

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Avon Hills Forest SNA addition	45° 37' 20.7"	94° 30' 2.1"	\$ 500,000	\$ 3,750	Stearns	The best remaining unprotected block of native forest in the county. High biodiversity significance.	fee title acquisition	125		Private	DNR-SNA	
2	Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA addition	44° 34' 44.5"	92° 37' 19.4"	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,500	Goodhue	Floodplain forest of outstanding biodiversity with rare birds.	fee title acquisition	200	1	Private	DNR-SNA	
3	Chanarambie Creek	43° 54' 22.4"	96° 1' 51.9"	\$ 480,000	\$ 4,776	Murray	dry hill prairie & prairie meadow	fee title acquisition	120		private	DNR-SNA	
4	Crystal Spring SNA addition	45° 5' 36.7"	92° 45' 50.0"	\$ 2,800,000	\$ 21,000	Washington	High quality bluff habitat near the St. Croix River. This addition will allow for better access and a more visible parking area.	fee title acquisition	60	0.1	Private	DNR-SNA	
5	Des Moines River SNA addition	43° 44' 38.5"	95° 4' 8.7"	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,281	Jackson	buffer to SNA to aide in mgmt. of native prairie	fee title acquisition	50		private	DNR-SNA	
6	Dinner Creek	47° 4' 21.5"	95° 12' 7.5"	\$ 356,700	\$ 2,496	Becker	white cedar swamp, aspen-birch-basswood forest, Jack pine woodland, red-white pine woodland	fee title acquisition	242	0.5	private	DNR-SNA	
7	Drake Woods	43° 33' 54.0"	94° 6' 23.51"	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 11,250	Faribault	best intact MBS mapped hardwood forest in south central MN	fee title acquisition	300	1.5	private	DNR-SNA	
8	Englund Ecotone SNA addition	45° 41' 19.3"	94° 8' 53.2"	\$ 2,148,000	\$ 8,256	Benton	oak forest, oak savanna, sedge meadow	fee title acquisition	358		private	DNR-SNA	
9	Felton Prairie SNA addition	46° 52' 1.6"	94° 8' 53.2"	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,500	Clay	wet-mesic or dry prairie	fee title acquisition	200		private	DNR-SNA	
10	Franconia Bluffs SNA addition	45° 22' 4.9"	92° 41' 53.6"	\$ 480,000	\$ 2,600	Chisago	forested bluff along St. Croix River	fee title acquisition	80		private	DNR-SNA	
11	Gully Fen SNA addition	47° 46' 58.7"	95° 38' 0.6"	\$ 754,800	\$ 7,200	Polk	fen - wetland-Forest	fee title acquisition	1200		private	DNR-SNA	
12	Hastings Sand Coulee SNA addition	44° 41' 41.9"	92° 49' 22.5"	\$ 250,000	\$ 611	Dakota	prairie	fee title acquisition	16		private	DNR-SNA	
13	Little Mantrap Lake	47° 6' 56.8"	95° 10' 25.4"	\$ 500,000	\$ 3,570	Becker	mixed mesic hardwood forest/peatland communities	fee title acquisition	230	0.5	private	DNR-SNA	
14	Mille Lacs Moraine SNA addition	46° 16' 58.3"	93° 51' 10.9"	\$ 713,000	\$ 2,385	Crow Wing	MBS-mapped forest communities & habitat for rare birds	fee title acquisition	265	0.5	private	DNR-SNA	
15	Morton Outcrops SNA addition	44° 32' 59.4"	94° 59' 33.8"	\$ 20,000	\$ 200	Renville	southern bedrock outcrops	fee title acquisition	4		private	DNR-SNA	
16	Myhr Creek Ridge SNA addition	47° 50' 17.8"	90° 0' 29.1"	\$ 160,000	\$ 540	Cook	black spruce jack pine woodland	fee title acquisition	80		private	DNR-SNA	
17	Middle Fork Zumbro River Forest	44° 9' 8.4"	92° 48' 6.3"	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 6,300	Dodge	sugar maple - basswood-(butternut hickory) forest	fee title acquisition	300	4	private	DNR-SNA	
18	Roscoe Prairie SNA addition	44° 7' 14.0"	94° 40' 37"	\$ 240,000	\$ 414	Stearns	wet prairie with rare butterfly habitat	fee title acquisition	40		private	DNR-SNA	
19	Rose Dell Prairie	45° 25' 12.7"	96° 21' 15.5"	\$ 400,000	\$ 1,115	Pipestone	MBS-mapped prairie with rare features	fee title acquisition	80		private	DNR-SNA	
20	Sandpiper Prairie SNA addition	47° 14' 32.2"	96° 24' 16.3"	\$ 100,000	\$ 731	Norman	wet-mesic prairie	fee title acquisition	100		private	DNR-SNA	
21	Seminary Fen SNA addition	44° 55' 15.4"	93° 18' 27.8"	\$ 120,000	\$ 2,836	Carver	calcareous fen	fee title acquisition	20		private	DNR-SNA	
22	Spring Hill Fen	45° 33' 16.2"	94° 49' 29.6"	\$ 600,000	\$ 2,813	Stearns	calcareous fen	fee title acquisition	150		private	DNR-SNA	
					\$ 81,874	\$ 5,255			3,895	0.064185			
23	Avon Hills Forest SNA	45° 38' 7.0"	94° 30' 6.7"	\$ 46,500		Stearns	sand gravel prairie (towards succession to oak savanna/forest)	restore prairie	15		public	DNR-SNA	
24	Blanket Flower Prairie SNA	46° 41' 7.7"	96° 12' 18.1"	\$ 36,000		Clay	dry gravel prairie	restore prairie	36		public	DNR-SNA	
25	Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA	44° 34' 22.1"	92° 40' 42.1"	\$ 23,000		Chisago	bedrock bluff prairie	restore prairie	7		public	DNR-SNA	
26	Franconia Bluffs SNA	45° 22' 4.9"	92° 41' 53.6"	\$ 46,500		Chisago	St Croix River bluff	restore prairie	20		public	DNR-SNA	
27	Icelandite Coastal Fen SNA (proposed)	47° 47' 46.6"	90° 7' 1.8"	\$ 4,000		Cook	gravel-cobble beach & shrub rich fen	restore shoreline vegetation	1		public	DNR-SNA	
28	Iona's Beach SNA	47° 10' 3.7"	91° 25' 19.7"	\$ 4,000		Lake	lake superior rocky shore plant community, beach composed of pink rhyolite or felsite	restore shoreline vegetation	1		public	DNR-SNA	
29	Little Too Much Lake SNA	47° 37' 35.4"	93° 46' 27.4"	\$ 4,000		Itasca	aspen-birch red maple forest	restore forest	2		public	DNR-SNA	
30	Mound Springs Prairie SNA	44° 46' 27.4"	96° 26' 12.4"	\$ 15,000		Yellow Medicine	dry hill & mesic prairie	restore prairie	10		public	DNR-SNA	
31	Sandpiper Prairie	47° 14' 32.2"	96° 24' 16.3"	\$ 40,000		Norman	wet-mesic prairie	restore prairie	40		public	DNR-SNA	
32	Seminary Fen SNA	44° 48' 39.0"	93° 33' 11.5"	\$ 23,000		Carver	wet prairie	restore prairie	7		public	DNR-SNA	
NOTES:													

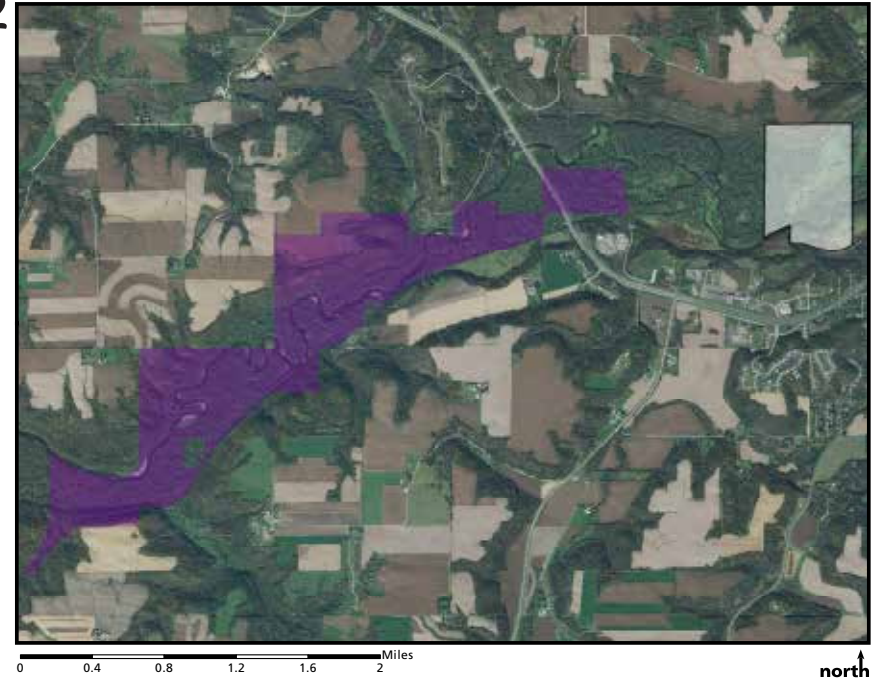
ML17 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects



1 **Avon Hills Forest Acquisition Project**



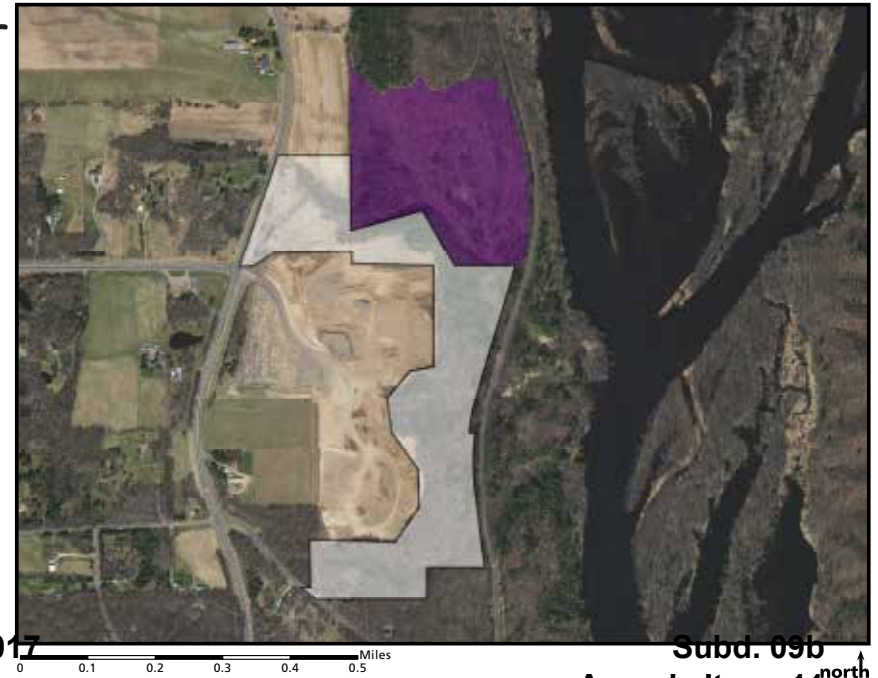
2 **Cannon River Turtle Preserve Acquisition Project**



3 **Chanarambie Creek Prairie Acquisition Project**



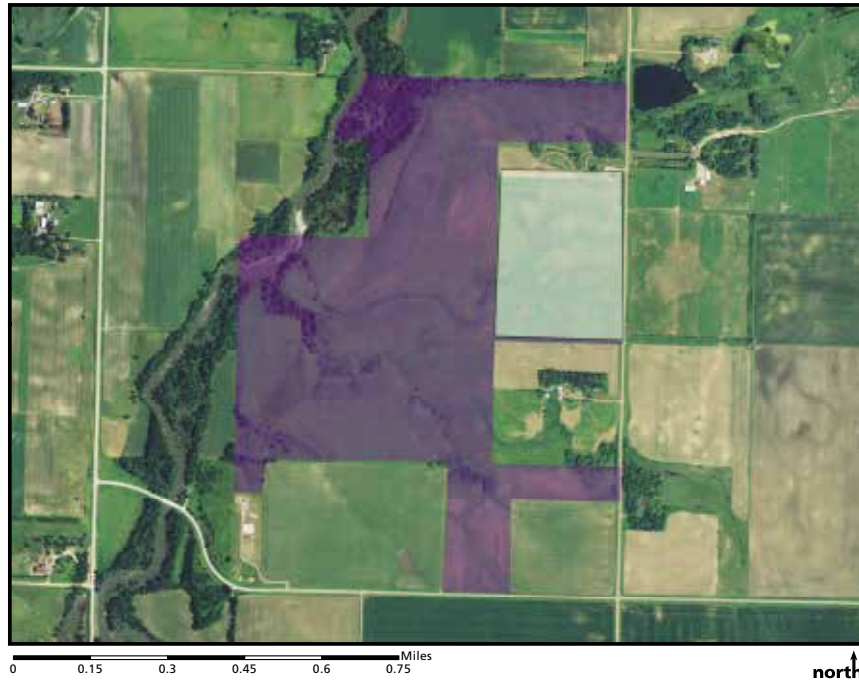
4 **Crystal Springs Acquisition Project**



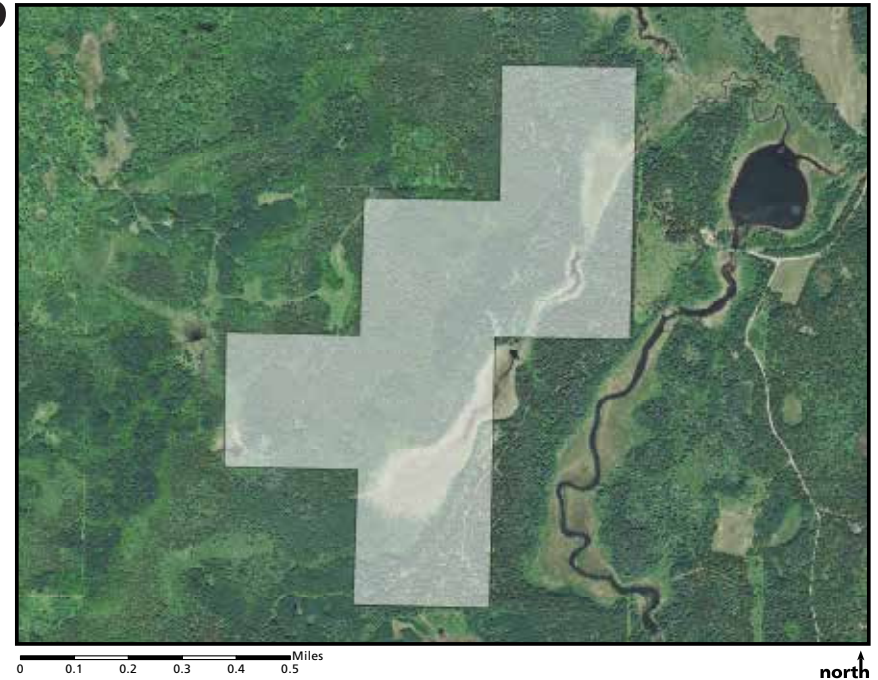
ML17 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects


 SNA
 Project Target Area

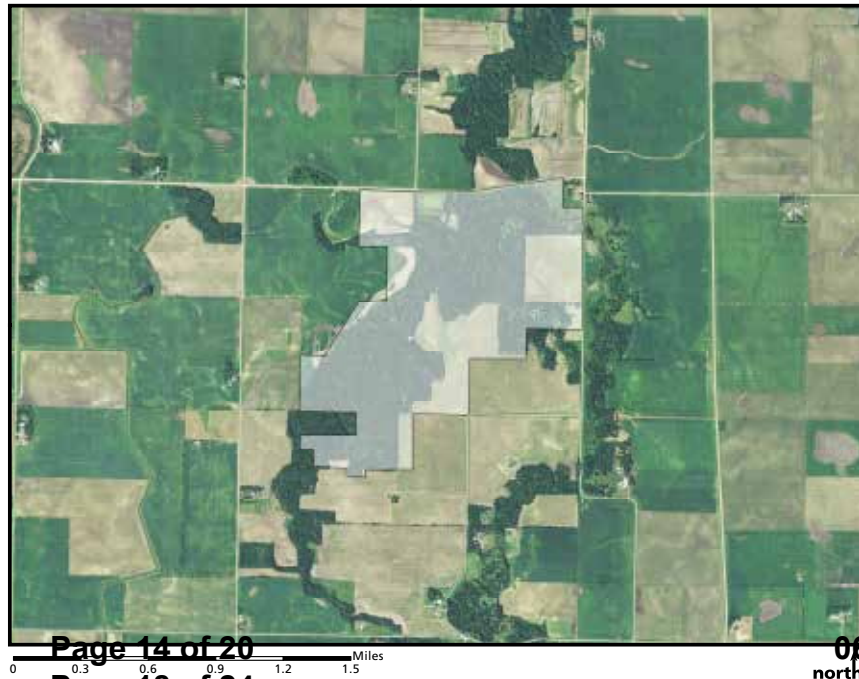
5 **Des Moines River Acquisition Project**



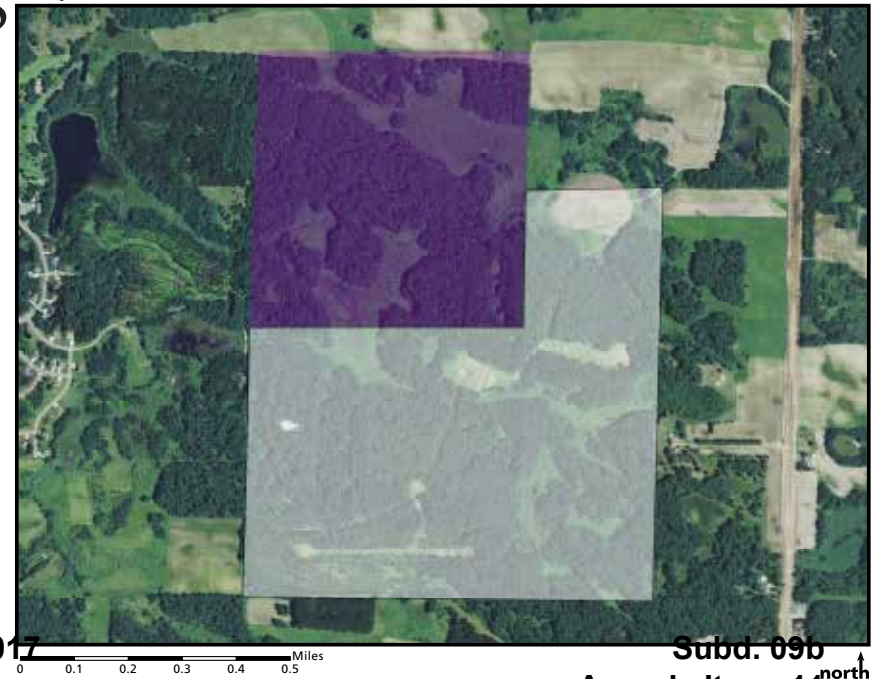
6 **Dinner Creek Acquisition Project**



7 **Drake Woods Acquisition Project**



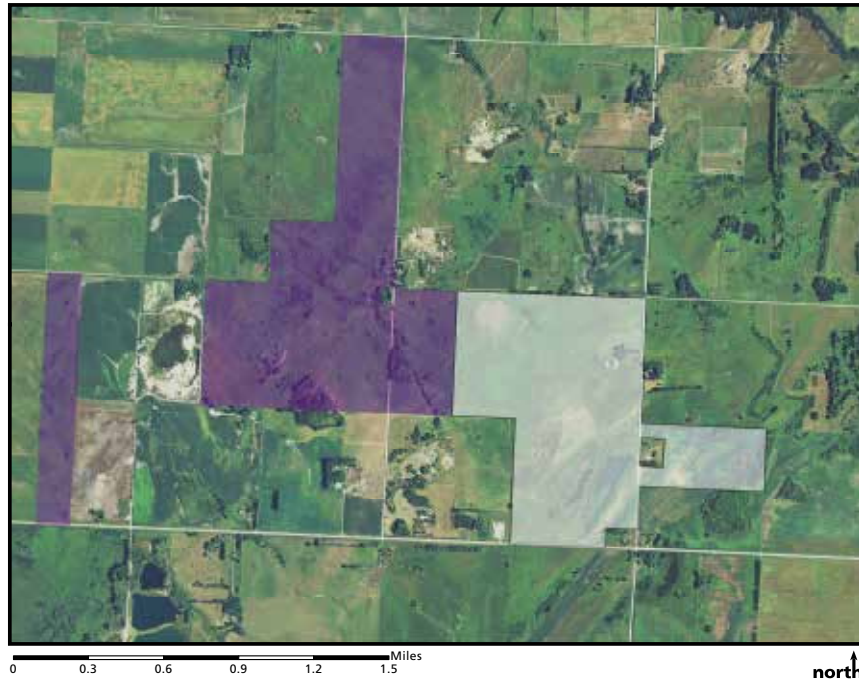
8 **Englund Ecotone Acquisition Project**



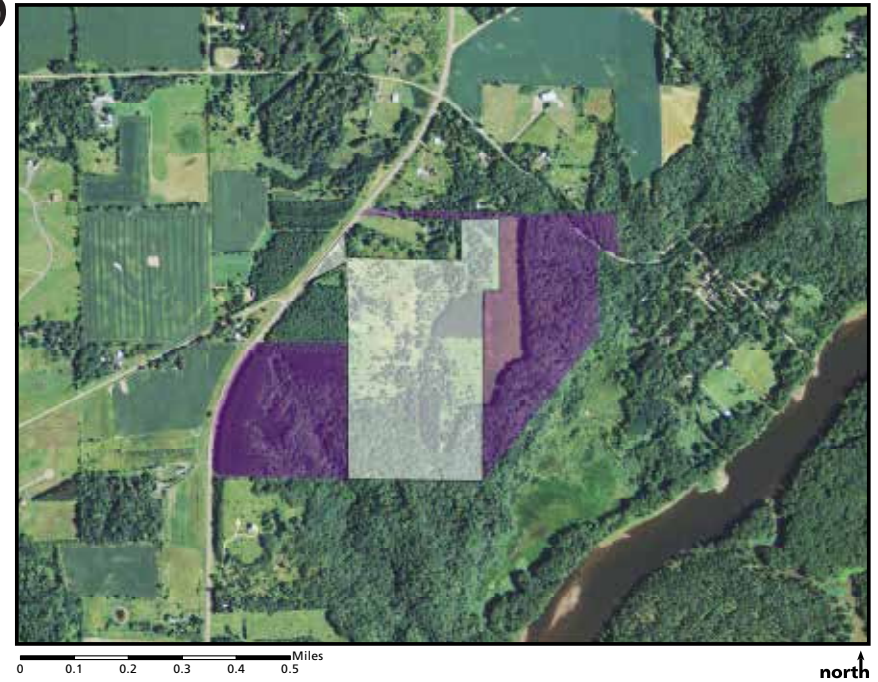
ML17 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects



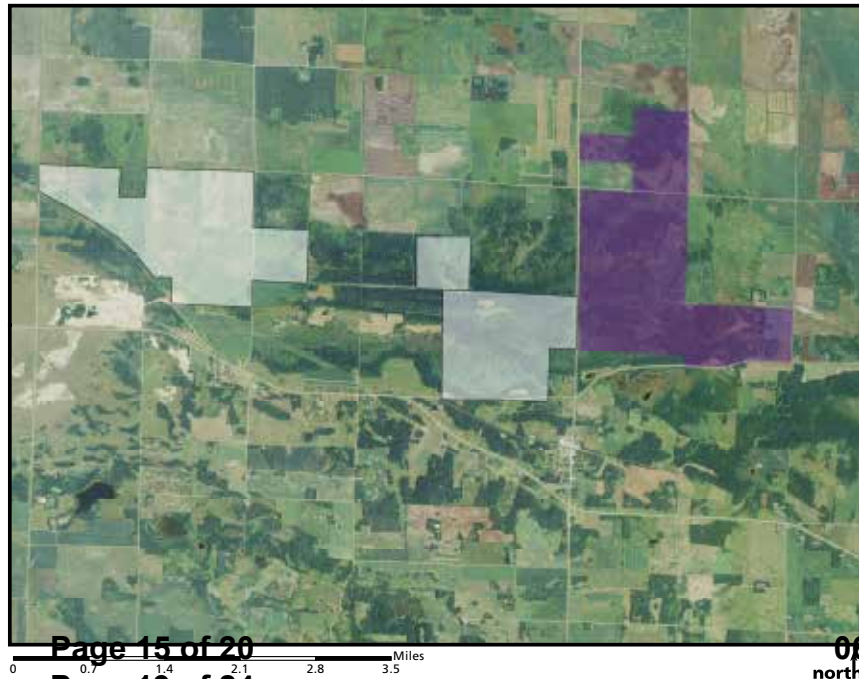
9 **Felton Prairie (Assinaboia Unit) Acquisition Project**



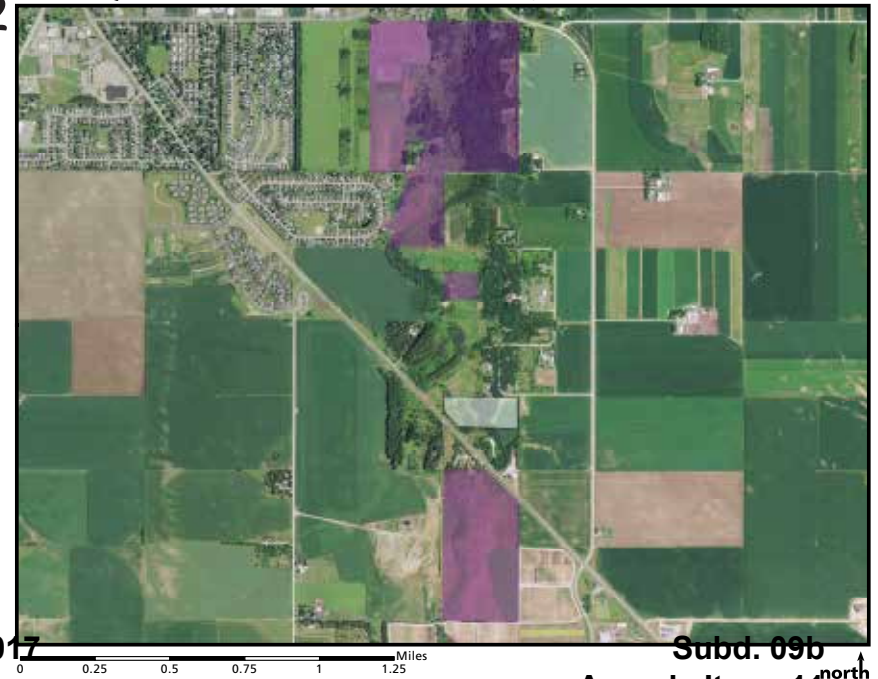
10 **Franconia Bluffs Acquisition Project**



11 **Gully Fen Acquisition Project**



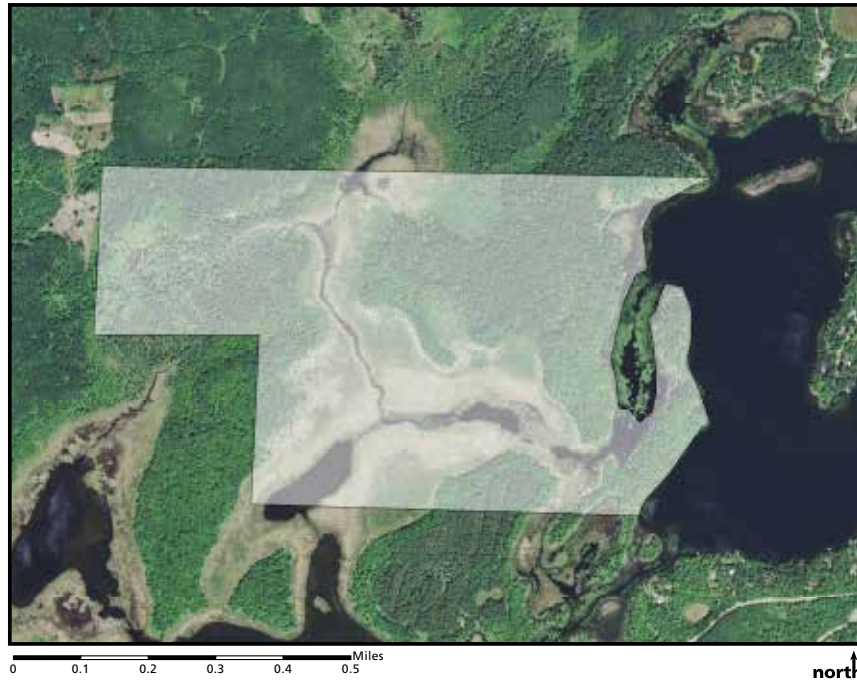
12 **Hastings Sand Coulee Acquisition Project**



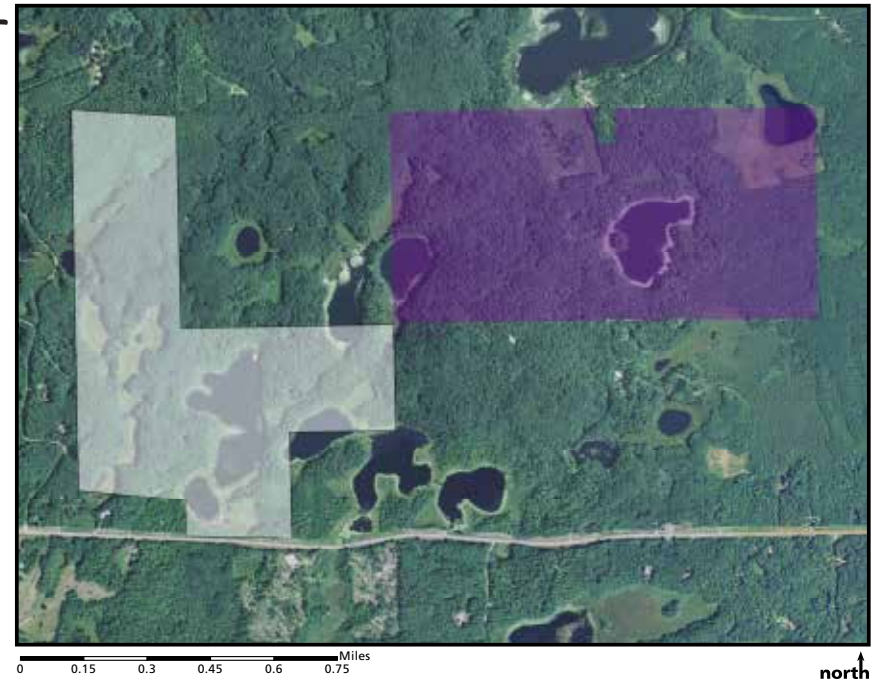
ML17 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects



13 **Little Mantrap Lake Acquisition Project**



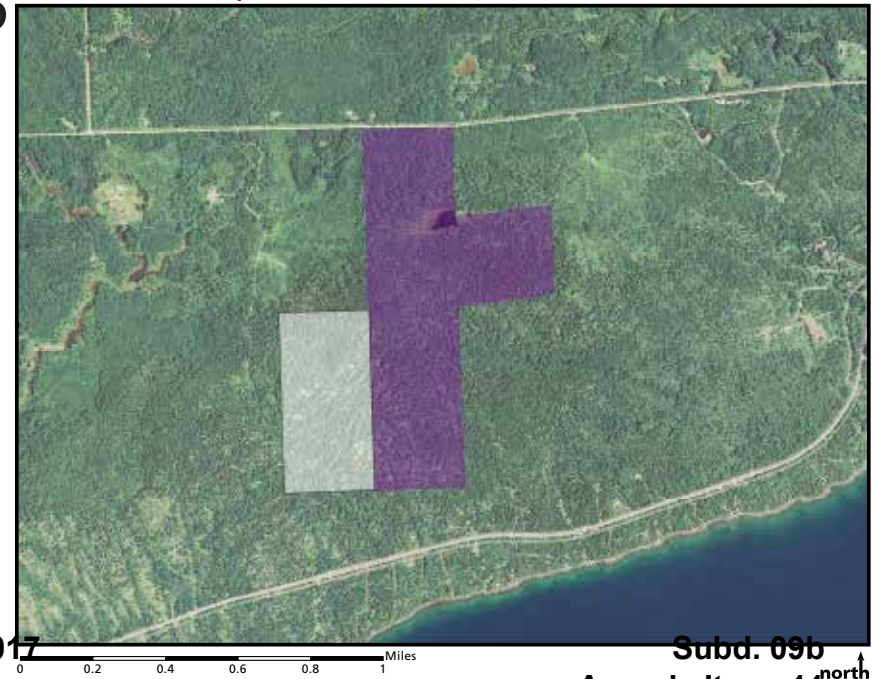
14 **Mille Lacs Moraine Acquisition Project**



15 **Morton Outcrops Acquisition Project**



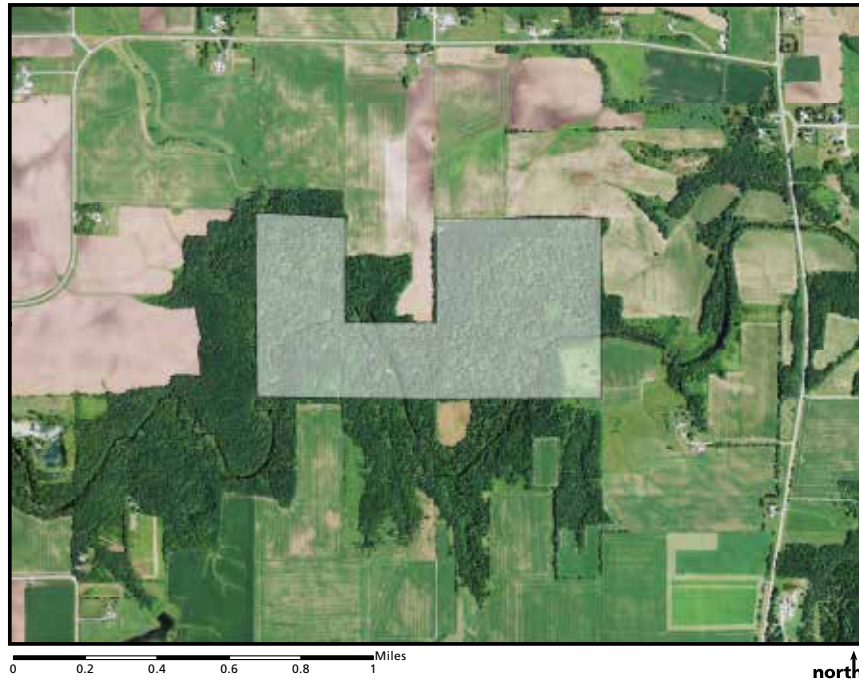
16 **Myhr Creek Ridge Acquisition Project**



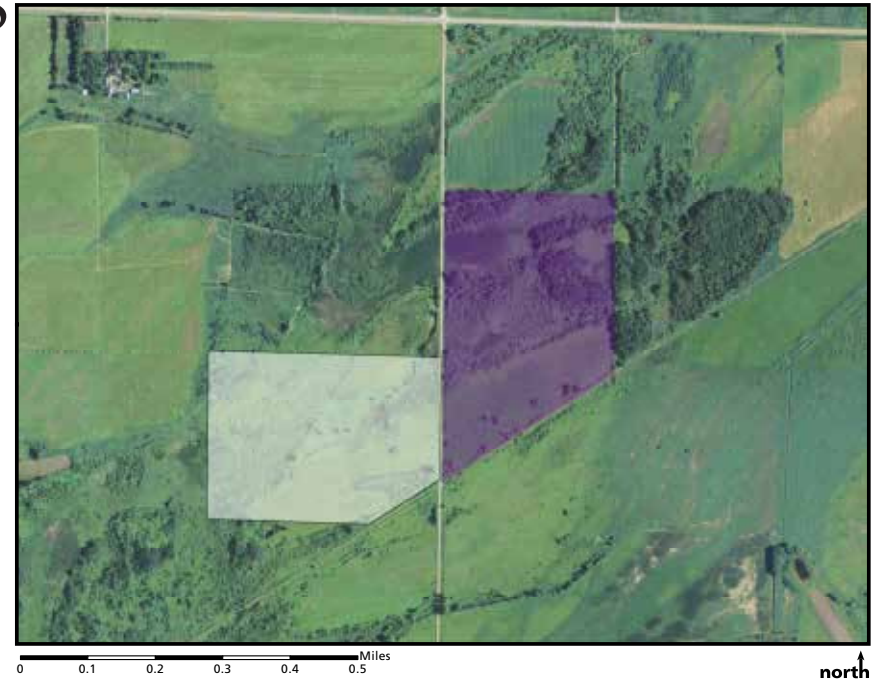
ML17 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects


 SNA
 Project Target Area

17 **Middle Fork Zumbro River Forest Acquisition Project**



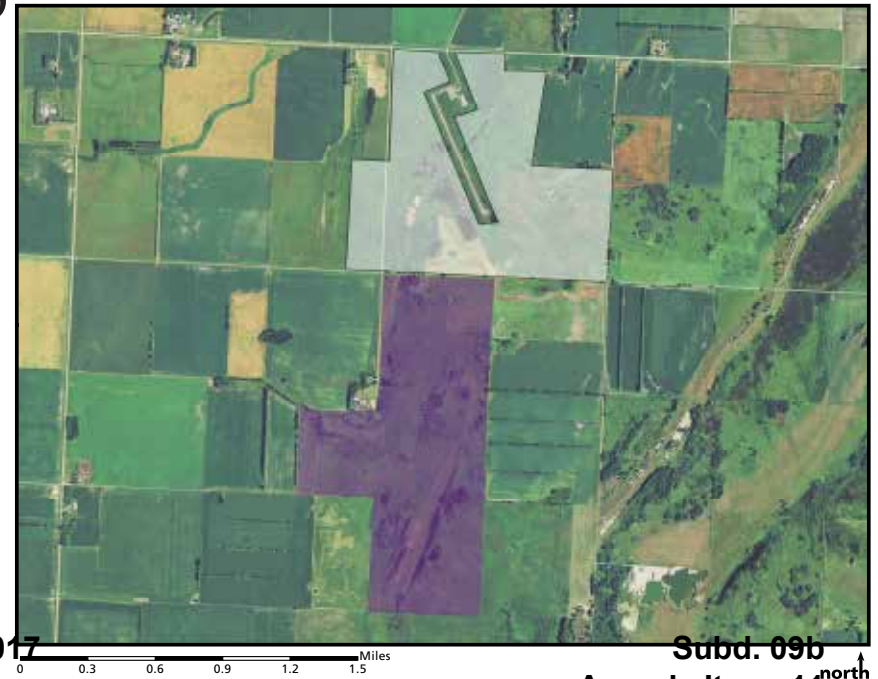
18 **Roscoe Prairie Acquisition Project**



19 **Rose Dell Acquisition Project**



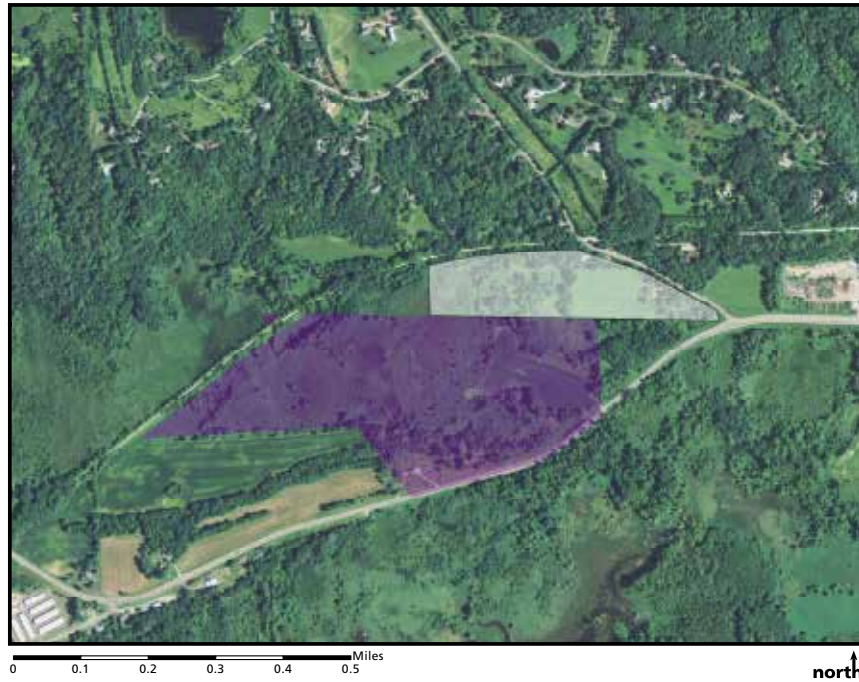
20 **Sandpiper Prairie Acquisition Project**



ML17 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects


 SNA
 Project Target Area

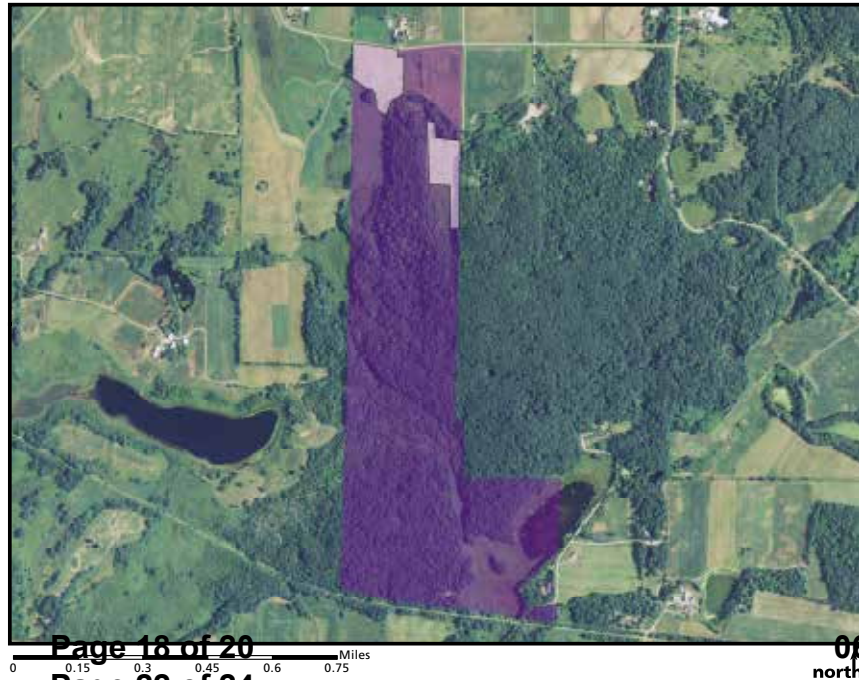
21 **Seminary Fen Acquisition Project**



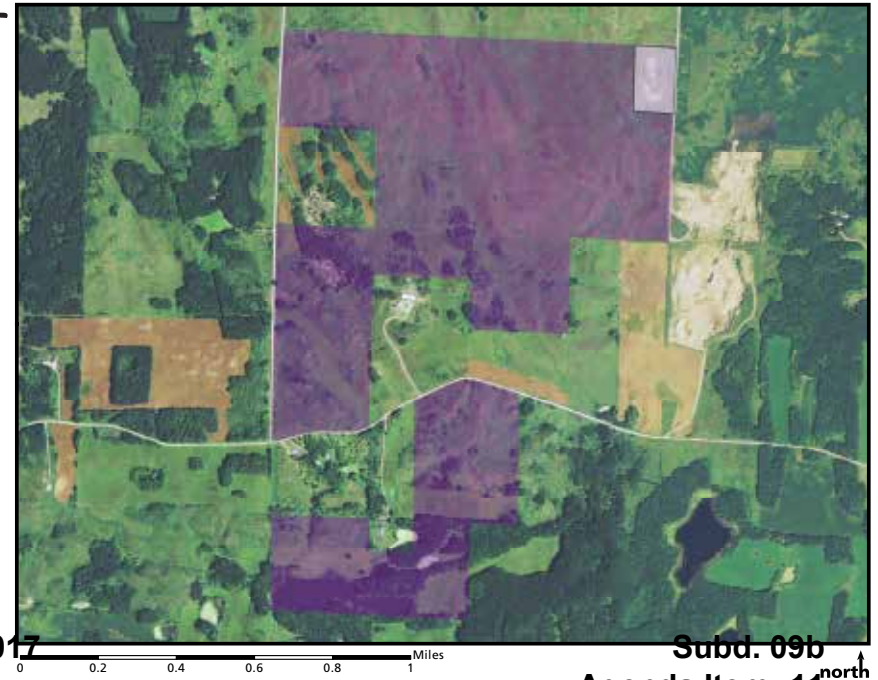
22 **Spring Hill Fen Acquisition Project**



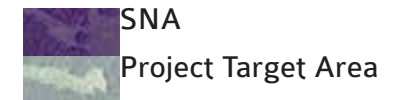
23 **Avon Hills Forest Restoration Project**



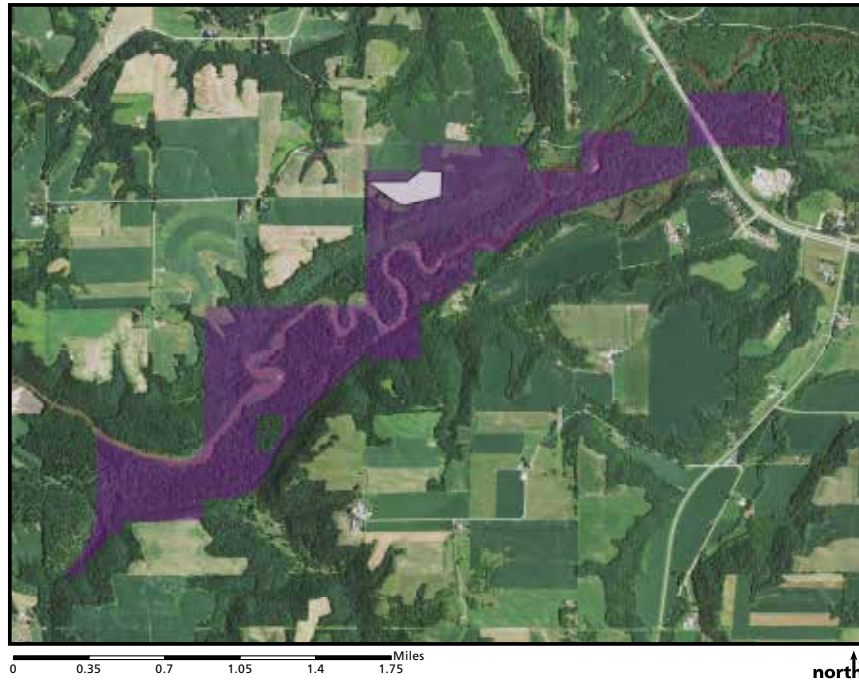
24 **Blanket Flower Prairie Restoration Project**



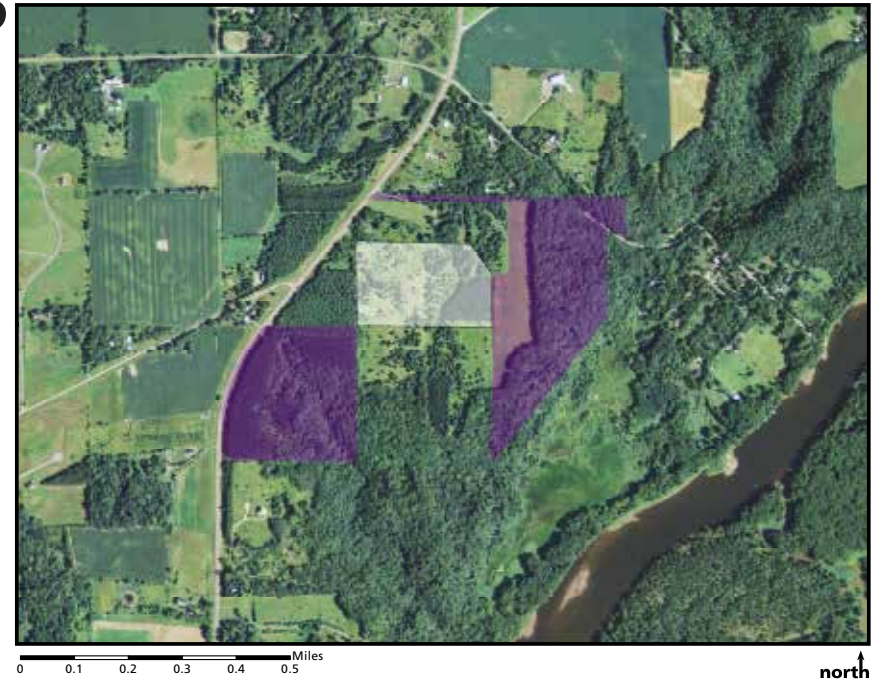
ML17 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects



25 **Cannon River Turtle Preserve Restoration Project**



26 **Franconia Bluffs Prairie Restoration Project**



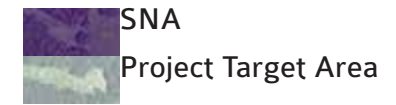
27 **Icelandite Coastal Fen Restoration Project**



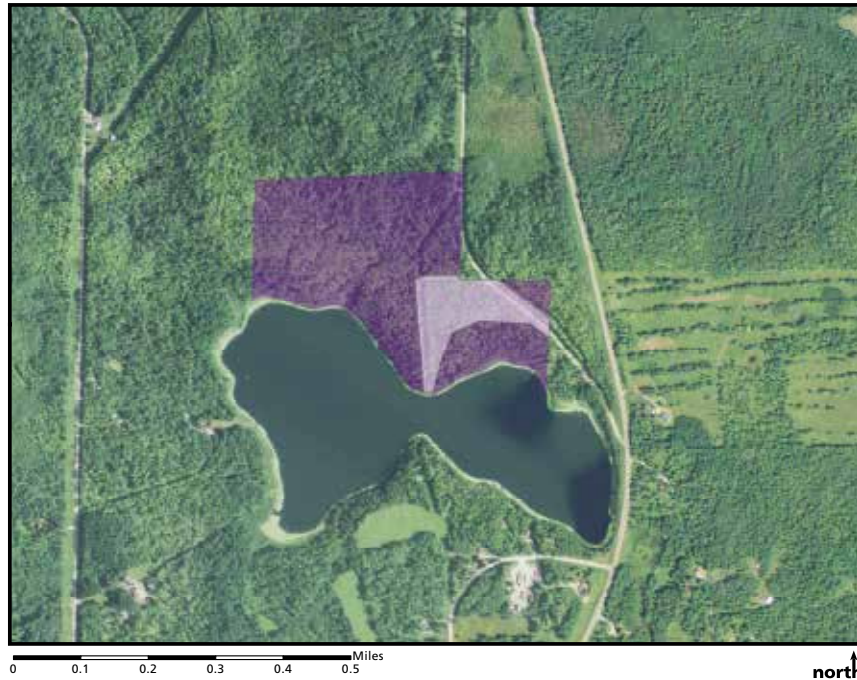
28 **Iona's Beach SNA Vegetation Restoration Project**



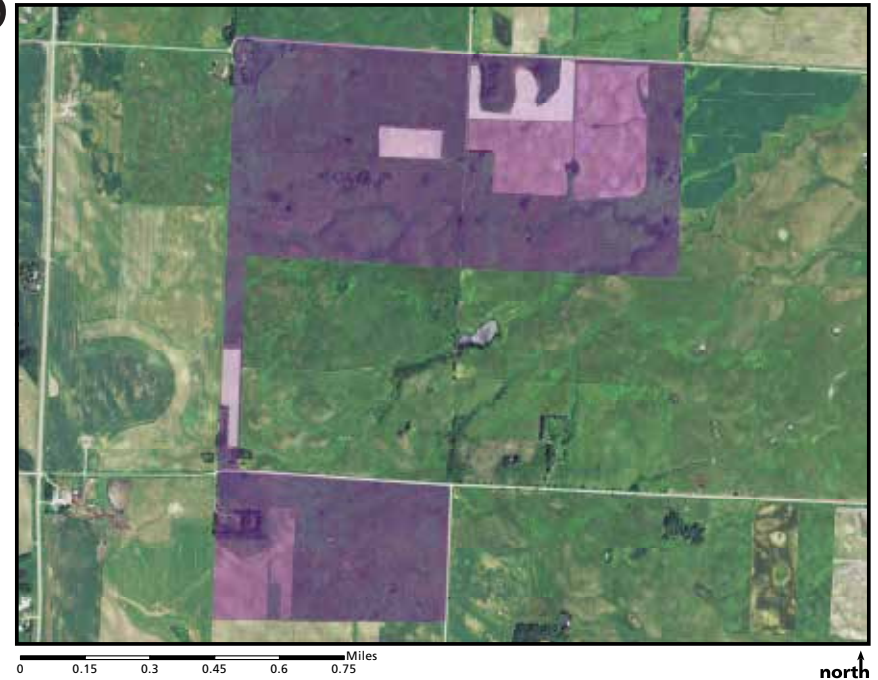
ML17 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects



29 **Little Too Much Lake SNA Forest Restoration Project**



30 **Mound Springs Prairie SNA Prairie Restoration Project**



31 **Sandpiper Prairie SNA Prairie Restoration Project**



32 **Seminary Fen Restoration Project**

