



LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

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Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Restoration Requirements

The following provides a summary of requirements for land restoration efforts undertaken using monies from the ENRTF. These should be considered minimum requirements and may be modified in the future.

Project Requirements for ENRTF-Funded Restoration Efforts (all phases)

A. Lands to be Restored

1. All restoration projects must be on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership unless otherwise specified in law.

B. Restorations and Plan Requirements

1. Restoration projects must have a site-specific ecological restoration and management plan that, to the degree practicable, is consistent with the highest quality conservation and ecological goals for the restoration site.
2. Consideration should be given to soil, geology, topography, and other relevant factors that would provide the best chance for long-term success and durability of the restoration project.
3. The plan should:
 - a. Describe the current conditions, including biotic and abiotic elements.
 - b. Describe the target state or community the restoration is aiming to achieve, including why the target state or community is desired or appropriate.
4. The plan must:
 - a. Include the proposed timetable for implementing the restoration, including site preparation, establishment of diverse plant species, maintenance, and additional enhancement to establish the restoration.
 - b. Identify long-term maintenance and management needs of the restoration, who will be responsible for them, and how the maintenance, management, and enhancement will be financed.
 - c. Take advantage of the best available science and include innovative techniques to achieve the best restoration.
5. Restoration projects must use native plant species according to the Board of Water and Soil Resources' "[Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines](#)" and include an appropriate diversity of native species selected to provide habitat for pollinators throughout the growing season as required under [Minnesota Statutes, section 84.973](#).
6. Restoration plans should be kept by the recipient and made available upon request.

C. Consideration to Conservation Corps Minnesota

1. Organization undertaking restoration activities must give consideration to contracting with the Conservation Corps Minnesota for contract restoration services.

Rita Albrecht, Michelle Beeman, William Faber, Rep. Peter Fischer, Sen. Steve Green,
Sen. Fong Hawj, Monica Hedstrom, Rep. Josh Heintzeman, Rep. Sydney Jordan, Shona Langseth, Rep. Leon Lillie, Sen. Jennifer A. McEwen,
Seth Moore, Sen. Aric Putnam, Michael Reese, Rep. Roger Skraba, Sen. Torrey Westrom

D. Evaluation

1. Organizations undertaking restoration activities must provide an initial evaluation at the completion of the appropriation and a follow-up evaluation three years after the completion of the expenditure. Evaluations should:
 - a. Follow evaluation practices described in "[Restoration Evaluation Project: Vegetation Monitoring Tool- Protocol Part 1](#)" and "[Vegetation Monitoring Tool- Protocol Part 2](#)".
 - b. Evaluate improvements relative to the stated goals and standards in the restoration plan, current science, and, when applicable, the Board of Water and Soil Resources "[Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines](#)".
 - c. Determine whether the restorations are meeting planned goals identified in the restoration plan, identify any problems with the implementation of the restorations, and, if necessary, give recommendations on improving restorations.
 - d. Focus on findings to be used to benefit future restorations.

E. Additional Requirements for Large-Scale Stream or Wetlands Restorations ("capital construction projects")

1. Match and Full Funding*
 - a. Full funding to complete the project or project phase must be legally committed and determined sufficient before ENRTF funding will be released for construction. See [M.S. 116P.21 Subd. 1](#) for more information.
 - b. A non-ENRTF match (cash or in-kind) of at least 25% of the total costs to complete the project or project phase is required. See [M.S. 116P.21 Subd. 2](#) for more information.
2. Consultation and Review
 - a. Compliance with state requirements for historic and archeological review to avoid adverse impacts to historic and archaeological properties. Early consultation with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is highly recommended. See [M.S. 138.40, subd. 3](#); [M.S. 138.665, subd. 2](#); [M.S. 138.666](#) and visit the [SHPO site](#) for more information.

F. Contracting, Purchasing, and Wages

1. Appropriate assurances, such as a fixed price contract or performance bond, must be in place between the entity receiving funding and the contractor that construction will be completed in a manner consistent with the approved work plan and design.
2. Compliance with applicable state requirements for contracting, purchasing, and wages is required, including but not limited to:
 - Prevailing Wages. For construction, restoration, conservation, and similar types of projects above a certain dollar threshold and funded wholly or in part by state funds, employers/contractors must pay a minimum hourly wage for certain workers. See [M.S. 177.41](#) to 177.44 and the [MN Department of Labor and Industry](#) website for more information.
 - Competitive Bidding for projects of certain dollar thresholds. See [M.S. 16C.28](#) and [M.S. 471.345](#) for more information.
 - Responsible Contractors. Award competitively bid contracts of more than \$50,000 to contractors meeting minimum criteria. See [M.S. 16C.285](#) for more information.
 - Targeted Group Purchasing. Contracts for capital construction projects with a total project cost >\$100,000 must promote the use of targeted businesses designated by the state, which are owned and operated by women, individuals with disabilities, or members of minority groups. Applies to state agencies, political subdivisions, and non-government organizations. See [M.S. 16C.16](#) for more information.

G. Funding Acknowledgement and Signage

Acknowledgement of financial support from the ENRTF is a legal requirement of all ENRTF appropriations. A durable and fixed sign acknowledging funding from the ENRTF must be displayed in a prominent location at the main entrance of the project site once construction is completed and prior to the site opening for use. See ENRTF [acknowledgement requirements](#) for how to satisfy this requirement.

*Effective for projects funded on or after July 1, 2025