

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 4j4c

Project Title: 4c - HCP 7 - TPLs Critical Lands Protection Program

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 490,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 0

Summary:

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will acquire approximately 44 acres, protecting and linking valuable, high quality habitat in Minnesota.

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Sponsoring Organization: The Trust for Public Land

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Location:

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: HCP7-4c, TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Much of our prairie, wetlands, shorelines, and watersheds have been developed or degraded over a roughly 150-year period, and we cannot restore the "remarkable place known as Minnesota," without a long-term view, ongoing funding, and focus from conservationists towards that goal. As noted in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, "habitat issues are arguably the most important issues facing the conservation and preservation of natural resources throughout Minnesota." Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership is a sustained effort to protect and restore these landscapes through a long-term effort. Working within this Partnership, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will acquire approximately 100 acres, protecting and linking valuable, high quality habitat in Minnesota. TPL will use \$440,000 of Trust Fund dollars and \$560,000 in other public and private sources as capital for this acquisition work. No TPL transaction or personnel costs are included in this request. Acquired land will be conveyed or donated to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or other partner agency for long-term stewardship. The DNR (or other appropriate permanent steward) will develop and implement management (and any necessary restoration or enhancement) plans for these sites using various funding sources depending on the site. This request contains \$50,000 that has been budgeted to provide to DNR (or other appropriate permanent steward) for restoration funding that may be needed. Funding for DNR land acquisition costs and initial site development is contained in DNR's proposals as part of the HCP proposal (see HCP proposals 2(g) and 4(i)). Potential land protection projects will be identified by TPL and/or identified and referred to TPL as part of the overall HCP focus area outreach. Priority will be given to lands that compliment and conserve existing critical habitat to facilitate plant/animal population sustainability and provide multiple benefits to multiple resources. TPL will leverage funds and catalyze others' conservation efforts. TPL will continue to further the overall HCP partnership goals as demonstrated by contributions here-to-date in outreach, government and public relations, collaboration, planning, communications, coordination and executive committee participation.

The economic recession has provided some once-in-a-lifetime unique opportunities: landowners previously not interested in selling are now motivated and land prices have fallen so that properties are now available at a fraction of the price in other times. This effort aims to focus on those unique opportunities as well as to continue building on past work accomplished through previous years ENRTF funding. Land acquisitions also contribute to the state and region's economic vitality by injecting cash into the marketplace, by triggering deed tax revenues to the state, by attracting additional funds from non-state sources, and by providing jobs to the professionals involved in the process including environmental consultants, closers and title insurers, surveyors, appraisers, etc.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Acquisition

Budget: \$490,000

Description: TPL may work in any of the designated HCP project focus areas. Currently projects are underway in Cass, Hubbard, Kandiyohi, Le Sueur, and Rice Counties involving protection of shoreline, wetlands, grasslands and woodlands. TPL will focus on habitat linkage projects that have the following characteristics: large, difficult and/or complex; multiple owners;

a need for multiple funding sources; proximity to regional growth centers; and/or, high risk of development. Priority will be given to lands with high quality natural resources, especially shoreland and other lands that provide natural buffers to water resources. The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, the Aquatic Management Area Acquisition Plan, the Wildlife Strategic Plan, the SNA Program Long Range Plan, and other natural resource plans will be used to help identify such lands. Final acreage protection will ultimately be affected by landowner willingness to sell key parcels. Because TPL is focusing on lands buffering water resources, the per acre cost is higher than that of non-riparian land.

Examples of projects that TPL may work on include the following:

- Plantagenet Lake AMA. Approximately 100 acres on a deep lake in Hubbard County containing wetlands and a designated trout stream connecting existing public land to the lake.
- Two Points AMA. Approximately 50 acres on Leech Lake in Cass County containing significant forested shoreline habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Reid Woods SNA. Approximately 650 acres of wetlands, prairie and forest on the shores of a chain of shallow lakes in Kandiyohi County containing many SNA quality features.
- Cannon River I WMA/AMA. Approximately 510 acres on the headwaters of the Cannon River in Le Sueur County with MCBS mapped areas.
- Cannon River II WMA/AMA. Approximately 785 acres on the headwaters of the Cannon River in Rice County with MCBS mapped areas.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire/protect 44 acres of high quality habitat	6-30-2013

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

This proposal is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VII Proposal. Please see the main proposal for a complete list of partners involved.

B. Timeline Requirements

We propose a twenty-four month grant beginning July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2013. Land acquisition procedures are time consuming. It is difficult to get landowners to commit to selling their property without knowing that money is available for the purchase. After a landowner has expressed willingness to sell, the appraisal/review process and DNR land acquisition procedures take a considerable amount of time. Completing a funding package also takes time. Various other issues such as environmental, title and surveys may also cause delay.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

TPL believes that the success of conservation in Minnesota will depend on effective partnerships amongst nonprofit organizations and with public agencies. Through these public/private partnerships, greater conservation can be achieved with each partner bringing their own particular strengths to bear on the critical issues of protection, restoration, and long term stewardship and management. We believe that working within the Habitat Conservation Partnership allows us to better conserve, restore, enhance and manage habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations. We seek to do this

with an emphasis on high quality natural resource lands buffering water resources that will provide outstanding access to nature for the public.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

HCP7-4c, TPL'S CRITICAL LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Approximately 44 acres. All lands would be permanently owned by the DNR. See project list.	\$ 440,000
Additional Budget Items: Funds to be provided to DNR if needed for restoration.	\$ 50,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 490,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Land value donations, private contributions, federal funds.	\$ 150,000	<i>Pending</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Bonding, LSOHC, RIM.	\$ 410,000	<i>Pending</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period:	\$ -	
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation(s): HCP Phase 6 2009: \$350,000; HCP Phase 6 Supp. 2010 recommended: \$200,000 .	\$ 550,000	<i>Committed</i>
Funding History: ENRTF: 2001: \$900,000; 2003: \$328,030; 2005: \$425,000; 2007: \$480,000; 2008: \$350,000; 2009: \$350,000; 2010 recommended: \$200,000. Other Funds: 2001: \$371,000; 2003: \$202,000; 2005: \$677,270; 2007: \$0 "Other Funds," (but \$355,000 in other state funds, \$190,000 in partner ENRTF funds and \$175,000 in RIM leveraged land value donations); 2008 \$0 "Other Funds," (but \$1,090,000 in other state funds, and \$60,000 in private funds leveraging state funds); 2009: pending; 2010: pending.	\$ -	

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

Project Title: HCP7-4c, TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program, The Trust for Public Land

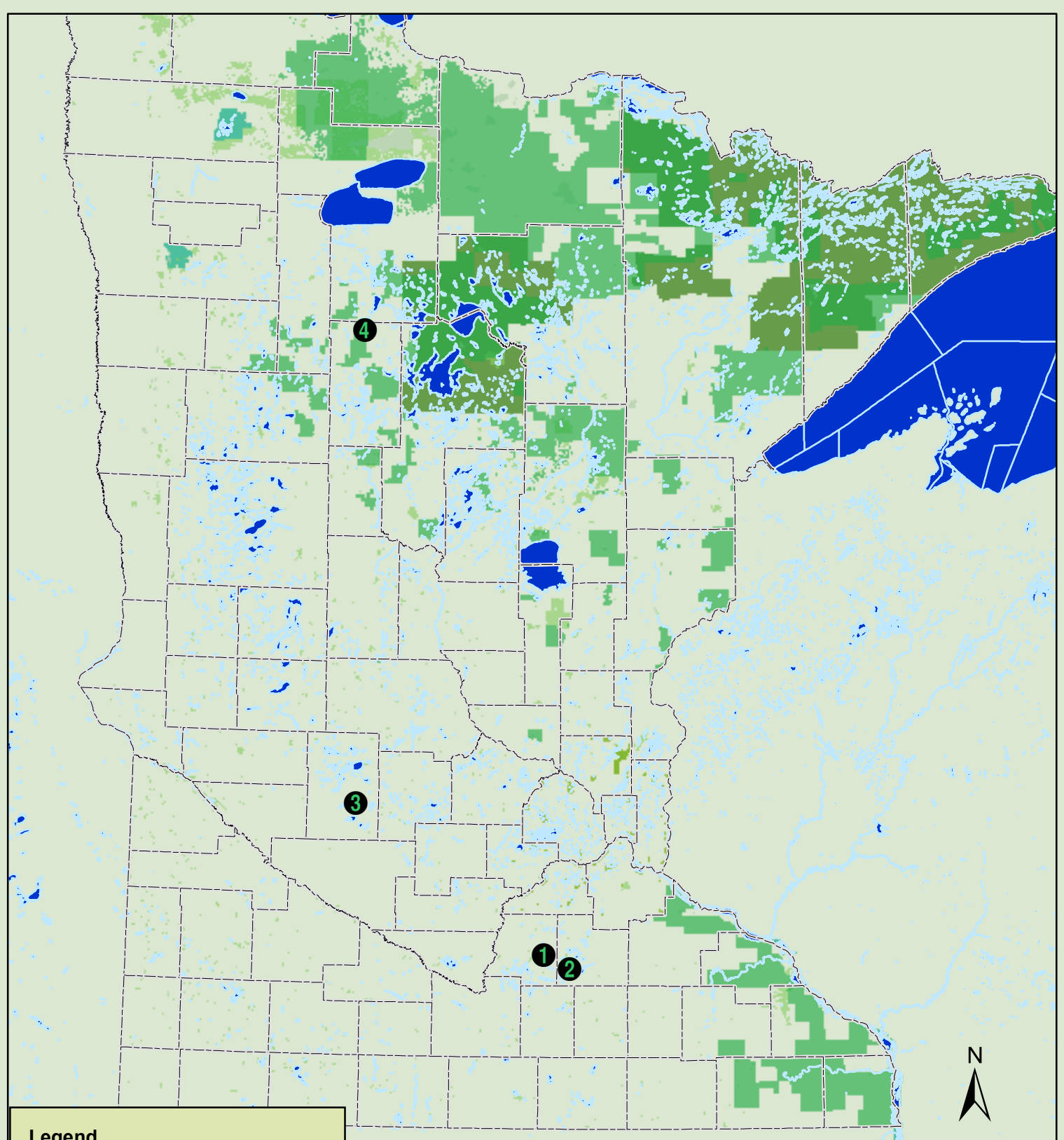
Project Manager Name: Robert McGillivray

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$490,000

Final Title Holder(s): DNR.

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM- Y)				Summary Description	Status
					Latitude	Longitude	UTM-X	UTM-Y		
1	Cannon River I WMA/AMA	Fee Title	LeSueur	510	93°33'31"W	44°20'49N			Approximately 510 acres on the headwaters of the Cannon River in Le Sueur County with MCBS mapped areas.	Under option.
2	Cannon River II WMA/AMA	Fee Title	Rice	100-785	93°28'53"W	44°17'23"N			Between 100 and 785 acres on the headwaters of the Cannon River in Rice County with MCBS mapped areas.	Under option.
3	Reid Woods SNA	Fee Title	Kandiyohi	650	94°54'42"W	45°4'19"N			Approximately 650 acres of wetlands, prairie and forest on the shores of a chain of shallow lakes in Kandiyohi County containing many SNA quality features.	Negotiations with landowner underway.
4	Plantagenet Lake AMA	Fee Title	Hubbard	100	94°55'25"W	47°22'9"N			Approximately 100 acres on a deep lake in Hubbard County containing wetlands and a designated trout stream connecting existing public land to the lake.	Negotiations with landowner underway.

NOTES: Projects are listed in priority order. It is anticipated that this funding will be used on the first two projects.



Legend

- HCP Phase 7 2011 now obsolete Boundaries
- Metro_Parks
- State Forests
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Scientific and Natural Areas
- NWR_NFWS
- National Forests

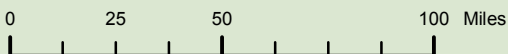
TPL's HCP Phase 7 Potential Projects

1. Cannon River Ph I
2. Cannon River Ph 2
3. Reid Woods
4. Lake Plantagenet

Map created by The Trust for Public Land
on 4/8/ 2010

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Project Manager Qualifications

Bob McGillivray is a Senior Project Manager in the Minnesota State Office of The Trust for Public Land and has been with TPL for seven years. He works directly with landowners, public agency partners, and community members to protect land throughout the state of Minnesota for public use and enjoyment. He manages all aspects of real estate transactions including conducting property research; negotiating contracts; advocating for and securing funding; and coordinating due diligence activities. Prior to joining TPL, Bob was a partner at the law firm of Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly with a broad commercial practice. He also served as a law clerk for the Honorable Edward J. Devitt, United States District Court Judge; a Special Assistant Attorney General with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office; and a legal intern with the United Nations and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. Bob graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Minnesota and received his law degree from New York University. He also studied at Stirling University in Scotland and the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Bob's volunteer activities have included serving on the Board of the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis and on the Board of Minnesota Waters, a nonprofit conservation organization that promotes responsible stewardship of water resources.

Organization Description

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national non profit organization dedicated to conserving land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural areas, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. The primary way TPL accomplishes this vision is through conservation real estate, conservation finance, and conservation vision.