



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2011 Work Plan

Date of Status Update:

Date of Next Status Update: 1/1/2012

Date of Work Plan Approval: 8/11/2011

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Is this an amendment request? _____

Project Title: Natural and Scenic Area Acquisition Grants

Project Manager: Ronald Potter

Affiliation: MN DNR

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Location:

Counties Impacted: Statewide

Ecological Section Impacted: Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation \$: 1,000,000

Amount Spent \$: 0

Balance \$: 1,000,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04k

Appropriation Language:

\$500,000 the first year and \$500,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to provide matching grants to local governments for acquisition of natural and scenic areas, as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 85.019, subdivision 4a. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Natural and Scenic Area Acquisition Grants

II. PROJECT SUMMARY:

Opportunities for local governments to acquire and protect natural and scenic areas statewide are diminishing due to development, especially in high growth areas, shore lands, bluff tops and areas where land use changes may limit future opportunities. The overall aim of this project is to ensure protection of natural and scenic resources by helping and encouraging local governments to acquire and protect such land for appropriate public use, protection of natural communities, species protection, appreciation of scenic vistas, and scientific and environmental education purposes. This aim is achieved through competitive, matching grants that provide financial incentive and ensure the land and natural resources are retained for public use in perpetuity. These areas complement state protected areas and provide close to home natural resource based benefits.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of January 1, 2012:

Project Status as of June 30, 2012:

Project Status as of January 1, 2013:

Project Status as of June 30, 2013:

Project Status as of January 1, 2014:

Final Report Summary June 30, 2014:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Natural and Scenic Area Grants

Description: The requested funding will provide about two to six matching grants to cities, counties, townships and school districts for acquisition of approximately 100 – 200 acres for new or expanded natural and scenic areas. Two grant rounds are proposed. These grants require a 50% state and a 50% local match. The local match for projects funded at the requested level would meet or exceed \$975,000.

As a condition of subgrants awarded from this appropriation for fee title acquisitions, the grantees will submit the following information to the LCCMR and in one instance to Minnesota Management and Budget as described below:

1. Proof that their elected board has approved the acquisition of the land being acquired in part with the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation.
2. A restoration and management plan for the land being acquired that is consistent with LCCMR guidelines for restoration plans.
3. Identify funding source(s) to implement the restoration and management plan.
4. The results of an analysis to the LCCMR and Minnesota Management and Budget which identifies increased operations and maintenance costs likely to be incurred by the grantee as a result of the acquisition and how these costs will be paid.
5. Description of project selection process, including necessary project criteria and the decision making process used to sort/rank projects.
6. A list of the proposed acquisitions will be provided once the grant awards have been made.

- 7. A parcel-scale map of the acquired land.
- 8. Annual land acquisition report forms (initial and follow-up annual reports) which includes the transaction costs and revenue sources for acquiring the parcel in fee or a permanent easement.
- 9. A copy of the recorded restrictive covenant agreement between the DNR and the grantee containing provisions in MS 116P.15, Subd. 2, (c) for the land which requires approval by the LCCMR if the land is proposed to be sold, transferred, pledged or otherwise disposed of or further encumbered.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$975,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$975,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. <i>Provide 2-6 matching grants</i>	July 2011, 2012	\$ 975,000
2. <i>Grantees Acquire 200-400 acres</i>	June 2014	Cost above

Activity Status as of January 1, 2012:

Activity Status as of June 30, 2012:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2013:

Activity Status as of June 30, 2013:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2014:

Final Report Summary June 30, 2014:

ACTIVITY 2: Administrative/Personal Costs

Description: The requested funding will be used to support personnel costs for administering the grant program. Grant staff persons are involved in grant solicitation, evaluation and ranking, grant agreement management, project billings, project inspections, and compliance monitoring.

As shown in the Attachment A Budget Detail, work program approval is requested for personnel expenses to be incurred by two DNR classified staff involved in administering this grant program. Payment of classified staff with Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund money will not result in supplanting of the regular budget. A cost coding system is used to document the hours spent by each staff person in administering the program. Two grants program staff would work an estimated 425-450 hours over the three year project period.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$25,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$25,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. <i>Complete Application rounds</i>	July 2011, 2012	\$10,000
2. <i>Complete 2-6 grant agreements</i>	Fall 2011, 2012	\$5,000

3. Project administration and closeouts	By June 2014	\$10,000
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Activity Status as of January 1, 2012:

Activity Status as of June 30, 2012:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2013:

Activity Status as of June 30, 2013:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2014:

Final Report Summary June 30, 2014:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Each year the DNR Division of Parks and Trails distributes information on the various grant programs and application materials to local governments and organizations throughout the state. A general electronic mailing is made at the beginning of each application period, usually in the fall, and individual requests are handled on a case-by-case basis. Grant information is also available on the DNR web site and requests for applications can be completed and submitted on line. The web site contains specific information about the Natural and Scenic Area grant program, as well as many other sources of financial assistance within the DNR. A list of awarded projects will be posted on the program web page.

Status as of January 1, 2012:

Status as of June 30, 2012:

Status as of January 1, 2013:

Status as of June 30, 2013:

Status as of January 1, 2014:

Final Report Summary June 30, 2014:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 25,000	425-450 Staff hours, portion of two classified DNR staff positions.
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$975,000	Grants to Local units of government and/or school districts for acquisition in VIII.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$1,000,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: Any classified position paid for with LCCMR funds will either be 1) backfilled with a new position or 2) the work previously done by this position will be delayed, eliminated, or completed by the start of the project.

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 0.22 FTE

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
State			
General funds and other funds as appropriate	\$300	\$0	Shared Services (operations support governance) are services that the DNR relies on in order to conduct business and support the work of the department. These services are more efficient when shared.
Non-state			
Local Government and/or School Districts cash and/or donation of land value.	\$975,000	\$0	Fee Title Land Acquisition
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$975,300	\$0	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Partners are local governments and school districts. They will acquire, own and manage the natural and scenic areas. They will provide match dollars as well as covering costs of appraisals, any required archeological/historical surveys, permits, etc. They will also assume all operations and maintenance costs.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: The long-term strategy for the Natural and Scenic Area Grant program is to provide an incentive to local governments to protect natural and scenic resources that do not qualify for state designation, but have important regional or local significance. These areas complement state protected areas and provide close-to-home opportunities for nature study, science and environmental education, species protection, outdoor recreation, and appreciation of scenic vistas. These areas can play a role in addressing the increasing disconnect between people and nature.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ETF	\$100,000 Subd. 6(j)	\$336,000 Subd. 2(g)			
Bonding	\$675,000				

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: A list will be provided once the grant awards have been made.

IX. MAP(S): Maps will be provided once the grant awards have been made.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 2012, June 30, 2012, January 1, 2013, June 30, 2013, and January 1, 2014. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects											
Project Title: <i>Natural and Scenic Area Acquisition Grants</i>											
Legal Citation: <i>M.L. 2011, Chapter , Section , Subd. 4k</i>											
Project Manager: <i>Ron Potter</i>											
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 1,000,000.00											
Project Length and Completion Date: <i>3 years: June 30, 2014</i>											
Date of Update: <i>June 3, 2011</i>											
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Natural and Scenic Area Grants</i>			<i>Administrative/Personnel costs</i>			<i>Fill in your activity title here.</i>				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) <i>Two grants staff in the Parks and Trails Division will work an estimated 425-450 hour for this project.</i>				25,000	0	25,000				25,000	25,000
Fee Title Acquisition	975,000	0	975,000								
COLUMN TOTAL	\$975,000	\$0	\$975,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000				\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000