



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

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**Date of Status Update:**

**Date of Next Status Update:** 1/1/2012

**Date of Work Plan Approval:** 6/23/2011

**Project Completion Date:** 6/30/2014

**Is this an amendment request?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Project Title:** Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species

**Project Manager:** Rich Perrine

**Affiliation:** Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District

**Address:** 923 N State St, Ste 110

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**Location:**

**Counties Impacted:** Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Martin, Watonwan

**Ecological Section Impacted:** North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

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<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation \$:</b>	147,000
	<b>Amount Spent \$:</b>	<u>0</u>
	<b>Balance \$:</b>	147,000

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

**Appropriation Language:**

\$73,000 the first year and \$74,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for an agreement with the Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District to collect, propagate, and plant declining, at-risk native species on protected habitat and to enhance private market sources for local ecotype native seed. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species

**II. PROJECT SUMMARY:**

This project will focus on native plant species that are at-risk of being extirpated locally. The Minnesota County Biological Survey of 2009 indicated over 500 species could be found in Martin County. 90 of the 238 species documented so far are considered to be at-risk. We will expand our inventory of at-risk species, continue to work with the 104 species collected from 19 remnants through the Prairie Ecosystem Restoration Project and survey and monitor an additional 20 remnants for at-risk plant populations. Local ecotype native plant materials will be collected from prairie remnants, propagated and planted on land where they will be protected, primarily on perpetual conservation easements.

We will partner with local seed growers and nurseries through competitive RFPs to preserve the local gene pool by increasing plant materials to get these under-utilized species to the market more quickly. This project will work to protect remaining native populations and expand populations to new sites, enhancing environmental conditions and improving habitat and wildlife diversity.

A DNR permit allows us to work with 3 endangered or threatened species and we will request additions as necessary. BWSR funded Native Buffer Cost-Share and Cooperative Weed Management programs will complement efforts to get seed production plots established quickly and efficiently.

Net proceeds of the sale of any plant materials collected or propagated using funds from this project will be used for continued project work or returned to the Trust Fund.

**III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**Project Status as of:** January 31, 2012

**Project Status as of:** July 31, 2012

**Project Status as of:** January 31, 2013

**Project Status as of:** July 31, 2013

**Project Status as of:** January 31, 2014

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Locate and collect at-risk local ecotype native plants.

**Description:** Locate additional native prairie remnants, get permission from landowners, identify and collect at-risk species. Ask prairie remnant owners to donate plant materials for project use, but if needed, landowners will be paid for plant materials collected from their property. Train seasonal workers and volunteers to identify and enter waypoints into GPS units for documentation and plant relocation. Employ a bidding process for greenhouse space and/or open space on private land for seed germination and propagation from plant cuttings for species which rarely produce seed, to maximize survivability of at-risk species.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 103,700**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 0**  
**Balance: \$103,700**

**Activity Completion Date: 6-30-2014**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. Use GPS and GIS to track species, share data with DNR and U of MN. Fill large data gaps in MCBS of known native species in Martin County.	6-01-2014	\$5,000
2. Concentrate collection efforts on at-risk species and obtain additional permits from DNR for threatened and endangered species thus ensuring long-term protection of local ecotype plant genetics.	12-31-2013	\$79,600
3. Maintain Yellow Tag eligibility through MN Crop Improvement Assn.	6-01-2014	\$14,600
4. Maximize propagation of species with low seed production through lease of greenhouse space and/or open space.	5-31-2014	\$4,500

**Activity Status as of:** January 31, 2012

**Activity Status as of:** July 31, 2012

**Activity Status as of:** January 31, 2013

**Activity Status as of:** July 31, 2013

**Activity Status as of:** January 31, 2014

**Final Report Summary:** July 31, 2014

**ACTIVITY 2:** Increase local ecotype plants on easements and increase market opportunities.

**Description:** Identify eligible landowners and enroll them in the Native Buffer Program. Propagate, plant and maintain at-risk species on permanent easements and native buffer sites to increase the amount of native plant materials available. Create a self-sustaining activity by making production of local ecotype seed and plants commercially feasible for seed growers and nurseries. Bridging the gap between prairie remnants and seed producers is our strategy to create a profitable venture for retailers.

Work with prairie remnant owners, easement owners and native buffer contract holders to develop management strategies to help maintain and increase plant and wildlife diversity on their sites.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 43,300**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 0**  
**Balance: \$43,300**

	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. Increase local awareness of the Native Buffer program.	12-31-2013	\$1,000
2. Propagate and plant at-risk species in groupings will strengthen plant genetics to maximize sustainable seed production each year for 3 years.	06-01-2014	\$36,000
3. Create new opportunities for local seed grower partners to efficiently harvest 100% of plant materials and establish plots for re-sale.	06-01-2014	\$1,300
4. Educate landowners on proper management of their native prairie and forest lands to improve the ecological quality and value of native lands.	05-31-2014	\$5,000

**Activity Status as of:** January 31, 2012

**Activity Status as of:** July 31, 2012

**Activity Status as of:** January 31, 2013

**Activity Status as of:** July 31, 2013

**Activity Status as of:** January 31, 2014

**Final Report Summary:** July 31, 2014

## V. DISSEMINATION

### Description:

Project work will be documented in conservation plans for participating landowners. Copies of the plans will be provided to the BWSR St. Paul Central Office for inclusion in cooperator files there. Project progress and results will be posted on the SWCD website: [www.martinswcd.net](http://www.martinswcd.net) The project will be featured in the "Conservation Update" in January of 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Throughout this period, the project will be featured on numerous radio broadcasts and in supplemental educational articles through the local newspapers.

**Status as of:** January 31, 2012

**Status as of:** July 31, 2012

**Status as of:** January 31, 2013

**Status as of:** July 31, 2013

**Status as of:** January 31, 2014

**Final Report Summary:** July 31, 2014

## VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

### A. ENRTF Budget:

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Personnel:	\$ 100,000	Project management, supervision and labor
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$ 14,600	Inspections and tracking for Yellow tag program through MN Crop Improvement Association.
Service Contracts:	\$ 4,500	Space for growing plants.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 1,300	Collection, propagation and planting supplies
Printing:	\$	Provided in-kind
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 6,000	Travel to and from collection and planting sites
Other: Landowner compensation	\$ 20,600	Payment for value of plant materials collected.
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$147,000</b>	

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:** Oversight and guidance.

**Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 1.5**

**B. Other Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
<b>Non-state (In-kind)</b>			
Martin SWCD/partners	\$5,000	\$	Facilities/materials for propagation
Martin SWCD/partners	\$10,000		Tractor, tools, equipment
<b>State (In-kind)</b>			
Agencies, DNR, MVAC, MCC	\$20,000	\$	Guidance, oversight and labor
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** Prairie remnant owners, local nurseries, private landowners, Minnesota Crop Improvement Association will receive funding through this project.

Local concerned citizens, school environmental groups, 4-H clubs, local FFA, Boy Scouts, Conservation Clubs and Members, DNR staff, Local Seed Growers, Martin County Board of Commissioners, and Martin County Parks will be providing time and services to the project.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:**

Planting and establishing new populations of declining plant species and developing a source of plant materials for future habitat restoration projects should reduce the risk of losing some of these local ecotypes of species that have been losing their habitat over the past few decades. By continuing to plant the less common species as part of habitat restoration projects, their continued presence on the landscape is being encouraged. It will take many years of moving these at-risk species to the appropriate places on the landscape and then protecting them from invasion by non-native species.

**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
ENRTF			\$80,000		
Private Match			\$43,779		

**IX. MAP(S):** General Project Area Map

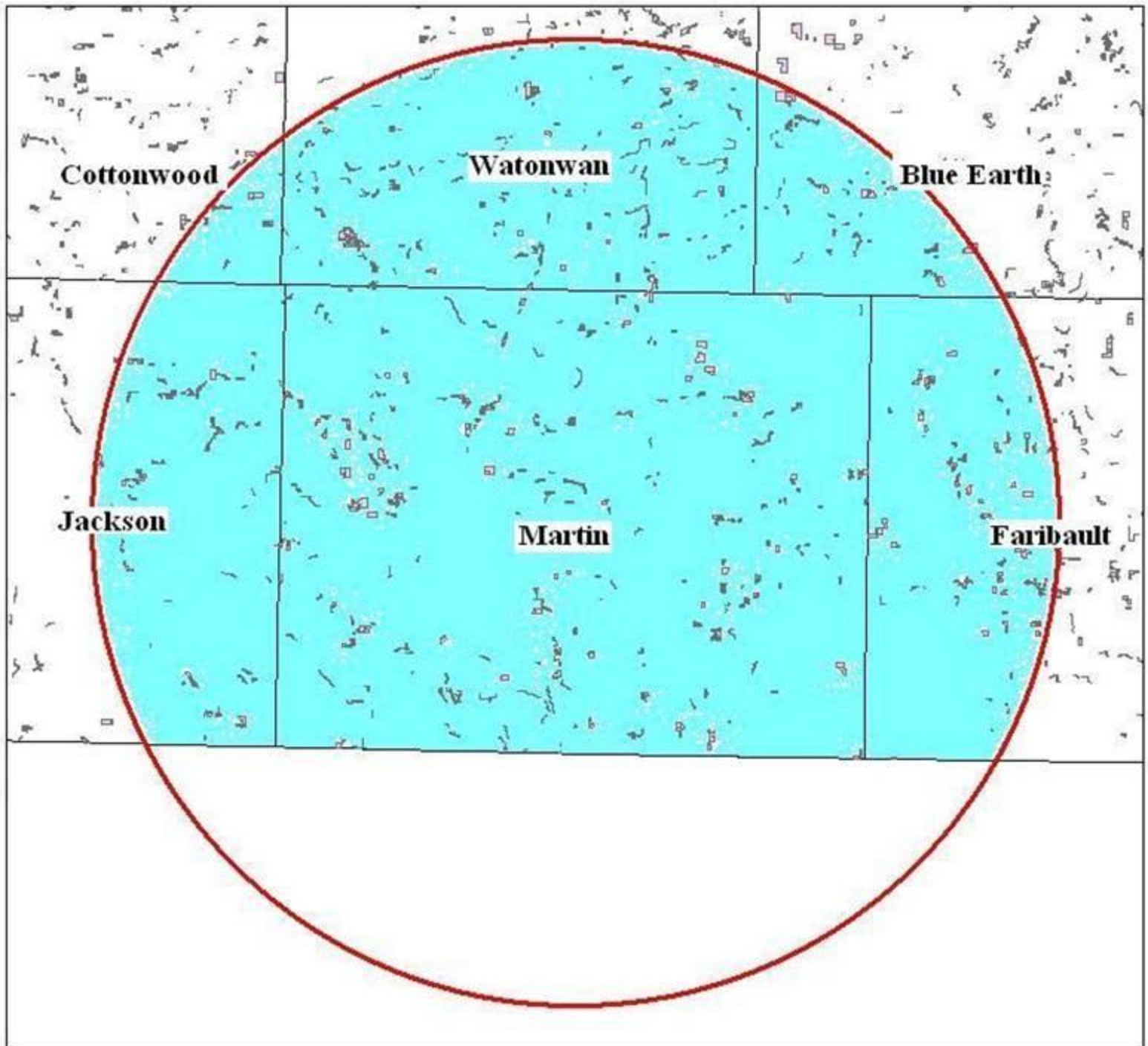
**X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:** This project does not have a research component, but if new propagation techniques or procedures are developed, they will be included in the reporting.

**XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**




Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than January 31, 2012, July 31, 2012, January 31, 2013, July 31, 2013 and January 31, 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: Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species											
Legal Citation: \$73,000 the first year and \$74,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the Board of Water											
Project Manager: Rich Perrine											
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 147,000											
Project Length and Completion Date: (3 years) June 30, 2014											
Date of Update: May 24, 2011											
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET				Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM				Locate, track and collect plant materials.			Increase plant materials and market				
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b> New lead personnel, 100% FTE, Responsible for project oversight and training of other project personnel. 68% toward wages, 32% toward benefits. Position time period: 7/1/11 to 6/30/14. One person in this position. Lead personnel duties may be shared by two or more persons, depending on availability of qualified personnel. (Approximately \$90,000)											
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b> Unclassified, intermittent, as needed. Responsible for plant material identification, collection, propagation and planting. 100% toward wages, 0% benefits. Position time period: 7/1/11 to 6/30/14. Up to four persons in this position. (Approximately \$10,000)											
<b>Total Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b>				69,200		69,200	30,800		30,800	100,000	100,000
<b>Professional/Technical Contracts</b> Contract with the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association to track genetic origin of native plant materials and maintain "Yellow Tag" eligibility for each species. Includes inspections of collection and planting sites and the tracking documentation. (Approx. \$50/hour)				5,000		5,000	9,600		9,600	14,600	14,600
<b>Service contracts</b> Agreements with prairie remnant owners to allow collection of native plant materials from their property. Landowners will be asked to donate their plant materials, but those who wish to be paid, will receive compensation for up to the value of plant materials collected from their land.				20,600		20,600				20,600	20,600
<b>Service contracts</b> Agreements with growers for greenhouse and/or plot space on a per tray and/or square foot basis. A competitive bid process will be used to select the contractor(s).				4,500		4,500				4,500	4,500
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b> for collecting, cleaning/processing and planting seed. Propagation and transplanting equipment including trays, cells, planting medium, rooting hormone and trowels. cleaning equipment including, screens, containers, the use of screening and cleaning equipment, including potential rent of an air table and/or fanning mill. Hand tools for transplanting including trowels, spades, containers, gloves and miscellaneous supplies. Chemical and hand tools for weed control. (tractor, motorized equipment, including drills and seeder will be provided in-kind)				400		400	900		900	1,300	1,300
<b>Travel expenses in Minnesota</b> Mileage, based on the current federal rate and adjusted to match the federal rate throughout the project timeframe. Miles to, from and between approximately 40 collection sites and up to 50 planting sites.				4,000		4,000	2,000		2,000	6,000	6,000
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>				<b>\$103,700</b>		<b>\$103,700</b>	<b>\$43,300</b>		<b>\$43,300</b>	<b>\$147,000</b>	<b>\$147,000</b>

# Recovery of At-Risk Native Prairie Species



## Legend

-  RIM and CREP easements
-  County Boundaries
-  Project Area

0 2 4 8 12 16 20 Miles



Projection: UTM NAD83 Zone 15

Maps are for graphical purposes only. They do not represent a legal survey. While every effort has been made to ensure that these data are accurate and reliable within the limits of the current state of the art, NRCS cannot assume liability for any damages caused by any errors or omissions in the data, nor as a result of the failure of the data to function on a particular system. NRCS makes no warranty, expressed or implied, nor does the fact of distribution constitute such a warranty.

