



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2013 Work Plan

Date of Status Update Report: 5/17/16

Date of Next Status Update Report:

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2016

Is this an amendment request? ____

PROJECT TITLE: State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition

Project Manager: Dana Vanderbosch
Affiliation: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
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Location: Statewide

Counties Impacted: Winona
Crow Wing
Rice

State Parks, State Recreation Areas and State Trails Impacted: Great River Bluffs_State Park, Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area, Mill Towns State Trail

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$1,000,000
	Amount Spent:	\$0
	Balance:	\$1,000,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04a

Appropriation Language:

\$1,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire authorized state trails and critical parcels within the statutory boundaries of state parks. State park land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work plan. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: State Parks, State Recreation Areas and State Trails Land Acquisitions

II. PROJECT STATEMENT: Acquire high priority parcels of land, in-holdings, located within the statutory authorized boundaries of State Parks, State Recreation Areas and within the legislatively authorized State Trails, from willing sellers. Acquisition of high priority parcels will ensure protection of land identified with significant cultural and natural resources and secure land which contain desirable locations for viable trail corridors for future generations to appreciate and recreate. A transparent public process is used to develop a master plan, which evaluates and identifies property with high ecological and recreational value, for each individual State Park, State Recreation Area and State Trail.

The State Parks and State Recreation Areas have legislatively authorized statutory boundaries and State Trails have legislatively authorized trail corridors. Acquisition of in-holdings within State Parks and State Recreation Areas preserves significant plant communities, natural areas and culturally significant historic sites. These parcels allow for improved access to and consolidation of existing state-owned public land. Acquisition of in-holdings will also provide better resource management within the designated boundaries.

Acquisition of State Trail parcels will create the foundation for significant and safe recreational trail connections between communities and other public recreational facilities. Additional benefits include: riparian buffers along wetlands, creeks and lakes, reduction of development impacts to the surrounding area, and improved site resortation. The vision of land acquisition is to expand and enhance the unique diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities in Minnesota to inspire the current and next generations to explore more of the outdoors.

Parcels in this work program may be revised during the course of this funding cycle due to an inability to complete the negotiations or other factors. Land acquired with this appropriation will be improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Activity Status as of March 1, 2014:

Activity Status as of September 1, 2014:

Activity Status as of March 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of September 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of March 1, 2016:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Acquisition of land inside state parks, state recreation areas statutory boundary and state trails legislatively authorized corridors.

Description: The State Parks, State Recreation Areas and State Trails Acquisition Program will acquire 245 acres of high priority land to protect and conserve critical biodiversity of the state which contain unique plant communities, natural areas and locally significant historic sites. The State owns 97% interest in one 40-acre parcel included in the proposed total acreage amount, and is pursuing the remaining 3% interest from a landowner. Acquisition also provides riparian buffers along wetlands, creeks and lakes, facilitate improved management by consolidation of state-owned property. The proposed acquisitions will also reduce development pressures, increase and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities. State Trail acquisitions generate desirable, safe recreational trail connections between communities and other public recreational assets. The vision of land acquisition is to expand and enhance the unique diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities in Minnesota to inspire the current and next generations to explore more of the outdoors.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 1,000,000
Amount Spent: \$ -0-

Balance: \$ 1,000,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Appraise high priority parcels (includes transaction related costs such as appraisals, surveys, title work, and closing costs)	6/30/14	\$ 20,000
2. Negotiate with willing sellers	9/1/14	\$
3. Acquire parcels (includes payment for the land)	6/30/16	\$ 980,000

Activity Status as of March 1, 2014:

Activity Status as of September 1, 2014:

Activity Status as of March 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of September 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of March 1, 2016:

Final Report as of September 1, 2016:

Final Report Summary:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Update state park and state trail maps and website as land and the new trail corridor becomes available for public use. A possible news release after the acquisition closing.

Status as of March 1, 2014:

Status as of September 1, 2014:

Status as of March 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of March 1, 2016:

Final Report as of September 1, 2016:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 977,986	Acquire land from willing landowners
Easement Acquisition:	\$ -0-	
Professional Services for Acquisition:	\$ 20,000	Transaction related expenses, ie appraisal, survey, title work, closing costs, etc.
Direct and Necessary Services for the Appropriation	\$ 2,014	
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 1,000,000	

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Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

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			
Parks and Trails Legacy FY13	\$500,000	\$0	Fee Title Acquisition
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 500,000	\$0	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Local state parks and state trails support groups. It is also anticipated that the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota will continue to play a critical role in the negotiation and timely acquisition prior to State acquisition.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: Acquire critical parcels within State Park and State Recreation Area statutory boundaries and within statutory authorized State Trail corridors. The state currently owns about 85% of the 268,000 acres within State Park and State Recreation Area boundaries and expects approximately \$5 million worth of private in-holding parcels inside the statutory boundary will become available from willing sellers each year. With the continued support of the LCCMR, the Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Trails expects to keep moving forward to acquire critical parcels for preservation, recreation, education and habitat restoration.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13
ENTF	\$1,500,000 Subd 4e	\$1,500,000 Subd 3h	\$1,590,000 Subd 4a & 4b	\$1,750,000 Subd 4d	\$3,000,000 Subd 4b
Capital Bonding		\$2,400,000		\$2,150,000	
Parks and Trails Legacy					\$3,000,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: State Parks, State Recreation Areas and State Trails maintain an active priority list for future acquisitions. The list evolves as new parcels are added to the statutory boundary of a park or the status of a parcel changes when more information is evaluated. A two- filter evaluation process helps us prioritize parcels on this list.

Each state park manager assigns a priority ranking for the private parcels within the statutory boundary of that park. The regional park managers review these rankings before submitting the priority report to the Acquisition and Development Section of the Division of Parks and Trails. This first filter priority ranking helps us decide if a greater assessment is needed. The ranking is divided into four levels of priority, A through D. An A-ranking

includes lands considered highest importance to mission and management of the state park, such as high resource or recreational potential.

This second filter evaluation looks in greater detail at a wide range of factors that determine the importance for acquiring the parcel. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following: rare geological feature, quality or quantity of natural or cultural resource present, historic buildings or cultural sites, riparian protection, high restoration potential, view shed preservation, threat due to development or timber harvesting, buffer potential, provide link to other recreation opportunities, such as a trail connection, develop new recreational facility, or improved trail system, expand a facility, provide better access to park or facilities, eliminate fragmented parcels for better management, address urgency to acquire due to landowner's needs, resolve visitor safety concerns, funding leverage with potential partnerships and bargain sale opportunity.

Then there are internal discussions to determine which parcels should be included in the proposals. During a funding cycle, the funding proposal list may be revised due to failed negotiations or another priority parcel may be identified.

When another parcel is identified for acquisition, the Park Manager discusses the priority ranking with the Regional Manager and/or the Acquisition Program Coordinator. If they determine the site requires greater evaluation, the park manager is asked to fill out the Acquisition Proposal Form.

The Regional Park Manager, Manager of Acquisition and Development, and Acquisition Program Coordinator evaluate these factors and descriptions on the acquisition proposal form. They discuss what other priority acquisitions are available, and the current funding status, and then decide whether to present the new parcel to the Division Director.

The Division Director determines if the staff proceeds with the acquisition. Depending on the funding availability and/or urgency of the acquisition, staff pursues the acquisition with current funds or the parcel is place on our priority list for future acquisitions as funding is available. The commissioner of natural resources shall approve acquisitions when the land acquisition property is identified as a high priority, or meets the objectives and criteria identified in the applicable acquisition plan for the intended management status of the property. The State Parks and Trails staff is responsible for the management, operation and maintenance of the acquired land in accordance with the master plan.

IX. MAP(S): See attached exhibit maps.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than March 1, 2014, September 1, 2014, and March 1, 2015. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and September 15, 2016 as requested by the LCCMR.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2013 Acquisition/Restoration List

Project Title: State Parks, State Recreation Areas and State Trails Land Acquisition (subd. 04a)

Project Manager Name: Dana Vanderbosch

M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$1,000,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Great River Bluffs State Park	628581	4866708	\$ 300,000	\$ 2,250	Winona	Parcel has high biodiversity and contains rare species habitat such as that for timber rattlesnake, which is a state threatened species.	Acquisition	50		Private Individual	MnDNR	In Progress
2	Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area	421834	5148317	\$ 400,000	\$ 3,000	Crow	The parcels have a mixture of mature tree growth and approximately 1 mile of lake shoreline.	Acquisition	115*	Over 1 mile of shoreline- approx. 5,800 feet	Private Individual	MnDNR	In Progress
3	Mill Towns State Trail	481584	4917471	\$ 300,000	\$ 2,250	Rice	Portions of the corridor have mature timber while other portions are being farmed by adjacent landowners. Corridor representative of a rural setting.	Acquisition	80		For Profit Entity	MnDNR	In Progress

NOTES:

*Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area project proposal is for a total of 115 acres. 75 acres is privately owned. Of the remaining 40 acres, the DNR owns 97% share and is acquiring the remaining 3% share.

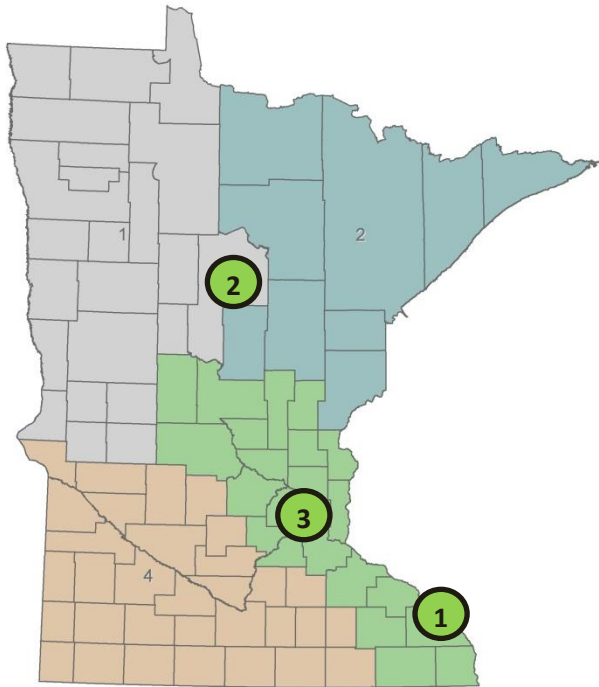
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Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition (subd. 04a)					
Legal Citation: <i>Fill in your project's legal citation from the appropriation language</i>					
Project Manager: Dana Vanderbosch					
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$1,000,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2016					
Date of Update:					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Acquisition of State Parks & State Trails</i>				
Fee Title Acquisition 245 acres: 205 acres in fee title. Of the remaining 40 acres, DNR owns a 97% interest. They will pursue acquiring the remaining 3% undivided interest from a private landowner. DNR will own the title to the lands acquired.	977,986	0	977,986	977,986	977,986
Professional Services for Acquisition Appraisals, survey, title work, title opinion for 3-4 transactions	20,000		20,000	20,000	20,000
Direct and Necessary Services for the Appropriation	2,014		2,014	2,014	2,014
COLUMN TOTAL	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Land Acquisition Proposed Projects

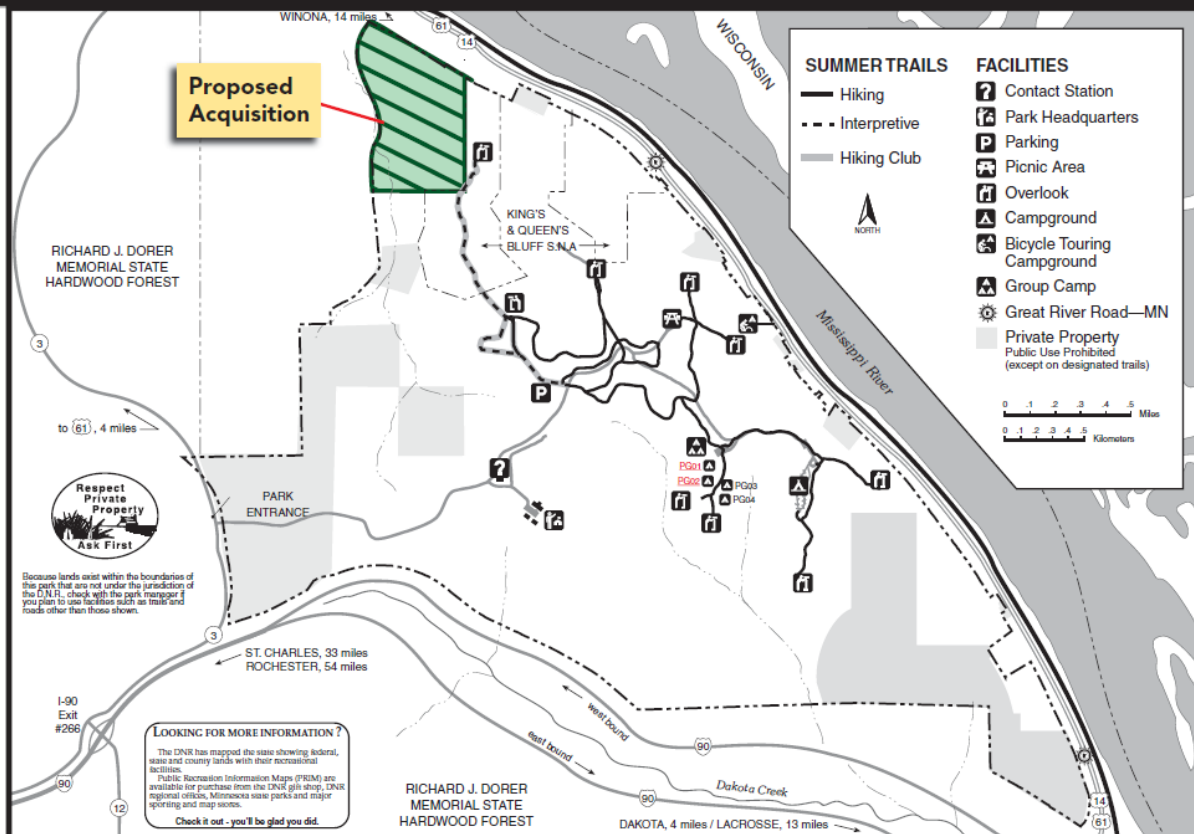


LCCMR 2013 - subd. 04a

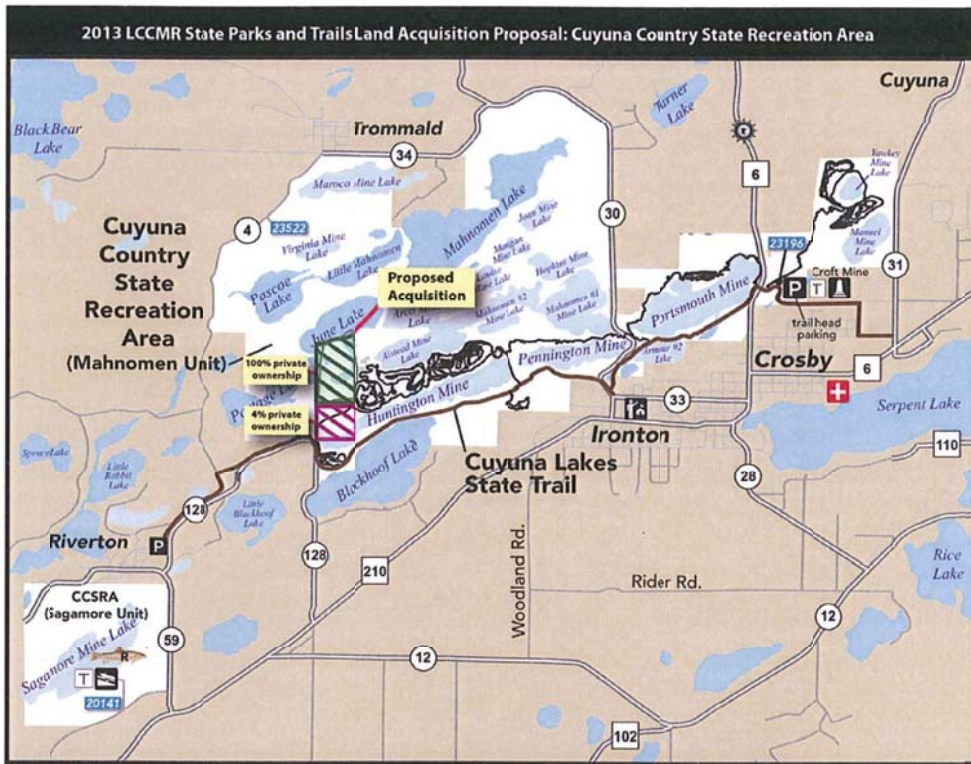


Map #	Facility Name	County
1	Great River Bluffs	Winona
2	Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area	Crow Wing
3	Mill Towns State Trail	Rice

1 2013 LCCMR State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition Proposal: Great River Bluffs State Park



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