

M.L. 15 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2019

PROJECT TITLE: Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Restoration, Enhancement and Public Engagement

PROJECT MANAGER: Ann Pierce

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecological & Water Resources

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$4,000,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$3,904,562

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$95,438

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Minnesota's most unique, intact ecosystems that house state threatened and special concern species were permanently protected as state Scientific and Natural Areas (519.3 acres). Habitat restoration (45 acres), enhancement (1,858 acres) and a variety of outreach, engaging citizens in ecological recreation, stewardship, and education activities, took place across the state.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Through this appropriation, 519.3 acres were permanently protected as state Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs). Protected through these parcels are a variety of Minnesota's most unique intact ecosystems that house many of Minnesota's state threatened and special concern species (see the parcel list for specific site details). Proactive landowner outreach took place in 12 strategically prioritized areas, 7 SNA conservation easements were monitored and the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan gap analysis was refined to identify exceptional plant communities/species that still need protection for SNA to reach its goal of ensuring that Minnesota's natural heritage is not lost from any ecological region of the state.

Habitat restoration and enhancement activities took place across the state on SNAs. Activities included 45 acres of habitat restoration (see restoration evaluations included with final report), 772 acres of invasive species control, 332 acres of woody control, 652 acres of prescribed burning, 102 acres of prescribed haying, site development work at 51 SNAs, completion of 11 Adaptive management Plans and ecological monitoring at 49 SNAs and 1 proposed SNA. Knowledge gained through monitoring will enable managers to improve management of SNAs for the Species in Greatest Conservation Need, state special concern and state/federally threatened and endangered species that call these habitats home.

Outreach activities through this appropriation brought the SNA Facebook page to nearly 5000 page likes and the total monthly reach, for example, in April 2018 was 72,730. The SNA Flickr social media channel facilitated sharing of high quality photos with 67 members sharing over 991 photos. Five "Nature Notes" e-newsletters were delivered reaching over 5,673 subscribers. From March 1, 2017 through February 2018, 99 events were held involving over 990 people. As of June 2018, there were 149 SNA Site Stewards. These stewards submit reports on their observations and assist with management tasks.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The SNA website was updated throughout this appropriation as needed, including listings of new volunteer events. Information on SNAs and activities through this appropriation were posted on the SNA Facebook page which achieved nearly 5,000 page likes. Included with this final report is an SNA Facebook Metrics Report from April-June 2018. The SNA Flickr social media channel was used to encourage high quality photo sharing with 58 members sharing 991 photos. Five Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered during this timeframe reaching over 5,673 subscribers.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2015 Work Plan Final Report

Date of Report: August 15, 2019

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 11, 2015

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2019

PROJECT TITLE: Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Restoration, Enhancement and Public Engagement

Project Manager: Ann Pierce

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecological & Water Resources

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Location: Statewide

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation: \$4,000,000

Amount Spent: \$3,904,562

Balance: \$95,438

Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c

Appropriation Language:

\$4,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire at least 350 acres of lands with high-quality native plant communities and rare features to be established as scientific and natural areas as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 5, restore and improve at least 550 acres of scientific and natural areas, and provide technical assistance and outreach. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work plan. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2018, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Improvement & Citizen Engagement

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Sites of biodiversity significance identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) and the new *SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan* will be permanently protected as state Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs), their quality improved, and public support for and involvement in their conservation will be increased by a suite of tools through the DNR SNA Program. About 350 acres of at risk, high quality native plant communities and wildlife habitat of state significance will be acquired and designated as SNAs. Native habitat restoration and site improvement activities will be implemented on about 550 acres of SNAs threatened by human impacts, invasive species, and lack of natural disturbance regimes. Furthermore, to address gaps in support for SNAs and to increase citizen and student knowledge and skills about biodiversity conservation, the SNA outreach initiative will achieve about 65 SNA-based events and sustain a network of SNA site stewards at about 120 SNAs. In addition, new or refined electronic/social media communications tools (including SNA website and e-guidebook improvements) will be developed and disseminated to increase and enhance recreationist's use of SNAs and effectiveness of site steward recruitment and retention, expansion of participation in SNA events, and other SNA outreach tools will be evaluated.

III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of November 19, 2015:

Acquisition of 211 acre parcel (prorated as 55.6 acres for this appropriation) will close in November 2015 that will become part of the new **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co). The DNR has optioned the 36.5 acre parcel that is proposed to become the new Crystal Spring SNA (Washington Co) that is proposed to be acquired in part with this appropriation; the project is expected to be acquired in calendar year 2015 in cooperation with The Trust for Public Land. Habitat restoration and enhancement project activities completed to date include: invasive species treatment has been completed on 24 acres at 3 SNAs; 6.9 miles of burn breaks have been prepared at 6 SNAs; and site development work (e.g. signs and site cleanup) has been done at 7 SNAs.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED BY LCCMR on December 10, 2015: Moved \$50,722 from Direct & Necessary Costs to project costs in Activity 1 and Activity 2 as specified below and on the Budget attachment.

Project Status as of March 14, 2016:

Two parcels were acquired and designated as SNA: the 209.5 acre (prorated as 55.2 acres for this appropriation) portion of the new **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co) and the 38.1 acre (prorated as 16.6 acres for this appropriation) new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co). Habitat restoration and enhancement project activities completed to date include: invasive species treatment has been completed on 34 acres at 5 SNAs; 6.9 miles of burn breaks have been prepared at 6 SNAs; and site development work (e.g. signs and site cleanup) has been done at 9 SNAs. A deer census (for ecological management purposes) was conducted around 2 SNAs.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED by LCCMR March 24, 2016: Added to the parcel list an acquisition of an addition to the Blanket Flower SNA (Clay Co) and a restoration projects at Minnesota Point Pine Forest SNA (St. Louis Co), Chimney Rock SNA (Dakota Co) and Seminary Fen SNA (Scott Co).

Project Status as of September 21, 2016 – cumulative results since July 2015:

Two parcels were acquired and designated as SNA: the 209.5 acre (prorated as 56.0 acres for this appropriation) portion of the new **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co) and the 38.1 acre (prorated as 16.6 acres for this appropriation) new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co). Habitat restoration and enhancement project activities completed to date include: invasive species treatment has been completed on 124 acres at 10 SNAs; 6.9 miles of burn breaks have been prepared at 6 SNAs; and site development work (e.g. signs and site cleanup) has been done at 10 SNAs. A deer census (for ecological management purposes) was conducted around 2 SNAs.

Project Status as of March 15, 2017 – cumulative results since July 2015:

Five parcels were acquired and are/will be designated as SNA: the 209.5 acre (prorated as 56.0 acres for this appropriation) portion of the new **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co), the 38.1 acre (prorated as 16.6 acres for this appropriation) new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co), the 43-acre (acreage to be pro-rated) addition to **Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA** (Goodhue Co), the 13.2 acre (acreage to be pro-rated) addition to **Blanket Flower Prairie SNA** (Clay Co), and the 71.8 acre (acreage to be pro-rated) new proposed **Lawrence Creek SNA** (Chisago Co). Habitat restoration and enhancement project activities completed to date include: invasive species treatment has been completed on 184 acres at 18 SNAs; 3 acres of prescribed burning at 1 SNA and 15 miles of burn breaks have been prepared at 13 SNAs; and site development work (e.g. signs and site cleanup) has been done at 24 SNAs. A deer census (for ecological management purposes) was conducted around 2 SNAs.

Project Status as of September 6, 2017 – cumulative results since July 2015 with changes since March 2017 underlined:

Five parcels were acquired and designated as SNA totaling 414 acres (prorated as 224 acres acquired to date with this appropriation): the 209.5 acre (prorated as 61.6 acres for this appropriation) portion of the new **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co), the 38.1 acre (prorated as 16.6 acres for this appropriation) new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co), the 42.7-acre (all acres with this appropriation) addition to **Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA** (Goodhue Co), the 12.2 acre (all acres with this appropriation) addition to **Blanket Flower Prairie SNA** (Clay Co), the 71.8 acre (prorated as 63.4 acres for this appropriation) new **Lawrence Creek SNA** (Chisago Co), and the 40-acre addition to the Lake Bronson Parkland SNA (all with this appropriation).

Habitat restoration and enhancement project activities completed to date include: 21 acres of prairie habitat reconstruction was completed at 1 SNA; invasive species treatment has been completed on 294 acres at 29 SNAs; 370 acres of prescribed burning at 14 SNA; 47 acres of prescribed haying at 2 SNAs; and site development work (e.g. signs and site cleanup) has been done at 24 SNAs. A deer census (for ecological management purposes) was conducted around 2 SNAs.

The SNA [Facebook](#) page has achieved over 4,272 page likes by September 1, 2017 and total reach, for example, in June of 72,096. The SNA Flickr social media channel facilitates sharing high quality photo with 45 members sharing over 675 photos as of September 1, 2017. The 22nd (Summer 2017) issue of the [Nature Notes](#) e-newsletter was delivered to over 4,895 subscribers. With ENRTF support, from March 1, 2017 through August 2017, about 45 events were involving over 200 people (previous events were reported through the ML14 ENRTF appropriation). As of August 2017, 130 SNAs (85% of SNAs) have one or more volunteer stewards – for a total of 168 SNA site stewards – who submit reports on their work and findings and who participate in special activities on SNAs

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED by LCCMR on September 18, 2017: Move \$53,840 from Activity 1 and \$42,700 from Activity 3 to Activity 2 as specified below and on the Budget attachment.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT REQUEST January 4, 2018: Move \$6,998 from Activity 1 and \$44,997 from Activity 3 to Activity 2 as specified below and on the Budget attachment. Amendment Approved by LCCMR 1/10/2018

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT REQUEST February 28, 2018: Request to update Franconia Bluff SNA Restoration on parcel list. Originally listed in error as a prairie restoration when it was supposed to be a forest restoration. Request to remove activities from the budget to simplify internal tracking and reporting. Also, request to move \$4,000 in salary (from Activity 1) to professional services to help finish up acquisitions as we come to the end of the appropriation. Amendment Approved by LCCMR 3/14/2018

Project Status as of February 28, 2018: cumulative results since July 2015

Six parcels were acquired and designated as SNA totaling 414 acres (prorated as 224 acres acquired to date with this appropriation): the 209.5 acre (prorated as 61.6 acres for this appropriation) portion of the new **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co), the 38.1 acre (prorated as 16.6 acres for this appropriation) new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co), the 42.7-acre (all acres with this appropriation) addition to **Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA** (Goodhue Co), the 12.2 acre (all acres with this appropriation) addition to **Blanket Flower Prairie SNA** (Clay Co), the 71.8 acre (prorated as 63.4 acres for this appropriation) new **Lawrence Creek SNA** (Chisago Co), and the 40-acre addition to the **Lake Bronson Parkland SNA** (all with this appropriation).

Habitat restoration and enhancement project activities completed to date include: 21 acres of prairie habitat reconstruction was completed at 1 SNA; invasive species treatment has been completed on 337 acres at 32 SNAs; 370 acres of prescribed burning at 15 SNA; 47 acres of prescribed haying at 2 SNAs; and site development work (e.g. signs and site cleanup) has been done at 25 SNAs. Ecological management monitoring has occurred on 17 SNAs and 1 proposed SNA.

The SNA [Facebook](#) page has achieved over 4,500 page likes by February 15, 2018 and total reach, for example, in August 2017 of 57,434. The SNA Flickr social media channel facilitates sharing high quality photo with 58 members sharing over 815 photos as of February 15, 2018. The 24th (Winter 2017) issue of the [Nature Notes](#) e-newsletter was delivered to over 5,197 subscribers. With ENRTF support, from March 1, 2017 through February 2018, 67 events were held involving over 490 people (previous events were reported through the ML14 ENRTF appropriation). As of February 2018, 133 SNAs (85% of SNAs) have one or more volunteer stewards – for a total of 171 SNA site stewards – who submit reports on their work and findings and who participate in special activities on SNAs

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT REQUEST June 5, 2018: The appraisal for Avon Hills SNA addition came in much lower than anticipated, therefore a request is being made to add Myhr Creek Ridge SNA to the parcel list as this parcel is on track to option by June 30, 2018. In order to accommodate this late addition, the “Project Completion Date” would need to be extended to June 30, 2019, to allow for the closing of this parcel and the Avon Hills SNA addition. Additionally a request is being made to move \$23,000 from professional contracts, \$500 from supplies and \$1,000 from IT services to Professional Services for Acquisition along with moving \$4,000 from IT services to travel. Technical contracts and supplies came in less than projected and IT services for the SNA spatial database will be completed using the ML16 appropriation, therefore we are requesting to move these leftover dollars to professional services and travel to finish up acquisition work as needed. At this time we project exceeding the acquisition accomplishment goal by approximated 150 acres (total of 500 acres acquired), provided everything continues to go as planned. **Amendment approved by LCCMR 6/12/2018**

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT REQUEST September 15, 2018: Request to move \$3,264 from supplies to personnel and move \$4,000 from supplies, \$25,960 from professional/technical/service contracts and \$5,000 from IT Services to professional services for fee acquisition. This request simply consolidates remaining dollars down to the acquisition budget categories since all other activities have been completed. Dollars remaining in Activity 2 will be used only for site development on the 2 SNAs left to close. Also updated parcel list to reflect final restoration acres for restoration projects. **Approved by LCCMR 9/26/18.**

Project Status September 15, 2018: cumulative results since July 2015

Eight parcels were acquired and designated as SNA totaling 477 acres (prorated as 300 acres acquired to date with this appropriation): the 209.5 acre (prorated as 61.6 acres for this appropriation) portion of the new **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co), the 38.1 acre (prorated as 16.6 acres for this appropriation) new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co), the 42.7-acre (all acres with this appropriation) addition to **Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA** (Goodhue Co), the 12.2 acre (all acres with this appropriation) addition to **Blanket Flower Prairie SNA** (Clay Co), the 71.8 acre (prorated as 63.4 acres for this appropriation) new **Lawrence Creek SNA** (Chisago Co), the 40-acre addition to the **Lake Bronson Parkland SNA** (all with this appropriation), the 23 acre Mississippi Oxbow SNA (Itasca Co) and the 40 acre addition to Spring Beauty Northern Hardwoods SNA (Cook Co).

Habitat restoration and enhancement project activities completed to date include: 45 acres of habitat reconstruction/restoration was completed at 5 SNA; invasive species treatment has been completed on 1104 acres at 75 SNAs; 652 acres of prescribed burning at 19 SNA; 102 acres of prescribed haying at 2 SNAs; and site development work (e.g. signs and site cleanup) has been done at 50 SNAs. Ecological management monitoring has occurred on 49 SNAs and 1 proposed SNA.

The SNA Facebook page has achieved nearly 5000 page likes by June 30, 2018 and total monthly reach, for example, in April 2018 of 72,730. The SNA Flickr social media channel facilitates sharing high quality photo with 67 members sharing over 991 photos as of June 30, 2018. The 26th (Summer 2018) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to over 5,673 subscribers. With ENRTF support, from March 1, 2017 through February 2018, 99 events were held involving over 990 people (previous events were reported through the ML14 ENRTF appropriation). As of June 2018, there ae 149 SNA Site Stewards– who submit reports on their work and findings and who participate in special activities on SNAs.

Project Status February 21, 2019: cumulative results since July 2015

Eight parcels were acquired and designated as SNA totaling 477 acres (prorated as 300 acres acquired to date with this appropriation): the 209.5 acre (prorated as 61.6 acres for this appropriation) portion of the new Brownsville Bluff SNA (Houston Co), the 38.1 acre (prorated as 16.6 acres for this appropriation) new Crystal Spring SNA (Washington Co), the 42.7-acre (all acres with this appropriation) addition to Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA (Goodhue Co), the 12.2 acre (all acres with this appropriation) addition to Blanket Flower Prairie SNA (Clay Co), the 71.8 acre(prorated as 63.4 acres for this appropriation) new Lawrence Creek SNA (Chisago Co), the 40-acre addition to the Lake Bronson Parkland SNA (all with this appropriation), the 23 acre Mississippi Oxbow SNA (Itasca Co) and the 40 acre addition to Spring Beauty Northern Hardwoods SNA (Cook Co). Two additional parcels are on-tract to close prior to June 30, 2019.

Habitat restoration and enhancement project activities completed to date include: 45 acres of habitat reconstruction/restoration was completed at 5 SNA; invasive species treatment has been completed on 1104 acres at 75 SNAs; 652 acres of prescribed burning at 19 SNA; 102 acres of prescribed haying at 2 SNAs; and site development work (e.g. signs and site cleanup) has been done at 51 SNAs. Ecological management monitoring has occurred on 49 SNAs and 1 proposed SNA.

The SNA Facebook page has achieved nearly 5000 page likes by June 30, 2018 and total monthly reach, for example, in April 2018 of 72,730. The SNA Flickr social media channel facilitates sharing high quality photo with 67 members sharing over 991 photos as of June 30, 2018. The 26th (Summer 2018) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to over 5,673 subscribers. With ENRTF support, from March 1, 2017 through February 2018, 99 events were held involving over 990 people (previous events were reported through the ML14 ENRTF appropriation). As of June 2018, there ae 149 SNA Site Stewards– who submit reports on their work and findings and who participate in special activities on SNAs.

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

Through this appropriation, 519.3 acres were permanently protected as state Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs). Protected through these parcels are a variety of Minnesota’s most unique intact ecosystems that house many of Minnesota’s state threatened and special concern species (see the parcel list for specific site details). Proactive landowner outreach took place in 12 strategically prioritized areas, 7 SNA conservation easements were monitored and the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan gap analysis was refined to identify exceptional plant communities/species that still need protection for SNA to reach its goal of ensuring that Minnesota's natural heritage is not lost from any ecological region of the state.

Habitat restoration and enhancement activities took place across the state on SNAs. Activities included 45 acres of habitat restoration (see restoration evaluations included with final report), 772 acres of invasive species control, 332 acres of woody control, 652 acres of prescribed burning, 102 acres of prescribed haying, site development work at 51 SNAs, completion of 11 Adaptive management Plans and ecological monitoring at 49 SNAs and 1 proposed SNA. Knowledge gained through monitoring will enable managers to improve management of SNAs for the Species in Greatest Conservation Need, state special concern and state/federally threatened and endangered species that call these habitats home.

Outreach activities through this appropriation brought the SNA Facebook page to nearly 5000 page likes and the total monthly reach, for example, in April 2018 was 72,730. The SNA Flickr social media channel facilitated sharing of high quality photos with 67 members sharing over 991 photos. Five "Nature Notes" e-newsletters were delivered reaching over 5,673 subscribers. From March 1, 2017 through February 2018, 99 events were held involving over 990 people. As of June 2018, there were 149 SNA Site Stewards. These stewards submit reports on their observations and assist with management tasks.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Protection of Sites of Biodiversity Significance

Description:

The SNA Program will protect and buffer MBS-recommended sites of biodiversity significance by acquisition and SNA designation of ~350 acres. Proactive landowner contacts will be targeted at 12 high priority Conservation Opportunity Areas identified in the *SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan* (initiated through the ENRTF ML2011 appropriation), including prairie core areas in the *Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan*, in order to cultivate landowner interest in permanent natural resource protection and SNA designation. The attached ML 2015 Parcel List and ML15 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects map set identify priority project areas for this appropriation. The DNR may request to add other qualifying sites to the list with additional MBS recommendations and changes in landowner interest, acquisition opportunity, or threats. Current acquisitions are all proposed to be in fee title, but if more appropriate for ongoing management and use, acquisition may be of a SNA-administered conservation easement with SNA designation.

To be acquired and designated as SNA, the site must be recommended for SNA designation in an Ecological Evaluation report which serves as the site's baseline assessment for fee acquisitions. All such sites are predominantly MBS-mapped native plant communities and contain habitat for rare species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need. In addition, SNA staff use the "*SNA Candidate Site Evaluation Guide*" (developed through the ENRTF-funded SNA strategic planning process) which incorporates criteria to rate which sites are currently pursued. Criteria include diversity and quality of the native habitat, occurrence of rare species, occurrence of native plant communities under-represented in SNA system, parcel size, location of parcel in relation to biodiversity hotspots (particularly MBS-mapped areas of outstanding and high biodiversity significance) and other conservation lands (including *SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan's* Conservation Opportunity Areas and *Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan's* Core Areas), potential for long-term management, and additional factors (e.g. landowner readiness, urgency, and willingness to donate; degree of threat, and partnership opportunities).

Conservation easement monitoring will be done on about 6 SNA-held conservation easements. The SNA Program manages 20 SNA-related conservation easements (protecting over 1510 acres within or adjoining 12 SNAs). The goal of the SNA Program is to monitor each easement every 3 years, so through this appropriation about 8 easements would receive a formal on-site monitoring visit with results entered into the department land records, landowners contacted, management opportunities identified, and follow-up visits conducted if needed to address issues discovered.

The *SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan* (initiated through the ML2011 ENRTF appropriation) will continue to be updated to incorporate new MBS and other resource data into the GIS-based decision support tool software. In addition, additional scientific analysis and review will be conducted (such as in relation to the *State Wildlife Action Plan* (SWAP - currently under revision) to refine priorities and increase coordinated rare resource protection with partners and to implement SWAP.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$2,475,068
Amount Spent: \$2,393,642
Balance: \$ 81,426

Outcome	Completion Date
1a. acquisition as SNA of ~350 acres of high quality habitat	6/30/18
1b. proactive landowner contact in 12 priority areas for protection	6/30/17
1c. monitoring for ~6 SNA conservation easements	6/30/17
1d. SNA/rare resource protection strategic prioritization – Phase 4	6/30/17

Note: budget for this Activity includes \$16,513 for direct & necessary services which are prorated across all costs except budgets for landowner payments; no direct & necessary charges are budgeted for the \$2.14M in landowner payments; actual charges will be based on actual expenditures.

Activity Status as of November 19, 2015:

1a. Acquisition: Acquisition of second 211 acre parcel of the proposed **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co) is will close in November 2015 (funding already expended) with the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 155.4 acres) and this appropriation (prorated at 55.6 acres). The site contains steep bluffs covered with Southern Dry-Mesic Oak Hickory Woodland and Southern Mesic Oak-Basswood Forest, provides one of two known habitat locations for the state threatened Western Rat Snake in Minnesota, and also provides habitat for the state special concern peregrine falcon and the natural heritage tracked, but not listed Milksnake.

The DNR has optioned the 38 acre parcel proposed to become the new **Crystal Springs SNA** (Washington Co) to be acquired in part with this appropriation. It contains old-growth mesic hardwood forest, white pine/oak/sugar maple/birch forest, black ash seepage swamp, groundwater seeps, pine/oak openings, dry mesic oak forest, an extensive intact herbaceous layer with special concern species and a deep gorge exposing layers of bedrock including the St. Lawrence formation with at least two seasonal waterfalls. The project has county board approval and is expected to be acquired before the end of calendar year 2015 in cooperation with The Trust for Public Land (TPL). The DNR requested TPL’s assistance and without their work resolving acquisition issues the project would not go forward. With non-state funding, TPL is handling various transaction costs and duties and will not be seeking state reimbursement for their costs. TPL has informed the DNR that they are asking for a donation from the landowner which they will report in compliance with statute. The landowner is unwilling to sell for less than full market value. The proposed funding for the landowner payment is ENRTF ML14 \$334,000, ENRTF ML15 \$566,000, and Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) match \$400,000 – with final accomplishment acres prorated by funding source.

Two other acquisition projects are underway with this appropriation and being readied for appraisal. Acquisition in fee of 240 acres is proposed to become the new **Dinner Creek SNA** (Hubbard Co). This site of outstanding biodiversity significance contains the jack pine woodland (with state S1-S2 ranking equivalent to endangered-threatened for plant communities), red-white pine woodland, white cedar swamp, and aspen-birch-basswood forest, and habitat for rare plant species. Acquisition in fee of 40 acres will be added to the **Lake Bronson SNA** (Kittson Co.). This site in the Aspen Parklands Prairie Core Area contains mesic brush prairie (with state S2 ranking equivalent to threatened for plant communities), wet brush prairie, and populations of the federally threatened western prairie fringed orchid and other rare plant species. Acquisition of the parcel is critical for management of the western parcel of Lake Bronson SNA since it will provides a direct link to Lake Bronson State Park and a minimum maintenance road which will resolve that lack of ground access to the existing SNA. The Kittson County Board has already approved this project.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED BY LCCMR on December 10, 2015: Increased Activity 1 by \$21,011: increased personnel by \$3,600, increased professional services for acquisition by \$25,000, decreased Direct & Necessary costs by \$7,589. Added to the parcel list acquisition of an addition to the Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA. A portion of this property has a Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) conservation easement; the landowners donated the easement to MLT, but MLT's costs related to the donation were funded through an ENRTF appropriation. State fee ownership and SNA designation of the property will benefit the state by connecting two current portions of the SNA and by allowing the state to more effectively manage this area of outstanding biodiversity significance and a recognized Important Bird Area, and its habitat for the state threatened wood turtle and other rare species.

Activity Status as of March 14, 2016 – changes since November 2015 underlined:

1a. Acquisition: Acquisition in fee of second 209.5 acre parcel of the **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co) closed in November 2015 with the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 154.2 acres) and this appropriation (prorated at 55.2 acres – see above for site description). In cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, acquisition in fee of the 38.1 acre parcel of the new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co) closed in December 2015 with the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 9.8 acres), this appropriation (prorated at 16.6 acres), and Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match funding (as recommended by The Nature Conservancy – prorated at 11.7 acres) – see above for site description.

Acquisition in fee of 240 acre proposed new **Dinner Creek SNA** (Hubbard Co) is being appraised – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 40 acre addition to the **Lake Bronson SNA** (Kittson Co) is being prepared for appraisal – see above for site description. Acquisition of the 56-acre addition **Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA** has been initiated – see above for site description.

Acquisition of approximately 65 acres at **Franconia Bluffs** (Chisago County) has been initiated in cooperation with the Trust for Public Land and may be acquired in part with this appropriation. This site of MBS High Biodiversity Significance contains red oak-basswood forest (noncalcareous till) and S2 red pine-white pine wood land (east central bedrock) native plant communities, habitat for Louisiana waterthrush and cerulean warbler, as well as about 2.5 miles (both sides) of the Lawrence Creek designated trout stream.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED by LCCMR March 24, 2016: Added to the parcel list acquisition of an addition to the Blanket Flower SNA (Clay Co). This proposed 13.2 acre addition to **Blanket Flower SNA** (Clay Co) is predominantly dry sand-gravel prairie and habitat for the special concern species of greater prairie chicken, regal fritillary, Hill's thistle, and blanket flower. The parcel adjoins the existing SNA on 2 sites and will provide a better firebreak and additional access for site management purposes.

Activity Status as of September 21, 2016 – cumulative results to date (since July 2015) changes since March underlined:

1a. Acquisition: Acquisition in fee of second 209.5 acre parcel of the **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co) closed in November 2015 with the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 153.5 acres) and this appropriation (prorated at 56.0 acres) – see above for site description. In cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, acquisition in fee of the 38.1 acre parcel of the new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co) closed in December 2015 with the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 9.8 acres), this appropriation (prorated at 16.6 acres), and Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match funding (as recommended by The Nature Conservancy – prorated at 11.7 acres) – see above for site description.

An offer at the certified appraised value for acquisition in fee of 240 acre proposed new **Dinner Creek SNA** (Hubbard Co) was rejected by the landowner. Acquisition in fee of the 40 acre addition to the **Lake Bronson SNA** (Kittson Co) is optioned to acquire – see above for site description. Acquisition of the 43-acre addition **Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA** is being optioned (verbal offer accepted by landowner) – see above for site description. Acquisition of the 13.2-acre addition to **Blanket Flower SNA** (Clay Co) has been optioned – see above for site description. Acquisition of 71.8 acres of the proposed **Lawrence Creek SNA** (formerly called an

addition to Franconia Bluffs SNA in Chisago County) in cooperation with the Trust for Public Land is in appraisal review – see above for site description.

1b. Proactive Landowner Contacts: Staff have started to use the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan to identify the Opportunity Areas for proactive outreach to landowners of the highest priority parcels for potential future protection as SNAs. Among the project areas being initiated are possible addition to Spring Beauty Northern Hardwoods SNA and possible new SNAs on the North Shore and a high biodiversity lakeshore site in Isanti County.

1c. SNA Conservation Easement Monitoring: To date, this work is being done with the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

1d. SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan – Phase 3: To date, work is being done with the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

1e. Natural Area Registry: Potential NAR sites are being identified.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED September 22, 2016: Added to the parcel list acquisition of the proposed new Oxbow SNA (Itasca Co). This is a 23-acre parcel of outstanding biodiversity significance on the Mississippi River south of Grand Rapids and is the best example of floodplain forest in the Tamarack Lowlands Ecological Subsection. Within Activity 1, moved \$41,000 from personnel to professional services for fee title acquisition due to costs for boundary surveys for parcels being acquired and because of anticipated increased professional services costs because at least 10 different acquisition projects being initiated or completed through this appropriation.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED by LCCMR December 28, 2016: Added to the parcel list acquisition of the proposed addition to Spring Beauty Northern Hardwood SNA (Cook Co). This is a 40-acre parcel of outstanding biodiversity significance adjoins the existing SNA on 2 sides, thus it would square off the SNA. The site is part of the headwaters of a designated trout stream and contains undisturbed forest (containing mature white pine and white cedar) contiguous with the existing SNA.

Activity Status as of March 15, 2017– cumulative results to date (since July 2015) changes since September underlined:

1a. Acquisition: Acquisition in fee of second 209.5 acre parcel of the **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co) closed in November 2015 with the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 153.5 acres) and this appropriation (prorated at 56.0 acres) – see above for site description. In cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, acquisition in fee of the 38.1 acre parcel of the new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co) closed in December 2015 with the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 9.8 acres), this appropriation (prorated at 16.6 acres), and Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match funding (as recommended by The Nature Conservancy – prorated at 11.7 acres) – see above for site description.

Acquisition in fee of the 43-acre addition to **Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA** (Goodhue Co) closed in February 2017 – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 13.2 acre addition to **Blanket Flower Prairie SNA** (Clay Co) closed in February 2017 – see above for site description. In cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, acquisition in fee of the 71.8 acre new proposed **Lawrence Creek SNA** (Chisago Co) closed in February 2017 – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 40 acre addition to the **Lake Bronson SNA** (Kittson Co) is optioned to acquire – see above for site description. Acquisition has been initiated on the proposed new 23 acre **Oxbow SNA** (Itasca Co) – see description above – and the 40 acre addition to **Spring Beauty Northern Hardwood SNA** (Cook Co) – see description above.

1b. Proactive Landowner Contacts: Staff are using the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan to identify the Opportunity Areas for proactive outreach to landowners of the highest priority parcels for potential future protection as SNAs. Contacts have been made with landowners about possible additions to Blue Devil, Cedar Mountain, Gneiss Outcrops, Cottonwood River Prairie, and Spring Beauty Northern Hardwoods SNAs and

possible new SNAs to protect Dexter Prairie (Mower Co), Drake Woods (Faribault Co), Chanarambie Creek (Murray Co), and along the North Shore (Lake Co) and Isanti Co. In addition, in summer 2017 MBS plans to revisit priority sites in Antelope Hills (Yellow Medicine Co) and Big Stone Prairies to see if SNA acquisition is still recommended.

1c. SNA Conservation Easement Monitoring: To date, this work is being done with the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

1d. SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan – Phase 3: To date, work is being done with the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

1e. Natural Area Registry: Initial work has started on NAR agreements through this appropriation, including two with local units of government. As explained in the ML14 work plan update, the DNR has put a hold on any internal Natural Area Registry agreements. This is causing the Division to examine the entire role of NARs as a land protection tool. By the next work plan update, a decision should be made including what NAR agreement work will be done under this appropriation.

Activity Status as of September 15, 2017 – cumulative results to date (since July 2015):

1a. Acquisition: Acquisition in fee of second 209.5 acre parcel of the **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co) closed in November 2015 with this appropriation (prorated at 61.6 acres) and the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 147.8 acres) – see above for site description. In cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, acquisition in fee of the 38.1 acre parcel of the new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co) closed in December 2015 with this appropriation (prorated at 16.6 acres), the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 9.8 acres), and Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match funding (as recommended by The Nature Conservancy – prorated at 11.7 acres) – see above for site description.

Acquisition in fee of the 42.7-acre addition to **Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA** (Goodhue Co) closed in February 2017 – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 12.2 acre addition to **Blanket Flower Prairie SNA** (Clay Co) closed in February 2017 – see above for site description. In cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, acquisition in fee of the 71.8 acre new **Lawrence Creek SNA** (Chisago Co) closed in February 2017 using this appropriation (prorated at 63.4 acres), the ML14 ENRTF appropriation (prorated at 3.5 acres), and a \$35,000 donation from the landowner which in turn generated \$35,000 in Reinvest in Minnesota Match (combined prorated at less than 0.1 acre) – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 40 acre addition to the **Lake Bronson SNA** (Kittson Co) closed in May 2017 – see above for site description.

An offer has been made for acquisition of the proposed new 23 acre **Oxbow SNA** (Itasca Co) – see description above. Acquisition has been optioned for the 40 acre addition to **Spring Beauty Northern Hardwood SNA** (Cook Co) – see description above.

1b. Proactive Landowner Contacts: Staff are using the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan to identify the Opportunity Areas for proactive outreach to landowners of the highest priority parcels for potential future protection as SNAs. Contacts have been made with landowners about possible additions to Blue Devil, Cedar Mountain, Gneiss Outcrops, Cottonwood River Prairie, Mound Spring Prairie, and Spring Beauty Northern Hardwoods SNAs and possible new SNAs to protect Dexter Prairie (Mower Co), Drake Woods (Faribault Co), Chanarambie Creek (Murray Co), along the Middle Fork Zumbro River (Dodge Co), in the Lower-Vermillion-Cannon River focus area, and along the North Shore (Lake Co) and Isanti Co. In addition, in summer 2017 MBS plans to revisit priority sites in Antelope Hills (Lac qui Parle Co), Mound Spring Prairie, and Big Stone Prairies and areas in Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties to see if SNA acquisition is recommended.

1c. SNA Conservation Easement Monitoring: To date, this work is being done with the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

1d. SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan – Phase 3: The gap analysis of what native plant communities are protected by SNAs or other ownerships within each ecological subsection in the state is being refined, including developing shapefiles so it can be queried down to the parcel level. This new information is starting to be used to determine priorities for SNA acquisition and designation within each subsection and region and will be used to identify the “Top 100” sites to become SNAs. In addition, prioritization mapping with the Marxan computerized decision support tool is continuing to be refined and is being developed for missing parts of the state using new biodiversity significance data from the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS). This mapping will be used to delineate Conservation Opportunity Areas for the ecological subsections in northern Minnesota that were not previously delineated because of incomplete MBS data. The Marxan and Conservation Opportunity Area mapping are both used in rating and prioritizing candidate sites for SNAs.

1e. Natural Area Registry: Initial work has started on NAR agreements through this appropriation, including two with local units of government. As explained in the ML14 work plan update, the DNR has put a hold on any internal Natural Area Registry agreements. This is causing the Division to examine the entire role of NARs as a land protection tool. By the next work plan update, a decision should be made including what NAR agreement work will be done under this appropriation.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED by LCCMR on September 18, 2017: Add to the parcel list acquisition of the proposed addition to Avon Hills Forest SNA (Stearns Co) to be acquired in part with this appropriation and in part with ML17 ENRTF. This is 125-acre parcel has been a very high priority for SNA acquisition and designation since Avon Hills Forest SNA was first proposed in 2001. The parcel adjoins on two sides the existing north unit of the SNA and is mapped by MBS as a site of outstanding biodiversity significance. It is completely forested with mesic oak forest harboring interior forest birds, such as special concern species red-shouldered hawk and cerulean warbler.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED by LCCMR on September 18, 2017: Move \$53,840 from Activity 1 to Activity 2 – specifically in Activity 1 to reduce personnel by \$50,000 and travel expenses by \$3,840. This is possible because with completion of acquisition of three additional parcels (2 with offers made and the proposed addition to Avon Hills Forest SNA) the acquisition acreage targets and funding will have been met and additional work under this activity will be limited.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT REQUEST January 4, 2018: Move \$6,998 from Activity 1 to Activity 2 – specifically in Activity 1 to reduce travel expenses by \$1,400 and direct and necessary expenses by \$5,598. Some SNA easements originally planned to be monitored through this appropriation were monitored through the ML14 appropriation therefore the outcome in the table above was lowered from 8 to 6. NAR agreements completed through the division have been put on a temporary hold until the division can examine the entire role of NARs as a land protection tool. Therefore, the NAR outcome in the table above was deleted. The lack of work needed on these two outcomes contributed to the extra personnel, travel and direct and necessary moved to Activity 2 via this amendment and the September 18, 2017 amendment. Amendment Approved by LCCMR 1/10/2018

Activity Status as of February, 2018: cumulative results to date (since July 2015):

1a. Acquisition: Acquisition in fee of second 209.5 acre parcel of the **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co) closed in November 2015 with this appropriation (prorated at 61.6 acres) and the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 147.8 acres) – see above for site description. In cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, acquisition in fee of the 38.1 acre parcel of the new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co) closed in December 2015 with this appropriation (prorated at 16.6 acres), the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 9.8 acres), and Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match funding (as recommended by The Nature Conservancy – prorated at 11.7 acres) – see above for site description.

Acquisition in fee of the 42.7-acre addition to **Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA** (Goodhue Co) closed in February 2017 – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 12.2 acre addition to **Blanket Flower Prairie SNA** (Clay Co) closed in February 2017 – see above for site description. In cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, acquisition in fee of the 71.8 acre new **Lawrence Creek SNA** (Chisago Co) closed in February 2017 using this appropriation (prorated at 63.4 acres), the ML14 ENRTF appropriation (prorated at 3.5 acres), and a \$35,000 donation from the landowner which in turn generated \$35,000 in Reinvest in Minnesota Match (combined prorated at less than 0.1 acre) – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 40 acre addition to the **Lake Bronson SNA** (Kittson Co) closed in May 2017 – see above for site description.

An option has been signed for the 23 acre **Oxbow SNA** (Itasca Co) acquisition– see description above. County board approval was granted for the 40 acre addition to **Spring Beauty Northern Hardwood SNA** (Cook Co) with the project scheduled to close within the next month – see description above. An appraisal has been order for a 125 acre oak forest addition to **Avon Hills SNA**. This project will be paid for utilizing both ML15 and ML17 SNA ENRTF appropriations.

1b. Proactive Landowner Contacts: Staff are using the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan to identify the Opportunity Areas for proactive outreach to landowners of the highest priority parcels for potential future protection as SNAs. Contacts have been made with landowners about possible additions to Blue Devil, Cedar Mountain, Gneiss Outcrops, Cottonwood River Prairie, Mound Spring Prairie, and Spring Beauty Northern Hardwoods SNAs and possible new SNAs to protect Dexter Prairie (Mower Co), Drake Woods (Faribault Co), Chanarambie Creek (Murray Co), along the Middle Fork Zumbro River (Dodge Co), in the Lower-Vermillion-Cannon River focus area, and along the North Shore (Lake Co) and Isanti Co. In addition, in summer 2017 MBS plans to revisit priority sites in Antelope Hills (Lac qui Parle Co), Mound Spring Prairie, and Big Stone Prairies and areas in Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties to see if SNA acquisition is recommended.

1c. SNA Conservation Easement Monitoring: Staff currently working to enter visits conduct during the summer of 2017.

1d. SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan – Phase 3: The gap analysis of what native plant communities are protected by SNAs or other ownerships within each ecological subsection in the state is being refined, including developing shapefiles so it can be queried down to the parcel level. This new information is starting to be used to determine priorities for SNA acquisition and designation within each subsection and region and will be used to identify the “Top 100” sites to become SNAs. In addition, prioritization mapping with the Marxan computerized decision support tool is continuing to be refined and is being developed for missing parts of the state using new biodiversity significance data from the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS). This mapping will be used to delineate Conservation Opportunity Areas for the ecological subsections in northern Minnesota that were not previously delineated because of incomplete MBS data. The Marxan and Conservation Opportunity Area mapping are both used in rating and prioritizing candidate sites for SNAs.

Activity Status as of September 15, 2018: cumulative results to date (since July 2015):

1a. Acquisition: Acquisition in fee of second 209.5 acre parcel of the **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co) closed in November 2015 with this appropriation (prorated at 61.6 acres) and the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 147.8 acres) – see above for site description. In cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, acquisition in fee of the 38.1 acre parcel of the new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co) closed in December 2015 with this appropriation (prorated at 16.6 acres), the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 9.8 acres), and Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match funding (as recommended by The Nature Conservancy – prorated at 11.7 acres) – see above for site description.

Acquisition in fee of the 42.7-acre addition to **Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA** (Goodhue Co) closed in February 2017 – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 12.2 acre addition to **Blanket Flower Prairie SNA** (Clay Co) closed in February 2017 – see above for site description. In cooperation with the Trust for

Public Land, acquisition in fee of the 71.8 acre new **Lawrence Creek SNA** (Chisago Co) closed in February 2017 using this appropriation (prorated at 63.4 acres), the ML14 ENRTF appropriation (prorated at 3.5 acres), and a \$35,000 donation from the landowner which in turn generated \$35,000 in Reinvest in Minnesota Match (combined prorated at less than 0.1 acre) – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 40 acre addition to the **Lake Bronson SNA** (Kittson Co) closed in May 2017 – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 23 acre **Mississippi Oxbow SNA** (Itasca Co)-see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 40 acre addition to **Spring Beauty Northern Hardwood SNA** (Cook Co) – see description above.

An option has been signed for a 125 acre outstanding biodiversity oak forest addition to **Avon Hills SNA**. Another option has been signed for an 80 acre high biodiversity Northern Jack Pine/Black Spruce Woodland Complex addition to the **Myhr Creek Ridge SNA**.

1b. Proactive Landowner Contacts: Staff are using the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan to identify the Opportunity Areas for proactive outreach to landowners of the highest priority parcels for potential future protection as SNAs. Contacts have been made with landowners about possible additions to Blue Devil, Cedar Mountain, Gneiss Outcrops, Cottonwood River Prairie, Mound Spring Prairie, and Spring Beauty Northern Hardwoods SNAs and possible new SNAs to protect Dexter Prairie (Mower Co), Drake Woods (Faribault Co), Chanarambie Creek (Murray Co), along the Middle Fork Zumbro River (Dodge Co), in the Lower-Vermillion-Cannon River focus area, and along the North Shore (Lake Co) and Isanti Co. In addition, in summer 2017 MBS revisited priority sites in Antelope Hills (Lac qui Parle Co), Mound Spring Prairie, and Big Stone Prairies and areas in Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties to see if SNA acquisition is recommended.

1c. SNA Conservation Easement Monitoring: 7 SNA conservation easements were monitored for easement compliance during the summer of 2017 and the spring of 2018.

1d. SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan – Phase 3: The gap analysis of what native plant communities are protected by SNAs or other ownerships within each ecological subsection in the state has been refined, including development of shapefiles so it can be queried down to the parcel level. This new information is starting to be used to determine priorities for SNA acquisition and designation within each subsection and region and will be used to identify the “Top 100” sites to become SNAs. In addition, prioritization mapping with the Marxan computerized decision support tool has been refined and developed for missing parts of the state using new biodiversity significance data from the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS). This mapping will be used to delineate Conservation Opportunity Areas for the ecological subsections in northern Minnesota that were not previously delineated because of incomplete MBS data. The Marxan and Conservation Opportunity Area mapping are both used in rating and prioritizing candidate sites for SNAs. This work will need to be continually refined as new information is generated but changes are relatively minor.

Activity Status as of February 21, 2019: cumulative results to date (since July 2015):

1a. Acquisition: Acquisition in fee of second 209.5 acre parcel of the **Brownsville Bluff SNA** (Houston Co) closed in November 2015 with this appropriation (prorated at 61.6 acres) and the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 147.8 acres) – see above for site description. In cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, acquisition in fee of the 38.1 acre parcel of the new **Crystal Spring SNA** (Washington Co) closed in December 2015 with this appropriation (prorated at 16.6 acres), the ML14 ENRTF (prorated at 9.8 acres), and Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match funding (as recommended by The Nature Conservancy – prorated at 11.7 acres) – see above for site description.

Acquisition in fee of the 42.7-acre addition to **Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA** (Goodhue Co) closed in February 2017 – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 12.2 acre addition to **Blanket Flower Prairie SNA** (Clay Co) closed in February 2017 – see above for site description. In cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, acquisition in fee of the 71.8 acre new **Lawrence Creek SNA** (Chisago Co) closed in February 2017 using this appropriation (prorated at 63.4 acres), the ML14 ENRTF appropriation (prorated at 3.5 acres), and a

\$35,000 donation from the landowner which in turn generated \$35,000 in Reinvest in Minnesota Match (combined prorated at less than 0.1 acre) – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 40 acre addition to the **Lake Bronson SNA** (Kittson Co) closed in May 2017 – see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 23 acre **Mississippi Oxbow SNA** (Itasca Co)-see above for site description. Acquisition in fee of the 40 acre addition to **Spring Beauty Northern Hardwood SNA** (Cook Co) – see description above.

An option has been signed for a 125 acre outstanding biodiversity oak forest addition to **Avon Hills SNA** and we expect to close by the end of March 2019. Another option has been signed for an 80 acre high biodiversity Northern Jack Pine/Black Spruce Woodland Complex addition to the **Myhr Creek Ridge SNA**. Currently plan to pay for this tract using a combination of this appropriation (pro-rated ~56 acre) and a Federal Costal Management Zone grant (pro-rated ~24 acres). We expect to close on the Myhr Creek Ridge parcel by the end of April 2019.

1b. Proactive Landowner Contacts: Staff are using the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan to identify the Opportunity Areas for proactive outreach to landowners of the highest priority parcels for potential future protection as SNAs. Contacts have been made with landowners about possible additions to Blue Devil, Cedar Mountain, Gneiss Outcrops, Cottonwood River Prairie, Mound Spring Prairie, and Spring Beauty Northern Hardwoods SNAs and possible new SNAs to protect Dexter Prairie (Mower Co), Drake Woods (Faribault Co), Chanarambie Creek (Murray Co), along the Middle Fork Zumbro River (Dodge Co), in the Lower-Vermillion-Cannon River focus area, and along the North Shore (Lake Co) and Isanti Co. In addition, in summer 2017 MBS revisited priority sites in Antelope Hills (Lac qui Parle Co), Mound Spring Prairie, and Big Stone Prairies and areas in Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties to see if SNA acquisition is recommended.

1c. SNA Conservation Easement Monitoring: 7 SNA conservation easements were monitored for easement compliance during the summer of 2017 and the spring of 2018.

1d. SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan – Phase 3: The gap analysis of what native plant communities are protected by SNAs or other ownerships within each ecological subsection in the state has been refined, including development of shapefiles so it can be queried down to the parcel level. This new information is starting to be used to determine priorities for SNA acquisition and designation within each subsection and region and will be used to identify the “Top 100” sites to become SNAs. In addition, prioritization mapping with the Marxan computerized decision support tool has been refined and developed for missing parts of the state using new biodiversity significance data from the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS). This mapping will be used to delineate Conservation Opportunity Areas for the ecological subsections in northern Minnesota that were not previously delineated because of incomplete MBS data. The Marxan and Conservation Opportunity Area mapping are both used in rating and prioritizing candidate sites for SNAs. This work will need to be continually refined as new information is generated but changes are relatively minor.

Final Report Summary:

1a. Acquisition: A total of 519.3 acres of SNA fee acquisition was acquired through this appropriation. Below is a summary of the parcels acquired.

- A 209.5 acre addition to Brownsville Bluff SNA (Houston Co) closed November 25, 2015. Of the 209.5 acres, 61.6 acres were prorated to this appropriation and 147.8 acres were prorated to the ML14 appropriation. **LCCMR ID# 19-055-001**
- A 38.1 acre parcel of the new Crystal Spring SNA (Washington Co) closed December 11, 2015. Of the 38.1 acres 16.6 acres were prorated to this appropriation, 9.8 acres were prorated to ML14 and 11.7 acres were prorated to Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match as recommend by The Nature Conservancy. This acquisition was completed in cooperation with the Trust for Public Lands. **LCCMR ID# 19-163-001**

- A 42.6 acre addition to Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA (Goodhue Co) closed February 14, 2017. **LCCMR ID# 19-163-001**
- A 12 acre addition to Blanket Flower Prairie SNA (Clay Co) closed May 25, 2017. **LCCMR ID# 19-027-002**
- A 71.8 acre new Lawrence Creek SNA (Chisago Co) closed February 1, 2017. Of the 71.8 acres, 63.4 acres were prorated to this appropriation, 3.5 acres were prorated to the ML14 appropriation and a \$35,000 donation from the landowner generated a \$35,000 Reinvest in Minnesota Match which combined prorated at less than 0.1 acres. This acquisition was completed in cooperation with the Trust for Public Lands. **LCCMR ID# 19-163-002**
- A 42 acre addition to the Lake Bronson SNA (Kittson Co) closed in May 30, 2017. **LCCMR ID# 19-069-001**
- A 23 acre new Mississippi Oxbow SNA (Itasca Co) closed June 6, 2018. **LCCMR ID# 19-061-001**
- A 40 acre addition to Spring Beauty Northern Hardwood SNA (Cook Co) closed March 28, 2018. **LCCMR ID# 19-031-001**
- A 123.7 acre addition to Avon Hills SNA closed February 13, 2019. **LCCMR ID# 19-145-001**
- An 80.1 acre addition to the Myhr Creek Ridge SNA closed April 30, 2019. Of the 80.1 acres, 54.5 acres were prorated to this appropriation and 25.6 acres were prorated to a Federal Costal Management Zone grant. **LCCMR ID# 19-031-002**

1b. Proactive Landowner Contacts: Staff are using the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan to identify the Opportunity Areas for proactive outreach to landowners of the highest priority parcels for potential future protection as SNAs. Contacts have been made with landowners about possible additions to Blue Devil, Cedar Mountain, Gneiss Outcrops, Cottonwood River Prairie, Mound Spring Prairie, and Spring Beauty Northern Hardwoods SNAs and possible new SNAs to protect Dexter Prairie (Mower Co), Drake Woods (Faribault Co), Chanarambie Creek (Murray Co), along the Middle Fork Zumbro River (Dodge Co), in the Lower-Vermillion-Cannon River focus area, and along the North Shore (Lake Co) and Isanti Co. In addition, in summer 2017 MBS revisited priority sites in Antelope Hills (Lac qui Parle Co), Mound Spring Prairie, and Big Stone Prairies and areas in Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties to see if SNA acquisition is recommended.

1c. SNA Conservation Easement Monitoring: 7 SNA conservation easements were monitored for easement compliance during the summer of 2017 and the spring of 2018.

1d. SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan – Phase 3: The gap analysis of what native plant communities are protected by SNAs or other ownerships within each ecological subsection in the state has been refined, including development of shapefiles so it can be queried down to the parcel level. This new information is starting to be used to determine priorities for SNA acquisition and designation within each subsection and region and will be used to identify the “Top 100” sites to become SNAs. In addition, prioritization mapping with the Marxan computerized decision support tool has been refined and developed for missing parts of the state using new biodiversity significance data from the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS). This mapping will be used to delineate Conservation Opportunity Areas for the ecological subsections in northern Minnesota that were not previously delineated because of incomplete MBS data. The Marxan and Conservation Opportunity Area mapping are both used in rating and prioritizing candidate sites for SNAs. This work will need to be continually refined as new information is generated but changes are relatively minor.

ACTIVITY 2: Native Habitat Restoration, Enhancements & Improvements

Description:

Native habitat restoration, enhancement, and site improvement activities will be completed on about 550 acres at ~25 state designated SNAs. Interpretive signs-kiosks will be developed and installed at ~6 SNAs. SNA staff will provide ecological and technical guidance and on-site verification for ~4 restoration or enhancement projects

implemented on SNAs by partner organizations. Adaptive Management Plans will be completed for ~11 SNAs (including sites acquired through these funds).

Restoration projects will be based upon ecological restoration and management plans and/or project plans with goals for reconstructing plant communities that are native to the site that are based upon soils, topography, geology, and other factors necessary to sustain the plant community. Each plan includes an implementation timetable which summarizes ongoing management needs. Long-term management costs (e.g. invasive species treatments, prescribed fire, and monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination funding sources, including, but not limited to, ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF), federal grants, and other funds as appropriated. Restoration projects will be evaluated in terms of project goals and to ascertain how well the native plants have been established and non-natives controlled.

Management practices at ~25 SNAs will be monitored to establish baseline conditions and/or identify adaptive management process improvements needed to achieve better habitat for rare species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). In order to facilitate long term ecological and site management monitoring and more robust and accurate accomplishment reporting, the Adaptive Management Spatial Database (AMSD) was launched with ENRTF support. Through this appropriation, work will continue to improve the database’s functionality and linkages between adaptive management plans, project planning, accomplishment reporting, and monitoring. This will foster adaptive management and continuous process improvements by integrating the most current ecological and technical information with dynamic management/project plans, implementation, and monitoring.

Practices to be done under Activity 2 of this appropriation will be carried out by DNR staff-SNA crews, Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM), Sentence to Service (STS), volunteers, and/or contractors. Practices may include seed collection, site preparation, planting and establishment period care, invasive species control, woody encroachment removal, site clean-up, signing and installation of interpretive kiosks, fencing (removal or installation as needed for management purposes), unpaved parking areas, visitor access-safety improvements (and associated measures to protect native habitat), prescribed burns (or alternative prescribed disturbance for ecological management purposes, such as prescribed haying, mowing, browsing, or grazing, necessary for sites or conditions where use of fire is limited), management plan preparation, baseline ecological condition assessments and monitoring, and technical/ecological oversight and field verification of projects implemented by partners. All restoration will use seeds/plants of a local ecotype, collected from onsite or within 25 miles. Restoration and improvements of degraded and rare land features (particularly native prairie, savanna, and forest) help implement the SWAP and achieve Habitat Recommendation 5 of the SSCP. This activity and its funding will include work needed to bring up to the Department’s minimum standards those SNA parcels acquired through this funding and will include those restoration and improvements of newly acquired sites when that work is ecologically advisable and feasible within the appropriation period. The attached ML 2015 Parcel List and ML15 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects map set identify priority sites for SNA restoration projects (plant community reconstruction) for this appropriation.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 1,148,076
Amount Spent: \$ 1,134,064
Balance: \$ 14,011

Outcome	Completion Date
2a. ~27 acres of restoration of forest & prairie sites	6/30/18
2b. ~155 acres of woody removal & exotics species treatment	6/30/17
2c. ~400 acres of prescribed burns	6/30/18
2d. ~6 SNA interpretive kiosks installed AND development work on ~19 sites	6/30/17
2e. ecological/technical guidance for ~4 partnership projects	6/30/17
2f. management plans completed for ~11 SNAs	6/30/17

2g. adaptive management monitoring on ~25 SNA sites	6/30/18
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Note: total budget for this Activity includes \$48,780 for direct & necessary services which are prorated across all costs except budgets for CCM contracts; no direct & necessary charges are budgeted for the estimated \$100K in CCM contracts; actual charges will be based on actual expenditures.

Activity Status as of November 19, 2015:

2a. Restoration: Preparations for seed collection have been initiated for several restoration projects. **2b. Woody removal & Invasive Species Treatment:** Herbaceous invasives treatment has been done on ~24.0 acres at 3 SNAs. **2c. Prescribed Burning/Prescribed Disturbance:** About 6.9 miles of burn breaks were prepared at 6 SNAs. **2d. Development:** activities completed included: installation or repair of signs (boundary, entry or rules) at 3 SNAs, fence/exclosure installation or repair at 3 SNAs, and site clean-up at 1 SNA. **2e. Partner Project Coordination:** No work to date. **2f. Management Planning:** Staff are identifying which SNA management plans will be done by staff and which will be included in an RFP to contract their preparation. The RFP will be issued in around April 2015. **2g. Ecological Monitoring & AMSD:** To date, this work is being done with the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED BY LCCMR on December 10, 2015: Decrease Activity 2 by \$7,548: increase personnel by \$17,800, increase supplies by \$2,150, increase travel/fleet expenses by \$2,172, and decrease Direct & Necessary costs by \$29,670.

Activity Status as of March 14, 2016 – cumulative results to date (since July 2015):

2a. Restoration: Preparations for seed collection have been initiated for several restoration projects. **2b. Woody removal & Invasive Species Treatment:** Herbaceous invasives treatment has been done on ~24.0 acres at 3 SNAs and woody removal has been completed on 9.8 acres at 2 SNAs. **2c. Prescribed Burning/Prescribed Disturbance:** About 6.9 miles of burn breaks were prepared at 6 SNAs. **2d. Development:** activities completed included: installation or repair of signs (boundary, entry or rules) at 6 SNAs, fence/exclosure installation or repair at 3 SNAs, and site clean-up at 1 SNA. **2e. Partner Project Coordination:** No work to date. **2f. Management Planning:** Staff are identifying which SNA management plans will be done by staff and which will be included in an RFP to contract their preparation. The RFP will be issued in around April 2015.

2g. Ecological Monitoring & AMSD: EWR staff participated in an aerial deer census around Wolsfeld Woods and Wood-Rill SNAs (Hennepin Co) in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District in order to inform management needs related to possible deer over-browsing. Monitoring projects in cooperation with DNR Nongame Wildlife, Minnesota Biological Survey, and/or EWR Conservation Management and Rare Resources Unit are being planned to be funded all or in part with this appropriation as follows:

- Minnesota River reptile survey (at Blue Devil, Gneiss Outcrops, Swedes Forest, Cedar Rock, Morton Outcrops, Cedar Mountain, and proposed River Warren SNAs) is intended to increase site-specific information on the distribution, habitat use, and movements of five-lined skinks, gophersnakes/bullsnakes, and plains hog-nosed snakes in order to improve guidance on preferred timing and degree of woody removal, preferred size and placement of brushpiles, and timing of burning associated with reptile activity – 2016 work with ML14 appropriation, 2017 work with this appropriation;
- Small white lady’s slipper survey (at Santee Prairie SNA) will gather baseline data on population locations, conditions, etc. in order to determine impacts to plants of prescribed burning and lack of fire (this data will also be compared to data collected with other funding for an adjoining grazed WMA) – 2016 work with ML14 appropriation, 2017 work with this appropriation;
- Calcareous fen vegetation monitoring (at Savage Fen SNA) is intended to determine if a prescribed burn enhances the calcareous fen plant community (including populations of small white lady’s slipper) – pre-burn baseline assessment with ML14 appropriation, and burn characteristics and post-burn assessment with this appropriation.

- Survey of the federally-listed prairie bush clover (at the Prairie Bush Clover SNA) in order to help inform prescribed fire and other management activities – 2016 work with ML14 appropriation, 2017 work with this appropriation;
- Prairie status and trends monitoring (at Butternut Valley Prairie, Tauer Prairie, Langhei Prairie, Prairie Coteau, Santee Prairie, Lundblad Prairie, and Malmberg Prairie SNAs) – the detailed vegetation monitoring and/or bird monitoring scheduled for these SNAs in 2017 and 2018 will be funded by this appropriation. This is a continuation of the ongoing prairie monitoring work initiated in the ML2008 Accelerated Prairie ENRTF appropriation and continued with subsequent SNA ENRTF appropriations and through federal State Wildlife Grant funding.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED by LCCMR March 24, 2016: Added to the parcel list 3 restoration projects at Minnesota Point Pine Forest SNA (St. Louis Co), Chimney Rock SNA (Dakota Co) and Seminary Fen SNA (Scott Co). At Minnesota Point, a small previously disturbed areas (e.g. old cabin sit and user- developed trails) will be restored in line with the adjoining intact native plant communities of red pine-white pine woodland, juniper dune shrubland, and beachgrass dune; this work is proposed for the 2016-17 field seasons in cooperation with local partners. The Chimney Rock and Seminary Fen SNAs are proposed to be added since restoration at Franconia Bluffs SNA will be delayed because acquisition of the parcel with old fields is delayed (a different parcel at Franconia is currently being acquired). At Seminary Fen and Chimney Rock SNAs restoration will be initiated of the old agricultural fields present when the properties acquired in 2008 and 2010 in order to establish plant communities comparable to the sites' original vegetation.

Activity Status as of September 21, 2016 – cumulative results to date (since July 2015):

2a. Restoration: Seed collection has been initiated for several restoration projects.

2b. Woody removal & Invasive Species Treatment: Herbaceous invasives treatment has been done on 116.3 acres at 7 SNAs and woody removal has been completed on 7.8 acres at 2 SNAs. **2c. Prescribed**

Burning/Prescribed Disturbance: About 6.9 miles of burn breaks were prepared at 6 SNAs. **2d. Development:** activities completed included: installation or repair of signs (boundary, entry or rules) at 6 SNAs, fence/exclosure installation or repair at 4 SNAs, and site clean-up at 1 SNA. A photo of an example of a new entry sign installed with this funding is attached. **2e. Partner Project Coordination:** Partnership work is underway with Great River Greening at Twin Lakes and Friends of the Mississippi River at Grey Cloud Dunes and Hastings Sand Coulee, and along with Dakota County at Pine Bend Bluffs. **2f. Management Planning:** Staff are identifying which SNA management plans will be done by staff and which will be included in an RFP to contract their preparation. The RFP will be issued in around November 2016.

2g. Ecological Monitoring & AMSD: EWR staff participated in an aerial deer census around Wolsfeld Woods and Wood-Rill SNAs (Hennepin Co) in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District in order to inform management needs related to possible deer over-browsing. Monitoring projects in cooperation with DNR Nongame Wildlife, Minnesota Biological Survey, and/or EWR Conservation Management and Rare Resources Unit are being planned to be funded all or in part with this appropriation as listed above – status updates or results will be provided in the next work plan update (after completion of the 2016 field season).

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED by LCCMR December 28, 2016: Add to the parcel list restoration of up to 80 acres at LaSalle Lake SNA (Hubbard Co). This site at the confluence of LaSalle Creek and the Mississippi River was acquired in 2010 and protected in part because it contained a critically imperiled (S1-S2 ranked) jack pine woodland plant community. In 2011, the site suffered a serious natural blow down event. Limited restoration work has been undertaken (and an exclosure will be proposed with expiring ML14 ENRTF funding to better protect young pine from deer browse), but additional seed/seedling planting and establishment may be needed to fully restore the jack pine woodland.

Activity Status as of March 15, 2017 – cumulative results to date (since July 2015):

2a. Restoration: At Chimney Rock SNA, 21.3 acres were broadcast seeded to reconstruct upland prairie habitat. Seed collection has been initiated for several restoration projects.

2b. Woody removal & Invasive Species Treatment: Herbaceous invasives treatment has been done on 160.3 acres at 16 SNAs and woody removal has been completed on 24.0 acres at 5 SNAs.

2c. Prescribed Burning/Prescribed Disturbance: About 15.0 miles of burn breaks were prepared at 13 SNAs and 3.4 acres were burned at 1 SNA.

2d. Development: activities completed included: installation or repair of signs (boundary, entry or rules) at 17 SNAs, fence/exclosure installation or repair at 5 SNAs, parking area/access/road-related work at 9 SNAs, and site clean-up at 3 SNAs.

2e. Partner Project Coordination: Partnership work is underway with Great River Greening at Twin Lakes and Friends of the Mississippi River at Grey Cloud Dunes and Hastings Sand Coulee, and along with Dakota County at Pine Bend Bluffs. **2f. Management Planning:** Staff are identifying which SNA management plans will be done by staff and which will be included in an RFP to contract their preparation. The RFP will be issued in around April 2017.

2g. Ecological Monitoring & AMSD: EWR staff participated in an aerial deer census around Wolsfeld Woods and Wood-Rill SNAs (Hennepin Co) in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District in order to inform management needs related to possible deer over-browsing. Monitoring projects in cooperation with DNR Nongame Wildlife, Minnesota Biological Survey, and/or EWR Conservation Management and Rare Resources Unit are being planned or have been initiated to be funded all or in part with this as follows

- Minnesota River reptile survey (at Blue Devil, Gneiss Outcrops, Swedes Forest, Cedar Rock, Morton Outcrops, Cedar Mountain, and proposed River Warren SNAs) is intended to increase site-specific information on the distribution, habitat use, and movements of five-lined skinks, gophersnakes/bullsnakes, and plains hog-nosed snakes in order to improve guidance on preferred timing and degree of woody removal, preferred size and placement of brushpiles, and timing of burning associated with reptile activity – continuation of project done with ML14 appropriation, fiscal year 2017 work with this appropriation;
- Calcareous fen vegetation monitoring (at Savage Fen SNA) is intended to determine if a prescribed burn enhances the calcareous fen plant community (including populations of small white lady's slipper) – pre-burn baseline assessment with ML14 appropriation, and post-burn assessment is proposed with this appropriation pending completion of the burn in time.
- The federally-listed threatened prairie bush clover (at the Prairie Bush Clover SNA) will be monitored in 2017 in order to help inform prescribed fire and other management activities.
- Prairie status and trends monitoring at Butternut Valley Prairie, Tauer Prairie, Langhei Prairie, Prairie Coteau, Santee Prairie, Lundblad Prairie, and Malmberg Prairie SNAs – the detailed vegetation monitoring and/or bird monitoring scheduled for these SNAs in 2017 and 2018 will be funded in part by this appropriation. This is a continuation of the ongoing prairie monitoring work initiated in the ML2008 Accelerated Prairie ENRTF appropriation and continued with subsequent SNA ENRTF appropriations and through federal State Wildlife Grant funding.

Activity Status as of September 15, 2017 – cumulative results to date (since July 2015) changes since March underlined:

2a. Restoration: At Chimney Rock SNA, 21.3 acres were broadcast seeded to reconstruct upland prairie habitat. Seed collection has been initiated for several restoration projects. A 10' tall deer exclosure nearly a mile in length enclosing a 31-acre jack pine woodland restoration at LaSalle Lake SNA was constructed (about 1/3 with this appropriation and about 2/3's with the ML14 appropriation), in addition this appropriation is being to improve seedling survival and weed control of restorations initiated several years ago. Site preparation has been done for a restoration (plant community reconstruction) on 40.2 acres at Sandpiper Prairie SNA.

2b. Woody removal & Invasive Species Treatment: Herbaceous invasives treatment has been done on 238.6 acres at 25 SNAs and woody removal has been completed on 55.8 acres at 8 SNAs.

2c. Prescribed Burning/Prescribed Disturbance: About 16.4 miles of burn breaks were prepared at 15 SNAs. Prescribed burns were completed on 370.0 acres at 14 SNAs. Prescribed haying was completed on 47 acres at 2 SNAs.

2d. Development: Activities completed included: installation or repair of signs (boundary, entry or rules) at 18 SNAs, 2.2 miles of fence/exclosure installation or repair at 5 SNAs (not counting the LaSalle exclosure project listed above), parking area/access/road-related work at 9 SNAs, and site clean-up at 5 SNAs.

2e. Partner Project Coordination: Partnership work is underway with Great River Greening at Twin Lakes and Friends of the Mississippi River at Grey Cloud Dunes and Hastings Sand Coulee, and along with Dakota County at Pine Bend Bluffs.

2f. Management Planning: Staff have identified which SNA management plans will be done by staff and which are being done through contracts that began in July 2017.

2g. Ecological Monitoring & AMSD: EWR staff participated in an aerial deer census around Wolsfeld Woods and Wood-Rill SNAs (Hennepin Co) in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District in order to inform management needs related to possible deer over-browsing. Monitoring projects in cooperation with DNR Nongame Wildlife, Minnesota Biological Survey, and/or EWR Conservation Management and Rare Resources Unit are being planned or have been initiated to be funded all or in part with this as follows

- Minnesota River reptile survey (at Blue Devil, Gneiss Outcrops, Swedes Forest, Cedar Rock, Morton Outcrops, Cedar Mountain, and proposed River Warren SNAs) is intended to increase site-specific information on the distribution, habitat use, and movements of five-lined skinks, gophersnakes/bullsnakes, and plains hog-nosed snakes in order to improve guidance on preferred timing and degree of woody removal, preferred size and placement of brushpiles, and timing of burning associated with reptile activity – continuation of project done with ML14 appropriation, fiscal year 2018 work with this appropriation;
- Calcareous fen vegetation monitoring (at Savage Fen SNA) is intended to determine if a prescribed burn enhances the calcareous fen plant community (including populations of small white lady's slipper) – pre-burn baseline assessment with ML14 appropriation, and post-burn assessment is proposed with this appropriation pending completion of woody removal and subsequent burn in time.
- The federally-listed threatened prairie bush clover (at the Prairie Bush Clover SNA) will be monitored in 2017 in order to help inform prescribed fire and other management activities.
- Prairie status and trends monitoring at Butternut Valley Prairie, Tauer Prairie, Langhei Prairie, Prairie Coteau, Santee Prairie, Lundblad Prairie, and Malmberg Prairie SNAs – the detailed vegetation monitoring and/or bird monitoring scheduled for these SNAs in 2017 and 2018 will be funded in part by this appropriation. This is a continuation of the ongoing prairie monitoring work initiated in the ML2008 Accelerated Prairie ENRTF appropriation and continued with subsequent SNA ENRTF appropriations and through federal State Wildlife Grant funding.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED by LCCMR on September 18, 2017: Move \$53,840 from Activity 1 and \$42,700 from Activity 3 to Activity 2 – specifically in Activity 2 to increase personnel by \$95,000 and travel expenses by \$26,540 and decrease MNIT service agreement by \$25,000. The personnel and travel expense increases are because of reductions what is possible to spend in FY18 in Activity 1 and Activity 3, along with additional anticipated needs for habitat and site development work in DNR's Central Region. The reduction of MNIT service agreement is due to the indefinite delay of the second phase of the Adaptive Management Spatial Database (AMSD).

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT REQUEST January 4, 2018: Move \$6,998 from Activity 1 and \$44,997 from Activity 3 to Activity 2 – specifically in Activity 2 to increase contracts by \$54,897, travel expenses by \$19,636 and decrease supplies by \$6,000 and direct and necessary by \$16,538. The direct and necessary reduction is tied to adjusting the original calculated estimation to actual billed direct and necessary costs for this activity. One of the two key regional positions noted in earlier amendments that have been vacant since last winter was the lead for the partnership projects listed in the table above. This vacancy did cause only 4 of the 10 proposed partnership projects to be completed. Extra salary and travel within Activity 2 tied to this outcome along with the additional dollars added from Activities 1 and 3 will be applied to invasive species treatment and prescribed burning this spring with the plan to exceed current goals. Amendment Approved by LCCMR 1/10/2018

Activity Status as of February 28, 2018: – cumulative results to date:

2a. Restoration: At Chimney Rock SNA, 21.3 acres were broadcast seeded to reconstruct upland prairie habitat. Seed collection has been initiated for several restoration projects. A 10' tall deer enclosure nearly a mile in length enclosing a 31-acre jack pine woodland restoration at LaSalle Lake SNA was constructed (about 1/3 with this appropriation and about 2/3's with the ML14 appropriation), in addition this appropriation is being used to improve seedling survival and weed control of restorations initiated several years ago. Site preparation has been done for a restoration (plant community reconstruction) on 40 acres at Sandpiper Prairie SNA.

2b. Woody removal & Invasive Species Treatment: Herbaceous invasive treatment has been done on 240 acres at 28 SNAs and woody removal has been completed on 97 acres at 9 SNAs.

2c. Prescribed Burning/Prescribed Disturbance: About 21.4 miles of burn breaks were prepared at 20 SNAs. Prescribed burns were completed on 370.0 acres at 14 SNAs. Prescribed haying was completed on 47 acres at 2 SNAs.

2d. Development: Activities completed included: installation or repair of signs (boundary, entry or rules) at 18 SNAs, 2.2 miles of fence/exclosure installation or repair at 5 SNAs (not counting the LaSalle enclosure project listed above), parking area/access/road-related work at 9 SNAs, and site clean-up at 5 SNAs.

2e. Partner Project Coordination: Partnership work is underway with the Friends of the Mississippi River at Grey Cloud Dunes and Hastings Sand Coulee, and along with Dakota County at Pine Bend Bluffs. Partnership work is completed with Great River Greening at Twin Lakes

2f. Management Planning: A total of 11 Adaptive Management Plans (AMPs) are identified to be completed using this fund. Seven (7) plans that are being written by SNA staff are in early or near final draft form. Four (4) AMPs are being written under contract by four different contractors. SNA staff have been coordinating field visits and data and information exchanges with the contractors.

2g. Ecological Monitoring & AMSD: EWR staff participated in an aerial deer census around Wolsfeld Woods and Wood-Rill SNAs (Hennepin Co) in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District in order to inform management needs related to possible deer over-browsing. Monitoring projects in cooperation with DNR Nongame Wildlife, Minnesota Biological Survey, and/or EWR Conservation Management and Rare Resources Unit are being planned or have been initiated to be funded all or in part with this as follows

- Minnesota River reptile survey (at Blue Devil, Gneiss Outcrops, Swedes Forest, Cedar Rock, Morton Outcrops, Cedar Mountain, and proposed River Warren SNAs) is intended to increase site-specific information on the distribution, habitat use, and movements of five-lined skinks, gophersnakes/bullsnakes, and plains hog-nosed snakes in order to improve guidance on preferred timing and degree of woody removal, preferred size and placement of brushpiles, and timing of burning associated with reptile activity – continuation of project done with ML14 appropriation, fiscal year 2018 work with this appropriation;
- Calcareous fen vegetation monitoring (at Savage Fen SNA) is intended to determine if a prescribed burn enhances the calcareous fen plant community (including populations of small white lady's slipper) – pre-burn

baseline assessment with ML14 appropriation, and post-burn assessment is proposed with this appropriation pending completion of woody removal and subsequent burn in time.

- The federally-listed threatened prairie bush clover (at the Prairie Bush Clover SNA) will be monitored in 2017 in order to help inform prescribed fire and other management activities.
- Prairie status and trends monitoring at Butternut Valley Prairie, Tauer Prairie, Langhei Prairie, Prairie Coteau, Santee Prairie, Lundblad Prairie, and Malmberg Prairie SNAs – the detailed vegetation monitoring and/or bird monitoring scheduled for these SNAs in 2017 and 2018 will be funded in part by this appropriation. This is a continuation of the ongoing prairie monitoring work initiated in the ML2008 Accelerated Prairie ENRTF appropriation and continued with subsequent SNA ENRTF appropriations and through federal State Wildlife Grant funding.

Activity Status as of September 15, 2018: cumulative results to date:

2a. Restoration: 21.3 acres at Chimney Rock SNA, 4.5 acres at Mound Spring SNA and 8.5 acres at Rock Ridge SNA were broadcast seeded to reconstruct upland prairie habitat. Tree plugs were planted on 11.4 acres at Franconia Bluffs SNA. Rehabilitated 0.5 acre Alder Maple Loosestrife Swamp inclusion within the larger Red Pine-White Pine Woodland at Minnesota Point SNA. A 10' tall deer enclosure nearly a mile in length enclosing a 31-acre jack pine woodland restoration at LaSalle Lake SNA was constructed (about 1/3 with this appropriation and about 2/3's with the ML14 appropriation), in addition this appropriation is being used to improve seedling survival and weed control of restorations initiated several years ago. Site preparation was completed for a restoration (plant community reconstruction) on 40 acres at Sandpiper Prairie SNA, however other funding sources were used to complete the restoration.

2b. Woody removal & Invasive Species Treatment: Herbaceous invasive treatment has been done on 772 acres at 47 SNAs and woody removal has been completed on 332 acres at 28 SNAs.

2c. Prescribed Burning/Prescribed Disturbance: About 21.4 miles of burn breaks were prepared at 20 SNAs. Prescribed burns were completed on 652 acres at 19 SNAs. Prescribed haying was completed on 102 acres at 2 SNAs.

2d. Development: Activities completed included: installation or repair of signs (boundary, entry or rules) at 26 SNAs, 2.6 miles of fence/exclosure installation or repair at 7 SNAs (not counting the LaSalle enclosure project listed above), parking area/access/road-related work at 11 SNAs, and site clean-up at 6 SNAs.

2e. Partner Project Coordination: Five partnership projects took place through this appropriation. Partnership work with the Friends of the Mississippi River at Grey Cloud Dunes resulted in 2 volunteer work days removing invasive woody species. Partnership work with the Friends of the Mississippi River at Hastings Sand Coulee is ongoing but resulted in multiple invasive control projects and seed collection efforts throughout this appropriation. A volunteer day, organized by the National Park service, took place at Grey Cloud Dunes with work focusing on invasive herbaceous pulling. The partnership coordination at Pine Bend Bluffs with Dakota County is ongoing, but a major project was completed the spring of 2018 to improve public access. Partnership work with Great River Greening at Twin Lakes SNA resulted in forest thinning for stand improvement.

2f. Management Planning: A total of 11 Adaptive Management Plans (AMPs) have been completed using this fund (7 written by SNA staff and 4 written by 4 different contractors). SNA staff coordinated field visits and data and information exchanges with the contractors.

2g. Ecological Monitoring & AMSD: EWR staff participated in an aerial deer census around Wolsfeld Woods and Wood-Rill SNAs in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District in order to inform management needs related to possible deer over-browsing. Monitoring projects in cooperation with DNR Nongame Wildlife, Minnesota Biological Survey, and/or EWR Conservation Management and Rare Resources Unit have been funded all or in part with this as follows

- Minnesota River reptile survey (at Blue Devil, Gneiss Outcrops, Swedes Forest, Cedar Rock, Morton Outcrops, Cedar Mountain, and proposed River Warren SNAs) is intended to increase site-specific information on the distribution, habitat use, and movements of five-lined skinks, gophersnakes/bullsnakes, and plains hog-nosed snakes in order to improve guidance on preferred timing and degree of woody removal, preferred size and placement of brushpiles, and timing of burning associated with reptile activity – continuation of project done with ML14 appropriation, fiscal year 2018 work completed with this appropriation;
- Calcareous fen vegetation monitoring (at Savage Fen SNA) is intended to determine if a prescribed burn enhances the calcareous fen plant community (including populations of small white lady's slipper)
- The federally-listed threatened prairie bush clover (at the Prairie Bush Clover SNA) was monitored in 2017 in order to help inform prescribed fire and other management activities.
- Prairie status and trends monitoring was completed at Butternut Valley Prairie, Tauer Prairie, Langhei Prairie, Prairie Coteau, Santee Prairie, Lundblad Prairie, and Malmberg Prairie SNAs. This is a continuation of the ongoing prairie monitoring work initiated in the ML2008 Accelerated Prairie ENRTF appropriation and continued with subsequent SNA ENRTF appropriations and through federal State Wildlife Grant funding.
- Rare grassland snake surveys were conducted on 10 sites in 8 counties targeting gophersnakes/bullsnakes and plains hog-nosed snakes. SNAs included Antelope Valley, Bonanza Prairie, Clinton Prairie, Glynn Prairie, Langhei Prairie, Morton Outcrops, Mound Spring Prairie, Ottertail Prairie, Verlyn Marth, and Yellow Bank Hills.
- Bat acoustic detectors were set on 12 SNAs in southeastern Minnesota during May and June 2018. Bat calls were recorded for 7 to 9 nights. Bat call identification and analysis will be completed this fall.
- With the help of a contracted statistician, 12 older releve plots on SNAs in east-central and southeast Minnesota were selected for resampling to measure changes in native forest and prairie vegetation over the past 20 to 40 years. The contractor completed releve resampling on 12 SNAs (1 releve per SNA) utilizing this appropriation with additional SNAs targeted for the ML16 appropriation.

Activity Status as of February 21, 2019: cumulative results to date

2a. Restoration: 21.3 acres at Chimney Rock SNA, 4.5 acres at Mound Spring SNA and 8.5 acres at Rock Ridge SNA were broadcast seeded to reconstruct upland prairie habitat. Tree plugs were planted on 11.4 acres at Franconia Bluffs SNA. Rehabilitated 0.5 acre Alder Maple Loosestrife Swamp inclusion within the larger Red Pine-White Pine Woodland at Minnesota Point SNA. A 10' tall deer enclosure nearly a mile in length enclosing a 31-acre jack pine woodland restoration at LaSalle Lake SNA was constructed (about 1/3 with this appropriation and about 2/3's with the ML14 appropriation), in addition this appropriation is being used to improve seedling survival and weed control of restorations initiated several years ago. Site preparation was completed for a restoration (plant community reconstruction) on 40 acres at Sandpiper Prairie SNA, however other funding sources were used to complete the restoration.

2b. Woody removal & Invasive Species Treatment: Herbaceous invasive treatment has been done on 772 acres at 47 SNAs and woody removal has been completed on 332 acres at 28 SNAs.

2c. Prescribed Burning/Prescribed Disturbance: About 21.4 miles of burn breaks were prepared at 20 SNAs. Prescribed burns were completed on 652 acres at 19 SNAs. Prescribed haying was completed on 102 acres at 2 SNAs.

2d. Development: Activities completed included: installation or repair of signs (boundary, entry or rules) at 27 SNAs, 2.6 miles of fence/exclosure installation or repair at 7 SNAs (not counting the LaSalle enclosure project listed above), parking area/access/road-related work at 11 SNAs, and site clean-up at 6 SNAs.

2e. Partner Project Coordination: Five partnership projects took place through this appropriation. Partnership work with the Friends of the Mississippi River at Grey Cloud Dunes resulted in 2 volunteer work days removing invasive woody species. Partnership work with the Friends of the Mississippi River at Hastings Sand Coulee is on-

going but resulted in multiple invasive control projects and seed collection efforts throughout this appropriation. A volunteer day, organized by the National Park service, took place at Grey Cloud Dunes with work focusing on invasive herbaceous pulling. The partnership coordination at Pine Bend Bluffs with Dakota County is ongoing, but a major project was completed the spring of 2018 to improve public access. Partnership work with Great River Greening at Twin Lakes SNA resulted in forest thinning for stand improvement.

2f. Management Planning: A total of 11 Adaptive Management Plans (AMPs) have been completed using this fund (7 written by SNA staff and 4 written by 4 different contractors). SNA staff coordinated field visits and data and information exchanges with the contractors.

2g. Ecological Monitoring & AMSD: EWR staff participated in an aerial deer census around Wolsfeld Woods and Wood-Rill SNAs in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District in order to inform management needs related to possible deer over-browsing. Monitoring projects in cooperation with DNR Nongame Wildlife, Minnesota Biological Survey, and/or EWR Conservation Management and Rare Resources Unit have been funded all or in part with this as follows

- Minnesota River reptile survey (at Blue Devil, Gneiss Outcrops, Swedes Forest, Cedar Rock, Morton Outcrops, Cedar Mountain, and proposed River Warren SNAs) is intended to increase site-specific information on the distribution, habitat use, and movements of five-lined skinks, gophersnakes/bullsnakes, and plains hog-nosed snakes in order to improve guidance on preferred timing and degree of woody removal, preferred size and placement of brushpiles, and timing of burning associated with reptile activity – continuation of project done with ML14 appropriation, fiscal year 2018 work completed with this appropriation;
- Calcareous fen vegetation monitoring (at Savage Fen SNA) is intended to determine if a prescribed burn enhances the calcareous fen plant community (including populations of small white lady's slipper)
- The federally-listed threatened prairie bush clover (at the Prairie Bush Clover SNA) was monitored in 2017 in order to help inform prescribed fire and other management activities.
- Prairie status and trends monitoring was completed at Butternut Valley Prairie, Tauer Prairie, Langhei Prairie, Prairie Coteau, Santee Prairie, Lundblad Prairie, and Malmberg Prairie SNAs. This is a continuation of the ongoing prairie monitoring work initiated in the ML2008 Accelerated Prairie ENRTF appropriation and continued with subsequent SNA ENRTF appropriations and through federal State Wildlife Grant funding.
- Rare grassland snake surveys were conducted on 10 sites in 8 counties targeting gophersnakes/bullsnakes and plains hog-nosed snakes. SNAs included Antelope Valley, Bonanza Prairie, Clinton Prairie, Glynn Prairie, Langhei Prairie, Morton Outcrops, Mound Spring Prairie, Ottertail Prairie, Verlyn Marth, and Yellow Bank Hills.
- Bat acoustic detectors were set on 12 SNAs in southeastern Minnesota during May and June 2018. Bat calls were recorded for 7 to 9 nights. Bat call identification and analysis will be completed this fall.
- With the help of a contracted statistician, 12 older releve plots on SNAs in east-central and southeast Minnesota were selected for resampling to measure changes in native forest and prairie vegetation over the past 20 to 40 years. The contractor completed releve resampling on 12 SNAs (1 releve per SNA) utilizing this appropriation with additional SNAs targeted for the ML16 appropriation.

Final Report Summary:

2a. Restoration: The following restoration activities have taken place and restoration evaluations submitted as part of this final report.

- A 21.3 acre dry barrens prairie restoration at Chimney Rock SNA
- A 4.5 acre Dry Hill Prairie restorations at Mound Spring SNA
- A 8.5 acre Mesic Prairie restoration at Rock Ridge SNA
- Tree tubes were added to tree plugs on 11.4 acres at Franconia Bluffs SNA. The tree plugs and initial restoration efforts were completed and reported to the ENRTF ML11 appropriation.

- 0.5 acres of an Alder-Maple-Loosestrife Swamp inclusion was rehabilitated within the larger Red Pine-White Pine Woodland at Minnesota Point SNA
- A 10' tall deer enclosure nearly a mile in length enclosing a 31-acre Jack Pine Woodland restoration at LaSalle Lake SNA was constructed (about 1/3 with this appropriation and about 2/3's with the ML14 appropriation)
- Site preparation was completed for a prairie restoration at Sandpiper Prairie SNA, however the ML16 appropriation was used to complete the restoration (See ML16 SNA Work Plan Final Report for Restoration Evaluation).
- In addition, this appropriation was used to improve seedling survival and conduct weed control on restorations initiated several years ago.

2b. Woody removal & Invasive Species Treatment: Herbaceous invasive treatment has been done on 772 acres at 47 SNAs and woody removal has been completed on 332 acres at 28 SNAs.

2c. Prescribed Burning/Prescribed Disturbance: About 21.4 miles of burn breaks were prepared at 20 SNAs. Prescribed burns were completed on 652 acres at 19 SNAs. Prescribed haying was completed on 102 acres at 2 SNAs.

2d. Development: Activities completed included: installation or repair of signs (boundary, entry or rules) at 28 SNAs, 2.6 miles of fence/exclosure installation or repair at 7 SNAs (not counting the LaSalle enclosure project listed above), parking area/access/road-related work at 11 SNAs, and site clean-up at 6 SNAs.

2e. Partner Project Coordination: Five partnership projects took place through this appropriation. Partnership work with the Friends of the Mississippi River at Grey Cloud Dunes resulted in 2 volunteer work days removing invasive woody species. Partnership work with the Friends of the Mississippi River at Hastings Sand Coulee is ongoing but resulted in multiple invasive control projects and seed collection efforts throughout this appropriation. A volunteer day, organized by the National Park service, took place at Grey Cloud Dunes with work focusing on invasive herbaceous pulling. The partnership coordination at Pine Bend Bluffs with Dakota County is ongoing, but a major project was completed the spring of 2018 to improve public access. Partnership work with Great River Greening at Twin Lakes SNA resulted in forest thinning for stand improvement.

2f. Management Planning: A total of 11 Adaptive Management Plans (AMPs) have been completed using this fund (7 written by SNA staff and 4 written by 4 different contractors). SNA staff coordinated field visits and data and information exchanges with the contractors.

2g. Ecological Monitoring & AMSD: EWR staff participated in an aerial deer census around Wolsfeld Woods and Wood-Rill SNAs in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District in order to inform management needs related to possible deer over-browsing. Monitoring projects in cooperation with DNR Nongame Wildlife, Minnesota Biological Survey, and/or EWR Conservation Management and Rare Resources Unit have been funded all or in part with this as follows

- Minnesota River reptile survey (at Blue Devil, Gneiss Outcrops, Swedes Forest, Cedar Rock, Morton Outcrops, Cedar Mountain, and proposed River Warren SNAs) is intended to increase site-specific information on the distribution, habitat use, and movements of five-lined skinks, gophersnakes/bullsnakes, and plains hog-nosed snakes in order to improve guidance on preferred timing and degree of woody removal, preferred size and placement of brushpiles, and timing of burning associated with reptile activity – continuation of project done with ML14 appropriation, fiscal year 2018 work completed with this appropriation;
- Calcareous fen vegetation monitoring (at Savage Fen SNA) is intended to determine if a prescribed burn enhances the calcareous fen plant community (including populations of small white lady's slipper)

- The federally-listed threatened prairie bush clover (at the Prairie Bush Clover SNA) was monitored in 2017 in order to help inform prescribed fire and other management activities.
- Prairie status and trends monitoring was completed at Butternut Valley Prairie, Tauer Prairie, Langhei Prairie, Prairie Coteau, Santee Prairie, Lundblad Prairie, and Malmberg Prairie SNAs. This is a continuation of the ongoing prairie monitoring work initiated in the ML2008 Accelerated Prairie ENRTF appropriation and continued with subsequent SNA ENRTF appropriations and through federal State Wildlife Grant funding.
- Rare grassland snake surveys were conducted on 10 sites in 8 counties targeting gophersnakes/bullsnakes and plains hog-nosed snakes. SNAs included Antelope Valley, Bonanza Prairie, Clinton Prairie, Glynn Prairie, Langhei Prairie, Morton Outcrops, Mound Spring Prairie, Ottertail Prairie, Verlyn Marth, and Yellow Bank Hills.
- Bat acoustic detectors were set on 12 SNAs in southeastern Minnesota during May and June 2018. Bat calls were recorded for 7 to 9 nights. Bat call identification and analysis will be completed this fall.
- With the help of a contracted statistician, 12 older releve plots on SNAs in east-central and southeast Minnesota were selected for resampling to measure changes in native forest and prairie vegetation over the past 20 to 40 years. The contractor completed releve resampling on 12 SNAs (1 releve per SNA) utilizing this appropriation with additional SNAs targeted for the ML16 appropriation.

ACTIVITY 3: Public Engagement in Natural Areas

Description:

The fourth phase of the SNA Outreach Initiative will engage residents, students, and other interested people in ecological recreation, stewardship, and education activities on SNAs. The site steward network will be sustained with volunteer stewards for at least 120 SNAs. Ecological and safety training, guidance, and support materials will be provided for site stewards as necessary to recruit and retain these volunteers and ensure their work on SNAs is safe and ecologically appropriate. About 65 events will be sponsored, co-sponsored or coordinated, including volunteer site restoration and management work days and recreation-educational events (guided nature hikes, birding visits, botanizing, citizen-science activities, etc.) aimed at building long-lasting and action-based conservation ethics in the community. The effectiveness of site steward recruitment and retention, expansion of participation in SNA events, and/or other SNA outreach tools will be evaluated, such as measuring progress towards meeting the Department’s *Conservation That Works* Goal 2.

New or refined electronic/social media communications tools will be developed and disseminated to increase and enhance visitor’s use of SNAs. Additional visitor features will be added to the SNA web page, such as additional online site maps with topography, plant communities, and facilities. Postings of events, news, and images will be increased on the SNA Facebook (launched in 2014 with ENRTF ML12-13 support) and Tweets may be initiated on the DNR Twitter site. The e-book version of the SNA guidebook for visitors (initiated through the ENRTF ML2013 appropriation) will continue to be updated with new sites and new information, including site specific interactive maps, video and audio tracks. Accomplishments under this Activity will be achieved in part through a CCM worker dedicated to SNA outreach (started under ML2013 appropriation in 2014).

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$376,856
Amount Spent: \$ 376,856
Balance: \$ 0

Outcome	Completion Date
3a. SNA website, e-book, social media, maps & other interpretive info	6/30/17
3b. ~ 65 volunteer events (site management work days & rec.-ed. events)	6/30/17
3c. network of ~120 volunteer site stewards	6/30/17

Note: total budget for this Activity includes \$21,416 for direct & necessary services which are prorated across all costs except budgets for CCM contracts; no direct & necessary charges are budgeted for the estimated \$70K in CCM contracts; actual charges will be based on actual expenditures.

Activity Status as of November 19, 2015: Accomplishments related to this activity to date were reported under the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED BY LCCMR on December 10, 2015: Decreased Activity 2 by \$13,463 all in Direct in Necessary costs.

Activity Status as of March 14, 2016: A new contract with Conservation Corps of Minnesota began in January 2016 to manage SNA social media. Accomplishments related to this activity to date are reported under the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

Activity Status as of September 21, 2016:

3a. Communications tools: A new contract with Conservation Corps of Minnesota began in January 2016 to help manage SNA social media. The SNA Facebook page has achieved over 3,500 page likes by September 2016. A very successful post on August 18, 2016 regarding the Lost 40 SNA achieved an all-time high reach of 59,349 people and resulted in 218 new SNA page likes (see attached summary report on this post). The SNA “Facebook metrics recap of the last 3 months (April 1, 2016 – June 30, 2106) is attached. The SNA Flickr social media channel was launched in February 2015 (with the ML14 appropriation); the site allows high quality photo sharing and currently with 33 members sharing over 580 photos as of September 2016 – a status report is attached. The 19th (Fall 2016) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to over 4,100 subscribers. Recent improvements to the SNA webpage include implementation of totally rewritten [SNA program](#) pages, including new information such as a page on the [Natural Area Registry](#).

3b. Events: Accomplishments related to this activity to date are reported under the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

3c: Site Stewards: Accomplishments related to this activity to date are reported under the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

Activity Status as of March 15, 2017 – cumulative results to date (since July 2015):

3a. Communications tools: SNA Program social media work is largely achieved through contracts with Conservation Corps Minnesota – with work in FY17 split between this appropriation and the ML15 appropriation. Because of the combined funding the current social media accomplishments will be listed under both appropriations – then fully transitioned to the ML15 reporting. The SNA Facebook page has achieved over 3,900 page likes by late February 2017 and total reach, for example, in October 2016 of 68,329. Examples of the most successful posts are: #WildlifeWednesday achieved a one-time reach of 10,464 on December 2, 2015 and #ScientificSunday achieved a one-time reach of 15,596 on November 13, 2016. The SNA Flickr social media channel was launched in February 2015; the site allows high quality photo sharing and with 39 members sharing over 640 photos as of February 2016 – a “Mn SNAs Flickr Group Photos – 1 Year Report” was attached. The 20th (Winter 2016) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to over 4,500 subscribers. Improvements to the SNA webpage include implementation of totally rewritten [SNA program](#) pages, including new information such as a page on the [Natural Area Registry](#).

3b. Events: Accomplishments related to this activity to date are reported under the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

3c: Site Stewards: Accomplishments related to this activity to date are reported under the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

Activity Status as of September 6, 2017 – cumulative results to date (since July 2015) changes since March underlined:

3a. Communications tools: SNA Program social media work is largely achieved through contracts with Conservation Corps Minnesota – with work in FY17 split between this appropriation and the ML14 appropriation. The SNA Facebook page has achieved over 4,272 page likes by September 1, 2017 and total reach, for example, in June of 72,096. Examples of the most successful posts are: #WildlifeWednesday achieved a one-time reach of 10,464 on December 2, 2015 and #ScientificSunday achieved a one-time reach of 15,596 on November 13, 2016. The SNA Flickr social media channel facilitates sharing high quality photo with 45 members sharing over 675 photos as of September 1, 2017. The 22nd (Summer 2017) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to over 4,895 subscribers. Improvements to the SNA webpage include implementation of totally rewritten SNA program pages, including new information such as a page on the Natural Area Registry, updates to the research page, the addition of one new SNA (Lawrence Creek), and preparation for the new DNR system for managing the website.

3b. Events: With ENRTF support, from March 1, 2017 through August 2017, about 45 events were involving over 200 people (previous events were reported through the ML14 ENRTF appropriation). Events since March have included: a spring bird migration hike at Townsend Woods SNA, a BioBlitz at Swedes Forest SNA, a sunset hike at Felton Prairie SNA, a wildflower and watercolor event at Bluestem Prairie SNA, a plant identification hike at Blanket Flower Prairie SNA, and monarch monitoring at Felton Prairie SNA.

3c: Site Stewards: As of August 2017, 130 SNAs (85% of SNAs) have one or more volunteer stewards – for a total of 168 SNA site stewards – who submit reports on their work and findings. Regular communications are made with the stewards and an annual site steward recognition event, training, and site visit day was held in August 2017. Examples of special projects involving site stewards since March 2017 include: a bird hike to Kawishiwi Pines SNA, a prairie photography workshop at Butternut Valley Prairie SNA, a second year of installing and monitoring bee blocks at several SNAs, invasive removal at Clinton Prairie SNA, and observations of trees down from summer storms at Boot Lake and Burntside Islands SNAs.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED by LCCMR on September 18, 2017: Move \$42,700 from Activity 3 to Activity 2 – specifically in Activity 2 to reduce personnel by \$45,000, supplies by \$2,500, and travel expenses by \$6,000 and to increase contracts by \$10,000 and printing by \$800. The reductions are due to the DNR not being able to fill two key regional positions since they became vacant last winter. The increases in contracts is to hire another CCM individual placement person or other contractor to help compensate for the vacant staff positions. The increase in printing is to allow for additional copies of a new SNA brochure to be printed.

WORK PLAN AMENDMENT REQUEST-January 4, 2018: Move \$44,997 from Activity 3 to Activity 2 – specifically in Activity 3 to reduce personnel by \$15,000, contracts by \$18,000, supplies by \$2,300, travel expenses by \$2,436 and direct and necessary by \$7,261. The reductions are due to the DNR not being able to fill two key regional positions since they became vacant last winter. CCM individual placement contracts have been encumbered and the additional contract dollars requested in September are not projected to be needed therefore this request is to move those funds along with the others listed to Activity 2 to allow for additional invasive species treatment and prescribed burning this spring. Amendment Approved by LCCMR 1/10/2018

Activity Status as of February 28, 2018: – cumulative results to date

3a. Communications tools: SNA Program social media work is largely achieved through contracts with Conservation Corps Minnesota – with work in FY17 split between this appropriation and the ML14 appropriation. The SNA Facebook page has achieved over 4,500 page likes by February 15, 2018 and total reach, for example, in August 2017 of 57,434. Examples of the most successful posts are: #TerraTuesday achieved a one-time reach of 12,947 on August 16, 2017 and #ScientificSunday achieved a one-time reach of 14,340 on October 14, 2017. The SNA Flickr social media channel facilitates sharing high quality photo with 58 members

sharing over 815 photos as of February 15, 2018. The 24th (Winter 2017) issue of the Nature Notes e-newsletter was delivered to over 5,197 subscribers. Improvements to the SNA webpage include implementation of totally rewritten SNA program pages, including new information such as a page on the Natural Area Registry, updates to the research page, the addition of one new SNA and continued preparation for new DNR system for managing the website set to roll out in March 2018.

3b. Events: With ENRTF support, from March 1, 2017 through February 2018, about 67 events were held involving over 490 people (previous events were reported through the ML14 ENRTF appropriation). Events since March have included: a spring bird migration hike at Townsend Woods SNA, a BioBlitz at Swedes Forest SNA, a sunset hike at Felton Prairie SNA, a wildflower and watercolor event at Bluestem Prairie SNA, a plant identification hike at Blanket Flower Prairie SNA, monarch monitoring at Felton Prairie SNA, a seed collection stewardship event at Grey Cloud Dunes, an eighth grade earth science class field trip at Morton Outcrops SNA, a buckthorn removal stewardship event at Wolsfeld Woods SNA, a snowshoe hike into Purvis Lake-Ober Foundation SNA, and winter moon and snow walk at Sugarloaf Point SNA.

3c: Site Stewards: As of February 2018, 133 SNAs (~85% of SNAs) have one or more volunteer stewards – for a total of 171 SNA site stewards. These stewards submit reports on their observations and assistance with management tasks. Regular communications are made with the stewards and an annual site steward recognition event, training, and site visit day was held in August 2017. Examples of special projects involving site stewards since September 2017 include: observations of winter birds at Black Lake Bog SNA, prairie seed collection event at Grey Cloud Dunes SNA, a second year of installing and monitoring bee blocks at several SNAs, invasive removal at Iron Horse Prairie SNA, and assessment of invasive buckthorn at Quarry Park SNA.

Activity Status as of September 15, 2018: – cumulative results to date

3a. Communications tools: SNA Program social media work is largely achieved through contracts with Conservation Corps Minnesota – with work in FY17 split between this appropriation and the ML14 appropriation. The SNA Facebook page has achieved nearly 5,000 page likes by June 30, 2018 and total monthly reach, for example, in April 2018 of 72,730. Example of the most successful posts are: #TravelTuesday achieved a one-time reach of 15,127 on April 24, 2018. The SNA Flickr social media channel facilitates sharing high quality photo with 67 members sharing over 991 photos as of June 30, 2018. The 26th (Summer 2018) issue of the Nature Notes e-newsletter was delivered to over 5,673 subscribers. Improvements to the SNA webpage include implementation of totally rewritten descriptions for each SNA, the addition of two new SNAs and implementation of a new DNR system for managing the website roll out in March 2018.

3b. Events: With ENRTF support, from March 1, 2017 through February 2018, 99 events were held involving over 990 people (previous events were reported through the ML14 ENRTF appropriation). Examples of events held: a presentation about SNAs at the Eveleth Public Library, a spring wildflower walk at Wolsfeld Woods SNA, Minnesota Master Naturalist field trips to Mille Lacs Moraine and Lake Alexander Woods SNAs, a prairie hike at Bluestem Prairie SNA, a birding festival at Blanket Flower SNA and Felton Prairie SNA, invasive removal at Grey Cloud Dunes SNA, and a plant bioblitz at Cherry Grove Blind Valley SNA.

3c: Site Stewards: As of June 2018, there are 149 SNA site stewards. These stewards submit reports on their observations and assistance with management tasks. Regular communications are made with the stewards and an annual site steward recognition event, training, and an annual site visit day. Examples of special projects involving site stewards since September 2017 include: removal of invading sumac at Oronoco Prairie SNA, monitoring plots for a citizen science project on deer browsing at Spring Creek Prairie SNA, treating invasive crown vetch at Glynn Prairie SNA, observations at Botany Bog SNA, and monitoring bee blocks at Blanket Flower Prairie SNA.

Activity Status as of February 21, 2019: – cumulative results to date (worked completed on this activity 6/30/2018)

3a. Communications tools: SNA Program social media work is largely achieved through contracts with Conservation Corps Minnesota – with work in FY17 split between this appropriation and the ML14 appropriation. The SNA Facebook page has achieved nearly 5,000 page likes by June 30, 2018 and total monthly reach, for example, in April 2018 of 72,730. Example of the most successful posts are: #TravelTuesday achieved a one-time reach of 15,127 on April 24, 2018. The SNA Flickr social media channel facilitates sharing high quality photo with 67 members sharing over 991 photos as of June 30, 2018. The 26th (Summer 2018) issue of the Nature Notes e-newsletter was delivered to over 5,673 subscribers. Improvements to the SNA webpage include implementation of totally rewritten descriptions for each SNA, the addition of two new SNAs and implementation of a new DNR system for managing the website roll out in March 2018.

3b. Events: With ENRTF support, from March 1, 2017 through February 2018, 99 events were held involving over 990 people (previous events were reported through the ML14 ENRTF appropriation). Examples of events held: a presentation about SNAs at the Eveleth Public Library, a spring wildflower walk at Wolsfeld Woods SNA, Minnesota Master Naturalist field trips to Mille Lacs Moraine and Lake Alexander Woods SNAs, a prairie hike at Bluestem Prairie SNA, a birding festival at Blanket Flower SNA and Felton Prairie SNA, invasive removal at Grey Cloud Dunes SNA, and a plant bioblitz at Cherry Grove Blind Valley SNA.

3c. Site Stewards: As of June 2018, there are 149 SNA site stewards. These stewards submit reports on their observations and assistance with management tasks. Regular communications are made with the stewards and an annual site steward recognition event, training, and an annual site visit day. Examples of special projects involving site stewards since September 2017 include: removal of invading sumac at Oronoco Prairie SNA, monitoring plots for a citizen science project on deer browsing at Spring Creek Prairie SNA, treating invasive crown vetch at Glynn Prairie SNA, observations at Botany Bog SNA, and monitoring bee blocks at Blanket Flower Prairie SNA.

Final Report Summary:

3a. Communications tools: SNA Program social media work is largely achieved through contracts with Conservation Corps Minnesota – with 50% of FY17 paid for with this appropriation (other 50% paid for with ML14) and 100% of FY18 paid for with this appropriation. During this timeframe, the SNA Facebook page achieved nearly 5,000 page likes and had a total monthly reach, for example, in April 2018 of 72,730. An example successful post: #TravelTuesday achieved a one-time reach of 15,127 on April 24, 2018. The SNA Flickr social media channel facilitated the sharing of high quality photos with 67 members who shared over 991 photos as of June 30, 2018. Five Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered during this timeframe reaching over 5,673 subscribers. Improvements to the SNA webpage included implementation of totally rewritten descriptions for each SNA, the addition of two new SNAs and implementation of a new DNR system for managing the website rolled out in March 2018.

3b. Events: With ENRTF support, from March 1, 2017 through February 2018, 99 events were held involving over 990 people (previous events were reported through the ML14 ENRTF appropriation). Examples of events held: seed harvest at Grey Cloud Dunes SNA (pictured below), a presentation about SNAs at the Eveleth Public Library, a spring wildflower walk at Wolsfeld Woods SNA, Minnesota Master Naturalist field trips to Mille Lacs Moraine and Lake Alexander Woods SNAs, a prairie hike at Bluestem Prairie SNA, a birding festival at Blanket Flower SNA and Felton Prairie SNA, invasive removal at Grey Cloud Dunes SNA, a plant bioblitz at Cherry Grove Blind Valley SNA and an under the stars moonlight walk at Sugarloaf Point SNA.



3c: Site Stewards: As of June 2018, there were 149 SNA site stewards. These stewards submit reports on their observations and assistance with management tasks. Regular communications are made with the stewards along with an annual site steward recognition event which also includes training and field tours. Examples of special projects involving site stewards during this appropriation include: removal of invading sumac at Oronoco Prairie SNA, monitoring plots for a citizen science project on deer browsing at Spring Creek Prairie SNA, treating invasive crown vetch at Glynn Prairie SNA, observations at Botany Bog SNA, and monitoring bee blocks at Blanket Flower Prairie SNA.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

Dissemination will primarily be achieved through the SNA webpage on the DNR website: mndnr.gov/snas, through the SNA Facebook page, and through *Nature Notes* – the SNA Program e-newsletter distributed through GovDelivery.com to over 2400 subscribers, including SNA site stewards, and possibly through Tweets on the DNR Twitter site. All volunteer events will be listed at the SNA webpage. The SNA webpage and SNA Facebook page will continue to be updated and refined to increase and enhance visitor’s use of SNAs. SNA-State Parks naturalists, other SNA staff, and contractors are expected to make presentations and lead field trips at SNAs and/or to promote involvement in SNAs; these will be publicized on the DNR website, SNA Facebook page, via emails or local fliers, and as needed through press releases. The e-book version of the SNA guide for visitors is expected to be disseminated through DNR gift shops, DNR website, and the Minnesota Bookstore.

Activity Status as of November 19, 2015:

Accomplishments related to this activity through December 2015 will be reported under the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

Activity Status as of March 14, 2016: Accomplishments related to this activity through March 2016 are reported under the ML14 ENRTF appropriation.

Activity Status as of September 21, 2016: The SNA website is updated as needed including listings of new volunteer events. Information on SNAs and activities through this appropriation are posted on the SNA Facebook page which has achieved over 3,500 page likes. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to

encourage high quality photo sharing and with 30 members sharing over 580 photos. The 19th (Fall 2016) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter is being delivered to over 4,100 subscribers.

Activity Status as of March 15, 2017: The SNA website is updated as needed including listings of new volunteer events. Information on SNAs and activities through this appropriation are posted on the SNA Facebook page which has achieved over 3,900 page likes. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to encourage high quality photo sharing and with 39 members sharing over 640 photos. The 20th (Winter 2016) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to over 4,500 subscribers.

Activity Status as of September 6, 2017 – cumulative results to date (since July 2015) changes since March underlined:

The SNA website is updated as needed including listings of new volunteer events. Information on SNAs and activities through this appropriation are posted on the SNA Facebook page which has achieved over 4,272 page likes. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to encourage high quality photo sharing and with 45 members sharing over 675 photos. The 22nd (Summer 2017) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to over 4,895 subscribers.

Activity Status as of February 28, 2018-cumulative results to date

The SNA website is updated as needed including listings of new volunteer events. Information on SNAs and activities through this appropriation are posted on the SNA Facebook page which has achieved over 4,500 page likes. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to encourage high quality photo sharing and with 58 members sharing 815 photos. The 24th (Winter 2017) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to over 5,197 subscribers.

Activity Status as of September 15, 2018: -cumulative results to date

The SNA website is updated as needed including listings of new volunteer events. Information on SNAs and activities through this appropriation are posted on the SNA Facebook page which has achieved nearly 5,000 page likes. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to encourage high quality photo sharing and with 58 members sharing 991 photos. The 26th (Summer 2018) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to over 5,673 subscribers.

Activity Status as of February 21, 2019: -cumulative results to date

The SNA website is updated as needed including listings of new volunteer events. Information on SNAs and activities through this appropriation are posted on the SNA Facebook page which has achieved nearly 5,000 page likes. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to encourage high quality photo sharing and with 58 members sharing 991 photos. The 26th (Summer 2018) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to over 5,673 subscribers.

Final Report Summary:

The SNA website was updated throughout this appropriation as needed, including listings of new volunteer events. Information on SNAs and activities through this appropriation were posted on the SNA Facebook page which achieved nearly 5,000 page likes. Included with this final report is an SNA Facebook Metrics Report from April-June 2018. The SNA Flickr social media channel was used to encourage high quality photo sharing with 58 members sharing 991 photos. Five *Nature Notes* e-newsletters were delivered during this timeframe reaching over 5,673 subscribers. Please see links to these 5 e-newsletters below.

- [Fall 2016](#)
- [Winter 2016](#)
- [Summer 2017](#)
- [Winter 2017](#)
- [Summer 2018](#)

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
Personnel:	\$983,724 Final Amount Spent: \$971,402	Coordinators & planner (1.7 FTE for 2 yrs); Final Report: Coordinators & planner (0.8 FTE for 4 yrs) Spec's, tech's & naturalists (4.4 FTE for 2 yrs); Final Report: Spec's, tech's & naturalists (2.0 FTE for 4 yrs); Laborers & seasonal field crews (1.5 FTE for 2 yrs) Final Report: Laborers & seasonal field crews (0.4 FTE for 4 yrs)
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$330,737 Final Amount Spent: \$328,865	Contractors will be selected following state procurement & bidding processes: <u>Professional/Technical Contracts</u> - mgmt. plans; adaptive mgmt. monitoring; photography, videography etc. & participant evaluation; SNA events & site steward training <u>Service Contracts</u> (including Conservation Corps Minnesota) - woody encroachment removal & invasives control; prescribed burning, haying, mowing & grazing; site development (fences, signs, etc); CCM outreach assistant
Contract	\$0	IT Services (Mn.IT service agreements) spatial database & SNA website/interactive media development & support
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$69,558 Final Amount Spent: \$61,643	parts, tools, repair costs & supplies for restoration, invasives control, prescribed burning, haying, mowing or grazing, management plans, & monitoring; interpretive displays, signs & posts, fencing, & other site development tools & supplies; volunteer events & site steward supplies (including safety items, hand tools, training materials, etc.)
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 2,140,000 Final Amount Spent: \$2,082,852	~350 acres in 2-6 parcels to be designated as SNA & owned in fee by DNR (519.3 acres in 10 parcels acquired)
Professional Services for Fee Title and Easement Acquisition:	\$209,460 Final Amount Spent: \$201,114	Includes real estate transaction costs & LAM billings; appraisal & review; property survey; attorney general; closing costs; recording fees & deed tax; etc. <\$20K/parcel
Printing:	\$ 14,700 Final Amount Spent: \$11,305	State Register publication (required to designate acquired parcels); printing of

		interpretive sign panels; maps, educational & volunteer materials.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$165,112 Final Amount Spent: \$160,673	Fleet charges for trucks, cars, & equipment (e.g. mowers, seeders), mileage, lodging & meals as per state contracts. The fleet charges are use charges (by mile traveled or monthly charge which we pro-rate) for the specific equipment utilized for this project.
Other:	\$86,709 Final Amount Spent: \$86,709	Direct & Necessary Services for the appropriation
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 4,000,000 Final Amount Spent: \$3,904,562	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: Consistent with approved work plans for previous ENRTF appropriations for the SNA Program, this funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for classified and unclassified staff paid mostly with special project funds. These positions would not exist, but for special project funding received through the ENRTF and other funds. Each year these positions are assigned work based on the particular combination of soft funding available to address priority SNA Program activities.

Direct and Necessary expenses include both Department Support Services (Human Resources, IT Support, Safety, Financial Support, Communications Support, Planning Support, and Procurement Support) and Division Support Services. Department Support Services are described in the agency Service Level Agreement, and billed internally to divisions based on rates that have been developed for each area of service. These services are directly related to and necessary for the appropriation. Department leadership services (Commissioner’s Office and Regional Directors) are not assessed. Division Support Services include costs associated with Division business offices and clerical support. Those elements of individual projects that put little or no demand on support services such as large single-source contracts, land acquisitions, and funds that are passed-thru to other entities are not assessed Direct and Necessary costs for those activities. For this work plan, landowner payments and CCM contracts with an associated cost of \$2,310,000 have not been assessed Direct and Necessary costs. In addition to itemized costs captured in our proposal budget, direct and necessary costs cover HR Support (\$20,155), Safety Support (\$4,986), Financial Support (\$19,801), Communication Support (\$5,705), IT Support (\$31,367), Planning Support (\$3,520), Procurement Support (\$1,175), and division and regional project management (\$29,397) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: 7.6 FTE each for two years spread over 25-35 positions – for a total of 15.2 FTEs. **Final Report:** 3.2 FTE each for four years spread over 25-35 positions- for a total of 12.8 FTEs.

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: up to 1.0 FTE for 1 year for professional technical contract; & up to 2 FTE for 2 years for CCM & fieldwork contractors – for a total of 5 FTEs

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
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Non-state	\$0	\$0	No other funds are budgeted for the deliverables proposed for this appropriation; if any other funds are used for landowner payments accomplishments will be pro-rated by the actual expenditures per funding source.
State	\$0	\$0	No other funds are budgeted for the deliverables proposed for this appropriation; if any other funds are used for landowner payments accomplishments will be pro-rated by the actual expenditures per funding source; in-kind contributions by the project manager to administer this project will not be tracked.
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$0	\$0	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

This proposal includes the DNR’s work and funding to be used by the SNA Program towards partnership project work on SNAs. Partners include entities, such as The Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, Sugarloaf Northshore Stewardship Association, local units of governments, and other non-profits.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

The *SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan’s* primary goal is “the state’s natural heritage is not lost from any ecological region of Minnesota” with 6 objectives: 1) 5 occurrences of each existing native plant community are within designated SNAs within each ecological subsection; 2) 3 occurrences of each existing species of plant and animal are within designated SNAs within each ecological subsection; 3) 1 of each type geological feature in the state is within a designated SNA; 4) 10% of the state’s high priority conservation areas are protected through SNAs; other landowners and managers conserve the natural heritage within high priority conservation areas; 5) SNAs contribute ecological values in key watersheds; and 6) the SNAs’ natural features and public benefit are sustained over time. If 10% of the high priority areas identified in the Plan became SNAs, the state would protect approximately 300 SNAs by the end of the 21st century. This totals about 325,000 acres or 0.6 % of the state, and means designating 136,000 more acres of SNA over the next 85 years. In addition, the SNA Program is dependent on grant funds (predominantly ENRTF) for the SNA outreach initiative and many SNA restoration and improvement projects. Thus, the DNR could utilize support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund of \$10M to \$20M per biennium over the next 20 years.

C. Funding History:

For appropriations or grants received starting in July 2010.

Funding Source and Use of Funds	Funding Timeframe	\$ Amount
ENRTF ML10, Ch362, Sec2, Sub4b & ML13, Ch52, Sec2, Subd17: SNA restoration, enhancement & acquisition (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2010-June 2014	\$ 1,096,400
ENRTF ML10, Ch362, Sec2, Subd4f2k: Mn Habitat Cons. Partnership – SNA restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2010-June 2012	\$ 31,500
ENRTF ML11, 1SS, Ch2, Art3, Sec2, Subd 4e: SNA acquisition, restoration, enhancement & public engagement	July 2011-June 2014	\$ 1,640,000
ENRTF ML13, Ch 52, Sec 2, Subd 4b: SNA acquisition, restoration, enhancement & public	July 2013-June 2016	\$ 1,500,000
ENRTF ML14, Ch226, Subd 7a: SNA acquisition, restoration, enhancement & public engagement	July 2014-June 2017	\$ 2,540,000

OHF ML10, CH361, Art1, Sec2, Subd2a: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie acquisition, restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2010-June 2015	\$ 650,000
OHF ML10, CH361, Art1, Sec2, Subd3d: Accelerated Forest – SNA forest acquisition & enhancement	July 2010-June 2015	\$ 758,000
OHF ML11, 1SS, Ch6, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4b: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2011-June 2016	\$ 229,370
OHF ML11, 1SS, Ch6, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4a: SNA & NPB acquisition (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2011-June 2016+	\$ 702,100
OHF ML12, Ch262, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4h: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2012-June 2017	\$ 276,940
OHF ML13, Ch137, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4g: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2013-June 2018	\$ 144,170
OHF ML13, Ch137, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4c: SNA & NPB acquisition (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2013-June 2018+	\$ 246,500
OHF ML14, Ch256, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4h: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	July 2014-June 2019	\$ 285,650
OHF ML14, Ch256, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4a: SNA acquisition	July 2014-June 2019+	\$ 1,070,000
State Wildlife Grant (federal) – SNA management plans	March 2012-August 2013	\$ 49,800

VIII. FEE TITLE ACQUISITION/CONSERVATION EASEMENT/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. Parcel List: See attached list.

B. Acquisition/Restoration Information:

Fee Title Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

To be acquired and designated as SNA, the site must be recommended for SNA designation in an Ecological Evaluation report which serves as the site’s baseline assessment for fee acquisitions. All such sites are predominantly MBS-mapped native plant communities and contain habitat for rare species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need. In addition, SNA staff use the “*SNA Candidate Site Evaluation Guide*” (developed through the ENRTF-funded SNA strategic planning process) which incorporates criteria to rate which sites are currently pursued. Criteria include diversity and quality of the native habitat, occurrence of rare species, occurrence of native plant communities under-represented in SNA system, parcel size, location of parcel in relation to biodiversity hotspots (particularly MBS-mapped areas of outstanding and high biodiversity significance) and other conservation lands (including *SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan’s* Conservation Opportunity Areas and *Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan’s* Core Areas), potential for long-term management, and additional factors (e.g. landowner readiness, urgency, and willingness to donate; degree of threat, and partnership opportunities).

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.

- *SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan* – www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/sna/plan
- *Minnesota’s State Wildlife Action Plan* – www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwacs
- *Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan* – www.dnr.state.mn.us/prairieplan

- 3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.**

Each parcel acquired as a new SNA in fee will have an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) or if as an addition to an existing SNA, that SNA's Management Plan may be amended to add the new parcel. The AMPs include goals, ecological description, priority features with indicators, and management recommendations. The intended outcome of management of SNAs is that 1) all the lands be native plant communities or restored to plant communities that would have been native to the site, 2) these plant communities are sustained over time, and 3) that visitors are accommodated safely (unless visitor access is restricted by designation order). The goals for the SNA's management are based upon soils, topography, geology, and other factors necessary to sustain the plant community. Each plan includes an implementation timetable which summarizes ongoing management needs and a statement on funding. Long-term management costs (e.g. invasive species treatments, prescribed fire, and monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination funding sources, including, but not limited to, ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF), federal grants, and other funds as appropriated. Each AMP is kept in a DNR internal shared electronic filing system accessible to all SNA staff.

- 4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.**

The DNR follows Minnesota Statutes 84.033 which require that any land acquired for designation as a SNA must have county board approval as prescribed under MS 97A.145.

- 5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.**

As part of the DNR acquisition process, all SNA acquisitions are required to have approval of the Ecological and Water Resources Division Director and land conveyances are accepted by the Director or Deputy Director of Division of Lands and Minerals who have delegated authority to approve this for the Commissioner.

Restoration

- 1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.**

All restoration activities done with this appropriation are on lands designated as SNA which the state owns in fee or easement.

- 2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.**

Each restoration project will be based upon an ecological restoration and management plan and/or project plan with goals for reconstructing plant communities that are native to the site that are based upon soils, topography, geology, and other factors necessary to sustain the plant community. Each plan includes an implementation timetable which summarizes ongoing management needs. Each restoration and management plan and project plan is kept in a DNR internal shared electronic filing system accessible to all SNA staff.

- 3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.**

The SNA Program follows or exceeds the recommendations found in the BWSR “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines”. SNA restorations typically follow the current BOWSR Guidelines, including Project Guidance, Plant Community Restoration, Temporary Cover and Forest/Woodlands. The SNA Program follows the general direction of the BWSR Guidelines for “Recommended Steps for Obtaining Plant Materials”, and has additional and more restrictive requirements for restoration material sources. Specifically, restoration and management of DNR lands are governed by DNR Operational Order #124 on “Plant Material Standards for Native Plant Community Restoration” and a pending Operational Order on “DNR Pollinator Habitat Program Guidelines” (which include BMPs).

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

Long-term management costs (e.g. invasive species treatments, prescribed fire, and monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination funding sources, including, but not limited to, ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF), federal grants, and other funds as appropriated.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

DNR has a standing general contract with CMM under which the SNA Program often does project or activity specific agreements. For restoration projects, CCM has been and will continue to be used when appropriate for hand seed harvest. CCM also does some invasive species control on SNAs and will be considered on restoration projects for post-planting weed control.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

Restoration projects will be evaluated and a report submitted to the LCCMR to ascertain how well the native plants have been established and non-natives controlled. The evaluation reports include a summary of management plan outcomes, activities completed through the project, maps of the project area, a statement of ongoing management needs and funding, and a summary of the evaluation.

IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S): See attached ML15 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects map set.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than November 15, 2015, March 15, 2016, September 15, 2016, March 15, 2017, September 15, 2017,-March 15, 2018, September 15, 2018 and March 15, 2019. A final report and associated products will be submitted before September 15, 2019(as necessary for state FY closeout data to be available and summarized).

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2015 Project Budget-FINAL REPORT
Project Title: SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Enhancement, and Public Engagement
Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c
Project Manager: Ann Pierce
Organization: MnDNR
M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$4,000,000
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2019
Date of Report: August 15, 2019



	REVISED TOTAL BUDGET 9/26/2018	TOTAL SPENT 6/30/2019	TOTAL BALANCE
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET			
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$983,724	\$971,402	\$12,322
Position Type 1: Coordinators & Planner - Activity 1: ~0.5 FTE acquisition/land protection for 2 yrs; Activity 2: ~0.6 FTE resto/mgmt for 2 yrs; Activity 3: 0.7 FTE outreach (~\$308.7K) - all spread over ~5 positions			
Position Type 2: Specialists, Technicians, & Naturalists - Activity 1: ~0.7 FTE acquisition/land protection for 2 yrs; Activity 2: ~2.5 FTE resto/mgmt for 2 yrs; Activity 3: 1.3 FTE outreach (~\$622.16K) - all spread over about ~12 positions			
Position Type 3: Laborers & Seasonal Field Crews - all Activity 2: ~1.5 FTE for 2 yrs (~\$88.2K) - spread over ~9-15 positions			
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts	\$330,737	\$328,865	\$1,872
Professional/Technical Contracts			
Act. 2f. ~4 mgmt. plans (~\$20K) - contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes			
Act. 2g. adaptive mgmt. monitoring at ~5 SNAs (~\$23K);			
Act. 3a. photography, videography etc & participant evaluation (~\$30K) - contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes			
Act. 3b. SNA events & site steward training through ~2 contractors (~\$9K) - contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes			
Act. 3. Conservation Corps Mn (CCM) outreach assistant (2 yrs at ~\$70K)			
Service Contracts			
Act. 2 including 2c. restoration-related activities (~\$20K at ~\$2000-\$4000/ac) - priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes			
Act. 2b. woody encroachment removal & invasives control (~\$137K at ~\$1500-\$4000/ac) - priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes			
Act 2c. prescribed burning, haying, mowing or grazing (~\$9.8K at ~\$100-\$500/ac -priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes			
2d. site development (fences, signs, etc) (~\$14K) - priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes			
Contract: IT Services (Mn.IT service agreements) spatial database & SNA website/interactive media development & support	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$69,558	\$61,643	\$7,915
Activity 2: parts, tools, repair costs & supplies for restoration, invasives control, prescribed burning, etc (this is largely for SNA tools, such as chain saws, pump cans, drip torches, fire racks, pulaskis, other handtools, backpack sprayers, portable pumps & hose, personal protective equipment, etc. & supplies such as herbicides, spreading oils, flagging, stakes, etc) (~\$27.5K); signs (entry, boundary & rules signs), posts/hardware, fencing, gravel, & other site development tools & supplies (~\$44K); monitoring supplies & materials (~\$2.7K); Activity 3: volunteer events & site steward supplies (including safety items, hand tools, training materials, temporary signs, stamps, envelops, etc) (~\$11.8K).			
Fee Title Acquisition	\$2,140,000	\$2,082,852	\$57,148
~350 acres in 2-6 parcels to be designated as SNA & owned in fee by DNR			
Professional Services for Fee Title and Easement Acquisition	\$209,460	\$201,114	\$8,346
Includes real estate transaction costs & LAM billings; appraisal & review; property survey; attorney general; closing costs; recording fees & deed tax; etc. <\$20K/parcel			
Printing	\$14,700	\$11,305	\$3,395
Includes Activity 1: State Register publication (required to designate acquired parcels); Activity 2: interpretive sign panels; Activity 3: maps, pocket cards, educational & volunteer materials.			
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$165,112	\$160,673	\$4,439
Fleet charges for trucks, cars, & equipment (e.g. mowers, seeders), mileage, lodging & meals as per state contracts			
Other	\$86,709	\$86,709	\$0
DNR's direct and necessary costs (\$116,106 total) pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated programs/projects. In addition to itemized costs captured in our proposal budget, direct and necessary costs cover People/HR Support (\$20,155), Safety Support (\$4,986), Financial Support (\$19,801), Communication Support (\$5,705), IT Support (\$31,367), Planning Support (\$3,520), Procurement Support (\$1,175), and division and regional project management (\$29,397) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.			
COLUMN TOTAL	\$4,000,000	\$3,904,562	\$95,438

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2015 Parcel List- FINAL REPORT**

Project Title: SMA Acquisition, Restoration, Enhancement & Public Engagement
 Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c
 Project Manager: Ann Pierce
 Organization: MnDNR
 M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 4,000,000
 Project Length and Completion Date: 2 Years, June 30, 2018
 Date of Report: August 15, 2019

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PLT Liabilities	County	Site Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Brownsville Bluffs	43° 40' 55.6"	91° 17' 16.2"	\$ 636,000	\$ 4,770	Houston	Harbors one of only 2 known Western Rat Snake hibernacula in MN. Southern Dry-mesic Oak-Hickory Woodland and Southern Mesic Oak-Basswood Forest.	fee title acquisition	210	0	private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	Parcel 1 acquired with ML14 approp; Parcel 2 acquired with ML15 (61.6 acres prorated) & ML14 (147.8 acres prorated).
2	Crystal Spring**	45° 15' 33.9"	92° 45' 58.26"	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 9,750	Washington	old-growth mesic hardwood forest, native white pines, black ash seepage swamp, deep gorge exposing layers of bedrock, filled with seeps & a waterfall	fee title acquisition	38		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	Parcel acquired with ML15 (16.6 acres prorated), ML14 (9.8 acres prorated) & RHM Critical Habitat Match (11.7 acres prorated).
3	Drake Woods	43° 33'54.0"	94° 6' 23.51"	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 11,250	Fairbault	best intact MBS mapped hardwood forest in south central MN	fee title acquisition	300		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	delayed to future funding
4	Englund Ecotone	45° 41' 19.3"	94° 8' 53.2"	\$ 2,148,000	\$ 16,110	Benton	oak forest, oak savanna, sedge meadow	fee title acquisition	358		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	not active
5	Lawrence Creek**	45° 22' 16.6"	92° 41' 34.6"	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 7,500	Chisago	forested bluff along St. Croix River	fee title acquisition	72		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	Parcel acquired (71.8 acres)
6	Lake Alexander Woods SNA	46° 10' 22.4"	94° 35' 55.3"	\$ 160,000	\$ 1,200	Morrison	Central dry-mesic oak-aspen forest, low shrub poor fen in glacial moraines; red-shouldered hawk and bluegrass habitat	fee title acquisition	93	0.6	private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	landowner withdrew interest
7	Roscoe Prairie	44° 7' 14.0"	94° 40' 37"	\$ 240,000	\$ 1,800	Stearns	wet prairie with rare butterfly habitat adjacent to Roscoe Prairie SNA	fee title acquisition	40		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	not active
8	Rose Dell Prairie	45° 25' 42.7"	96° 21' 15.2"	\$ 400,000	\$ 3,000	Pipestone	MBS-mapped prairie with rare features	fee title acquisition	80		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	not active
9	Sandpiper Prairie	47° 14' 32.2"	96° 24' 16.3"	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,875	Norman	Large good quality prairie on a beach ridge in 5yre Prairie Core Area to be an addition to an existing SNA	fee title acquisition	250		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	not active
10	Dinner Creek SNA	47° 4' 21.5"	95° 12' 7.5"	\$360,000	\$ 2,700	Becker	white cedar swamp, aspen-birch-basswood forest, jack pine woodland, red-white pine woodland	fee title acquisition	240		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	offer made rejected by landowner
11	Lake Bronson SNA	48° 43' 28.6"	96° 35' 54.5"	\$ 24,000	\$ 205	Kitson	wet-mesic brush prairie	fee title acquisition	42		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	Parcel acquired (42.0 acres)
12	Iron Springs Bog SNA	47° 15' 38.8"	95° 13' 22.7"	\$60,000	\$ 450	Clearwater	rich tamarack swamp, alder swamp, wet ash swamp, wet meadow carr, access to Iron Springs Bog	fee title acquisition	63	0.4	private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	not active
13	Franconia Bluffs SNA	45° 22' 4.9"	92° 41' 53.6"	\$ 50,000		Chisago	St. Croix River bluff	restore forest	11		public	DNR-SNA	Tree tubes were added to tree plugs on this 11 acres at Franconia Bluffs SNA. The tree plugs and initial restoration efforts were completed and reported to the ENRTF ML11 appropriation.
14	Iona's Beach SNA	47° 10' 3.7"	91° 25' 19.7"	\$ 4,000		Lake	Beach composed of pink rhyolite or felsite, restore cultural trails	restore shoreline vegetation	1		public	DNR-SNA	Not completed with this appropriation
15	Little Too Much Lake SNA	47° 37' 35.4"	93° 46' 27.4"	\$ 4,000		Itasca	Forest and undeveloped lakeshore	restore forest	2		public	DNR-SNA	Not completed with this appropriation
16	Mound Springs Prairie SNA	44° 45' 54.8"	96° 27' 3.8"	\$ 6,750		Yellow Medicine	restore mesic prairie comparable to adjoining MBS mapped prairie	restore mesic prairie	4.5		public	DNR-SNA	Completed
17	Rock Ridge SNA	44° 5' 49.5"	95° 4' 14.5"	\$ 12,750		Cottonwood	restore mesic prairie comparable to adjoining MBS mapped prairie	restore mesic prairie	8.5		public	DNR-SNA	Completed
18	Sandpiper Prairie SNA	47° 14' 32.2"	96° 24' 16.3"	\$ 40,000		Norman	wet-mesic prairie	restore prairie	40		public	DNR-SNA	Restoration site preparation completed utilizing this appropriation. Restoration completed with and reported to ML16 ENRTF Appropriation.
19	Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA	44° 34' 33.4"	92° 39' 01.9"	\$ 60,200	\$ 452	Goodhue	floodplain forest with outstanding biodiversity significance & habitat for threatened turtle & in IBA	fee title acquisition	43	0.33	private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	Parcel acquired (42.6 acres)
20	Blanket Flower	46° 40' 53.2"	96° 12' 19.0"	\$30,000	\$ 225	Clay	dry sand-gravel prairie & habitat greater prairie chicken, regal fritillary, Hill's thistle, & blanket flower	fee title acquisition	12		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	Parcel acquired (12.0 acres)
21	Minnesota Point SNA	46° 43' 0.6"	92° 2' 4.5"	\$ 2,000		St. Louis	red pine-white pine woodland, juniper dune shrubland, & beachgrass dune	restore dune & pine forest	0.5		public	DNR-SNA	Completed
22	Chimney Rock SNA	44° 38' 27.5"	92° 53' 43.4"	\$ 5,400		Dakota	restore dry barrens prairie	restore prairie	21		public	DNR-SNA	Completed
23	Seminary Fen SNA	44° 48' 39.0"	93° 33' 11.5"	\$ 17,500		Carver	restore wet prairie	restore prairie	7		public	DNR-SNA	Not completed with this appropriation
24	Mississippi Oxbow SNA	47° 4' 43.2"	93° 23' 32.2"	\$ 15,000	\$112	Itasca	outstanding biodiversity area on the Mississippi River south of Grand Rapids. Best example of floodplain forest in the Tamarack Lowlands ECS subregion.	fee title acquisition	23	1	private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	Parcel acquired (23.0 acres)
25	Spring Beauty Northern Hardwoods Addition	47° 52' 52.6"	90° 0' 27.6"	\$ 40,000	\$274	Cook	addition to existing SNA within a site of high biodiversity significance & in headwaters area of a designated trout stream.	fee title acquisition	40		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	Parcel acquired (40.0 acres)
26	LaSalle Lake SNA	47° 21' 7.246"	95° 10' 23.202"	\$ 30,000		Hubbard	restore jack pine blow down area, an S1-S2 rare native plant community.	restore jack pine woodland	31		public	DNR-SNA	exclusion fence constructed in part with this appropriation.
27	Avon Hills SNA Addition	45° 37' 20.7"	94° 30' 2.1"	\$ 500,000	\$3,750	Stearns	Outstanding biodiversity oak forest harboring interior forest birds e.g. red-shouldered hawk and cerulean warbler.	fee title acquisition	124		private	DNR-SNA	Parcel acquired (123.7 acres)
28	Myhr Creek Ridge SNA addition	47° 50' 17.8"	90° 0' 29.1"	\$ 80,000	\$ 540	Cook	Site of high biodiversity significance. Property is mostly undisturbed and of high quality - entire property would be A or AB ranking (complexes do not currently have ranks). Northern Jack Pine/Risk Spruce Woodland Complex. The NPCs that make up this complex are 52.53	fee title acquisition	80		private	DNR-SNA	Parcel acquired (54.5 prorated to this appropriation), 25.6 acres prorated to Federal Coastal Funds)

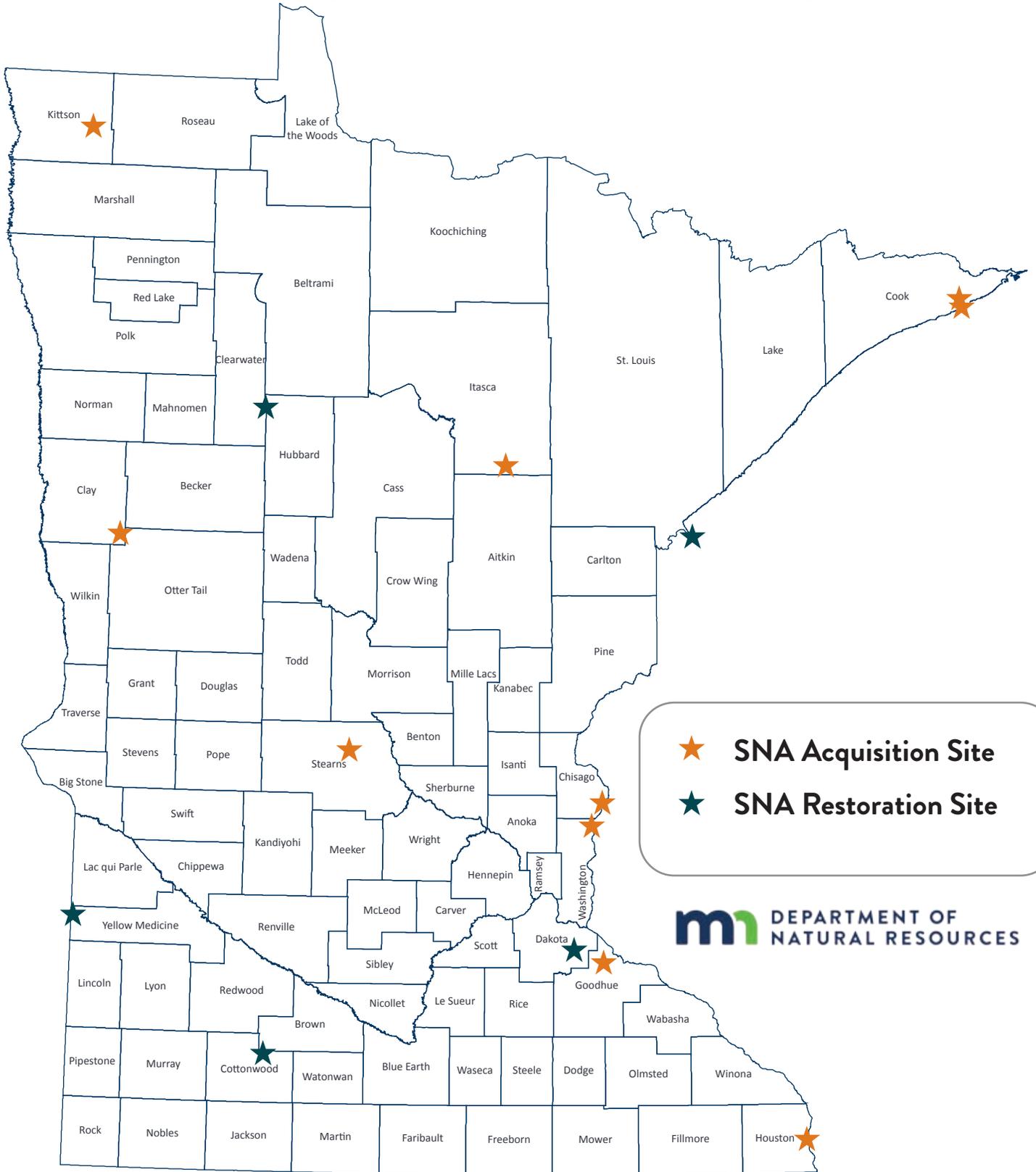
NOTES: ** proposed to be acquired in cooperation with The Trust for Public Land

ML 15

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

Final Report

SNA Strategic Acquisition and Restoration Projects



★ SNA Acquisition Site
★ SNA Restoration Site