



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

Date of Report: May 13, 2015
Date of Next Status Update Report: November 15, 2015
Date of Work Plan Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2018
Does this submission include an amendment request? No

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

Project Manager: Margaret (Peggy) Booth
Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecological & Water Resources
Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
City/State/Zip Code: St Paul, MN 55155-4025
Telephone Number: (651)259-5088
Email Address: peggy.booth@state.mn.us
Web Address: mndnr.gov/snas

Location:

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$4,000,000
	Amount Spent:	\$0
	Balance:	\$4,000,000

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. 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 15, 2015:

Project Status as of March 15, 2016:

Project Status as of September 15, 2016:

Project Status as of March 15, 2017:

Project Status as of September 15, 2017:

Project Status as of March 15, 2018:

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

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 9 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.

About 11 biodiversity significance sites will gain additional protection and ecological-based natural resource management through establishment of or revisions to Natural Area Registry (NAR) agreements overseen by the SNA Program. This will allow the Division of Ecological and Water Resources (EWR) staff to negotiate and reach agreements on SNA-like protection to be added to lands owned and managed by other public entities, such as the DNR Division of Forestry and counties who might otherwise utilize traditional timber harvest practices. Through the NAR, the primary land administrator and EWR/SNA Program enter into a NAR memorandum of understanding to manage the site to SNA standards and in coordination with EWR/SNA staff. The status of NAR agreements is confirmed by the SNA Program every 1-2 years.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$2,440,800
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$2,440,800

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 ~8 SNA conservation easements	6/30/17
1d. SNA/rare resource protection strategic prioritization – Phase 4	6/30/17
1e. 11 Natural Area Registry agreements on biodiversity significant sites	6/30/17

Note: budget for this Activity includes \$29,700 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 15, 2015:

Activity Status as of March 15, 2016:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2016:

Activity Status as of March 15, 2017:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2017:

Activity Status as of March 15, 2018:

Final Report Summary:

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 ~10 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 SCPP. 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: \$1,058,360
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$1,058,360

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 ~10 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

Note: total budget for this Activity includes \$94,988 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 15, 2015:

Activity Status as of March 15, 2016:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2016:

Activity Status as of March 15, 2017:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2017:

Activity Status as of March 15, 2018:

Final Report Summary:

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: \$500,840
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$500,840

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 \$42,140 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 15, 2015:

Activity Status as of March 15, 2016:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2016:

Activity Status as of March 15, 2017:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2017:

Activity Status as of March 15, 2018:

Final Report Summary:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

Dissemination will primarily be achieved through the SNA webpage on the DNR website: mndnr.gov/snass, 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 15, 2015:

Activity Status as of March 15, 2016:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2016:

Activity Status as of March 15, 2017:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2017:

Activity Status as of March 15, 2018:

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 1,019,000	Coordinators & planner (1.7 FTE for 2 yrs); spec's, tech's & naturalists (4.4 FTE for 2 yrs); laborers & seasonal field crews (1.5 FTE for 2 yrs)
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$ 332,800	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	\$ 35,000	IT Services (Mn.IT service agreements) spatial database & SNA website/interactive media development & support
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 85,972	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	~350 acres in 2-6 parcels to be designated as SNA & owned in fee by DNR
Professional Services for Fee Title and Easement Acquisition:	\$ 80,000	Includes real estate transaction costs & LAM billings; appraisal & review; property survey; attorney general; closing costs; recording fees & deed tax; etc. <\$20K/parcel
Printing:	\$ 13,900	State Register publication (required to

		designate acquired parcels); printing of interpretive sign panels; maps, educational & volunteer materials.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 126,440	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:	\$ 166,828	Direct & Necessary Services for the appropriation
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 4,000,000	

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 program management (\$80,119) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.

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

Number of Full-time Equivalents (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

Number of Full-time Equivalents (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
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 invasives 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, and March 15, 2018. A final report and associated products will be submitted before September 15, 2018 (as necessary for state FY closeout data to be available and summarized).



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 3 Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Protection of Sites of Biodiversity Significance			Native Habitat Restoration, Enhancement & Improvements			Public Engagement in Natural Areas				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$177,060	\$0	\$177,060	\$535,200	\$0	\$535,200	\$306,800	\$0	\$306,800	\$1,019,060	\$1,019,060
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											
Professional/Technical Contracts											
Act. 2f. ~4 mgmt. plans (~\$20K) - contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
Act. 2g. adaptive mgmt. monitoring at ~5 SNAs (~\$23K)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,000	\$0	\$23,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,000	\$23,000
Act. 3a. photography, videography etc & participant evaluation (~\$30K) - contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Act. 3b. SNA events & site steward training through ~2 contractors (~\$9K) - contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,000	\$0	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
Act. 3. Conservation Corps Mn (CCM) outreach assistant (2 yrs at ~\$70K)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$137,000	\$0	\$137,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$137,000	\$137,000
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,800	\$0	\$9,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,800	\$9,800
2d. site development (fences, signs, etc) (~\$14K) - priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14,000	\$0	\$14,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14,000	\$14,000
Contract: IT Services (Mn.IT service agreements) spatial database & SNA website/interactive media development & support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$74,172	\$0	\$74,172	\$11,800	\$0	\$11,800	\$85,972	\$85,972
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, envelopes, etc) (~\$11.8K).											
Fee Title Acquisition	\$2,140,000	\$0	\$2,140,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,140,000	\$2,140,000
~350 acres in 2-6 parcels to be designated as SNA & owned in fee by DNR											
Professional Services for Fee Title and Easement Acquisition	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$80,000	\$80,000
Includes real estate transaction costs & LAM billings; appraisal & review; property survey; attorney general; closing costs; recording fees & deed tax; etc. <\$20K/parcel											
Printing	\$1,400	\$0	\$1,400	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$0	\$7,500	\$13,900	\$13,900
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	\$12,640	\$0	\$12,640	\$95,200	\$0	\$95,200	\$18,600	\$0	\$18,600	\$126,440	\$126,440
Fleet charges for trucks, cars, & equipment (e.g. mowers, seeders), mileage, lodging & meals as per state contracts											
Other	\$29,700	\$0	\$29,700	\$94,988	\$0	\$94,988	\$42,140	\$0	\$42,140	\$166,828	\$166,828
DNR's direct and necessary costs (\$166,828 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 program management (\$80,119) that are necessary to accomplish the proposed programs/projects.											
COLUMN TOTAL	\$2,440,800	\$0	\$2,440,800	\$1,058,360	\$0	\$1,058,360	\$500,840	\$0	\$500,840	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000

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

Project Title: SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Enhancement & Public Engagement

Legal Citation:

Project Manager: Margaret (Peggy) Booth

Organization: MnDNR

M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 4,000,000

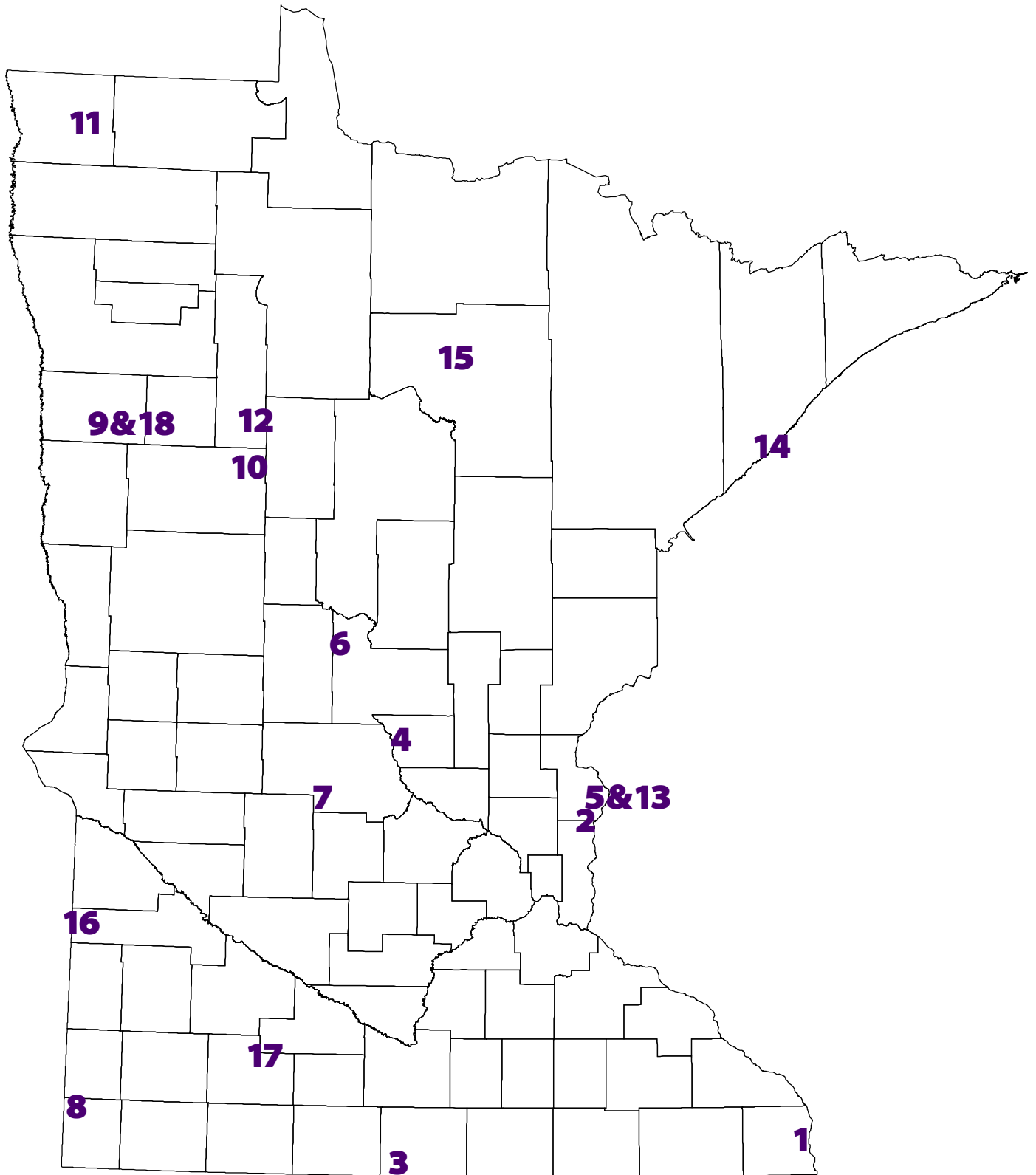
Project Length and Completion Date: 2 Years, June 30, 2018

Date of Report: May 13, 2015

#	Acquisition or Restoration	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT	County	Site Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or	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 hibernaculum in MN. Southern Dry-mesic Oak-Hickory Woodland and Southern Mesic Oak-Basswood Forest.	fee title acquisition	206	0	private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	
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	50		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	
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	
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	
5	Franconia Bluffs	45° 22' 4.9"	92° 41' 53.6"	\$ 480,000	\$ 3,600	Chisago	forested bluff along St. Croix River	fee title acquisition	80		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	
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 bog bluegrass habitat	fee title acquisition	93	0.6	private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	
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	
8	Rose Dell Prairie	45° 25' 12.7"	96° 21' 15.5"	\$ 400,000	\$ 3,000	Pipestone	MBS-mapped prairie with rare features	fee title acquisition	80		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	
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 Syre Prairie Core Area to be an addition to an existing SNA.	fee title acquisition	250		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	
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	242		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	
11	Lake Bronson SNA	48° 43' 28.6"	96° 35' 54.5"	\$ 24,000	\$ 205	Kittson	wet-mesic brush prairie	fee title acquisition	40		private ind/trust	DNR-SNA	
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	
11	Franconia Bluffs SNA	45° 22' 4.9"	92° 41' 53.6"	43=J26*18500		Chisago	St Croix River bluff	restore prairie	20		public	DNR-SNA	
12	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	
13	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	
14	Mound Springs Prairie SNA	44° 45' 54.8"	96° 27' 3.8"	\$ 15,000		Yellow Medicine	restore mesic prairie comparable to adjoining MBS mapped prairie	restore mesic prairie	10		public	DNR-SNA	
15	Rock Ridge SNA	44° 5' 49.5"	95° 4' 14.5"	\$ 27,000		Cottonwood	restore mesic prairie comparable to adjoining MBS mapped prairie	restore mesic prairie	18		public	DNR-SNA	
16	Sandpiper Prairie SNA	47° 14' 32.2"	96° 24' 16.3"	\$ 40,000		Norman	wet-mesic prairie	restore prairie	40		public	DNR-SNA	

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

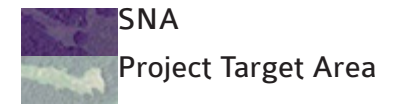
ML15 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects



0 40 80 120 160 200 Miles

north ↑

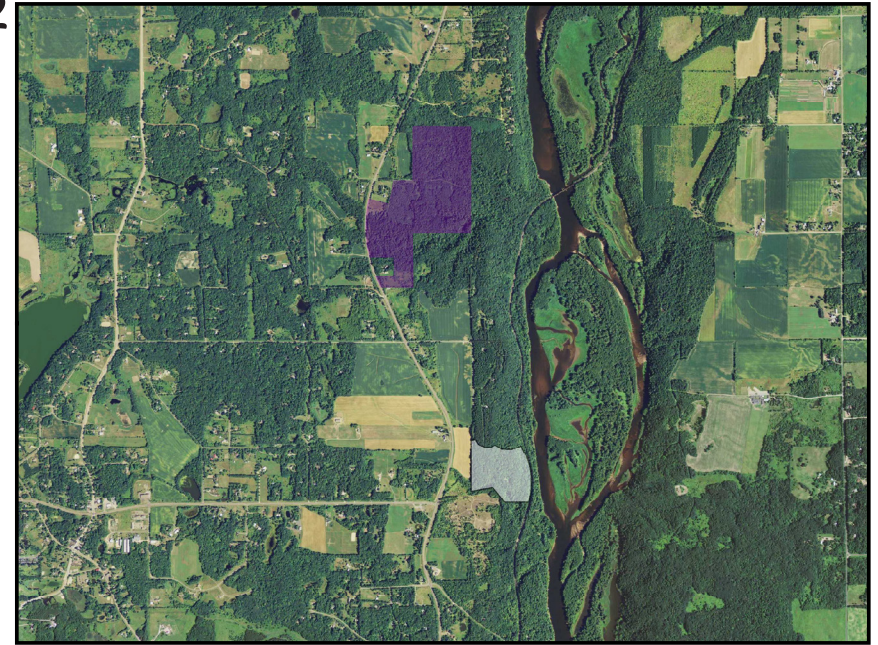
ML15 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects



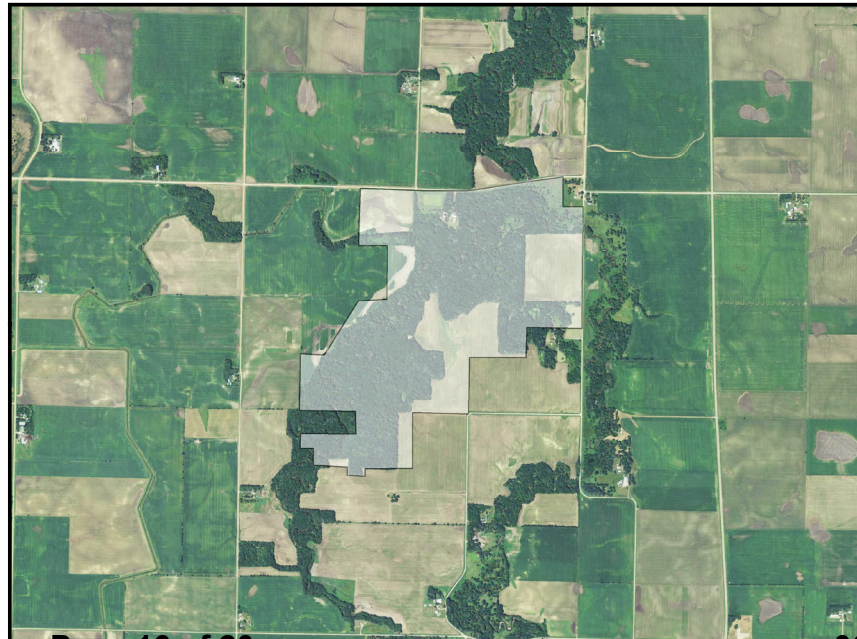
1 **Brownsville Bluffs Acquisition Project**



2 **Crystal Springs Acquisition Project**



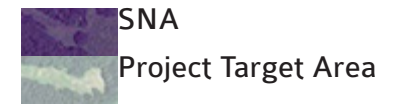
3 **Drake Woods Acquisition Project**



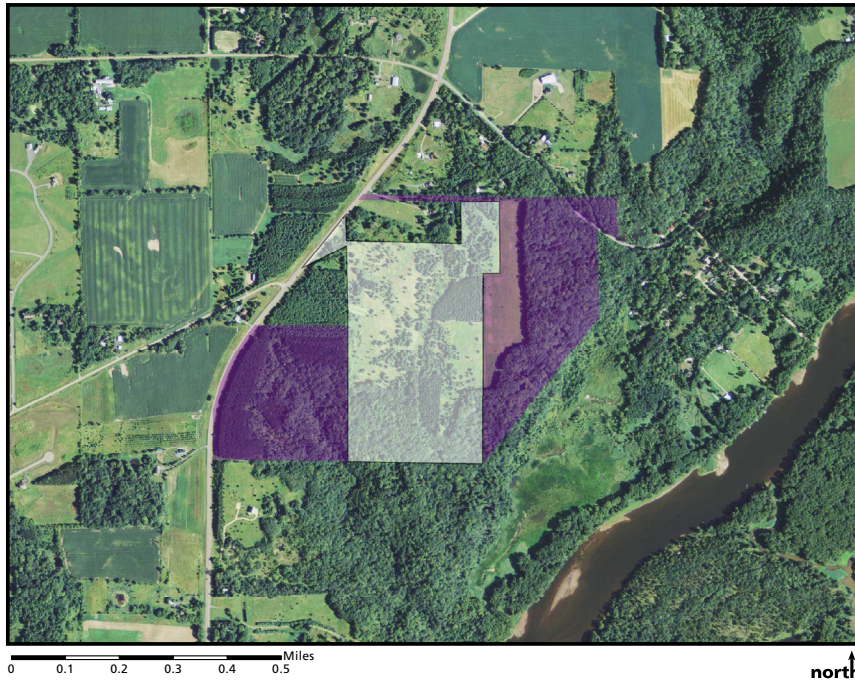
4 **Englund Ecotone Acquisition Project**



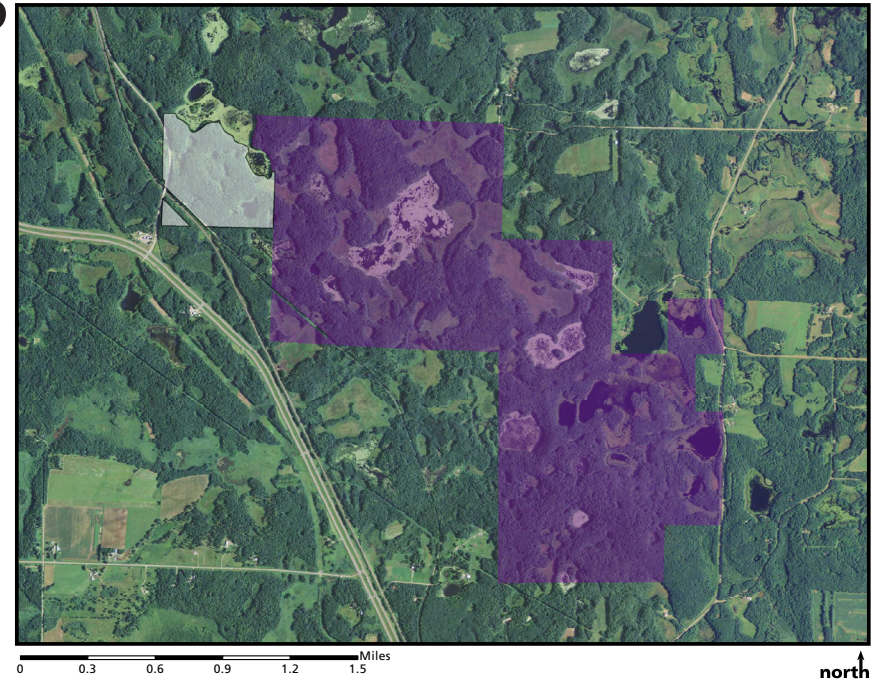
ML15 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects



5 **Franconia Bluffs Acquisition Project**



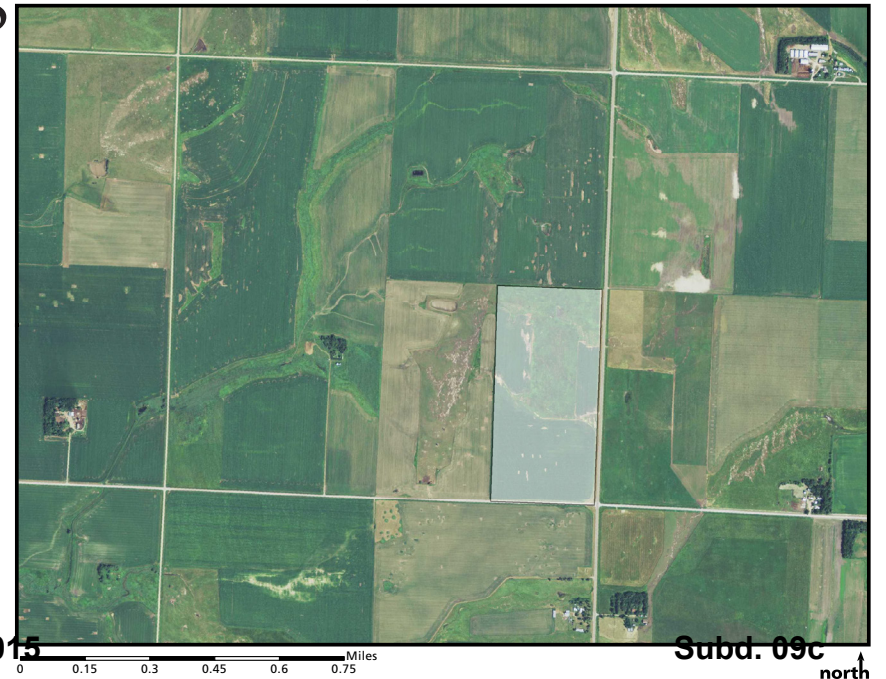
6 **Lake Alexander Woods Acquisition Project**



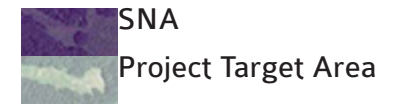
7 **Roscoe Prairie Acquisition Project**



8 **Rose Dell Acquisition Project**



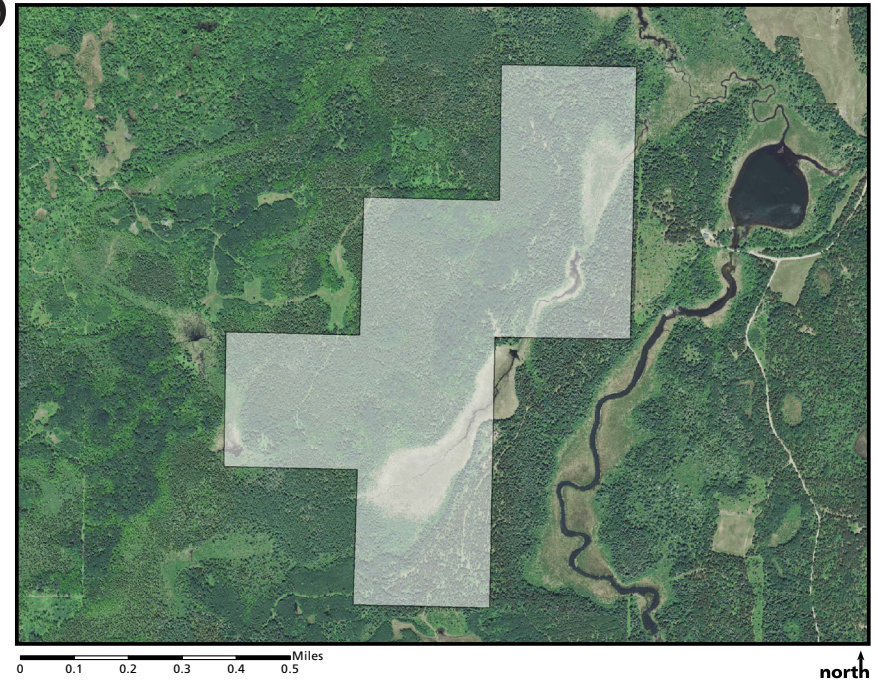
ML15 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects



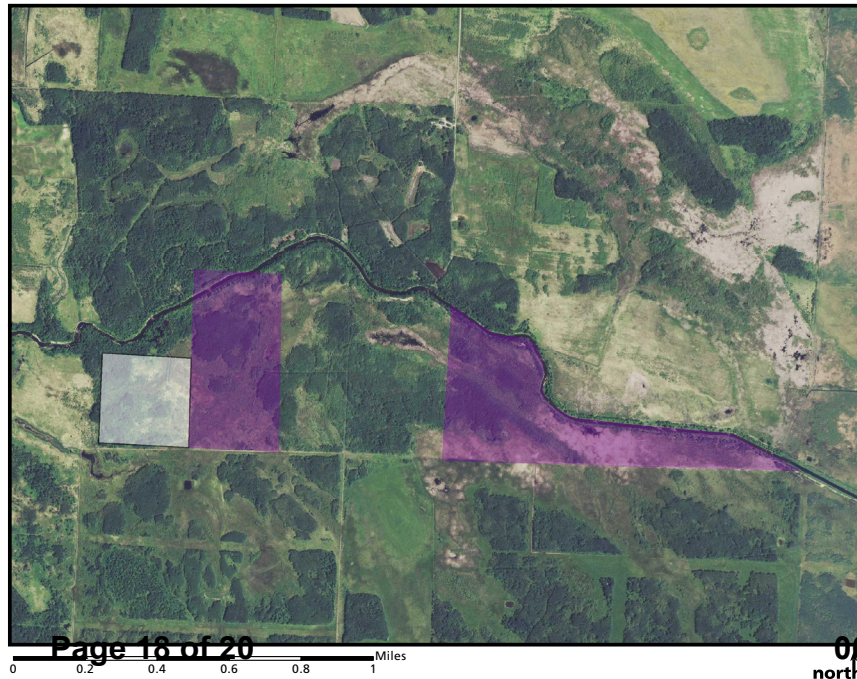
9 Sandpiper Prairie Acquisition Project



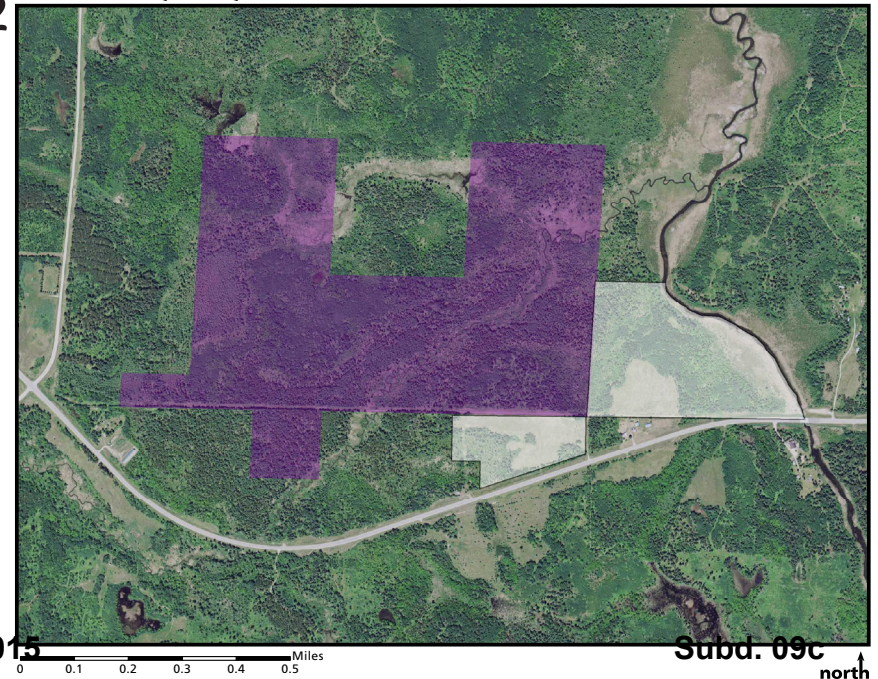
10 Dinner Creek Acquisition Project



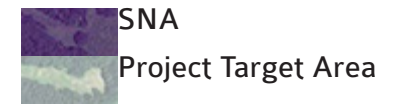
11 Lake Bronson Parkland Acquisition Project



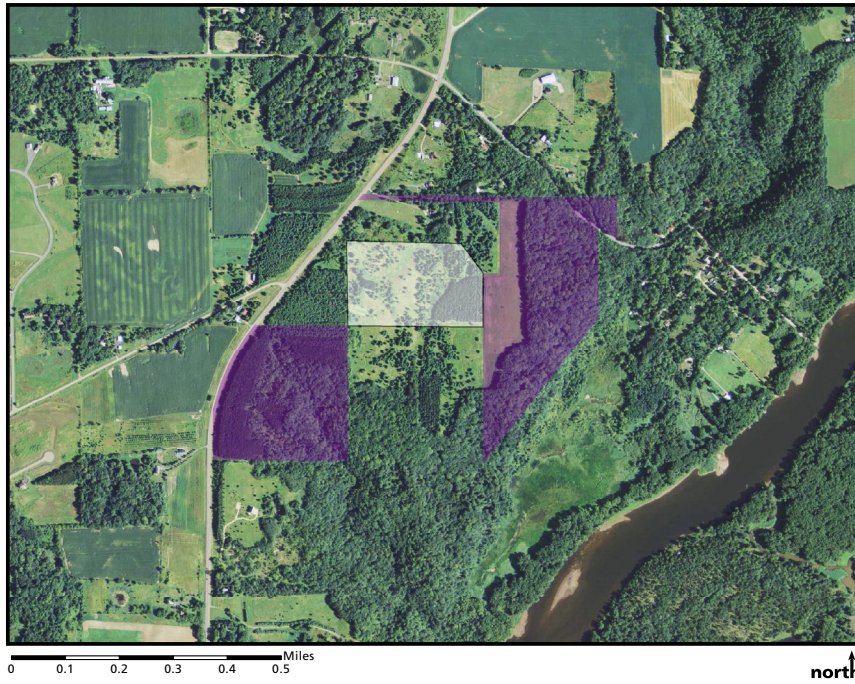
12 Iron Springs Bog Acquisition Project



ML15 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects



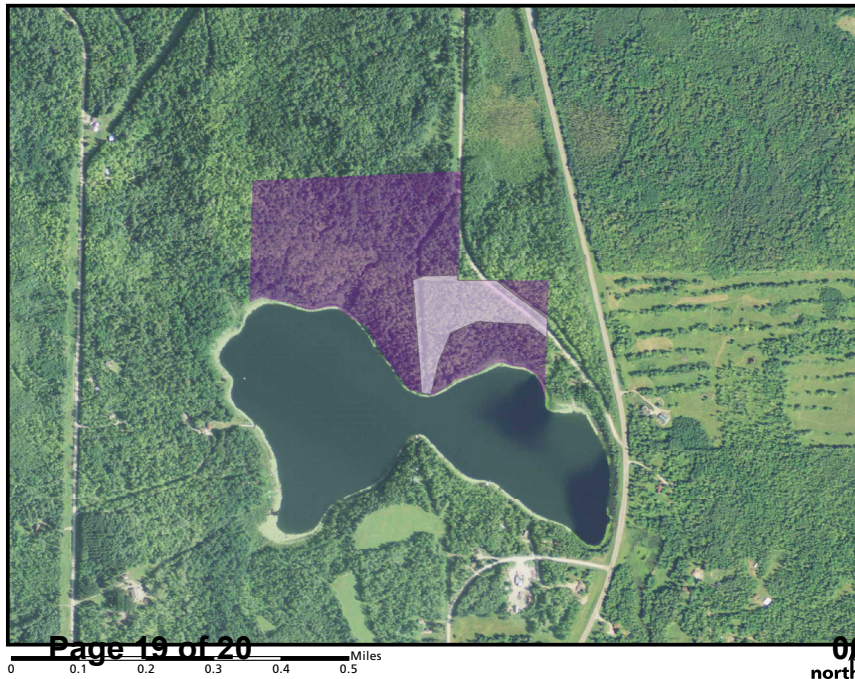
13 **Franconia Bluffs Prairie Restoration Project**



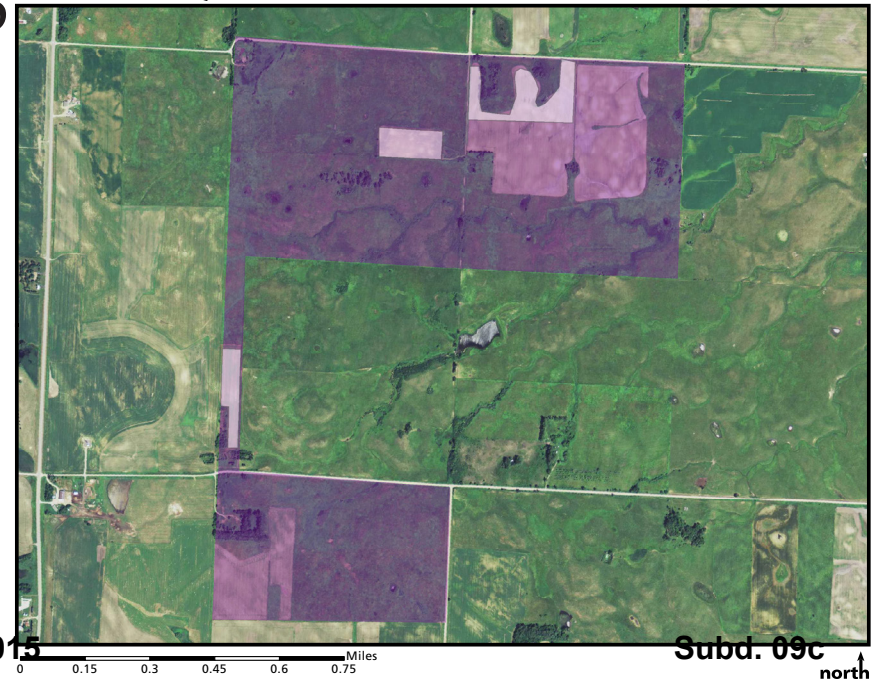
14 **Iona's Beach SNA Vegetation Restoration Project**



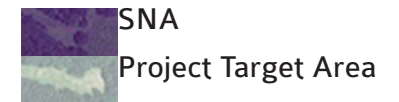
15 **Little Too Much Lake SNA Forest Restoration Project**



16 **Mound Springs Prairie SNA Prairie Restoration Project**



ML15 SNA Acquisition and Restoration Projects



17 **Rock Ridge Prairie SNA Prairie Restoration Project**



0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles

north ↑

18 **Sandpiper Prairie SNA Prairie Restoration Project**



0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 Miles

north ↑