

ML2018 ENRTF Project Abstract
For the Period Ending June 30, 2023

PROJECT TITLE: SNA Habitat Restoration, Public Engagement, and Strategic Acquisition

PROJECT MANAGER: Judy Schulte

AFFILIATION: MN DNR- Scientific and Natural Areas Program

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09l as extended by M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 18

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$3,250,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$2,469,784

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$780,216

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Volunteers and contractors with Minnesota DNR completed enhancement activities on over 1,300 acres on 73 Minnesota SNAs. The new 215-acre Little Mantrap Lake SNA, with over a mile of undeveloped shoreline, 14 native plant communities and a known population of an extremely rare orchid was protected for all to benefit.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) are public lands representing the state's best hope for protecting rare features and averting biodiversity loss. This appropriation strengthened the "science" in SNA through monitoring-based habitat enhancement, citizen-science action and outreach, and strategic acquisition to protect high-quality natural lands. Over 1,325 acres across 73 SNAs had restoration activities take place, were treated for terrestrial and woody invasive species, received much-needed prescribed disturbance (e.g., prescribed fire, haying, and grazing), or received other site improvement work to maintain the overall quality of natural habitats for the rare and unique species which call these lands home. Such habitat work was guided by monitoring and site-assessment efforts taken on by staff and volunteers: at least 112 SNA stewardship or interpretive events were held with participant volunteers donating thousands of hours to the educational, citizen-science, and stewardship aims of the SNA Program, led in part by the network of long-term volunteer Site Stewards serving at almost all SNAs. Online users observed upgrades to SNA's webpage, enhanced SNA social media presence and content which dramatically ramped up followers, subscribers, and forum membership numbers since this funding began, extending the reach and audience of the SNA Program on a variety of platforms to enhance public support for conservation. On June 23, 2023, through this appropriation, the 215-acre Little Man Trap Lake SNA acquisition project in Becker County closed. With more than a mile of undeveloped shoreline on Little Man Trap Lake, this parcel has 14 different documented native plant communities and has a known population of a state endangered orchid that is extremely rare to find in North America. Through this appropriation's support for programmatic acquisition work, four other SNA acquisition projects were recruited and developed, these have now proceeded on alternative funding.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The [SNA website](#) and [events calendar](#) were updated frequently. The [SNA Facebook channel](#) achieved 8,453 followers. The [SNA Flickr social media channel](#), used to encourage high quality photo sharing, had 105 members and over 1,195 photos. The SNA Program began contributing content to Instagram, with posts twice per month to [DNR's agency-wide Instagram channel](#). Through this appropriation, eight Issues ([Fall 2019](#), [Winter 2019](#), [Spring 2020](#), [Summer 2020](#), [Fall 2020](#), [Winter 2020](#), [Spring 2021](#), [Summer 2021](#)) of the Nature Notes e-

newsletter were delivered to about 10,000 subscribers each time. Acknowledgement of the ENRTF was included in all project communications per LCCMR's guidelines.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2018 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: August 15, 2023

Date of Next Status Update Report: Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 5, 2018

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2023

PROJECT TITLE: SNA Habitat Restoration, Public Engagement, and Strategic Acquisition

Project Manager: Judy Schulte

Organization: MN DNR- Scientific and Natural Areas Program

College/Department/Division: Division of Ecological & Water Resources

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Location: Statewide

Total Project Budget: \$3,250,000

Amount Spent: \$2,469,784

Balance: \$780,216

Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09I as extended by M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 18

Appropriation Language: \$3,250,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the scientific and natural areas program. Of this amount, \$1,500,000 is for habitat restoration activities, \$500,000 is for scientific and natural areas public engagement and outreach, and \$1,250,000 is to acquire strategic high-quality lands that meet criteria for scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, from willing sellers. A list of proposed acquisitions and restorations is required in the work plan. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 18. ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND; EXTENSIONS. [to June 30, 2022]

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The unique and vital role of state Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) will be increased through wildlife habitat restoration and improvements, increased public involvement, and strategic acquisition. About 865 acres of native habitat restoration, enhancement, and site improvement activities will be targeted at SNAs threatened by human impacts, invasive species, and lack of natural disturbance regimes and to provide nature-based recreation. In cooperation with Conservation Corp of Minnesota, outreach and citizen science actions will result in public participation at 81 SNA events and a network of volunteer site stewards at 140 SNAs. About 170 acres will be acquired and designated as SNAs in order to strategically protect at risk native plant communities and wildlife habitat of state significance identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) and the updated SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

February 21, 2019 Amendment Request: Request to add 3 fee title acquisition projects to the parcel list. The first is an addition to Grey Cloud Dunes SNA in Washington County, the second is an addition to Falls Creek SNA in Washington County and the third is Rum Oxbow a potential new SNA in Anoka County. **Amendment approved by LCCMR 3-13-2019.**

First Update February 21, 2019: Restoration and burn planning are underway with work to begin in the next few months. Woody removal has been completed on 36 acres at 1 SNA. Landowner discussions have started to take place on the 3 fee title acquisition projects indicated in the February 21, 2019 amendment request in addition to pro-active landowner contacts in several other priority areas. Please see parcel list for more detail on added parcels.

November 1, 2019 Amendment Request: Request to change Project Manager from Ann Pierce to Molly Roske, SNA Program Supervisor (molly.roske@state.mn.us, 651-259-5094). **Amendment Approved by LCCMR 11/6/19.**

Second Update November 1, 2019: Restoration planning is underway with work to begin in coming months. Woody removal has been completed on 36 acres at 1 SNA, site development has occurred at 1 SNA, and fire break installation is currently underway for 2020 prescribed burns. Outreach activities, which began on this appropriation on June 30, 2019, included the Fall 2019 issue of SNA's Nature Notes newsletter delivered to 7,050 subscribers, continuous increases in the number of followers of the SNA Facebook channel and users reached by posts and Flickr photos shared. Through September 2019, 61 stewardship/interpretive events were held involving 876 people, and 129 SNAs have one or more volunteer site stewards. Acquisition efforts have advanced two proposed fee-title acquisitions into the appraisal and/or appraisal review stage, and landowner discussions continue in several other priority areas.

Third Update March 25, 2020: Restoration planning is underway with work to begin in coming months. Woody removal has been completed on 74 acres at 3 SNAs, site development has occurred at 4 SNAs, and firebreaks have been installed on 3 SNAs for a total distance of 3.2 miles. Unfortunately at this point in time we are not sure if prescribed fire will be able to take place this spring due to COVID-19 safety and health concerns. Prescribed haying, an alternative form of prescribed disturbance, has taken place on 12 acres at 2 SNAs. Outreach activities, which began on this appropriation on June 30, 2019, included the Fall 2019 issue of SNA's Nature Notes newsletter delivered to 7,050 subscribers and the Spring 2020 newsletter delivered to 7,380 subscribers, continuous increases in the number of followers of the SNA Facebook channel and users reached by posts and Flickr photos shared. Through this appropriation 80 stewardship/interpretive events have been held involving 3,086 people that donated 1,087 hours of volunteer service. As of February 2020, 132 SNAs (~78% of SNAs) have one or more volunteer stewards for a total of 173 stewards. One proposed fee-title acquisition has advanced to appraisal stage, one has been temporarily put on hold due to an ownership change and landowner discussions continue on the third parcel.

Amendment Request November 6, 2020: Request to add Little Mantrap Lake SNA to the fee-acquisition Project Parcel List. This site contains 14 different high-quality forest and wetland Native Plant Communities of high biodiversity significance, and is located in a Conservation Opportunity Area as identified in the SNA Program’s Strategic Land Protection Plan. This acquisition project would be cost-shared with the majority acreage (208 acres) funded with the ML2017 SNA appropriation and the remainder (16 acres) funded on this appropriation. Parcel map enclosed.

Request to adjust outcomes according to the following amounts:

Outcome	Completion Date
1a. ~50 acres of restoration of forest, prairie, & outcrop sites	6/30/20
1b. ~340 acres of woody removal & invasive species treatment	6/30/20
1c. ~200 acres of prescribed burns, <i>and other prescribed disturbance (e.g. haying)</i>	6/30/20
1d. ~8 SNA interpretive kiosks installed AND development work on ~ 30 sites	6/30/20
1e. ecological/technical guidance for ~5 partnership projects	6/30/20
1f. management plans completed for ~6 SNAs	6/30/20
1g. adaptive management & conservation easement monitoring on ~22 SNA sites	6/30/20

These changes reflect challenges the SNA Program currently faces in the areas of prescribed burning (1c.) and adaptive management plans (1f.), due to a combination of health/safety concerns and hiring/staffing constraints, while ensuring judicious use of the appropriation’s funds by compensating with increased commitments in other outcome areas. Namely, we propose to double the restoration acres (1a.), increase acres where invasive species are treated, and increase site development & improvement work (1d.) to support the added demands on SNA staff in response to the public’s intensified use of these lands during the 2020 season and likely beyond. **Amendment Approved by LCCMR 11/23/2020.**

Fourth Update November 6, 2020: Restoration activities have occurred on 39 acres of prairie and woodland systems at five SNAs, with site preparation underway at another. Invasives treatment has occurred over 100 acres at six SNAs (woody removal on ~98 acres at four SNAs, herbaceous treatment on 4 acres at three SNAs). Prescribed haying has occurred on about 77 acres at two SNAs, and site improvements have been carried out at eight SNAs. Health/safety, hiring, and staffing challenges are creating hurdles to achieving prescribed burn and adaptive management plan outcomes, and therefore the above amendment request is needed to balance forecasted shortcoming in the outcomes on in these categories with areas where the SNA Program has identified existing capacity to exceed on other outcomes.

Outreach activities included an innovative approach to safe socially-distanced, self-guided ways for the public to visit SNAs and assist with community science efforts: a series of two-week BioBlitz species identification events were held on 5 different SNAs over the course of summer 2020. This approach to outreach events allowed participants to visit these SNAs safely – alone or with members of their household – and make observations via photos that were automatically collected in an online database in the platform iNaturalist, wherein species ID was vetted by other users and, where necessary, by DNR botanical experts. Other forms of online presence and outreach continue to grow, such as the 39th (Fall 2020) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter delivered to 8,380 subscribers, and the achievement of 7,295 Facebook page likes and 7,469 followers, while the SNA Flickr social media channel continues to increase the number of members (93) sharing over 1,050 photos. As of October 2020, 134 (~80% of) SNAs have one or more volunteer stewards reporting observations and assisting with management tasks, with a total of 174 stewards. Acquisition work on the Grey Cloud Dunes SNA addition project has reinitiated with the new landowners and other potential partners in the acquisition, with an appraisal to be ordered in the near future. A new site with the proposed name of Little Mantrap Lake SNA is under development and if approved, will be included on this appropriation. Continued negotiations and site visits have occurred with the landowner of the proposed addition to Falls Creek SNA, and landowner outreach to other high-priority parcels for acquisition continues and may lead to additional projects on this appropriation.

Amendment Request April 30, 2021: Request to add a parcel to the approved list for fee-title acquisition, an addition to Wabu Woods SNA consisting of ~0.1 miles of shoreline on Deer Lake (a lake of outstanding

biodiversity significance), in addition to high-quality examples of the Native Plant Communities (NPCs) of: Lowland white cedar forest, Red oak-sugar maple-basswood forest, and low shrub poor fen. Parcel map enclosed. This parcel was added to the ML17 SNA appropriation, but due to ongoing negotiations, project reaching signed Option to Purchase (binding contract) in time to utilize ML17 funds is uncertain at this time. Inclusion as an approved acquisition on this ML18 appropriation, given its potential one-year extension being considered in the Minnesota legislature, would lend greater flexibility and allow potentially needed additional time for project success.

Request to move \$136,064 into Personnel (wages and benefits), from the following budget categories in the specified amounts:

- \$88,541 from Professional/Technical/Service Contracts
- \$30,000 from Fee Acquisition
- \$ 2,524 from IT Services
- \$15,000 from Travel expenses in Minnesota

These changes will be needed in preparation for the appropriation's potential extension for another Fiscal Year, as is currently being decided in the Minnesota Legislature. The extension was requested due to project setbacks related directly or indirectly to the current public-health challenges presented by the global pandemic. Certain aspects of the project's work are requiring more staff hours (salary) to get the same amount of project deliverables done (e.g. acres) as would be achievable under normal, non-pandemic circumstances: for example while prescribed fire was postponed statewide during the field-season of 2020, staff have been striving to compensate for acres of prescribed disturbance with other techniques, or with terrestrial invasives treatment instead, which have been more labor-intensive alternatives. Fee acquisition has likewise seen delays and setbacks at least partially attributable to market volatility and landowner uncertainty over the past year, though if all current acquisition projects close this appropriation will not need the full portion of dollars earmarked for landowner payments. See Budget spreadsheet for changes reflected per budget category. **Amendment approved 05/24/2021.**

Fifth Update April 30, 2021: Restoration activities have occurred on about 90 acres at 10 SNAs. Invasives treatment has occurred on about 190 acres at 18 SNAs. Prescribed disturbance has been performed on nearly 80 acres, with more prescribed haying planned for the coming field season as well as prescribed burns under strict pandemic-specific safety guidelines and protocols as approved by the DNR. About 11 miles of firebreak have been put in place in preparation for the prescribed burn season. Site improvements have occurred at 18 SNAs, including an interpretive sign network at one SNA and three interpretive kiosks at other SNAs. At least 5 partnership projects have been completed or are underway, and management plans have been completed or are underway for 3 SNAs. Adaptive management and/or conservation easement monitoring has occurred on 21 SNAs to date.

Outreach activities, which began on this appropriation in summer 2019, have included quarterly (plus occasional additional "special") issues of the SNA Program's *Nature Notes* e-newsletter, the most recent edition of which (41st, Spring 2021) reached nearly 9,030 subscribers; as well as continuous increases in the number of followers (8,234) and page likes (7,707) on the SNA Facebook page which has several posts of new content per week. The SNA Program is also growing its following on Instagram by contributing regularly to the DNR's unified Instagram channel, and continues to grow the number of members and photos shared to the SNA Flickr photo-sharing page. This appropriation has made possible about 80 in-person events to-date; though in-person events were suspended through almost all of calendar-year 2020 to observe public-health guidance and the need for social distancing, 5 self-guided Bioblitzes utilizing a cloud open-source platform (iNaturalist) were launched over the summer of 2020 as an individualized "event" option, with more Bioblitzes planned for the coming season. At present, 140 SNAs have at least one designated volunteer Site Steward, with a total of 173 Stewards active in the program.

Acquisition and protection activities on this appropriation have seen increased challenges in the past year, but two projects are nearing Option stage while another nears appraisal stage. Proactive landowner outreach efforts

are taking place in all regions of the state, and an updated gap analysis is complete which will help SNA program staff target high-priority Native Plant Communities (NPCs) per ecological subsection most urgently in need of protection.

Project extended to June 30, 2022 by LCCMR 6/30/21 as a result of M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 18, legislative extension criteria being met.

Sixth Update November 1, 2021: About 37 acres of restoration of prairie, forest, and outcrop systems have been completed at 3 SNA sites, with another 31 acres undergoing site preparation and a 90-acre harvested crop of prairie seed completed and ready for on-site restoration seeding. (Please note that greater acreages were reported in error previously as having already-completed restoration activities; this was due to an accounting error, since quality site restorations require multiple visits to accomplish many stages in the process). Nearly 570 acres have been treated for terrestrial invasive species on 49 SNAs, whether removal of encroaching woody vegetation or herbaceous invasives. Prescribed burns were able to resume on DNR lands in spring 2021, with 10 acres at one SNA accomplished to date; almost 12 miles of firebreak have been installed or maintained at 23 SNAs, with plans for prescribed burns at those sites in future burn seasons. Prescribed haying and mowing have increased as an alternative form of prescribed disturbance on SNA lands when and where burns have been difficult to achieve, with almost 300 acres having received one of these alternative treatments at 10 SNAs on this appropriation. Site development activities have occurred at 22 SNAs, with several sites receiving new or updated interpretive kiosks and signage, and management plans are complete, being written, or planned for completion on this appropriation for 6 SNAs. Monitoring visits ensured easement compliance and/or adaptive management plan outcomes at 21 SNAs to date.

Activity 2 funding supported the hosting of 112 SNA events on this appropriation, about 12 of which were self-guided bioblitzes. Many of the in-person, on-site events were hosted by our official volunteer Site Stewards, a community which is growing to 159 individuals volunteering their time as the designated local liaison reporting observation and assisting with land-management activities; 142 SNAs have at least one designated site steward at this time. In addition, this appropriation supported the creation and release of regular natural heritage content on the SNA Facebook page (several times per week), twice-monthly contributions of SNA content to the DNR Instagram channel, and quarterly publication of the SNA newsletter *Nature Notes* which surpassed the 10,000 recipients benchmark with the Fall 2021 edition!

Acquisition and protection activities on this appropriation have seen increased delays and challenges in the past year, but progress is being made: one project has a binding agreement in place while two others are or will be in the appraisal stage in the coming weeks. Proactive landowner outreach efforts are taking place in all regions of the state to bring targeted high-quality potential SNA sites into the program, and an updated gap analysis is now helping SNA program staff target those sites that are most urgently in need of protection.

Amendment Request November 1, 2021:

1. Request to add Rosedale Fen to the approved ML18 Parcel List, a 160-acre potential new SNA in Mahnomen County with numerous listed species, areas with native plant communities (NPCs) ranked as outstanding biodiversity significance by the Minnesota Biological Survey, and containing a significant calcareous fen. Parcel list has been updated and parcel map enclosed.
2. Request to shift \$30,000 in the Activity 1 budget from Personnel to Travel Expenses in MN. Due in part to the lengthy hiring freeze that was only lifted mid-summer 2021, the effects of which are still being felt in the hiring delays experienced within the agency to date, fewer staff are covering increased land-management activities. For example, delays and setbacks on prescribed burning led to shifting acres-outcomes to treating terrestrial invasive species, requiring more trips and vehicles per acre accomplished. Also, with the one-year extension staff are looking ahead planning for the fall 2021 and spring 2022 burn seasons, and this budget shift will enable us to have the necessary funds at the ready to support those burns when and if they can proceed with proper conditions.

3. Request to update the Completion Dates in the Activity Outcomes tables to reflect the one-year extension of project timeline.
4. Request to edit the project manager's phone number in this Work Plan's Project attributes section, a mistake not fully corrected by the Nov. 2019 amendment request (though listed correctly in that Amendment request itself): number should be 651-259-5094.

Amendments approved by LCCMR 11/8/21

Seventh Update April 1, 2022: About 47 acres of restoration of prairie and forest systems have been completed at 3 SNA sites, with another ~20 acres undergoing site preparation and a 90-acre harvested crop of prairie seed completed and ready for on-site restoration seeding. Over 630 acres have been treated for terrestrial invasive species on 549 SNAs, whether removal of encroaching woody vegetation or herbaceous invasives. Prescribed fire was able to resume on DNR lands in spring 2021, with 10 acres at one SNA accomplished to date; almost 12 miles of firebreak have been put in place in preparation for prescribed burns at those sites in future burn seasons. Prescribed haying, mowing, and grazing have increased as an alternative form of prescribed disturbance on SNA lands when and where burns have been difficult to achieve, with over 625 acres having received one of these alternative treatments at 11 SNAs on this appropriation. Site development activities have occurred at 23 SNAs, with several sites receiving new or updated interpretive kiosks and signage. Management plans have been completed or are being written on this appropriation for 6 SNAs. Monitoring visits ensured easement compliance and/or adaptive management plan outcomes at 21 SNAs to date.

Activity 2 funding supported the hosting of 112 SNA events on this appropriation, about 12 of which were self-guided bioblitzes. Many of the in-person, on-site events were hosted by our official volunteer Site Stewards, a community which on this appropriation grew to 159 individuals volunteering their time as the designated local liaison reporting observation and assisting with land-management activities; 142 SNAs have at least one official Site Steward at this time. In addition, this appropriation supported the consistent creation and release of natural heritage content on the SNA Facebook page (several times per week), twice-monthly contributions of SNA content to the DNR Instagram channel, and quarterly publication of the SNA newsletter *Nature Notes* which surpassed the 10,000 recipients benchmark with the Fall 2021 edition!

Acquisition and protection activities on this appropriation have seen increased delays and challenges in the past year, but progress is being made with two acquisition projects which are or will be in the appraisal stage in the coming weeks. Proactive landowner outreach efforts are taking place in all regions of the state to bring targeted high-quality potential SNA sites into the program, and an updated gap analysis is now helping SNA program staff target those sites that are most urgently in need of protection.

Amendment Request April 1, 2022: Request to add the following restoration projects to the Parcel list:

- Butterwort Cliffs SNA: 15-acre project is in Aspen-birch forest adjacent to Lake Superior shoreline with listed species. Project will return long-lived conifers to the forest, provide scarification for birch regeneration, reduce brush, and will be visible to travelers along Hwy 61.
- La Salle Lake SNA: this 5-acre project aims to enable successful Jack pine regeneration in the wake of a blow-down event, in this fire-dependent forest/woodland system. Project involved protection of Jack pine seedlings outside of deer enclosure from deer browse.

Amendment Approved by LCCMR 4/12/2022.

Eighth Update May 27, 2022: About 47 acres of restoration of prairie and forest systems have been completed at 3 SNA sites, with another ~20 acres undergoing site preparation and a 90-acre harvested crop of prairie seed completed and ready for on-site restoration seeding. Over 630 acres have been treated for terrestrial invasive species on 51 SNA sites, whether removal of encroaching woody vegetation or herbaceous invasives (note: a typo in the prior status update reported that this work had been completed on 549 SNAs, but actually there are only a total of soon-to-be 171 SNAs! Our mistake). Prescribed fire was able to resume on DNR lands in spring 2021, with 10 acres at one SNA accomplished; almost 12 miles of firebreak have also been put in place in

preparation for prescribed burns at those sites in future burn seasons. Prescribed haying, mowing, and grazing have increased as an alternative form of prescribed disturbance on SNA lands when and where burns have been difficult to achieve, with over 625 acres having received one of these alternative treatments at 11 SNAs on this appropriation. Site development activities have occurred thus far at 23 SNAs, with several sites receiving new or updated interpretive kiosks and signage. (Some additional initial site development work is anticipated on newly-acquired sites in the requested 1-yr extension for remaining acquisition work.) Management plans have been completed or are being written on this appropriation for 6 SNAs. Monitoring visits ensured easement compliance and/or adaptive management plan outcomes at 21 SNAs to date.

Activity 2 funding supported the hosting of 112 SNA events on this appropriation, about 12 of which were self-guided bioblitzes. Many of the in-person, on-site events were hosted by our official volunteer Site Stewards, a community which on this appropriation grew to 159 individuals volunteering their time as the designated local liaison reporting observation and assisting with land-management activities; 142 SNAs have at least one official Site Steward at this time. In addition, this appropriation supported the consistent creation and release of natural heritage content on the SNA Facebook page (several times per week), twice-monthly contributions of SNA content to the DNR Instagram channel, and quarterly publication of the SNA newsletter *Nature Notes* which surpassed the 10,000 recipients benchmark with the Fall 2021 edition!

Acquisition of sites with statewide biodiversity significance will proceed with at least one project having reached a binding contract on this appropriation (Little Mantrap Lake) before June 30, 2022. A 1-year extension is therefore requested for acquisition- and initial site development-related costs only, to close on active acquisition projects and to bring acquired sites up to SNA standards for visitors (see Amendment Request May 27, below).

Amendment Request May 27, 2022: Request to extend appropriation 1 year to close on acquisitions that will option (binding agreement) prior to June 30, 2022, including the costs associated with initial site development. DNR uses internal tracking measures to ensure only acquisition-related expenses will be billed to this appropriation during the “acquisition-only” extension. Please find enclosed the signed Option to Purchase extension document for the addition to Little Mantrap Lake SNA, which is one of the parcels anticipated to close after June 30, 2022. Please see the parcel list and May 27, 2022 status update for more details on acquisition status.

Request to move \$600 in Activity 1 budget from Professional/Technical/Service Contracts to Equipment/Tools/Supplies, so as to ensure efficient spending on anticipated initial site development work within the 1-yr requested extension. This will primarily be used to purchase supplies such as entry and/or boundary signs and signposts for installation on new SNA sites.

Amendment Approved by LCCMR 6/13/2022.

Ninth Update November 1, 2022: A total of 47 acres of restoration activities were completed on 3 SNAs. This included a 27-acre reconstruction at Blanket Flower SNA (further interseeding to be completed with ML20), caging of 5 acres of jack pine in order to protect and rehabilitate the Jack Pine Woodland, and 15 acres of seedlings planted at Butterwort Cliff SNA to rehabilitate aspen-birch forest adjacent to Lake Superior shoreline. Woody invasive species removal occurred on 423 acres (27 SNAs) and herbaceous invasives were treated on 221 acres (28 SNAs) for a total of 644 acres treated. Prescribed disturbance was completed on 637 acres at 12 SNAs (10 acres of prescribed burning at 1 SNA, 266 acres of prescribed grazing at 1 SNA, 361 acres of prescribed haying/mowing at 12 SNAs). Site development improvements have occurred on 27 SNAs, including a network of 16 interpretive signs at 1 SNA, and an interpretive kiosk each for another 3 SNAs, for a total of 19 signs at 4 SNAs. SNA staff coordinated ecological and technical guidance for 5 partner projects. Management plans were completed for 5 SNAs. Adaptive management monitoring was completed on 33 SNAs and conservation easement monitoring was completed on 2 SNAs.

From June 30, 2019, through June 30, 2021 this appropriation was used to update the SNA website regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. Eight Issues of the Nature

Notes e-newsletter were delivered to ~10,000 subscribers each time. The SNA Facebook channel achieved 7,812 page likes and 8,453 followers by end of June 2021, with a highest monthly reach in February 2021 of 72,406. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, had 105 members and over 1,195 photos by the end of June 2021. The SNA Program also began contributing content to Instagram, with posts twice per month to the DNR's agency-wide Instagram channel. Additionally, 112 stewardship and interpretive events were held on SNAs and a network of 159 official volunteer Site Stewards at 142 SNAs (which is ~84% of all designated SNAs) was maintained. Contracts with Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa (CCMI) facilitated much of the SNA social media and volunteers/site stewards' work.

A new appraisal for the 224-acre Little Mantrap Lake acquisition in Becker County was conducted due to a delay in acquisition tied to obtaining legal access (last appraisal 2019) and will be offered to the landowner soon. If accepted, the option (currently valid until October 2022) for this parcel will be updated and resigned to include the new appraised value. Proactive landowner outreach efforts took place in all regions of the state to bring targeted high-quality potential SNA sites into the program, and an updated gap analysis is now helping SNA program staff target those sites that are most urgently in need of protection.

Amendment Request November 1, 2022: Request to change project manager from Molly Roske to Judy Schulte. Molly has taken a different position and Judy will be acting as project manager. Request to lower the Blanket Flower Prairie SNA restoration acres from 36 acres to 27 acres to better reflect the acres restored through this appropriation. Also request to move \$20,000 from Fee Title Acquisition to Professional Services for Acquisition to cover the final expenses needed to close on the Little Mantrap Lake acquisition.

Amendment approved by LCCMR 12/28/2022

Tenth Update April 1, 2023: A total of 47 acres of restoration activities were completed on 3 SNAs. This included a 27-acre reconstruction at Blanket Flower SNA (further interseeding to be completed with ML20), caging of 5 acres of jack pine in order to protect and rehabilitate the Jack Pine Woodland, and 15 acres of seedlings planted at Butterwort Cliff SNA to rehabilitate aspen-birch forest adjacent to Lake Superior shoreline. Woody invasive species removal occurred on 423 acres (27 SNAs) and herbaceous invasives were treated on 221 acres (28 SNAs) for a total of 644 acres treated. Prescribed disturbance was completed on 637 acres at 12 SNAs (10 acres of prescribed burning at 1 SNA, 266 acres of prescribed grazing at 1 SNA, 361 acres of prescribed haying/mowing at 12 SNAs). Site development improvements have occurred on 27 SNAs, including a network of 16 interpretive signs at 1 SNA, and an interpretive kiosk each for another 3 SNAs, for a total of 19 signs at 4 SNAs. SNA staff coordinated ecological and technical guidance for 5 partner projects. Management plans were completed for 5 SNAs. Adaptive management monitoring was completed on 33 SNAs and conservation easement monitoring was completed on 2 SNAs.

From June 30, 2019, through June 30, 2021 this appropriation was used to update the SNA website regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. Eight Issues of the Nature Notes e-newsletter were delivered to ~10,000 subscribers each time. The SNA Facebook channel achieved 7,812 page likes and 8,453 followers by end of June 2021, with a highest monthly reach in February 2021 of 72,406. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, had 105 members and over 1,195 photos by the end of June 2021. The SNA Program also began contributing content to Instagram, with posts twice per month to the DNR's agency-wide Instagram channel. Additionally, 112 stewardship and interpretive events were held on SNAs and a network of 159 official volunteer Site Stewards at 142 SNAs (which is ~84% of all designated SNAs) was maintained. Contracts with Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa (CCMI) facilitated much of the SNA social media and volunteers/site stewards' work.

A new appraisal for the 224-acre Little Mantrap Lake acquisition in Becker County was conducted due to a delay in acquisition tied to obtaining legal access (last appraisal 2019). The Hubbard County Board has approved the legal access easement and DNR staff have prepared the election to purchase. At this time we see no concerns

with closing prior to 6/30/2023. Proactive landowner outreach efforts took place in all regions of the state to bring targeted high-quality potential SNA sites into the program, and an updated gap analysis is now helping SNA program staff target those sites that are most urgently in need of protection.

Final Update August 15, 2023: Minnesota’s Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) are public lands representing the state’s best hope for protecting rare features and averting biodiversity loss. This appropriation strengthened the “science” in SNA through monitoring-based habitat enhancement, citizen-science action and outreach, and strategic acquisition to protect high-quality natural lands. Over 1,325 acres across 73 SNAs had restoration activities take place, were treated for terrestrial and woody invasive species, received much-needed prescribed disturbance (e.g. prescribed fire, haying, grazing), or received other site improvement work, to maintain the overall quality of natural habitats for the rare and unique species who call these lands home. Such habitat work was guided by monitoring and site-assessment efforts taken on by staff as well as by volunteers: at least 112 SNA stewardship or interpretive events were held with participant volunteers donating thousands of hours to the educational, citizen-science, and stewardship aims of the SNA Program, led in part by the network of long-term volunteer Site Stewards serving at almost all SNAs. Online users observed upgrades to SNA’s webpage, enhanced SNA social media presence and content which dramatically ramped up followers, subscribers, and forum membership numbers since this funding began, extending the reach and audience of the SNA Program on a variety of platforms to enhance public support for conservation. On June 23, 2023, through this appropriation, the 215-acre Little Man Trap Lake SNA acquisition project in Becker County closed. With more than a mile of undeveloped shoreline on Little Man Trap Lake, this parcel has 14 different documented native plant communities and has a known population of a state endangered orchid that is extremely rare to find in North America. Through this appropriation’s support for programmatic acquisition work, around 4 other SNA acquisition projects were recruited and developed, these have now proceeded on alternative funding.

Amendment Request October 19, 2023: Request to move \$3,052 from personnel in Activity 1 to professional services for acquisition in Activity 1. Since state fiscal close happened after the final report was due and some June invoices were paid after the final report submission on August 15, staff updated the budget after fiscal close and discovered the need for additional dollars in professional services.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Native Habitat Restoration, Enhancements and Improvements on 865 acres

Description: Native habitat restoration and site improvements activities will be completed on about 865 acres at about 40 SNAs as guided by ecological data and monitoring. Restoration and improvement activities will be carried out by DNR staff- SNA crews, Conservation Corps of Minnesota, Sentence to Service, volunteers, and/or contractors. Activities include seed collection, site preparation, planting and aftercare, invasive species control, woody encroachment removal, site clean-up, signing, interpretive kiosks, fencing, prescribed burns (or alternative prescribed disturbance for ecological purposes, such prescribed haying, mowing or grazing, necessary where use of fire is limited), management plan preparation, monitoring, and coordination-oversight of projects implemented by partners. Restoration uses seeds of a local ecotype, collected from onsite or within 25 miles. Restoration and enhancement of degraded and rare land features helps implement the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan. This activity includes work to bring acquired parcels up to the DNR’s minimum standards and includes restoration and improvements of acquired sites if ecologically advisable and feasible within the appropriation period.

Management plans will be completed for about 8 SNAs (including sites acquired through these funds). Ecological features and restoration/management practices at ~18 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). The Adaptive Management Spatial Database (AMSD) was initially developed with ENRTF support in order to accurately map and document implementation of restoration and enhancement projects done at SNAs and linking these accomplishments to specific project

funding. This appropriation includes a small amount of funding for needed improvements to the database to insure it can keep up with current needs. About 4 of the 18 conservation easements on SNAs will have compliance monitoring completed. Interpretive signs-kiosks will be developed and installed at about 8 SNAs. SNA staff will provide ecological and technical guidance and on-site verification for 5 projects implemented by partners on SNAs.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$1,500,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1a. ~ 50 acres of restoration of forest, prairie, & outcrop sites	6/30/22
1b. ~ 340 acres of woody removal & invasive species treatment	6/30/21
1c. ~ 200 acres of prescribed burns, and other prescribed disturbance (e.g. haying)	6/30/21
1d. ~8 SNA interpretive kiosks installed AND development work on ~ 30 sites	6/30/23
1e. ecological/technical guidance for ~5 partnership projects	6/30/21
1f. management plans completed for ~ 6 SNAs	6/30/22
1g. adaptive management & conservation easement monitoring on ~22 SNA sites	6/30/22

First Update February 21, 2019: 1a. Restoration planning is underway with work to begin in the next few months. 1b. Woody removal has been completed on 36 acres at 1 SNA. 1c-1g. Planning for these activities is taking place with work to begin in the near future.

Second Update November 1, 2019: 1a. Restoration planning is underway with work to begin in coming months. 1b. Woody removal has been completed on 36 acres at 1 SNA. 1c. Fire break installation currently underway for prescribed burns planned for spring 2020. 1d. Site development has occurred at 1 SNA. 1e-1g. Planning for these activities is taking place with work to begin in the near future.

Third Update March 25, 2020: 1a. Restoration planning is underway with work to begin in coming months. 1b. Woody removal has been completed on 74 acres at three SNAs. 1c. Firebreaks have been installed on three SNAs for a total distance of 3.2 miles. Unfortunately at this point in time we are not sure if prescribed fire will be able to take place this spring due to COVID-19 safety and health concerns. Prescribed haying, an alternative form of prescribed disturbance, has taken place on 12 acres at two SNAs. 1d. Site development has occurred at four SNAs. 1e. Planning for these activities is currently taking place. 1f. SNA’s Management Coordinator, who contracts and facilitates the completion of these management plans, took a different position this past spring. SNA hopes to fill the Management Coordinator position by early summer 2020. A few plans will still be completed by DNR field staff, however it is uncertain at this time if a new management coordinator will be on-board in time to execute a contract for additional plans. If needed, an amendment will be requested this fall to shift dollars to a different outcome within this same activity. 1g. Planning for these activities has taken place with work to begin this coming field season, pending safety limitations from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fourth Update November 6, 2020: 1a. 39 acres of site restoration have occurred on five prairie or woodland SNAs, with another 12 acres of site prep for prairie restoration having occurred on one more SNA. 1b. Woody invasives removal has occurred on 98 acres at 4 SNAs, while herbaceous invasives have been treated on about 4 acres at 3 SNAs to date, for a total of 102 acres thus far at six different SNAs. 1c. No acres of prescribed burning have been able to proceed yet on this appropriation, though about 3.2 miles of firebreak have been installed in preparation for when prescribed burns will once again be possible. About 77 acres have been hayed at two SNAs, as an alternate form of prescribed disturbance. 1c. Site development improvements have occurred on 8 SNAs to date. 1e. Planning for these activities is currently underway. 1f. Due to hiring and staffing challenges within the DNR, the SNA Program’s Resource Management Coordinator position remains vacant, which is the position that primarily takes on contracting and facilitating the completion of management plans. While SNA hopes to fill the Resource Management Coordinator position in an acting capacity for the duration of the enterprise-wide hiring freeze, it is uncertain at this time if this position will be on board in time to execute

contract for additional adaptive management plans' completion at the additional sites beyond what regional SNA staff have the capacity to complete during this project's duration. An amendment request is made to adjust this outcome accordingly. 1g. Adaptive management and/or conservation easement monitoring has occurred on one SNA to date.

Fifth Update April 30, 2021: 91 acres of site restoration have occurred on 10 SNAs, with another 102 acres of seed collection for prairie restoration having occurred on two more SNAs. 1b. Woody invasives removal has occurred on 185 acres at 14 SNAs, while herbaceous invasives have been treated on about 4 acres at 4 SNAs to date, for a total of ~190 acres thus far at 18 SNA sites (with another ~145 acres of invasives treatment currently underway). 1c. As of mid-April no acres of prescribed burning have been able to proceed yet on this appropriation, though about 11 miles of firebreak have been installed in preparation for when prescribed burns will again be possible. Prescribed haying is complete on about 77 acres at six SNAs with another ~65 acres of haying in progress, as an alternate form of prescribed disturbance. 1c. Site development improvements have occurred on 18 SNAs to date, including a network of 16 interpretive signs at 1 SNA, and 3 interpretive kiosks for other SNA sites plus two more under development. 1e. SNA staff have been able to coordinate ecological and technical guidance on 5 partner projects to date, while planning for further activities is currently underway. 1f. Management plans have been initiated for 3 SNAs, however due to hiring and staffing challenges within the DNR, the SNA Program's Resource Management Coordinator position remains vacant, which is the position that primarily takes on contracting and facilitating the completion of the majority of management plans. 1g. Adaptive management and/or conservation easement monitoring has occurred on 21 SNAs to date.

Sixth Update November 1, 2021: 1a. Approximately 37 acres of restoration of prairie and forests have been seeded/planted at 3 SNA sites, with another ~31 acres undergoing site-prep for future restoration work; additionally, 90 acres of prairie seed harvest has been completed for on-site restoration efforts. (Prior reporting erroneously stated 91 acres had already been completed, but this was due to errors in summary statistics that double-counted some sites where return site-prep visits were made to the same restoration footprint area; the error has since been addressed). 1b. Woody invasive species removal has occurred on 358 acres at 26 SNAs, while 209 acres of herbaceous invasives have been treated on 30 SNAs, for a total of about 568 acres at 49 SNAs. 1c. 10 acres of prescribed burning was completed at one SNA, with 298 total acres of either prescribed haying (225 acres) or prescribed mowing (73 acres) taking place on another 10 SNAs as an alternative form of prescribed disturbance. In total, this means that about 310 acres of prescribed disturbance have been implemented at 11 SNAs with this appropriation. Also, about 11.5 miles of firebreak have been installed to date on this appropriation at 23 SNAs, in preparation for future prescribed burns. 1d. Site development improvements have occurred on 22 SNAs to date, including a network of 16 interpretive signs at 1 SNA, and 3 interpretive kiosks for other SNA sites (one each), for a total of 10 signs at 4 SNAs. 1e. SNA staff have been able to coordinate ecological and technical guidance for 5 partner projects to date. 1f. Management plans have been completed for 2 SNAs, 2 more are underway, while another 2 are planned on this appropriation before its completion next summer. 1g. Adaptive management and/or conservation easement monitoring has occurred on 21 SNAs to date on this funding.

Seventh Update as of April 1, 2022: 1a. Approximately 47 acres of restoration of prairie and forests have been seeded/planted at 3 SNA sites, with another ~20 acres undergoing site-prep for future restoration work; additionally, 90 acres of prairie seed harvest has been completed for on-site restoration efforts. 1b. Woody invasive species removal has occurred on 424 acres at 28 SNA sites, while 208 acres of herbaceous invasives have been treated on 30 SNA sites. This means that a total of about 631 acres have been treated for invasive species at 54 SNAs. 1c. 10 acres of prescribed burning was completed at one SNA, while another 627 total acres of alternative form of prescribed disturbance have occurred on another 11 SNAs: 289 acres of prescribed haying at 4 SNAs, 73 acres of prescribed mowing at 6 SNAs, and a 266-acre prescribed grazing project at another SNA. In total, this means that about 637 acres of prescribed disturbance have been implemented at 11 SNAs with this appropriation. Also, about 11.5 miles of firebreak have been installed to date on this appropriation at 14 SNA sites, in preparation for future prescribed burns. 1d. Site development improvements have occurred on 23 SNAs

to date, including a network of 16 interpretive signs at 1 SNA, and an interpretive kiosk each for another 3 SNAs, for a total of 19 signs at 4 SNAs. 1e. SNA staff have been able to coordinate ecological and technical guidance for 5 partner projects to date. 1f. Management plans have been completed for 2 SNAs, and 4 more are underway on track to finish on this appropriation before its completion next summer. 1g. Adaptive management and/or conservation easement monitoring has occurred on 21 SNAs to date on this funding.

Eighth Update as of May 27, 2022: 1a. Approximately 47 acres of restoration of prairie and forests have been seeded/planted at 3 SNA sites, with another ~20 acres undergoing site-prep for future restoration work; additionally, 90 acres of prairie seed harvest has been completed for on-site restoration efforts. 1b. Woody invasive species removal has occurred on 424 acres at 28 SNA sites, while 208 acres of herbaceous invasives have been treated on 30 SNA sites. This means that a total of about 631 acres have been treated for invasive species at 54 SNAs. 1c. 10 acres of prescribed burning was completed at one SNA, while another 627 total acres of alternative form of prescribed disturbance have occurred on another 11 SNAs: 289 acres of prescribed haying at 4 SNAs, 73 acres of prescribed mowing at 6 SNAs, and a 266-acre prescribed grazing project at another SNA. In total, this means that about 637 acres of prescribed disturbance have been implemented at 11 SNAs with this appropriation. Also, about 11.5 miles of firebreak have been installed to date on this appropriation at 14 SNA sites, in preparation for future prescribed burns. 1d. Site development improvements have occurred on 27 SNAs to date, including a network of 16 interpretive signs at 1 SNA, and an interpretive kiosk each for another 3 SNAs, for a total of 19 signs at 4 SNAs. Future work is planned in this category for initial site development on acquired sites. 1e. SNA staff have been able to coordinate ecological and technical guidance for 5 partner projects to date. 1f. Management plans have been completed for 3 SNAs, and 3 more are underway on track to finish on this appropriation before its completion this June 30. 1g. Adaptive management and/or conservation easement monitoring has occurred on 21 SNAs to date on this funding.

Ninth Update November 1, 2022: 1a. 47 acres of restoration activities were completed on 3 SNAs. This included a 27-acre reconstruction at Blanket Flower SNA (further interseeding to be completed with ML20), caging of 5 acres of jack pine in order to protect and rehabilitate the Jack Pine Woodland, and 15 acres of seedlings planted at Butterwort Cliff SNA to rehabilitate aspen-birch forest adjacent to Lake Superior shoreline. 1b. Woody invasive species removal occurred on 423 acres at 27 SNA sites, while 221 acres of herbaceous invasives were treated on 28 SNA sites. In total, about 644 acres were treated for invasive species at 48 SNAs. 1c. Prescribed disturbance was completed on 637 acres at 12 SNAs (10 acres of prescribed burning at 1 SNA, 266 acres of prescribed grazing at 1 SNA, 361 acres of prescribed haying/mowing at 12 SNAs). 1d. Site development improvements occurred on 27 SNAs to date, including a network of 16 interpretive signs at 1 SNA, and an interpretive kiosk each for another 3 SNAs, for a total of 19 signs at 4 SNAs. Future work is planned in this category for initial site development of the Little Mantrap Lake acquisition. 1e. SNA staff coordinated ecological and technical guidance for 5 partner projects. 1f. Management plans were completed for 5 SNAs. 1g. Adaptive management monitoring was completed on 33 SNAs and conservation easement monitoring was completed on 2 SNAs.

Tenth Update April 1, 2023: 1a. 47 acres of restoration activities were completed on 3 SNAs. This included a 27-acre reconstruction at Blanket Flower SNA (further interseeding to be completed with ML20), caging of 5 acres of jack pine in order to protect and rehabilitate the Jack Pine Woodland, and 15 acres of seedlings planted at Butterwort Cliff SNA to rehabilitate aspen-birch forest adjacent to Lake Superior shoreline. 1b. Woody invasive species removal occurred on 423 acres at 27 SNA sites, while 221 acres of herbaceous invasives were treated on 28 SNA sites. In total, about 644 acres were treated for invasive species at 48 SNAs. 1c. Prescribed disturbance was completed on 637 acres at 12 SNAs (10 acres of prescribed burning at 1 SNA, 266 acres of prescribed grazing at 1 SNA, 361 acres of prescribed haying/mowing at 12 SNAs). 1d. Site development improvements occurred on 27 SNAs to date, including a network of 16 interpretive signs at 1 SNA, and an interpretive kiosk each for another 3 SNAs, for a total of 19 signs at 4 SNAs. Future work is planned in this category for initial site development of the Little Mantrap Lake acquisition. 1e. SNA staff coordinated ecological and technical guidance for 5 partner

projects. 1f. Management plans were completed for 5 SNAs. 1g. Adaptive management monitoring was completed on 33 SNAs and conservation easement monitoring was completed on 2 SNAs.

Final Update August 15, 2023: 1a. 47 acres of restoration activities were completed on 3 SNAs. This included a 27-acre reconstruction at Blanket Flower SNA (further interseeding to be completed with ML20), caging of 5 acres of jack pine in order to protect and rehabilitate the Jack Pine Woodland at La Salle Lake SNA, and 15 acres of seedlings planted at Butterwort Cliff SNA to rehabilitate aspen-birch forest adjacent to Lake Superior shoreline. 1b. Woody invasive species removal occurred on 423 acres at 27 SNA sites, while 221 acres of herbaceous invasives were treated on 28 SNA sites. In total, about 644 acres were treated for invasive species at 48 SNAs. 1c. Prescribed disturbance was completed on 637 acres at 12 SNAs (10 acres of prescribed burning at 1 SNA, 266 acres of prescribed grazing at 1 SNA, 361 acres of prescribed haying/mowing at 12 SNAs). 1d. Site development improvements occurred on 28 SNAs to date, including a network of 16 interpretive signs at 1 SNA, and an interpretive kiosk each for another 3 SNAs, for a total of 19 signs at 4 SNAs. See photos below of a few of the interpretive signs installed through this appropriation. 1e. SNA staff coordinated ecological and technical guidance for 5 partner projects. 1f. Management plans were completed for 5 SNAs. 1g. Adaptive management monitoring was completed on 33 SNAs and conservation easement monitoring was completed on 2 SNAs.





ACTIVITY 2: Public Engagement, Outreach & Citizen Science in Natural Areas

Description: More Minnesotans will be involved in volunteer habitat conservation and education activities on SNAs and in the conservation of other key natural areas. A full-time team of 2 Conservation Corps of Minnesota people, 1 part-time SNA field naturalist and 1 outreach coordinator made possible through this funding will: sustain a network of 140 SNA volunteer site stewards who help care for SNAs and organize about 81 events focusing volunteer work days, recreation-educational events (guided nature hikes, etc.), and citizen science monitoring and bio-blitzes. New and refined electronic/social media communications tools, maps and interpretive information will be developed and disseminated to advance the public’s understanding of Minnesota’s wild places and biodiversity and to enhance nature-based recreational use of SNAs.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$500,000

Outcome	Completion Date
2a. SNA website, e-book, social media, maps & other interpretive info	6/30/20
2b. ~ 81 citizen science & volunteer events (management work days & ed. events)	6/30/21
2c. network of volunteer site stewards at ~140 SNAs	6/30/20

First Update February 21, 2019: Planning for these activities is taking place with work to begin in the near future.

Second Update November 1, 2019: Outreach activities began on this appropriation on June 30, 2019. Prior to this date, these outcomes were being accomplished using the ML17 SNA ENRTF appropriation. The 31st (Fall 2019) issue of SNA’s Nature Notes newsletter was delivered to 7,050 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel achieved 6,269 page likes by September 2019 with a highest monthly reach in August 2019 of 61,120. The SNA Flickr channel facilitates sharing high quality photos with 71 members sharing over 1,000 photos as of September 2019. From July through September 2019, 61 stewardship and interpretive events were

held involving 876 people that donated 634 hours of volunteer service. As of September 2019, 129 SNAs (~75% of SNAs) have one or more volunteer stewards reporting observations and assisting with management tasks – with a total of 161 stewards. Contracts with Conservation Corps of Minnesota facilitate much of the SNA social media and volunteers/site stewards work.

Third Update March 25, 2020: The 34th (Fall 2019) issue of SNA’s Nature Notes newsletter was delivered to 7,050 subscribers and the 35th (Spring 2020) issue was delivered to 7,380 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel achieved 6,928 page likes by March 2020 with a highest monthly reach in November 2019 of 66,049. The SNA Flickr channel facilitates sharing high quality photos with 78 members sharing over 1,050 photos as of March 2020. Through this appropriation 80 stewardship and interpretive events have been held involving 3,086 people that donated 1,087 hours of volunteer service. As of September 2019 through February 2020, 132 SNAs (~78% of SNAs) have one or more volunteer stewards reporting observations and assisting with management tasks – with a total of 173 stewards. Contracts with Conservation Corps of Minnesota facilitate much of the SNA social media and volunteers/site stewards work.

Fourth Update November 6, 2020: 2a. The SNA website is updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. The 39th (Fall 2020) issue of the Nature Notes e-newsletter was delivered to 8,380 subscribers. As of October 2020 the SNA Facebook channel has achieved 7,295 page likes and 7,469 followers, and the SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, has 93 members and over 1,050 photos. 2b. While challenges to direct in-person events have prevented some forms of stewardship and interpretive activities on SNAs, there were 4 SNA Program-hosted events and 6 events hosted by our partners on SNAs over the reporting period, and the SNA Program held a series of 5 self-guided “BioBlitz” community science events on 5 different SNAs (plus one “How to use iNaturalist” tutorial online webinar). This was a safe, socially distant opportunity for the public to engage with SNAs during the COVID-19 pandemic. These Bioblitzes were held at select sites, and open for two weeks each for participants to visit and make observations that were automatically collected in an online database in iNaturalist. After each Bioblitz was complete, results were shared and used for updating species lists and restoration project monitoring. Planning for additional events is underway. 2c. As of October 2020, 134 (~80% of) SNAs have one or more volunteer stewards reporting observations and assisting with management tasks, with a total of 174 stewards. Contracts with Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa (CCMI) facilitate much of the SNA social media and volunteers/site stewards work.

Fifth Update April 30, 2021: 2a. The SNA website is updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. The 41st (Spring 2021) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to 9,027 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has achieved 7,707 page likes and 8,234 followers by end of April 2021, with a highest monthly reach in February 2021 of 72,406. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, has 93 members and over 1,110 photos. 2b. Through this appropriation several stewardship and interpretive events have been held, with an additional 5 self-guided Bioblitzes each on a distinct SNAs over the summer/fall of 2020, and at least 5 more socially-distanced in-person events are planned for what remains of this Fiscal Year. 2c. To date, 140 (~83% of all designated) SNAs have one or more volunteer stewards reporting observations and assisting with management tasks, with a total of 173 stewards. Contracts with Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa (CCMI) facilitate much of the SNA social media and volunteers/site stewards work.

Sixth Update November 1, 2021: 2a. The SNA website is updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. The 43rd (Fall 2021) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to 10,046 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has achieved 8,021 page likes and 8,760 followers by end of October 2021, with a highest monthly reach in February 2021 of 72,406. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, has 102 members and over 1,110 photos. 2b. Thanks to this appropriation, 112 stewardship and interpretive events have been held on SNAs, including 12 self-guided Bioblitzes that were each held on a distinct SNA over the summer/fall of 2020 and 2021, open for a

couple weeks at a time for participants to visit the SNA and participate in the event on their own schedule and in a pandemic-safe way. 2c. To date, 142 (~84% of all designated) SNAs have one or more volunteer stewards reporting observations and assisting with management tasks, with a total of 159 individual officially-recognized SNA site stewards (note, an erroneous total of 173 individual stewards was previously reported, unknowingly double-counting some stewards who serve at more than one SNA). The enthusiasm is building around this Site Steward program: there are another six applicants to be new SNA site stewards, whose applications are being processed! Contracts with Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa (CCMI) facilitate much of the SNA social media and volunteers/site stewards work.

Seventh Update as of April 1, 2022: Work in this Activity area has moved to subsequent appropriations since last reporting, and therefore this report largely reflects accomplishments at last reporting: The SNA website is updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. The 43rd (Fall 2021) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to 10,046 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel achieved 8,021 page likes and 8,760 followers by end of October 2021, with a highest monthly reach in February 2021 of 72,406. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, achieved 102 members and over 1,110 photos on this appropriation. The SNA Program also began contributing content to Instagram, with posts twice per month to the DNR's agency-wide Instagram channel. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, has 105 members and over 1,195 photos. 2b. Thanks to this appropriation, 112 stewardship and interpretive events were held on SNAs, including 12 self-guided Bioblitzes that were each held on a distinct SNA over the summer/fall of 2020 and 2021, open for a couple weeks at a time for participants to visit the SNA and participate in the event on their own schedule and in a pandemic-safe way. 2c. With this appropriation, the SNA Program was able to maintain a network of 159 official volunteer Site Stewards at 142 SNAs (which is ~84% of all designated SNAs) who report observations and assist with management tasks. Contracts with Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa (CCMI) facilitate much of the SNA social media and volunteers/site stewards work.

Eighth Update as of May 27, 2022: Work in this Activity area has moved to subsequent appropriations since last reporting, and therefore this report largely reflects accomplishments at last reporting: The SNA website is updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. The 43rd (Fall 2021) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to 10,046 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel achieved 8,021 page likes and 8,760 followers by end of October 2021, with a highest monthly reach in February 2021 of 72,406. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, achieved 102 members and over 1,110 photos on this appropriation. The SNA Program also began contributing content to Instagram, with posts twice per month to the DNR's agency-wide Instagram channel. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, has 105 members and over 1,195 photos. 2b. Thanks to this appropriation, 112 stewardship and interpretive events were held on SNAs, including 12 self-guided Bioblitzes that were each held on a distinct SNA over the summer/fall of 2020 and 2021, open for a couple weeks at a time for participants to visit the SNA and participate in the event on their own schedule and in a pandemic-safe way. 2c. With this appropriation, the SNA Program was able to maintain a network of 159 official volunteer Site Stewards at 142 SNAs (which is ~84% of all designated SNAs) who report observations and assist with management tasks. Contracts with Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa (CCMI) facilitate much of the SNA social media and volunteers/site stewards work.

Final Update August 15, 2023: 2a. Work on this sub-activity took place June 30, 2019, through June 30, 2021. The SNA website was updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. Eight Issues (Fall 2019, Winter 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2021) of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter were delivered to ~10,000 subscribers each time. The SNA Facebook channel achieved 7,812 page likes and 8,453 followers by end of June 2021, with a highest monthly reach in February 2021 of 72,406. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, achieved 102 members and over 1,110 photos on this appropriation. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, had 105 members and over 1,195 photos by the end of

June 2021. The SNA Program also began contributing content to Instagram, with posts twice per month to the DNR’s agency-wide Instagram channel. 2b. Thanks to this appropriation, 112 stewardship and interpretive events were held on SNAs, including 12 self-guided bioblitzes that were each held on a distinct SNA over the summer/fall of 2020 and 2021. These bioblitzes were each open for a couple weeks at a time for participants to visit the SNA and participate in the event on their own schedule and in a pandemic-safe way. 2c. With this appropriation, the SNA Program was able to maintain a network of 159 official volunteer Site Stewards at 142 SNAs (which is ~84% of all designated SNAs) who reported observations and assisted with management tasks. Contracts with Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa (CCMI) facilitated much of the SNA social media and volunteers/site stewards’ work.

ACTIVITY 3: Strategic Acquisition of Sites with Biodiversity Significance – 170 acres

Description: Acquisition and designation of about 170 acres as state SNAs will protect and buffer the most important MBS-recommended sites of biodiversity significance with landowners willing to sell. Proactive landowner contacts will be targeted in 3 high priority opportunity areas identified in the SNA Strategic Plan, including prairie core areas in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan. In order 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. Candidate sites are numerically evaluated with priority to MBS-mapped biodiversity significance sites that are predominantly MBS-mapped native plant communities with habitat for rare species and Species in Greatest Conservation Need. The attached map and acquisition list identifies priority projects for this appropriation. The DNR may request to add other qualifying sites to the list. Most acquisition will be of fee title, but if more appropriate, acquisition could be of an SNA-administered conservation easement with SNA designation. New MBS and other scientific data will be incorporated into an updated SNA Strategic Plan GIS maps which will increase strategic prioritization of SNA acquisitions, coordination with partners, and implementation of the MN Wildlife Action Plan.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$1,250,000

Outcome	Completion Date
3a. acquisition as SNA of ~170 acres of high quality habitat	6/30/23
3b. proactive landowner contact in ~3 priority areas for acquisition/protection	6/30/20
3c. acquisition prioritization – refinement of acquisition decision tools/Plan	6/30/20

First Update February 21, 2019: Landowner discussions have started to take place on the 3 fee title acquisition projects indicated in the February 21, 2019 amendment request in addition to pro-active landowner contacts in several other priority areas. Please see parcel list for more detail on added parcels.

Second Update November 1, 2019: Acquisition on a proposed 10-acre Falls Creek SNA addition in northern Washington County is awaiting landowner work on local neighbor relationships before proceeding. The new proposed Rum Oxbow SNA in Anoka County has been approved through the DNR Division’s review process and has advanced into the appraisal stage. The present appropriation is a secondary funding source for the Grey Cloud Dunes SNA proposed addition; that appraisal is complete and in review, though in working with an array of partners it is being determined how much of the proposed parcels will actually be purchased by SNA. Landowner discussions continue on additional parcels, which will be added to the Parcel List once Division approval is granted to move forward.

Third Update March 25, 2020: 3a. Acquisition on a proposed 10-acre Falls Creek SNA addition in northern Washington County is awaiting landowner work on local neighbor relationships before proceeding. The new proposed Rum Oxbow SNA in Anoka County has been approved through the DNR Division review process, and has advanced into the appraisal and survey stage. The Grey Cloud Dunes SNA proposed addition went through a private ownership change, which should allow for the SNA priority parcels to be sold separately from the rest of

the property, however it will temporarily delay DNR acquisition as we adjust the process and documentation to reflect the new ownership. The goal is to still move forward with DNR acquisition in the near future, however it is uncertain at this time if it will close utilizing this appropriation or the ML19 appropriation. 3b. Proactive landowner contact is taking place in more than 3 priority acquisition areas. 3c. Refinement of the acquisition decision tools started this past week with advancement on the updated gap analysis, which will use the latest MBS data to inventory, map, and prioritize native plant communities and rare species that the SNA program can target in order to reach the program's strategic acquisition goals.

Fourth Update November 6, 2020: 3a. Acquisition on a proposed 10-acre Falls Creek SNA addition in northern Washington County is awaiting landowner work on local neighbor relationships before proceeding. The proposed Rum Oxbow SNA in Anoka County was sold by the landowner with whom the DNR was working, to a developer before the ordered appraisal was complete, and this project will not proceed. Negotiations with the new landowners of the proposed Grey Cloud Dunes SNA addition have resumed, in consultation with the City of Cottage Grove which may be interested in purchasing the parcels that are not being considered for SNA addition. This coordinated effort should allow for the SNA priority parcels to be sold separately from the rest of the property from the current landowners who are interested in selling. An appraisal is estimated to be ordered for new parcel scenarios in November 2020, in hopes that the project will reach a binding agreement on a time-table appropriate to utilizing this appropriation. It is also hoped that this appropriation will be used for part of the acreage (16 acres) of the acquisition of Little Mantrap Lake SNA, a new SNA being primarily purchased (208 acres) with ML17 funds. This is a site with high-quality mixed mesic hardwood forest and peatland communities. 3b. Proactive landowner contact is taking place in at least 4 priority acquisition areas. 3c. Refinement of the acquisition decision tools (updated gap analysis, use of the latest MBS data to inventory, mapping, and prioritization of native plant communities and rare species) is ongoing, in order to reach the program's strategic acquisition goals.

Fifth Update April 30, 2021: 3a. The proposed acquisition of Little Mantrap Lake as a new SNA in Becker County, is slated to proceed to a binding agreement likely before the close of this Fiscal Year, only awaiting the resolution of an access easement. It is anticipated that this ML18 appropriation will be used for part or all of this acquisition project's cost and acres. The Grey Cloud Dunes SNA addition's negotiations with the new landowners were able to resume with the first of the year, and are proceeding in communication with the City of Cottage Grove and Washington County. This project is delayed, however, as the DNR continues to work with the landowners toward appraisal stage. The Falls Creek SNA addition will not proceed at this time due to a change in landowner interest in selling to the state, and the project has been placed in abeyance. Lastly, it may be possible that this appropriation will be used to purchase some or all of the acreage (total of approx. 62 acres) of a new addition to Wabu Woods SNA in Itasca County, with landowners interested in selling this high-quality forest site to the SNA Program. This project is currently slated to utilize the SNA Program's ML17 appropriation, but its addition to the present appropriation's parcel list is requested due to the uncertain nature of reaching Option stage in time, and the possible 1-year extension of this appropriation. 3b. Proactive landowner contacts are taking place in more than 3 priority acquisition areas. 3c. The updated "gap analysis" for the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan was completed over the winter 2020-2021, utilizing the latest Minnesota Biological Survey data to inventory, map, and prioritize native plant communities and rare species that the SNA program can target in order to reach the program's strategic acquisition goals. Final revisions are underway, with the intent to publish to the SNA website within the calendar year.

Sixth Update November 1, 2021: 3a. The potential Grey Cloud Dunes SNA addition is still under negotiations with the new landowners, currently in appraisal stage, and SNA is in regular communication with the City of Cottage Grove and Washington County about this project. The project footprint/acreage has been reduced, however, to about 12 acres of remnant native prairie contiguous with the existing SNA. A calcareous fen site in Rosedale Township of Mahanomen County is a 160-acre potential new SNA with numerous listed species, as well as areas with native plant communities (NPCs) ranked as outstanding biodiversity significance by the Minnesota Biological Survey. Lastly, it is also hoped that this appropriation may be used to pro-rate a small part of the

acreage of the acquisition of Little Mantrap Lake SNA, a new SNA in Becker County (224 acres) being primarily purchased with ML17 funds. 2b. Proactive landowner contacts are ongoing, currently taking place in more than 3 priority acquisition/protection areas. 3c. Data QA/QC for the updated gap analysis for the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan was completed in spring 2021, utilizing the latest Minnesota Biological Survey data to inventory, map, and prioritize native plant communities and rare species that the SNA program can target in order to reach the program's strategic acquisition goals. Staff are currently using this dataset for proactive landowner contacts and site evaluation.

Seventh Update as of April 1, 2022: 3a. It has been determined that the 224-acre Little Mantrap Lake acquisition project in Becker County will be fully funded on the ML17 SNA ENRTF appropriation and will not be partially funded/reported on this appropriation as proposed in the previous status update. The potential Grey Cloud Dunes SNA addition is still under negotiations with the new landowners regarding two potential SNA acquisitions of portions of the property at this site, currently awaiting the appraisal stage. DNR staff are in regular communication with the landowners and their representatives. However, the situation has become somewhat protracted due to the renewed involvement of multiple parties (housing developer, City, and other local actors) insofar as SNA acquisition is just one piece of an overall plan for the broader property. This project therefore risks not reaching a binding contract agreement (Option) in time to utilize this appropriation's funds. The Rosedale fen site in Mahnommen County awaits approval of DNR's appraisal scenario by the landowner before the DNR can enter appraisal stage on this project. Both the landowner and regional DNR leadership are also communicating regularly about this project with the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, due to the property's location within reservation boundaries. All parties directly involved see SNA as the best home for this fen site, but the additional layers of communication have resulted in some delay in the achievement of agreement on all sides how the property should be appraised and an acquisition project move forward. We are hopeful that an appraisal may yet take place in time to achieve a binding Option agreement this Fiscal year, so that we may request an extension of acquisition funds on this appropriation for another Fiscal Year to close on the property. It may be important to note that in the case of this appropriation, no funds could be moved within Activity areas; indeed, all Activities, I, II, and III were set up as separate appropriations within DNR's accounting system, and hence no funds could be moved from Strategic Acquisition to, for example, allow for additional Native Habitat Enhancements (Activity I) or Public Engagement (Activity II) efforts, when these acquisition projects encountered setbacks and delays. Land acquisition work has been difficult in the volatile real-estate market of the pandemic, and we are hopeful that these dynamics will not endure or present long-term challenges to the SNA Program's acquisition work. Indeed, in light of these challenges, (3b.) staff reached out proactively to over ten private landowners in priority acquisition areas over the course of this appropriation, and (3c.) refinements to the SNA Program's gap analysis, a major input to our Strategic Land Protection Plan (SLPP), was completed in 2021. The program also recently brought on board a new SNA Statewide Acquisition Coordinator (as of March 30th), who will have a role in helping us publish the updated gap analysis to our website in 2022, in addition to prioritizing acquisition work to complete outcomes on this appropriation.

Eighth Update as of May 27, 2022: (3a.) When the 224-acre Little Mantrap Lake acquisition project in Becker county finally reached a breakthrough in the current landowner's negotiations with neighbors for a legal access corridor – required for all DNR land acquisitions – the landowner petitioned DNR for an updated appraisal since the one which served as the basis of the Option to Purchase (and subsequent signed extensions thereto) was from the year 2019. In DNR's practice of honoring in good-faith the reasonable requests of landowners whom the agency wishes to maintain as good partners in the acquisition process, DNR has initiated an appraisal update on the Little Mantrap Lake property. However, this means the project is unlikely to close in time to utilize ML17 SNA ENRTF funds as expected (and described above, see Seventh Update as of April 1, 2022). As such, and in light of the fact that there is still a valid binding contract in place with the landowner (current Option to Purchase is valid until October 2022), an extension is requested on this appropriation so as to allow for one additional fiscal year to close on the purchase of this high-quality mixed mesic hardwood forest and peatland communities. The potential additions to Grey Cloud Dunes SNA are still under negotiations with the new landowners regarding two potential SNA acquisitions of portions of the property at this site, currently awaiting

the results of the appraisal stage. DNR staff are in regular communication with the landowners and their representatives. (3b.) Through many challenging acquisition projects supported by this appropriation, staff have consistently reached out to well over ten private landowners in priority acquisition areas to continue to work of inquiring about high-priority sites of statewide biodiversity significance, and striving to bring those sites under permanent SNA protections. (3c.) A batch of refinements to the SNA Program's gap analysis, a major input to our Strategic Land Protection Plan (SLPP), was completed in late 2021, with some ongoing QA/QC as staff use the data to guide our acquisition program work. The SNA Program also recently brought on board a new SNA Statewide Acquisition Coordinator (as of March 30th), who will have a role in helping us publish the updated gap analysis to our website in 2022, and has a critical role in moving forward the needed acquisition work to complete Activity 3 outcomes on this appropriation.

Ninth Update November 1, 2022: (3a.) Due to the delay in acquiring legal access for the 224-acre Little Mantrap Lake acquisition project in Becker County, the appraisal became out-of-date (last appraised in 2019). In order to allow for time to conduct a new appraisal, this acquisition was moved from the ML17 SNA appropriation to this ML18 appropriation. The new appraisal is now complete and DNR staff will be presenting the new offer to the landowner soon. If accepted, the option (currently valid until October 2022) for this parcel will be updated and resigned to include the new appraised value. The potential additions to Grey Cloud Dunes SNA are still under negotiations with the new landowners. DNR staff are in regular communication with the landowners and their representatives however these parcels do not appear to be progressing fast enough for this appropriation and likely will need to be shifted to newer funding appropriations. (3b.) Through this appropriation, staff reached out to well over ten private landowners in priority acquisition areas inquiring about the protection of high-priority sites of statewide biodiversity significance. (3c.) A batch of refinements to the SNA Program's gap analysis, a major input to our Strategic Land Protection Plan (SLPP), was completed in late 2021, with some ongoing QA/QC as staff use the data to guide our acquisition program work.

Tenth Update April 1, 2023: (3a.) Due to the delay in acquiring legal access for the 224-acre Little Mantrap Lake acquisition project in Becker County, the appraisal became out-of-date (last appraised in 2019). In order to allow for time to conduct a new appraisal, this acquisition was moved from the ML17 SNA appropriation to this ML18 appropriation. The new appraisal is now complete, the Hubbard County Board has approved the legal access easement and DNR staff have prepared the election to purchase. At this time, we see no concerns with closing prior to 6/30/2023. The potential additions to Grey Cloud Dunes SNA are still under negotiations with the new landowners however these parcels were not progressing fast enough for this appropriation and therefore were moved to newer ENRTF SNA appropriations. (3b.) Through this appropriation, staff reached out to well over ten private landowners in priority acquisition areas inquiring about the protection of high-priority sites of statewide biodiversity significance. (3c.) A batch of refinements to the SNA Program's gap analysis, a major input to our Strategic Land Protection Plan (SLPP), was completed in late 2021, with some ongoing QA/QC as staff use the data to guide our acquisition program work.

Final Update August 15, 2023: (3a.) On June 23, 2023, through this appropriation, the 215-acre Little Mantrap Lake SNA acquisition project in Becker County closed. With more than a mile of undeveloped shoreline on Little Man Trap Lake, this parcel has 14 different documented native plant communities and has a known population of a state endangered orchid that is extremely rare to find in North America. The additions to Grey Cloud Dunes SNA that were started under this appropriation have optioned but are moving forward on the ML19 ENRTF SNA appropriation now because the parcels were not far enough along to close by 6/30/23. (3b.) Through this appropriation, staff reached out to well over ten private landowners in priority acquisition areas inquiring about the protection of high-priority sites of statewide biodiversity significance. (3c.) A batch of refinements to the SNA Program's gap analysis, a major input to our Strategic Land Protection Plan (SLPP), was completed in late 2021, with some ongoing QA/QC as staff use the data to guide our acquisition program work.

IV. 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 subscribers and possibly through Tweets on the DNR Twitter site. Specifically, the DNR website will be updated with information on the new or expanded SNAs. Announcements of the acquisitions and some enhancement-related activities will be posted on the SNA/DNR Facebook page.

First Update April 1, 2019: No accomplishments to-date.

Second Update November 1, 2019: The SNA website is updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. The 31st (Fall 2019) issue of the Nature Notes e-newsletter was delivered to 7,050 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has achieved 6,269 page likes. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to encourage high quality photo sharing with 71 members over 1,000 photos.

Third Update March 25, 2020: The SNA website is updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. The 34th (Fall 2019) issue of the Nature Notes e-newsletter was delivered to 7,050 subscribers and the 35th (Spring 2020) issue was delivered to 7,380 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has achieved 6,928 page likes. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to encourage high quality photo sharing with 78 members over 1,050 photos.

Fourth Update November 6, 2020: The SNA website is updated regularly with additions of new or edited content, including for new or expanded SNAs, and a frequently updated events calendar. The 39th (Fall 2020) issue of the SNA Program's *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to 8,380 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has achieved 7,295 page likes, and the SNA Program currently contributes content twice monthly to a new DNR Instagram channel. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to encourage high-quality photo sharing, with 93 members currently sharing nearly 1,100 photos.

Fifth Update April 1, 2021: The SNA website is updated regularly with additions of new or edited content, including for new or expanded SNAs, and a frequently updated events calendar. The 41st (Spring 2021) issue of the SNA Program's *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to 9,027 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has achieved 7,707 page likes and 8,234 followers, and the SNA Program currently contributes content twice monthly to a new DNR Instagram channel. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to encourage high-quality photo sharing, with 93 members currently sharing over 1,110 photos.

Sixth Update November 1, 2021: The SNA website is updated regularly with additions of new or edited content, including for new or expanded SNAs, and a frequently updated events calendar. The 43rd (Fall 2021) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to 10,046 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has achieved 8,021 page likes and 8,760 followers by end of October 2021, and the SNA Program currently contributes content twice monthly to a new DNR Instagram channel. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to encourage high-quality photo sharing, with 102 members currently sharing over 1,110 photos. Acknowledgement of the ENRTF is included in all project communications and outreach per LCCMR's guidelines, including press releases, media interactions, signs, publications, event advertisements & invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Seventh Update as of April 1, 2022: The SNA website is updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. The 45th (Spring 2022) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to 10,519 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has 8,803 followers by end of December 2021, and the SNA Program currently contributes content twice monthly to a new DNR Instagram channel. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to encourage high-quality photo sharing, with 105 members currently sharing nearly 1,200 photos. Acknowledgement of the ENRTF is included in all project communications and outreach per LCCMR's guidelines, including press releases, media interactions, signs,

publications, event advertisements & invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Eighth Update as of May 27, 2022: The SNA website is updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. The 45th (Spring 2022) issue of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter was delivered to 10,519 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel currently has approximately 9,000 followers, and the SNA Program currently contributes content twice monthly to the DNR Instagram channel. The SNA Flickr social media channel is used to encourage high-quality photo sharing, with 105 members currently sharing nearly 1,200 photos. Acknowledgement of the ENRTF is included in all project communications and outreach per LCCMR's guidelines, including press releases, media interactions, signs, publications, event advertisements & invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Ninth Update November 1, 2022: From June 30, 2019, through June 30 2021, the SNA website was updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. The SNA Facebook channel achieved 7,812 page likes and 8,453 followers by end of June 2021, with a highest monthly reach in February 2021 of 72,406. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, achieved 102 members and over 1,110 photos on this appropriation. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, had 105 members and over 1,195 photos by the end of June 2021. The SNA Program also began contributing content to Instagram, with posts twice per month to the DNR's agency-wide Instagram channel. Through this appropriation, 8 Issues (Fall 2019, Winter 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2021) of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter were delivered to ~10,000 subscribers each time. Acknowledgement of the ENRTF was included in all project communications and outreach per LCCMR's guidelines, including press releases, media interactions, signs, publications, event advertisements & invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Tenth Update April 1, 2023: From June 30, 2019, through June 30 2021, the SNA website was updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. The SNA Facebook channel achieved 7,812 page likes and 8,453 followers by end of June 2021, with a highest monthly reach in February 2021 of 72,406. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, achieved 102 members and over 1,110 photos on this appropriation. The SNA Flickr social media channel, used to encourage high quality photo sharing, had 105 members and over 1,195 photos by the end of June 2021. The SNA Program also began contributing content to Instagram, with posts twice per month to the DNR's agency-wide Instagram channel. Through this appropriation, 8 Issues (Fall 2019, Winter 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2021) of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter were delivered to ~10,000 subscribers each time. Acknowledgement of the ENRTF was included in all project communications and outreach per LCCMR's guidelines, including press releases, media interactions, signs, publications, event advertisements & invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Final Update August 15, 2023: From June 30, 2019, through June 30 2021, the [SNA website](#) was updated regularly with additions of new or edited content and a frequently updated events calendar. The [SNA Facebook channel](#) achieved 7,812 page likes and 8,453 followers by end of June 2021, with a highest monthly reach in February 2021 of 72,406. The [SNA Flickr social media channel](#), used to encourage high quality photo sharing, had 105 members and over 1,195 photos by the end of June 2021. The SNA Program also began contributing content to Instagram, with posts twice per month to the [DNR's agency-wide Instagram channel](#). Through this appropriation, 8 Issues ([Fall 2019](#), [Winter 2019](#), [Spring 2020](#), [Summer 2020](#), [Fall 2020](#), [Winter 2020](#), [Spring 2021](#), [Summer 2021](#)) of the *Nature Notes* e-newsletter were delivered to ~10,000 subscribers each time. Acknowledgement of the ENRTF was included in all project communications and outreach per LCCMR's guidelines, including press releases, media interactions, signs, publications, event advertisements & invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

V. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview: See attached budget spreadsheet

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: N/A

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 are for Department Support Services (Human Resources, IT Support, Safety, Financial Support, Communications Support, Planning Support, and Procurement Support. 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. 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 (~\$1,100,000), acquisition professional services (\$74,000), and CCM contracts (~\$300,900) have not been assessed Direct and Necessary costs. In addition to itemized costs captured in the proposal budget, direct and necessary costs cover HR/People Support (\$24,732 Safety Support (\$5,682), Financial Support (\$21,598), Communication Support (\$6,353), IT Support (\$51,216), and Planning Support (\$5,359) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.

Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours: 28,582	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE: 13.74
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: How many employees a future contractor will use, the hours they will work, or what salary they may pay their employees is not known. What is known is that 2 full-time CCM individual placements will be hired for two years and \$384,080 in contracts will be executed. If approximately 75% of the contracted dollars go towards employees at the same average cost of DNR staff working on this project, below would be a rough estimate of FTEs. This estimate includes the CCM individual placements.

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours: 13,409	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE: 6.45
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B. Other Funds:

SOURCE OF AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS	Amount Proposed	Amount Spent	Status and Timeframe
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:			
We seek landowner and partner donations for acquisitions. If any other funds are used for landowner payments for acquisitions funded in part with this appropriation, accomplishments will be pro-rated by the actual expenditures per funding source.	\$ 0	\$ 0	On-Going

Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:			
Some SNA acquisitions are funded with a combination of state appropriations (e.g. OHF and RIM). If any other funds are used for landowner payments for acquisitions funded in part with this appropriation, accomplishments will be pro-rated by the actual expenditures per funding source. In-kind contributions by the project manager to administer this project and office/computer/phone costs for DNR staff work on this project will not be tracked.	\$ 0	\$ 0	On-Going
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:			
ENRTF ML15, Ch 76, Sec 2, Subd 9c: SNA acquisition, restoration, enhancement & public engagement	\$4,000,000	\$2,837,973 Spent \$223,498 Encumbered	July 2015-June 2018
ENRTF ML16, Ch 186, Sec 2, Subd 91a: Scientific and Natural Area restoration	\$1,386,000	\$81,478 Spent \$114,611 Encumbered	July 2016-June 2019
ENRTF ML16, Ch 186, Sec 2, Subd 91b: Minnesota Point Pine Forest SNA addition	\$500,000	\$3,772 Spent \$1,000 Encumbered	July 2016-June 2019
ENRTF ML17, Ch 96, Sec 2, Subd 9b: Scientific and Natural Areas Acquisition, Restoration, Citizen Science and Engagemen	\$2,500,000	\$9,124 Spent \$7,249 Encumbered	July 2017-June 2020
Other Funding History:			
OHF ML13, Ch137, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4g: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	\$ 211,172	\$ 172,700.18 Spent	July 2013-June 2018
OHF ML13, Ch137, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4c: SNA & NPB acquisition (estimated SNA portion only)	\$ 246,500	\$246,500 Spent	July 2013-June 2018+
OHF ML14, Ch256, Art1, Sec2, Subd 4h: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	\$ 440,600	\$363,268 Spent \$38,317 Encumbered	July 2014-June 2019
OHF ML15, 1SS, Ch1, Art1, Sec2, Subd 2a: DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition (estimated SNA portion only)	\$ 638,000	\$451,574 Spent \$123,967 Encumbered	July 2015-June 2020+
OHF ML15, 1SS, Ch1, Art1, Sec2, Subd 2k: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	\$ 577,000	\$250,807 Spent \$60,722 Encumbered	July 2015-June 2020
OHF ML16, Ch171, Art1, Sec2, Subd 2a: DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition (estimated SNA portion only)	\$ 228,000	\$76 Spent	July 2016-June 2021+
OHF ML16, Ch171, Art1, Sec2, Subd 2j: Accelerated Prairie – SNA prairie restoration & enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	\$622,900	\$85,973 Spent \$19,931 Encumbered	July 2016-June 2021
OHF ML17, Ch. 91, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd2a: DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition (estimated SNA portion only)	\$1,485,000	\$0 Spent \$1000 Encumbered	July 2017-June 2022+

OHF ML17, Ch. 91, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd2i: Accelerated Prairie Restoration & Enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	\$535,898	\$5,694 Spent \$5,207 Encumbered	July 2017-June 2022
OHF ML18: DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition (estimated SNA portion only)	\$677,100		Pending July 2018-June 2023+
OHF ML18: Accelerated Prairie Restoration & Enhancement (estimated SNA portion only)	\$359,450		Pending July 2018-June 2023

** Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations for acquisition and prairie restoration and enhancement occur concurrently with this ENRTF appropriation. These OHF funds are used for similar but separate projects as the ENRTF funding. Also, the SNA program typically annually receives an internal general fund grant for about \$30,000 for similar but separate invasive species projects.

VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding -None

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Various Partners (project dependent)		The Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, Sugarloaf Northshore Stewardship Assn., local units of governments, and other non-profits	Partner with SNA Program on specific SNA project work

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

Without SNA conservation actions, one-of-a-kind natural areas, habitats for rare species, and the highest quality biodiversity sites are likely to be lost forever. The SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan calls for adding up to 136,000 more acres (on existing public land or through acquisition) to the current system of 191,000 acres of SNAs. Achieving SNA habitat management, public engagement, and acquisition goals depends upon ongoing support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund of \$5M to \$10M per biennium. Annual/biennial appropriations will also be sought from the Outdoor Heritage Fund and state bonding.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- The project is for 4 years, will begin on 07/01/2018, and end on 06/30/2023.
- Periodic project status update reports will be submitted November 1 and April 1 of each year.
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2023.

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

- A. Budget Spreadsheet
- B. Visual Component or Map
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements

Attachment C:
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2018 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet
Project Title: SNA Habitat Restoration, Public Engagement, and Strategic Acquisition
Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09f
Project Manager: Judy Schulte
Organization: MN DNR- Scientific and Natural Areas Program
College/Department/Division: Division of Ecological & Water Resources
M.L. 2018 ENRTF Appropriation: \$3,250,000
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2023
Today's Date: August 15, 2023



#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.] [Min.] [Sec.] [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance (please include what ecosystem (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) is represented as well as the ecological significance, site importance, conservation value, and public benefits)	Activity Description (e.g. fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, restoration)	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner (private individual or trust, non-profit organization, for-profit entity)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status of work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway)
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Avon Hills Forest SNA	45° 38' 7.0"	94° 30' 6.7"	\$ 46,500		Stearns	sand gravel prairie (towards succession to oak savanna/forest)	restore prairie	15		public	DNR-SNA	proposed
2	Blanket Flower Prairie SNA	46° 41' 7.7"	96° 12' 18.1"	\$ 36,000		Clay	dry gravel prairie	restore prairie	27		public	DNR-SNA	Initial restoration complete. Additional interseeding to be completed with ML20
3	Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA	44° 34' 22.1"	92° 40' 42.1"	\$ 23,000		Chisago	bedrock bluff prairie	restore prairie	7		public	DNR-SNA	proposed
4	Franconia Bluffs SNA	45° 22' 4.9"	92° 41' 53.6"	\$ 46,500		Chisago	St Croix River bluff	restore prairie	20		public	DNR-SNA	proposed
5	Icelandite Coastal Fen SNA (proposed)	47° 47' 46.6"	90° 7' 1.8"	\$ 4,000		Cook	gravel-cobble beach & shrub rich fen	restore shoreline vegetation	1		public	DNR-SNA	proposed
6	Iona's Beach SNA	47° 10' 3.7"	91° 25' 19.7"	\$ 4,000		Lake	lake superior rocky shore plant community, beach composed of pink rhyolite or felsite	restore shoreline vegetation	1		public	DNR-SNA	proposed
7	Little Too Much Lake SNA	47° 37' 35.4"	93° 46' 27.4"	\$ 4,000		Itasca	aspen-birch red maple forest	restore forest	2		public	DNR-SNA	proposed
8	Mound Springs Prairie SNA	44° 46' 27.4"	96° 26' 12.4"	\$ 15,000		Yellow Medicine	dry hill & mesic prairie	restore prairie	10		public	DNR-SNA	proposed
9	Sandpiper Prairie	47° 14' 32.2"	96° 24' 16.3"	\$ 40,000		Norman	wet-mesic prairie	restore prairie	40		public	DNR-SNA	proposed
10	Butterwort Cliffs SNA	47° 43' 11.1"	-90° 27' 18.4"	\$ 15,000		Cook	Aspen-birch forest adjacent to Lake Superior shoreline	restore forest	15		public	DNR-SNA	Seedlings planted to rehabilitate aspen-birch forest adjacent to Lake Superior shoreline
11	LaSalle Lake SNA	47° 20' 57.756	95° 10' 42.651	\$ 7,000		Hubbard	Jack pine (bush honeysuckle) woodland, a rare native plant community	restore forest	5		Public	DNR-SNA	Jack pine woodland rehabilitation completed through seedling protection (caging)
12	Avon Hills Forest SNA addition	45° 36' 16.1"	94° 28' 45.3"	\$ 500,000	\$ 3,750	Stearns	Un-fragmented forest of outstanding biodiversity significance. One of the best remaining unprotected blocks of native forest in the county. Red Shouldered Hawk and Cerulean Warbler habitat.	fee title acquisition	125		private	DNR-SNA	proposed
13	Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA addition	44° 34' 44.5"	92° 37' 19.4"	\$ 280,000	\$ 2,100	Goodhue	Floodplain forest of Outstanding biodiversity significance harboring rare turtles and birds.	fee title acquisition	100	0.5	private	DNR-SNA	proceeding on other funding
14	Chanarambie Creek	43° 54' 22.4"	96° 1' 51.9"	\$ 480,000	\$ 3,600	Murray	dry hill prairie & prairie meadow	fee title acquisition	120		private	DNR-SNA	proposed
15	Crystal Spring SNA addition	45° 15' 30.1"	92° 45' 56.9"	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 7,500	Washington	Mesic hardwood forest communities with Butternut trees, gensing, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Red-shouldered hawks.	fee title acquisition	40	0.25	private	DNR-SNA	closed, on other funding
16	Des Moines River SNA addition	43° 44' 38.5"	95° 4' 8.7"	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,500	Jackson	buffer to SNA to aide in mgmt. of native prairie	fee title acquisition	50		private	DNR-SNA	proposed
17	Drake Woods	43° 33'54.0"	94° 6' 23.51"	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 15,000	Faribault	best intact MBS mapped hardwood forest in south central MN	fee title acquisition	300	1.5	private	DNR-SNA	proposed
18	Englund Ecotone SNA addition	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	DNR-SNA	proposed
19	Franconia Bluffs SNA addition	45° 22' 4.9"	92° 41' 53.6"	\$ 480,000	\$ 3,600	Chisago	forested bluff along St. Croix River	fee title acquisition	80		private	DNR-SNA	engaged in landowner discussions
20	Hastings Sand Coulee SNA addition	44° 41' 41.9"	92° 49' 22.5"	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,875	Dakota	Dry sand gravel prairie with rare plants and snakes	fee title acquisition	16		private	DNR-SNA	engaged in landowner discussions
25	Middle Fork Zumbro River Forest	44° 9' 8.4"	92° 48' 6.3"	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 7,500	Dodge	sugar maple - basswood-(butternut hickory) forest	fee title acquisition	300	4	private	DNR-SNA	proposed
26	Roscoe Prairie SNA addition	44° 7' 14.0"	94° 40' 37"	\$ 240,000	\$ 1,800	Stearns	wet prairie with rare butterfly habitat	fee title acquisition	40		private	DNR-SNA	proposed
27	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	DNR-SNA	proposed
29	Sioux Agency SNA	44° 42' 32.1"	95° 24' 40.9"	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 7,500	Yellow Medicine	MBS-mapped prairie with rare features	fee title acquisition	150	1	private	DNR-SNA	project on hold
30	Grey Cloud Dunes SNA addition	44° 47' 47.0"	92° 58' 12.4"	\$ 800,000	\$ 6,000	Washington	Mississippi River shoreline, dry barrens prairie. Outstanding biodiversity significance.	fee title acquisition	60	0.25	private	DNR-SNA	currently moving forward on ML19 Appropriation
31	Falls Creek SNA addition	45° 16' 7.7"	92° 42' 59.6"	\$ 300,000	\$ 2,250	Washington	Red Oak - Basswood Forest Noncalcareous Till and Black Ash-(Red Maple) Seepage Swamp (which is critically imperiled). Old growth forest	fee title acquisition	15	0.025	private	DNR-SNA	project on hold
32	Rum Oxbow	45° 19' 27.6"	93° 22' 35.1"	\$ 800,000	\$ 6,000	Anoka	Black Ash seepage swamp on the Rum River	fee title acquisition	120	0.5	private	DNR-SNA	project on hold
33	Little Mantrap Lake SNA	47° 6' 56.8"	95° 10' 25.4"	\$ 500,000	\$ 3,570	Becker	mixed mesic hardwood forest/peatland communities	fee title acquisition	215	0.5	private	DNR-SNA	COMPLETE. LCCMR ID# 23-005-001
34	Wabu Woods	47° 23' 41.7"	93° 37' 0.1"	\$ 350,000	\$ 2,625	Itasca	Shoreline on Deer Lake (lake of outstanding biodiversity significance), Lowland white cedar forest, Red oak-sugar maple-basswood forest, low shrub poor fen.	Fee Title Acquisition	62	0.1	Private	DNR-SNA	project on hold
35	Rosedale Fen	47° 14' 20.7"	95° 49' 03.0"	\$ 100,000	\$ 750	Mahnomen	High quality native prairie, calcareous fen, and tamarack seepage swamp. Rare species present	Fee Title Acquisition	160		Private	DNR-SNA	engaged in landowner discussions

NOTES:

Attachment A:
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2018 Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: SNA Habitat Restoration, Public Engagement, and Strategic Acquisition

Attachment A:
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2018 Budget Spreadsheet-FINAL

Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09I

Project Manager: Judy Schulte

Organization: MN-DNR Scientific and Natural Area Program

College/Department/Division: Division of Ecological & Water Resources

M.L. 2018 ENRTF Appropriation: \$3,250,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 4 Years, June 30, 2023

Date of Report: August 15, 2023 (Updated 10/19/2023 post state fiscal close)



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Approved Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Revised Budget 10/19/2023	Amount Spent	Activity 3 Balance	APPROVED TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM												
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$839,525	\$735,159	\$104,366	\$298,920	\$289,473	\$9,447	\$95,059	\$92,007	\$60,810	\$31,197	\$1,233,504	\$145,010
Coordinators & Planner (1.38 FTE for 2-yrs)												
Specialists, Technicians, & Naturalists (4.44 FTE for 2-yrs)												
Laborers, Seasonal Field Crews & Clerical (1.05 FTE for 2-yrs)												
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts -priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes	\$305,179	\$296,728	\$8,451	\$141,760	\$121,690	\$20,070	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$446,939	\$28,521
<i>Professional/Technical Contracts</i>												
Act. 1f. adaptive management plan writing (\$15,600)												
Act. 1g. adaptive management monitoring (\$28,313)												
Act. 2b. contracted volunteer events (\$1,350)												
Act 2a, 2b & 2c. CCM individual placement (2 FTE for 2 yrs = 4.0 FTE total) (\$120,340)												
<i>Service Contracts</i>												
Act. 1a. restoration of forest, prairie & outcrop sites (\$15,000)												
Act. 1b. woody encroachment removal & invasives treatment (\$146,498)												
Act 1c. prescribed burning, haying, mowing, browsing or grazing (\$49,152)												
Act 1d. site development (fences, signs, etc) (\$42,165)												
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$64,905	\$56,147	\$8,758	\$14,556	\$1,699	\$12,857	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$79,461	\$21,614

Activity 1: parts, tools, repair costs & supplies for restoration, invasives treatment, 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) (~\$27,305); signs (entry,boundary, interpretive & rules signs), posts/hardware,												
Fee Title Acquisition			\$0	\$0		\$0	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000	\$560,000	\$490,000	\$1,050,000	\$490,000
~170 acres in 3-6 parcels to be designated as SNA & owned in fee by DNR												
Professional Services for Acquisition			\$0	\$0		\$0	\$94,000	\$97,052	\$97,052	\$0	\$94,000	\$0
Includes real estate transaction costs & LAM billings; appraisal & review; boundary survey; attorney general; closing costs; recording fees & taxes; etc. \$92,522												
Printing	\$2,500	\$1,952	\$548	\$2,303	\$634	\$1,669	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$5,803	\$3,217
Activity 1: printing of interpretive signs (\$1,952); Activity 2: brochure, maps, pocket cards, citizen science, educational & volunteer materials (\$634). Activity 3: State Register publication (required to designate acquired parcels)(\$0)												
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$197,905	\$125,884	\$72,021	\$17,921	\$4,518	\$13,403	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$620	\$4,380	\$220,826	\$89,803
Fleet charges for trucks, cars, & equipment (e.g. mowers, seeders), mileage, lodging & meals as per state contracts												
Other												
Act. 1g. Adaptive Management Spatial Database improvements	\$2,477	\$2,477	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,477	\$0
Act. 2 Computer & phone charges for CCM individual placement	\$0		\$0	\$2,050	\$0	\$2,050	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$2,050	\$2,050
Other * DNR's direct and necessary costs (\$114,940 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 HR/People Support (\$24,732), Safety Support (\$5,682), Financial Support (\$21,598), Communication Support (\$6,353), IT Support (\$51,216), and Planning Support (\$5,359) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects.	\$87,509	\$87,509	\$0	\$22,490	\$22,490	\$0	\$4,941	\$4,941	\$4,941	\$0	\$114,940	\$0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$1,500,000	\$1,305,856	\$194,144	\$500,000	\$440,504	\$59,496	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$723,424	\$526,576	\$3,250,000	\$780,216

ML18 Scientific and Natural Area Habitat Restoration, Public Engagement, and Strategic Acquisition Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

