



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

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

Today's Date: December 15, 2017

Date of Next Status Update Report: April 1, 2019

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2021

Does this submission include an amendment request? ___

PROJECT TITLE: Scientific and Natural Areas Program

Project Manager: Ann Pierce

Organization: MN DNR- Scientific and Natural Areas Program

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

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Web Address: mndnr.gov/snas

Location: Statewide

Total Project Budget: \$3,250,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$3,250,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. xx, Sec. xx, Subd. xx

Appropriation Language:

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:

- First Update April 1, 2019**
- Second Update April 1, 2020**
- Third Update April 1, 2021**
- Final Update June 30, 2021**

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. ~25 acres of restoration of forest, prairie, & outcrop sites	6/30/20

1b. ~305 acres of woody removal & invasive species treatment	6/30/20
1c. ~535 acres of prescribed burns	6/30/20
1d. ~8 SNA interpretive kiosks installed AND development work on ~25 sites	6/30/20
1e. ecological/technical guidance for ~5 partnership projects	6/30/20
1f. management plans completed for ~8 SNAs	6/30/20
1g. adaptive management & conservation easement monitoring on ~22 SNA sites	6/30/20

First Update April 1, 2019

Second Update April 1, 2020

Third Update April 1, 2021

Final Update June 30, 2021

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)	6/30/20
2c. network of volunteer site stewards at ~140 SNAs	6/30/20

First Update April 1, 2019

Second Update April 1, 2020

Third Update April 1, 2021

Final Update June 30, 2021

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	6/30/20
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 April 1, 2019

Second Update April 1, 2020

Third Update April 1, 2021

Final Update June 30, 2021

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Dissemination will primarily be achieved through the SNA webpage on the DNR website: mndnr.gov/snass, through the SNA Facebook page, and through Nature Notes – the SNA Program e-newsletter distributed through GovDelivery.com to 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

Second Update April 1, 2020

Third Update April 1, 2021

Final Update June 30, 2021

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 Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours: 34,653	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE: 16.66
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (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: 17,180	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE: 8.26
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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	Partner with SNA Program on specific SNA project work

		Assn., local units of governments, and other non-profits	
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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 3 years, will begin on 07/01/2018, and end on 06/30/2021.**
- **Periodic project status update reports will be submitted April 1st of each year.**
- **A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2021.**

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

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

Attachment A:

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2018 Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Scientific and Natural Areas Program n

Legal Citation:

Project Manager: Ann Pierce

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: 3 Years, June 30, 2021

Date of Report: February 16, 2018



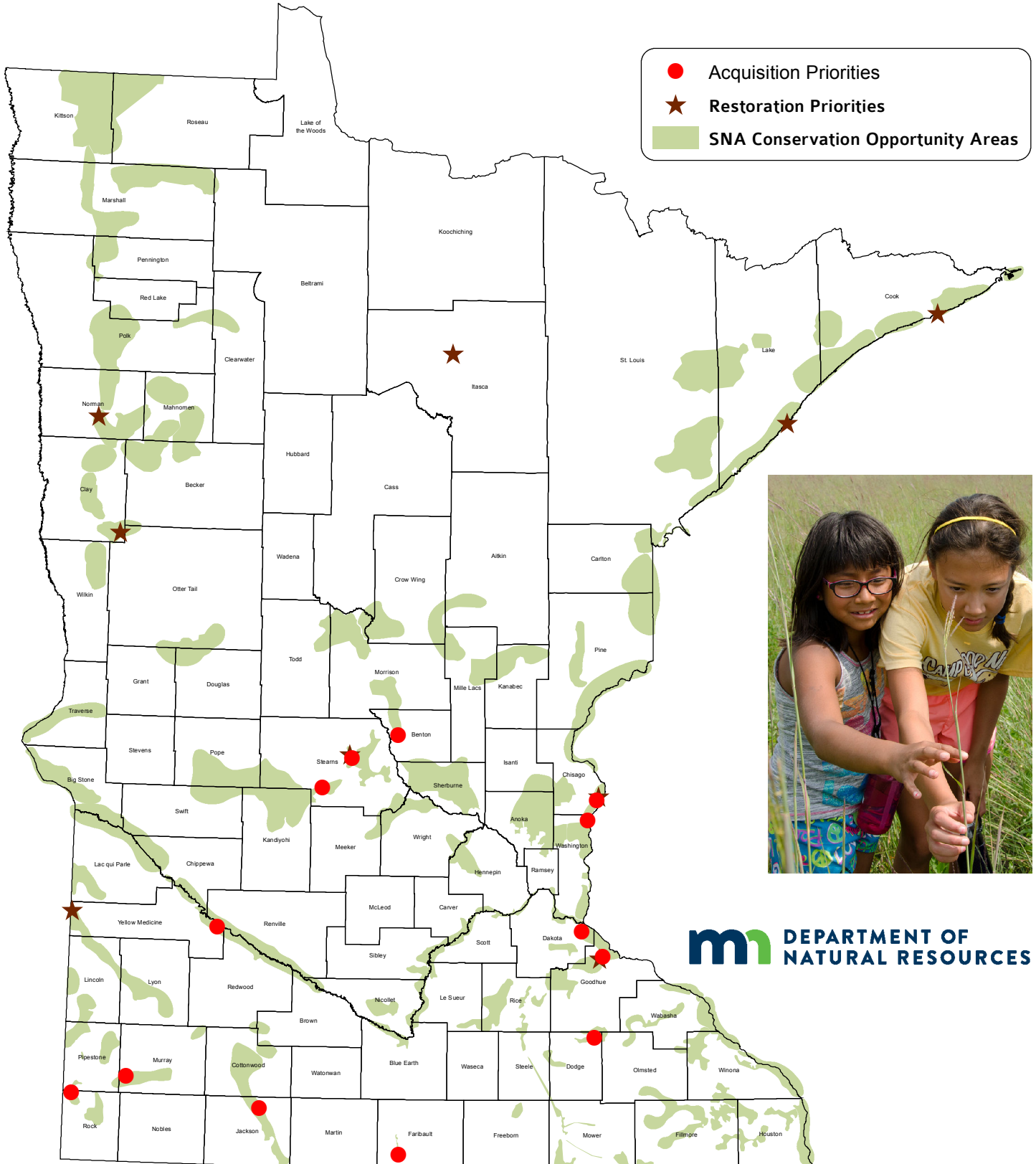
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) - overall	\$1,127,440		\$1,127,440
Coordinators & Planner (1.56 FTE for 2-yrs)			
Specialists, Technicians, & Naturalists (5.33 FTE for 2-yrs)			
Laborers, Seasonal Field Crews & Clerical (1.44 FTE for 2-yrs)			
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts -priority given to CCM; contractors to be selected following state procurement & bidding processes	\$536,080		\$536,080
<i>Professional/Technical Contracts</i>			
Act. 1f. adaptive management plan writing (~\$30,600)			
Act. 1g. adaptive management monitoring (~\$24,000)			
Act. 2b. contracted volunteer events (~\$15,580)			
Act 2a, 2b & 2c. CCM individual placement (2 FTE for 2 yrs = 4.0 FTE total) (\$152,000)			
<i>Service Contracts</i>			
Act. 1a. restoration of forest, prairie & outcrop sites (~\$13,700)			
Act. 1b. woody encroachment removal & invasives treatment (~\$232,850)			
Act 1c. prescribed burning, haying, mowing, browsing or grazing (~\$40,850)-			
Act 1d. site development (fences, signs, etc) (~\$26,500)			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$78,861		\$78,861
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, fencing, gravel, & other site development tools & supplies (~\$37,000). Activity 2: citizen science, volunteer events & site steward supplies (including safety items, hand tools, training materials, temporary signs, stamps, envelops, etc) (~\$14,556).			
Fee Title Acquisition	\$1,100,000		\$1,100,000
~170 acres in 3-6 parcels to be designated as SNA & owned in fee by DNR			
Professional Services for Acquisition	\$74,000		\$74,000
Includes real estate transaction costs & LAM billings; appraisal & review; boundary survey; attorney general; closing costs; recording fees & taxes; etc. ~\$74,000			
Printing	\$5,803		\$5,803

Activity 1: printing of interpretive signs (~\$2,500); Activity 2: brochure, maps, pocket cards, citizen science, educational & volunteer materials (\$2,303). Activity 1: State Register publication (required to designate acquired parcels) (\$1,000)			
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$205,826		\$205,826
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 (MN	\$5,000		\$5,000
Act. 2 Computer & phone charges for CCM individual placement	\$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.	\$114,940		\$114,940
COLUMN TOTAL	\$3,250,000		\$3,250,000

ML18

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

SNA Habitat Restoration, Public Engagement, and Acquisition



mn DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES