



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2020 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: 7-30-2019

Date of Next Status Update Report: April 1, 2021

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2022

Does this submission include an amendment request? __

PROJECT TITLE: Crow Wing County Community Natural Area Acquisition

Project Manager: Ryan Simonson

Organization: Crow wing County

College, Department, or Division: Land Services Department

Mailing Address: 322 Laurel Street, Suite 15

City, State, Zip Code: Brainerd, MN, 56401

Project Manager Direct Telephone Number: 218-824-1355

Email Address: ryan.simonson@crowwing.us

Web Address: www.crowwing.us

Location: Central Region, Crow Wing County, City of Pequot Lakes

Total Project Budget: \$400,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$400,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2020, Chp. xx, Sec. xx, Subd. xx

Appropriation Language:

PROJECT STATEMENT:

Crow Wing county acquired the historic Pequot Lakes area fire tower and surrounding 40-acres from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in November of 2018. The county would like to acquire an additional 69-acres in order to manage the forest and provide an interpretive hiking trail that interprets the history of the fire tower and forestry practices in Crow Wing County. Both private land owners are willing to sell their property to the county in the spirit of this area becoming a community accessible historic interpretation site that elevates the role of working forestry in the region. This would be a place where people could see a piece of community history as well as enjoy the natural resources that Central Minnesota has to offer.

The fire tower parcel owned by Crow Wing county is located along State Highway 371 in Pequot Lakes and is an official stop for the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway bike corridor. This area is easily accessible and connected to other recreational activities. The site is an attraction for tourists who visit lake country, local residents and community groups to utilize as an educational, environmental and historical resource.

The current condition of the property is forested with a mixture of coniferous and deciduous trees including pines, spruce, maple, oak, ash, aspen, and birch, among other species. The site also contains deciduous shrubs such as smooth sumac, dogwood, elderberry, and a wide range of herbaceous groundcover plants. The parcels adjacent are also forested and contain similar species. Pequot Lakes schools use this site for outdoor education and would benefit from a larger interpretive forest outdoor classroom. The recently decommissioned DNR ranger station (tower site) with its local and regional historic value lead to the tower becoming listed on the National Historic Lookout Register.

This site already has a small parking lot and picnic area for visitors to use as well as one maintained hiking trail to the tower. With the addition of 69 surrounding acres of forested land this would become a larger complex to support educational, historic and recreational uses for the community. The timing of the county acquisition and the willingness of neighboring landowners to support this proposal, make this an important window of opportunity to develop on an excellent public asset.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

First Update April 1, 2021

Second Update October 1, 2021

Third Update April 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: Acquire Adjacent Land

Description: An appraisal of the approved parcels will be conducted and negotiations with the two private land owners will be conducted. The property will then be transferred to Crow Wing county and within 60 days of the transaction the county will provide a report to the LCCMR.

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$400,000

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Appraise approved parcels</i>	<i>August 2020</i>
<i>2. Transaction of properties</i>	<i>December 2020</i>
<i>3. Report provided to the LCCMR</i>	<i>January 2021</i>

First Update April 1, 2021

Second Update October 1, 2021

Third Update April 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

ACTIVITY 2 Title: Forest Management

Description: Crow Wing county will conduct a selective timber harvest on newly acquired lands surrounding the Pequot Lakes fire tower for forest management as well as invasive species control if identified.

ACTIVITY 2 ENRTF BUDGET: \$0

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Timber harvest on newly acquired lands</i>	<i>Summer 2021</i>
<i>2. Invasive species control (if identified)</i>	<i>Summer 2021</i>

First Update April 1, 2021

Second Update October 1, 2021

Third Update April 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

Activity 3 Title: Develop Public Use Amenities

Description: Create interpretive walking trails and install a kiosk near the fire tower with information on the history of the site and post appropriate signage along trails.

ACTIVITY 3 ENRTF BUDGET: \$0

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Create forest interpretive walking trail</i>	<i>Fall 2021</i>
<i>2. Post signage on new county forestry interpretation area</i>	<i>Fall 2021</i>

First Update April 1, 2021

Second Update October 1, 2021

Third Update April 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the [ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines](#). Crow Wing County will add the ENRTF logo to future signs, trail maps, website materials, and other materials to ensure the public is aware of the funding source from where this project was made possible. A sign will be installed shortly after the property acquisition, and then over time, as we develop walking trails on the property, we will create maps and add the ENRTF logo.

First Update April 1, 2021

Second Update October 1, 2021

Third Update April 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures:

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

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: N/A	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: N/A
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: N/A	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: N/A
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners outside of project manager's organization receiving ENRTF funding

- B. Partners outside of project manager's organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding – Crow Wing County

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

The funds received from this grant will be used to acquire 69-acres of land around the Pequot Lakes fire tower to create a historic interpretive site. After the land has been transferred to the county, a trail will be created, a selective timber harvest will take place and the county will perpetually maintain this community resource. The perpetual cost of maintenance of the site will be the responsibility of Crow Wing County. Crow Wing County plans to reinvest any income generated from this property back into the property itself. Any revenues from future timber harvesting will be used to create interpretive walking trails and associated signage. The cost of trail construction, signage, and staff administration will be greater than any timber revenues generated, and the County would like to recoup some of those costs by reinvesting any potential timber revenues back into this project.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Project status update reports will be submitted April 1 and October 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2022

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 -N/A**

Attachment A: Project Budget Spreadsheet
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet

Legal Citation:

Project Manager: Ryan Simonson

Project Title: Crow Wing County Community Natural Area Acquisition

Organization: Crow Wing County

Project Budget: \$400,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 1.5 years, November 30, 2021

Today's Date: July 30, 2019



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment/Tools/Supplies				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fee Title Acquisition				
69 acres, 3 parcels. Two parcels currently owned by Canniff, and one owned by Boberg.		\$ 395,000	\$ -	\$ 395,000
Easement Acquisition				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Services for Acquisition				
Closing Costs. Two separate closings (one for Canniff parcels, and one for Boberg parcel)		\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Printing				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel expenses in Minnesota				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL		\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 400,000
SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
In kind:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -



#	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	Parcel #: 290114200000009	46° 36' 27.8532" N	94° 17' 42.7848" W	\$155,000	\$ -	Crow Wing	Mixed forest, natural and cultural education	Fee title acquisition	41	0	Private individual	Crow Wing County	Engaged in landowner negotiations
2	Parcel #: 290113100A00009	46° 36' 28.3320" N	94° 17' 59.9244" W	\$110,000	\$ -	Crow Wing	Mixed forest, natural and cultural education	Fee title acquisition	18	0	Private individual	Crow Wing County	Engaged in landowner negotiations
3	Parcel #: 290113400A00009	46° 36' 15.7536" N	94° 17' 59.6940" W	\$130,000	\$ -	Crow Wing	Mixed forest, natural and cultural education	Fee title acquisition	10	0	Private individual	Crow Wing County	Engaged in landowner negotiations
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
9													
10													
NOTES:													

Attachment D. Additional Work Plan Information for Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration

Fee Title Acquisition

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

Crow Wing County acquired the historic Pequot Lakes area fire tower and surrounding 40-acres from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in November of 2018. The county would like to acquire an additional 69-acres in order to manage the forest and provide an interpretive hiking trail that interprets the history of the fire tower and forestry practices in Crow Wing County. Both private land owners are willing to sell their property to the county in the spirit of this area becoming a community accessible historic interpretation site that elevates the role of working forestry in the region.

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

Crow Wing County Forest Resources Plan:

<http://mn-crowwingcounty2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/8899/Crow-Wing-Forest-Plan-2015-FINAL?bidId=>

Minnesota Forest Resources Council: North Central Landscape Plan

https://mn.gov/frc/docs/NC_Landscape_Plan.pdf

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

Restoration and Management Plan

- I. This Restoration and Management Plan is for the Crow Wing Forest North property with the following legal description:
 - i. Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW ¼ SE ¼), Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NE ¼ SW ¼) Except Part to Totem Products, and the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE ¼ SW ¼) Except the West 225 Feet Thereof, Section Eleven (11), Township One Hundred Thirty-Six (136), Range Twenty-Nine (29), Crow Wing County, Minnesota. ("The Property")
- II. This document is intended to satisfy the grant requirement that there be a restoration and management plan for lands acquired with the grant.
- III. The Property will be managed in compliance with the Forest Resources Plan for the Tax-Forfeited Lands of Crow Wing County (2015) which can also be found on line at <http://www.crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/8899/Crow-Wing-Forest-Plan-2015-FINAL?bidId=>.
- IV. Initial plans for the property include the following:
 - a. Removal of any deer stands still located on the property.
 - b. Creating interpretive walking trails.
 - c. Post signage on new interpretive walking trails

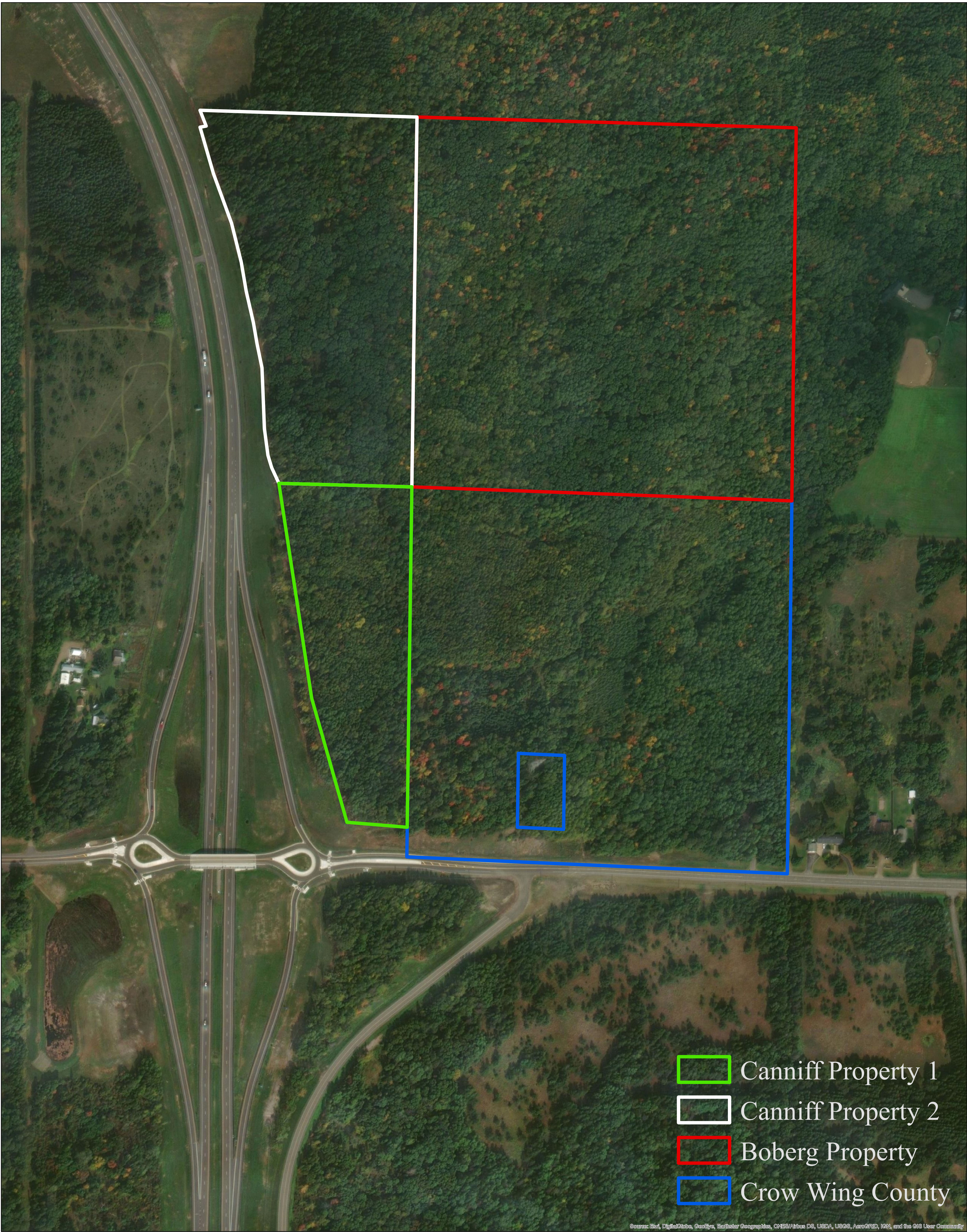
- V. It is anticipated that initial restoration activities a, b, and c will be completed by September 1, 2021. It is estimated that the initial restoration activities will cost approximately \$3,000 and will be paid for out of Crow Wing County funds.
 - VI. Ongoing restoration activities will be completed in compliance with the County Forest Resources Plan and may include a timber harvest of old, declining tree species on the property.
4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

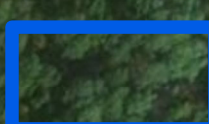
Not applicable.

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

Not applicable

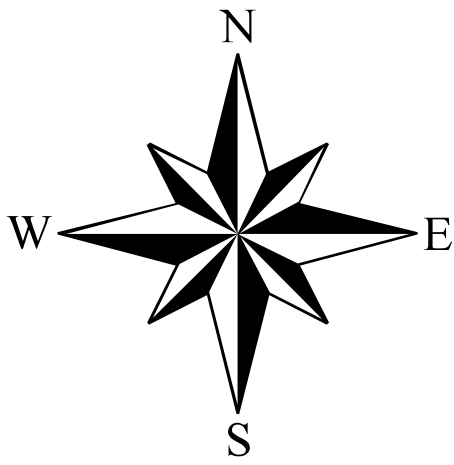
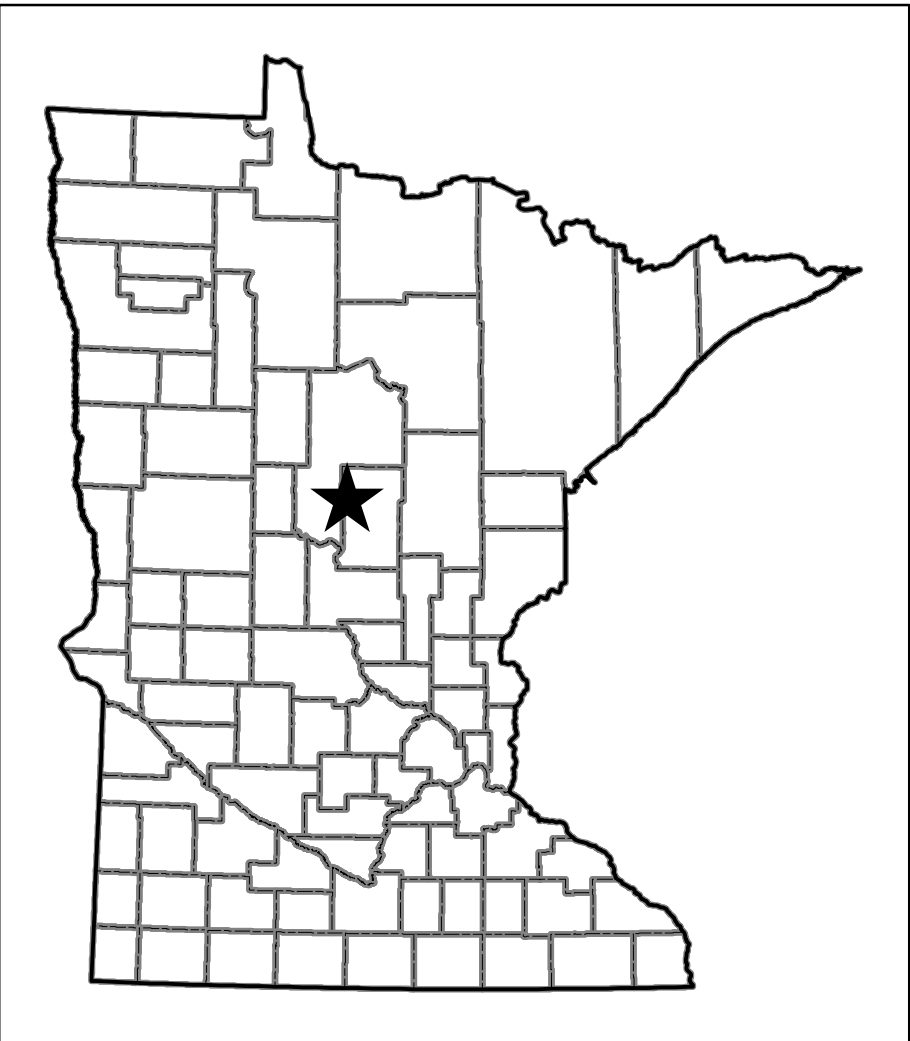
Crow Wing County Community Natural Area Acquisition



-  Canniff Property 1
-  Canniff Property 2
-  Boberg Property
-  Crow Wing County

0 0.0225 0.045 0.09 0.135 0.18 Miles

6/27/2019



Project Manager: Ryan Simonson
Proposal ID: 277-G

