

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on September 9, 2026

M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2026

Project Title: SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Citizen-Science And Outreach

Project Manager: Judy Elbert

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Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09j , as extended by laws 2024, Chp. Sec. 2, Subd. 18

Appropriation Amount: \$3,336,000

Amount Spent: \$3,300,534

Amount Remaining: \$35,466

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Protected 319 acres containing mature mesic hardwood, floodplain, and Jack Pine forests, wet meadow, calcareous fen, rock outcrops, marsh, and native prairie plant communities along with undeveloped shoreline and many associated rare plant and animal species. Enhanced over 2,574 acres of habitat and engaged citizens across Minnesota on SNAs.

Summary of Project and Outcomes

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 2,574 acres (78 SNAs) had habitat enhancement activities take place, this included terrestrial and woody invasive species control, prescribed disturbance (e.g. prescribed fire, haying, grazing), and other site improvement work. Ecological, compliance, and adaptive management monitoring was completed on 44 SNAs. Knowledge gained through this monitoring will help managers and partners improve management of the native plant communities and rare species.

From January 2024 to January 2025, 69 interpretive events were held on SNAs across the state with nearly 1415 volunteer hours worked by over 418 volunteers. Many of the in-person events were hosted by our volunteer site stewards, a community which at its peak during this timeframe had 165 individuals (139 SNAs) volunteering as the designated local liaison reporting observations and assisting with land-management activities. Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers and the SNA Facebook channel extended its reach and audience to enhance public support for conservation.

Four parcels were protected partially or entirely through this appropriation. This included 25-acres of an 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition (24-145-001), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA (24-049-001), 7.2-acres of a 47.2-acre Grey Cloud Dunes SNA addition (24-163-001) and 276-acres of the new 800-acre McKinley Barrens SNA (26-021-001). In total, this appropriation protected 319 acres as SNA. These parcels contain mature mesic hardwood, floodplain, and Jack Pine forests, wet meadow, calcareous fen, granite rock outcrops, marsh, and multiple native prairie plant communities along with undeveloped shoreline and many associated rare plant and animal species.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

From January 2024 to January 2025, this appropriation was used to regularly update the SNA website with additions of new or edited content and to frequently update the events calendar. Four issues (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter 2024) of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has grown to over 16,100 followers. During this time, the SNA Program also contributed SNA content twice monthly to the DNR Instagram channel. Acknowledgement of the ENRTF was included in all project communications per LCCMR's guidelines.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: September 11, 2026

ID Number: 2021-151

Staff Lead: Tiffany Schaufler

Project Title: SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Citizen-Science And Outreach

Project Budget: \$3,336,000

Project Manager Information

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Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: September 9, 2026

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: September 9, 2026

Project Completion: June 30, 2026

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09j , as extended by laws 2024, Chp. Sec. 2, Subd. 18

Appropriation Language: \$3,336,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the scientific and natural areas (SNA) program to restore, improve, and enhance wildlife habitat on SNAs; increase public involvement and outreach; and strategically acquire lands that meet criteria for SNAs under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, from willing sellers. Carryforward; extensions (a) The availability of the appropriations for the following projects is extended to June 30, 2025: (19) Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 6, article 6, section 2, subdivision 9, paragraph (j), SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Citizen-Science, and Outreach. Acquisition Binding Agreement; one year

extension Subd. 11 the availability of the appropriation for McKinley Barrens SNA acquisition is extended to June 30, 2026 per M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 11

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2026

Narrative

Project Summary: Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) habitat restoration/enhancement (850+ acres), increased public involvement, and strategic acquisition (43.6 acres) will conserve Minnesota's most unique and rare resources for everyone's benefit.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Minnesota's Scientific & Natural Areas (SNAs) are established to protect and perpetuate natural features possessing exceptional scientific or educational value, in an undisturbed natural condition. SNA designation represents the highest form of nature protection in the state; accordingly, these are the sites that meet the highest standards of quality: ratings by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) of high to outstanding biodiversity significance, key habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species, and presenting Minnesota's flagship geologic features.

Ensuring that Minnesota's natural heritage is not lost from any of its ecological regions, however, is a race against time: to protect just five occurrences of every native plant community (NPC) in each of the state's ecological subsections, and three viable populations of every animal and plant species native to Minnesota, the SNA Program currently still falls short by an estimated 130,000 acres (2014 SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan). As impacts to native ecosystems from development, agricultural conversion, fragmentation, human disturbance, and invasive species accelerate, compounded by climate change, natural area protection and stewardship are increasingly urgent.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

To safeguard the state's natural heritage for future generations, both the designation of currently unprotected areas and the attentive land stewardship of acres already under SNA protection, will be critical actions. The SNA land base must continue to proactively seek out, acquire, and protect the "gaps" in the protected area system, but it must likewise lift up the critically-important land management and stewardship work taken on by its talented staff, partners, and volunteer base with every new acre protected. Their work is needed in order to revitalize the native plant communities and habitats protected on SNAs that sometimes need prescribed disturbance, invasive species treatment or removal, and other actions to reduce or remove human-exacerbated degradation. The SNA Program continues to chart new territory in meeting these challenges with innovative solutions through partnering with the broader conservation community and by ramping up Minnesotans' appreciation and support for protected natural spaces.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

The vital mission of Minnesota's SNAs will be furthered through restoration and enhancement, public involvement, and strategic acquisition. About 850 acres of habitat restoration, enhancement, and site improvement activities will target SNAs threatened by invasive species and lack of natural disturbance regimes. Outreach and community science efforts will enhance public participation and nature-based recreation through ~70 SNA events, sustaining the network of volunteer stewards at ~130 SNAs. Around 43.6 acres will be strategically acquired from willing sellers and designated as SNAs to protect at-risk native plant communities and wildlife habitat of state significance.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Native Habitat Restoration, Enhancements and Improvements on 850+ acres

Activity Budget: \$1,434,314

Activity Description:

Native habitat restoration and site improvement activities will be completed on about 850 acres at approximately 35 SNAs. Management plans will be completed for about 4 SNAs (including sites acquired through these funds). Around 43 SNAs will be monitored to improve management and track changes to rare species, imperiled plant communities and other important protected features. SNA staff will provide ecological/technical guidance and on-site verification for 6 projects implemented by partners on SNAs. Restoration and improvement activities will be carried out by DNR staff, Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI), Sentence to Service, volunteers, and/or contractors, and will be tracked in the Adaptive Management Spatial Database (AMSD). Activities include seed collection; site preparation, planting and aftercare; invasive species early detection, control and removal; site clean-up, signing, interpretive kiosks, and fencing; and prescribed burns (or alternative prescribed disturbance, such as prescribed haying, mowing or grazing, necessary where use of fire is limited). This activity includes work to bring acquired parcels up to DNR's minimum standards for SNAs, and includes restoration and improvements of acquired sites if ecologically advisable and feasible within the appropriation period. Also includes funding for ongoing AMSD maintenance and upgrade needs.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Adaptive management, ecological & conservation easement monitoring on ~43 SNAs	June 30, 2025
Management plans completed for ~4 SNAs	June 30, 2025
Ecological/technical guidance for ~6 partnership projects	June 30, 2025
~535 acres of prescribed burns	June 30, 2025
~400 acres of woody removal & invasive species treatment	June 30, 2025
~7 SNA interpretive kiosks installed AND development work on ~20 sites	June 30, 2026

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

Activity Budget: \$551,927

Activity Description:

Minnesotans will be involved in volunteer habitat conservation and education activities at SNAs, and in the conservation of other key natural areas in the state. A network of ~130 SNA volunteer site stewards who help care for SNAs will be sustained, and 70+ events will be organized and executed (volunteer work days, recreation-educational events, guided nature hikes, citizen science monitoring, bio-blitzes, etc.) to further engage the Minnesota public – in-person as well as via enhanced virtual platforms when possible. 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. Natural Area Registry agreements will be established on about 2 sites of high biodiversity significance, to promote conservation of natural areas owned by others.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Network of volunteer site stewards at ~130 SNAs sustained	June 30, 2025
SNA website, e-book, social media, maps & other interpretive info	June 30, 2025

~70 volunteer & community science events (management work days & educational events, including online events)	June 30, 2025
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Activity 3: Strategic Acquisition of Sites with Biodiversity Significance – 208 acres

Activity Budget: \$1,349,759

Activity Description:

Acquisition and designation of 208 acres as state Scientific & Natural Areas will protect and buffer the most important sites in the state for high biodiversity significance and rare features. Proactive landowner contacts will target SNA Strategic Plan priority areas, including those identified in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan. Acquired sites must be recommended through an Ecological Evaluation report and rank-evaluated (numerically) to ensure prioritization of sites identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) as habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species (T&E) and Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SCGN). Most acquisition will be of fee-title, but if more appropriate, acquisition could be via SNA-administered conservation easement with SNA designation. New data from MBS and other scientific sources will be incorporated into a periodic update of the SNA Strategic Plan, along with climate change risk/resilience assessment factors, to refine and increase strategic prioritization of SNA acquisition.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Strategic prioritization and climate change risk assessment complete	June 30, 2025
Proactive landowner contacts for ~10 target areas	June 30, 2025
Acquisition & designation as SNA of 208 acres of high-quality habitat & native plant communities	June 30, 2026

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

Dissemination of project achievement announcements, as well as volunteer & event participant recruitment, will primarily be achieved through the SNA webpage on the DNR website (<mndnr.gov/snas>), through SNA social media outlets (e.g. the SNA Facebook page or the DNR Instagram channel), 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 new or expanded SNAs. Announcements of the acquisitions and some enhancement-related activities will be posted on the SNA/DNR Facebook page.

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.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

The Minnesota DNR has designated around 192,500 acres in its system of ~170 SNAs, and provides resource management to conserve the features these SNAs protect for future generations. To meet the goals set in the SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan of averting biodiversity loss in the state, an average 1,600 additional, targeted acres would need to come under SNA protection annually by end-of-21st century. The support of the public of Minnesota, and of key funding like ENRTF of \$3-5M per annum, among others, are critical to long-term success. All results are tracked in DNR's Adaptive Management Spatial Database.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Restoration, Improvement and Citizen Engagement	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 07a	\$2,540,000
SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Enhancement and Public Engagement	M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c	\$4,000,000
Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition and Restoration	M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$1,386,000
Minnesota Point Pine Forest Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition	M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b	\$500,000
Scientific and Natural Areas Acquisition, Restoration, Citizen Science and Engagement	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b	\$2,500,000
Scientific and Natural Areas Program	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 09I	\$3,250,000
Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$3,500,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
Seasonal Laborers & crews		On the ground project implementation			20%	1.36	X	\$50,000	-	-
Specialists & Technicians		On the ground project implementation			25%	12.02	X	\$791,664	-	-
Coordinators & planner		Coordinate acquisition, restoration, and budget implementation, contract execution, partner coordination, strategic plan update / climate risk assessment			25%	1.8	X	\$160,000	-	-
							Sub Total	\$1,001,664	\$995,949	\$5,715
Contracts and Services										
TBD & Conservation Corps of MN & IA (CCMI)	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Restoration of forest, prairie, & outcrop sites; invasives removal & treatment; prescribed disturbance; site development; adaptive management planning & monitoring; contracted volunteer events; CCMI individual placements.				2.36		\$227,554	\$227,288	\$266
State of Minnesota	Acquisition costs	Professional Services for Acquisition: Attorney General's Office and DNR Lands and Minerals costs associated with completing an acquisition				0.44		\$57,000	\$40,544	\$16,456
State of Minnesota	Professional or Technical Service Contract	MNIT contract to provide ongoing upgrades and maintenance to the SNA Program's spatial outcomes tracking system, the Adaptive Management Spatial Database (AMSD)				0.02		\$4,270	\$4,270	-
							Sub Total	\$288,824	\$272,102	\$16,722
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										

	Tools and Supplies	Materials & supplies	Parts, tools, repair costs, and 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.); signs (entry, boundary, interpretive & rules signs), posts/hardware, fencing, gravel, & other site development tools & supplies. Includes supplies for citizen science, volunteer events & site steward work (including safety items, hand tools, training materials, temporary signs, stamps, envelopes, etc).					\$59,103	\$59,103	-
							Sub Total	\$59,103	\$59,103	-
Capital Equipment										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 275 Parcels: 4						\$1,674,550	\$1,674,550	-
							Sub Total	\$1,674,550	\$1,674,550	-
Travel In Minnesota										

	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	DNR fleet charges (for operation of trucks, cars, & special fieldwork equipment) & in-state travel costs (as per state contracts)	Travel expenses needed to complete direct project work					\$159,574	\$154,762	\$4,812
							Sub Total	\$159,574	\$154,762	\$4,812
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										
	Printing	Printing of interpretive signs, brochures, maps, pocket cards; citizen science, educational & volunteer materials; State Register publication (required to designate acquired parcels)	To achieve improved public awareness and management efficiency of SNAs, enhance outreach & community science experiences, and transparently disclose additions of new SNA parcels.					\$8,776	\$8,776	-
							Sub Total	\$8,776	\$8,776	-
Other Expenses										
		DNR's Direct and Necessary Costs	Pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated projects. Direct and necessary costs cover HR (~44,185), Safety (~8,207), Financial (~29,894), Communication (~7,945), IT (~89,066), and Planning Support (~6,893)					\$143,509	\$135,292	\$8,217
							Sub Total	\$143,509	\$135,292	\$8,217
							Grand Total	\$3,336,000	\$3,300,534	\$35,466

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Personnel - Seasonal Laborers & crews		On the ground project implementation	Classified : 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 almost exclusively 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.
Personnel - Specialists & Technicians		On the ground project implementation	Classified : 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 almost exclusively 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.
Personnel - Coordinators & planner		Coordinate acquisition, restoration, and budget implementation, contract execution, partner coordination, strategic plan update / climate risk assessment	Classified : 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 almost exclusively 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.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
			Non State Sub Total	-	-	-
			Funds Total	-	-	-

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Badoura Jack Pine Woodland SNA	Hubbard	Jack pine (yarrow) woodland	Restoration	10	-	\$20,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Blanket Flower Prairie SNA	Clay	Dry gravel prairie	Restoration	40	-	\$30,000	Public	DNR-SNA	No Longer Being Considered
Boltuck-Rice Forever Wild SNA addition	Itasca	Provides better public access to the site and protects old growth forest.	Fee Title	25	0.03	\$150,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Butterwort Cliffs SNA	Cook	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.	Restoration	15	-	\$15,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA	Goodhue	Project will convert old agricultural field that abuts bluffs and restored prairie. Restoration of agricultural field to prairie will add continuity between remnant goat prairies and previously restored prairie on the bluffs above the Cannon River	Restoration	27	-	\$73,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Cannon River Turtle SNA addition	Goodhue	Inholding of current SNA, Floodplain Forest of Outstanding biodiversity significance harboring rare turtles and birds.	Fee Title	11	0	\$49,500	Private	DNR-SNA	Purchased
Des Moines River SNA addition	Jackson	Buffer to SNA to aide in mgmt. of native prairie	Fee Title	50	-	\$200,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Drake Woods	Faribault	Best intact MBS mapped hardwood forest in south central MN	Fee Title	300	1.5	\$2,000,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Falls Creek SNA addition	Washington	One of the most diverse forested natural areas remaining in Washington County. Will add to core SNA habitat, protect St. Croix River frontage, fill a protection gap within the St. Croix National Scenic	Fee Title	120	0.5	\$2,400,000	Private	DNR-SNA	No Longer Being Considered

		Riverway, and provide better public access.							
Felton Prairie SNA	Clay	Dry gravel prairie	Restoration	28	-	\$60,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Frenchmans Bluff SNA addition	Norman	Dry Sand-gravel prairie in good condition	Fee Title	73	-	\$511,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Grey Could Dunes SNA Addition	Washington	Mississippi River shoreline, dry barrens prairie. Outstanding biodiversity significance.	Fee Title	7.2	-	\$300,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Purchased
Hemlock Ravine SNA	Carlton	Imperiled boreal hardwood forest: Red oak - Sugar maple - Basswood - (Bluebead lily) forest and White pine - White spruce - Paper birch forest (S2 ranked) with a state-endangered tree (Eastern hemlock). Project will continue an effort to stabilize and re-establish vegetation on eroded slide areas in the ravine.	Restoration	2	-	\$5,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Hythecker Prairie SNA addition	Dodge	200 foot grassland buffer on the east and north sides of the SNA to protect prairie from overspray from agricultural fields.	Fee Title	40	-	\$320,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Iona's Beach SNA	Lake	Gravel/cobble beach (Lake Superior) and Dry bedrock shore (Lake Superior) with Special concern species. Project would rehabilitate user-created trails and eroded areas	Restoration	1	-	\$2,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
McKinley Barrens SNA (NEW)	Cass	A globally rare fire-dependent Jack Pine-(Yarrow) Woodland, characterized by a mix of prairie and northern forest plant species.	Fee Title	276	-	\$325,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Purchased
Mille Lacs Moraine SNA	Crow Wing	Red oak - Basswood forest (Noncalcareous till) with several listed bird species. Project would rehabilitate a small former building site with debris and invasive species present.	Restoration	2	-	\$7,500	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Mille Lacs Moraine SNA addition	Crow Wing	MBS-mapped forest communities; Red-shouldered hawk, Cerulean warbler habitat	Fee Title	265	0.5	\$800,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Minnesota Point Pine Forest SNA	St. Louis	Beachgrass dune (Lake Superior), Juniper dune shrubland (Lake	Restoration	2	-	\$10,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun

		Superior), and Sand beach (Lake Superior) (all S1 ranked) with numerous listed species. Project would restore dune and beach communities eroded by storm surge and compliment beach nourishment activities being carried out by the Army Corps of Engineers							
Morton Outcrop SNA addition	Renville	Protect additional rock outcrop and mesic prairie along with additional access to site	Fee Title	3	-	\$24,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Mound Prairie SNA addition	Houston	Protect additional mesic and dry bluff prairie, and provide better management access to the SNA	Fee Title	40	-	\$200,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Mound Springs Prairie SNA	Yellow Medicine	Dry hill & mesic prairie	Restoration	5	-	\$13,500	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
North Fork Zumbro SNA addition	Goodhue	Protect additional floodplain forest and improve public access.	Fee Title	68	0.5	\$476,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Property Under Contract
Quarry Park SNA Addition	Stearns	Mature hardwood forest and rock outcrops. Adjacent to Quarry Park SNA.	Fee Title	25	-	\$1,000,050	Private	DNR-SNA	Purchased
Rock Ridge SNA addition	Cottonwood	Protect additional rock outcrop prairie	Fee Title	80	-	\$640,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Roscoe Prairie SNA addition	Stearns	Wet prairie with rare butterfly habitat	Fee Title	40	-	\$240,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Rose Dell Prairie (NEW)	Rock	MBS-mapped prairie with rare features. May be the biggest population of Western prairie Fringed orchids on private land in the US.	Fee Title	80	-	\$400,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Rosedale Fen SNA	Mahnomen	High quality native prairie, calcareous fen, and tamarack seepage swamp. Rare species present	Fee Title	160	0	\$100,000	Private	DNR-SNA	No Longer Being Considered
Sandpiper Prairie SNA	Norman	Wet-mesic prairie	Restoration	40	-	\$30,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Zumbro Falls Woods SNA	Wabasha	Project will restore agricultural land edge of SNA back to prairie, increasing prairie acres on-site and regionally	Restoration	16	-	\$43,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Totals				1,851.2	3.03	\$10,444,550			

Fee Acquisition

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

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

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

- SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan – <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snap/plan.html>
- Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan – <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mnwap/index.html>
- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan – www.dnr.state.mn.us/prairieplan

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

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

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

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

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

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

Restoration

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

All restoration/enhancement-related activities done with this appropriation are on lands designated as SNA that the state owns in fee or easement.

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

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

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

The SNA Program follows or exceeds the recommendations found in the BWSR “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines”. SNA restorations typically follow the current BWSR Guidelines, including Project Guidance, Plant Community Restoration, Temporary Cover and Forest/Woodlands. The SNA Program follows the general direction of the BWSR Guidelines for “Recommended Steps for Obtaining Plant Materials”, and has additional and more restrictive requirements for restoration material sources. Specifically, SNA restorations use seeds of a local ecotype, collected from onsite or within 25 miles. Restoration and management of DNR lands are governed by DNR Operational Order #124 on “Plant Material Standards for Native Plant Community Restoration” and #130 on “Pollinator Habitat” (which include BMPs).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [e6ecc735-349.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Minnesota's Scientific & Natural Areas aim to protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed natural condition the state's natural heritage features of exceptional scientific or educational value. This map depicts the highest-priority conservation opportunity areas of Minnesota targeted by the DNR SNA Program's acquisition and protection efforts, shaded in green polygons....

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
2021-151-SNA_ Background Check Certification Form	d8e3f369-753.pdf
McKinley Barrens Map	f1de9195-a6e.pdf
McKinley Barrens SNA Option	11606c1a-495.pdf
Final Report Map Showing SNA Acquisition and Enhancement Locations	a8d13400-c47.pdf
ML21 SNA Interpretive Panels Created	3b7221ca-c10.pdf

Media Links

Title	Link
SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan	https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snap/plan.html
Minnesota Scientific & Natural Areas	https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas/index.html
Spring 2024 Nature Notes e-newsletter	https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDNR/bulletins/37c20a0
Summer 2024 Nature Notes E-Newsletter	https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDNR/bulletins/3a1de2e
Fall 2024 Nature Notes E-Newsletter	https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDNR/bulletins/3b65999
Winter 2024 Nature Notes E-Newsletter	https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDNR/bulletins/3c656ae

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Since the recommended \$3,336,000 is 70% of the original \$4,670,000 proposal request, the work plan aims to deliver all activity milestones (outputs) at roughly 70% of the proposal request with two primary exceptions. Restoration and enhancement of a land base is difficult to scale down and still address needs on the landscape to enhance site quality and ecological function. The work plan proposes to retain 73% of the originally proposed Activity 1 budget for this reason. Fee-title acquisition, while greatly needed to establish protections on high-quality lands vulnerable to loss or degradation, is more easily scaled to match available funds, and lends the flexibility to propose retaining 67% of Activity 3 funds. The reduction in recommended funds may lead to smaller-scale projects, both in terms of parcels to acquire fee-title and restoration/enhancement projects, which in turn facilitates the completion of projects in-house for greater efficiency. To account for this, the work plan proposes to reduce contracting to 65% of what was included in the original project budget (instead of an across-the-board 70% reduction).

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Justification For Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Molly Roske (molly.roske@state.mn.us) New Manager: Jan Shaw Wolff (jan.wolff@state.mn.us)	Molly Roske is leaving her position as SNA Program Supervisor, and Jan Shaw Wolff (MN DNR/EWR Section Manager) will be stepping in as project manager on this appropriation.	August 9, 2022	Yes	August 10, 2022
2	Amendment Request	• Budget • Project Collaborators - Project Manager Info • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Travel and Conferences	Jan Shaw Wolff was acting in the interim until the new SNA Unit Supervisor could be hired (previously held by Molly Roske). Judy became the new SNA Unit Supervisor on December 7, 2022.	March 30, 2023	Yes	April 10, 2023
3	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Jan Shaw Wolff (judy.schulte@state.mn.us) New Manager: Judy Schulte (judy.schulte@state.mn.us)	Jan was acting in the interim until the new SNA Unit Supervisor could be hired. Judy became the new SNA Unit Supervisor on December 7, 2022.	January 3, 2023	Yes	January 3, 2023
4	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Jan Shaw Wolff (judy.schulte@state.mn.us) New Manager: Judy Schulte (judy.schulte@state.mn.us)	Jan Shaw Wolff was temporary project manager while SNA Supervisor position was vacant. On December 6, 2023, Judy became the new SNA Supervisor and will be taking lead for this appropriation moving forward.	March 28, 2023	Yes	March 30, 2023
5	Amendment Request	• Budget • Budget - Personnel • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies • Budget - Acquisition • Budget - Travel and Conferences • Budget - Other • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	Request to add 2 acquisition parcels to the parcel list. Also request to move money from several account lines into fee acquisition. With so many great acquisition projects in the works, we are trying to fully utilize any money we think we can for acquisition while still meeting other outcomes.	September 25, 2023	Yes	October 9, 2023

6	Amendment Request	• Budget • Other • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies • Budget - Acquisition • Budget - Travel and Conferences • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	Request to move the 11-acre Cannon River Turtle SNA addition from ML20 to this ML21 appropriation. Since all of the acquisition funding in ML20 was used on Quarry Park, we would like to move this parcel to ML21.	March 26, 2024	Yes	May 21, 2024
7	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Judy Schulte (judy.schulte@state.mn.us) New Manager: Judy Elbert (judy.elbert@state.mn.us)	Updating my last name after a name change from Judy Schulte to Judy Elbert.	March 21, 2024	Yes	March 22, 2024
8	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2024 New Completion Date: 06/30/2025; Governor Approved on 04/15/2024	During the pandemic the state issued a hiring freeze which caused the SNA program to be down 30% of its staff for over 3 years. Add to this, the fact that the ML20 ENRTF appropriation was not received until ML21 along with the ML21 appropriation creating a doubled-up scenario. Both of these situations created a backlog of work and funding. We are working to bring our staffing up to full capacity but need additional time.	June 21, 2023	Yes	May 21, 2024
9	Amendment Request	• Project Collaborators - Project Manager Info • Narrative • Other • Activities and Milestones • Budget - Personnel • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies • Budget - Acquisition • Budget - Travel and Conferences	The Grey Cloud Addition (being acquired with ML19) required reappraisal and came in \$300,000 higher. Since we did not have enough remaining on that appropriation, this request is to cover the additional \$300,000 from this appropriation. This request includes moving money around in the budget to come up with the \$300,000 needed and also adjust the anticipated acres acquired to accurately reflect the parcels (metro high value parcels equals less anticipated acres)	May 24, 2024	Yes	June 20, 2024

		• Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List				
10	Amendment Request	• Budget • Other • Activities and Milestones • Budget - Personnel • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies • Budget - Acquisition • Budget - Travel and Conferences • Budget - Printing and Publication • Attachments • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	Request to remove 15-acre restoration goal (1-7), adding 100-acres to woody/invasive control goal (1-6) in exchange. SNA had to delay planned interseeding projects due to staff shortages (for hand seed harvest) encountered during this appropriation. Request to add McKinley Barrens SNA to the acquisition parcel list. Request significant budget shifts to move \$245,000 to fee acquisition to acquire an additional parcel and make other needed account line adjustments to exceed Activity 1 goals.	March 21, 2025	Yes	May 23, 2025
11	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2025 New Completion Date: 06/30/2026	Request 1-year acquisition extension to close on McKinley Barrens SNA which optioned (binding contract) on 05/12/2025. Optioned added to the Work Plan in attachments section. McKinley Barrens is a large 800-acre acquisition that we are hoping to use 3 ENRTF appropriations to purchase, if not approved, we would have to try and find alternative funding to pay for this portion and \$245,000 or more of this appropriation would be returned.	June 19, 2025	Yes	June 19, 2025
12	Amendment Request	• Activities and Milestones	Request to adjust milestone timelines to account for the approved 1-year acquisition extension. This includes a request to extend site development to allow for the posting of the optioned McKinley Barrens parcel once acquired.	July 8, 2025	Yes	August 26, 2025
13	Amendment Request	• Budget - Personnel • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and	Request to consolidate extra budget from multiple account categories into land acquisition to acquire more of the 800-acre McKinley Barrens SNA acquisition	October 14, 2025	Yes	October 17, 2025

		Supplies • Budget - Acquisition • Budget - Travel and Conferences • Budget - Printing and Publication • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	through this appropriation. This would allow for 275 of the 800 acres to be acquired through this appropriation. The rest of the acres will be purchased using ML23 and ML24 SNA ENRTF appropriations. This frees up dollars in ML24 to target additional SNA acquisitions.			
14	Amendment Request	• Attachments • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	Updated parcel list acres, cost estimates, and notes to reflect final legal survey acres and associated land payment amounts. Added a Final Report Map (updated version from our original visual map) showing the SNA acquisition and enhancement activity locations.	August 3, 2026	Yes	August 6, 2026

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2026

Date Submitted: August 3, 2026

Date Approved: August 6, 2026

Overall Update

Woody and herbaceous invasives control occurred on 1,399 acres (53 SNAs). Prescribed disturbance activities took place on 1,175 acres (25 SNAs). Site development projects were carried out at 32 SNAs and 7 interpretive panels were created. Ecological monitoring activities took place at 44 SNAs. Three SNA management briefs and 1 plan have been completed.

In November 2024, there were 139 SNAs that had one or more volunteer Site Stewards (165 volunteers). Currently, 118 SNAs have one or more volunteer Site Stewards (142 volunteers). This temporary decline is part of an effort to create a more effective volunteer program with new volunteers being added regularly. Four issues of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers. 69 events were implemented with 1,415 volunteer hours worked by 418 volunteers.

An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition closed (25-acres directly through this ML21 appropriation), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA closed (fully funded through this appropriation), a 47.2-acre addition to Grey Cloud Dunes closed (7.2 acres directly through this ML21 appropriation) and the 800-acre McKinley Barrens SNA closed (276 acres directly through this appropriation). A total of 319 acres was protected directly through this appropriation.

Activity 1

Cumulative to-date: 1-1. Ecological monitoring activities took place at 44 SNAs. 1-2. Three (3) SNA management briefs and 1 plan were completed. 1-3. Partnership projects: Staff have worked with 5 different partners to facilitate the completion of enhancement projects (e.g. woody/invasive control) on 6 SNAs. 1-4. Seven (7) interpretive panels were created and distributed to field staff for installation. Site development activities have taken place at 32 SNAs. 1-5. Prescribed fire (556 acres on 18 SNAs), prescribed grazing (384 acres on 1 SNA) and prescribed haying/mowing (236 acres on 8 SNAs) were completed for a total of 1,175 acres of prescribed disturbance. 1-6. Woody removal (897 acres on 31 SNAs) and invasive species treatment (502 acres on 38 SNAs) were completed for a total of 1,395 acres.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

Cumulative to-date: 3-1. Work on strategic SNA acquisition prioritization and climate change risk assessments has been completed. A gap analysis, utilizing new data, identified which native plant communities are missing representation within SNAs to inform future decisions on potential acquisitions. 3-2. Proactive landowner contact took place in 10 target areas. 3-3. An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition closed and was funded by the ML19, ML20 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (25-acres directly through this ML21 appropriation), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA closed (fully funded through this appropriation), a 47.2-acre addition to Grey Cloud Dunes closed and was funded by the ML19 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (7.2 acres directly through this ML21 appropriation) and the 800-acre McKinley Barrens SNA (funded through the ML21, ML23, and ML24 ENRTF SNA appropriations) closed (276 acres directly through this appropriation).

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

From January 1, 2024, through January 1, 2025, this appropriation was used to regularly update the SNA website with additions of new or edited content and to frequently update the events calendar. Four issues (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter 2024) of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has grown to over 16,100 followers. During this time, the SNA Program also contributed SNA content twice monthly to the DNR Instagram channel.

Acknowledgment 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 and invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2026

Date Submitted: April 7, 2026

Date Approved: April 14, 2026

Overall Update

Woody and herbaceous invasives control occurred on 1,399 acres (53 SNAs). Prescribed disturbance activities took place on 1,175 acres (25 SNAs). Site development projects were carried out at 32 SNAs and 7 interpretive panels were created. Ecological monitoring activities took place at 44 SNAs. Three SNA management briefs and 1 plan have been completed.

In November 2024, there were 139 SNAs that had one or more volunteer Site Stewards (165 volunteers). Currently, 118 SNAs have one or more volunteer Site Stewards (142 volunteers). This temporary decline is part of an effort to create a more effective volunteer program. Four issues of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers. 69 events were implemented with 1,415 volunteer hours worked by 418 volunteers.

An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition closed (25-acres directly through this ML21 appropriation), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA closed (fully funded through this appropriation), a 50-acre addition to Grey Cloud Dunes closed (7.2 acres directly through this ML21 appropriation) and the 800-acre SNA at McKinley Barrens closed (276 acres directly through this appropriation). A total of 319 acres was protected directly through this appropriation.

Activity 1

Cumulative to-date: 1-1. Ecological monitoring activities took place at 44 SNAs. 1-2. Three (3) SNA management briefs and 1 plan were completed. 1-3. Partnership projects: Staff have worked with 5 different partners to facilitate the completion of enhancement projects (e.g. woody/invasive control) on 6 SNAs. 1-4. Seven (7) interpretive panels were created and distributed to field staff for installation. Site development activities have taken place at 32 SNAs. 1-5. Prescribed fire (556 acres on 18 SNAs), prescribed grazing (384 acres on 1 SNA) and prescribed haying/mowing (236 acres on 8 SNAs) were completed for a total of 1,175 acres of prescribed disturbance. 1-6. Woody removal (897 acres on 31 SNAs) and invasive species treatment (502 acres on 38 SNAs) were completed for a total of 1,399 acres.

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

Cumulative to-date: 3-1. Work on strategic SNA acquisition prioritization and climate change risk assessments has been completed. A gap analysis, utilizing new data, identified which native plant communities are missing representation within SNAs to inform future decisions on potential acquisitions. 3-2. Proactive landowner contact took place in 10 target areas. 3-3. An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition closed and was funded by the ML19, ML20 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (25-acres directly through this ML21 appropriation), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA closed (fully funded through this appropriation), a 50-acre addition to Grey Cloud Dunes closed and was funded by the ML19 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (7.2 acres directly through this ML21 appropriation) and the 800-acre SNA at McKinley Barrens (funded through the ML21, ML23, and ML24 ENRTF SNA appropriations) closed (276 acres directly through this appropriation).

Dissemination

From January 1, 2024, through January 1, 2025, this appropriation was used to regularly update the SNA website with additions of new or edited content and to frequently update the events calendar. Four issues (Spring, Summer, Fall, and

Winter 2024) of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has grown to over 16,100 followers. During this time, the SNA Program also contributed SNA content twice monthly to the DNR Instagram channel.

Acknowledgment 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 and invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update November 1, 2025

Date Submitted: October 24, 2025

Date Approved: October 30, 2025

Overall Update

Woody and herbaceous invasives control occurred on 1,395 acres (53 SNAs). Prescribed disturbance activities took place on 1,175 acres (25 SNAs). Site development projects were carried out at 30 SNAs and 7 interpretive panels were created. Ecological monitoring activities took place at 44 SNAs. Three SNA management briefs and 1 plan have been completed. In November 2024, there were 139 SNAs that had one or more volunteer Site Stewards (165 volunteers). Currently, 118 SNAs have one or more volunteer Site Stewards (142 volunteers). This temporary decline is part of an effort to create a more effective volunteer program. Four issues of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers. 69 events were implemented with 1,415 volunteer hours worked by 418 volunteers.

An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition was acquired utilizing multiple ENRTF SNA appropriations (25-acres through this appropriation), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA closed (fully funded through this appropriation) and a 50-acre addition to Grey Cloud Dunes was acquired (7.2 acres through this appropriation). The 800-acre SNA at McKinley Barrens (funded through the ML21, ML23, and ML24 ENRTF SNA appropriations) has optioned (275 acres through this appropriation).

Activity 1

Cumulative to-date: 1-1. Ecological monitoring activities took place at 44 SNAs. 1-2. Three (3) SNA management briefs and 1 plan were completed. 1-3. Partnership projects: Staff have worked with 5 different partners to facilitate the completion of enhancement projects (e.g. woody/invasive control) on 6 SNAs. 1-4. Seven (7) interpretive panels were created and distributed to field staff for installation. Site development activities have taken place at 30 SNAs. 1-5. Prescribed fire (556 acres on 18 SNAs), prescribed grazing (384 acres on 1 SNA) and prescribed haying/mowing (236 acres on 8 SNAs) were completed for a total of 1,175 acres of prescribed disturbance. 1-6. Woody removal (897 acres on 31 SNAs) and invasive species treatment (498 acres on 38 SNAs) were completed for a total of 1,395 acres.

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

Cumulative to-date: 3-1. Work on strategic SNA acquisition prioritization and climate change risk assessments has been completed. A gap analysis, utilizing new data, identified which native plant communities are missing representation within SNAs to inform future decisions on potential acquisitions. 3-2. Proactive landowner contact took place in 10 target areas. 3-3. An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition closed and was funded by the ML19, ML20 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (25-acres directly through this ML21 appropriation), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA closed (fully funded through this appropriation) and a 50-acre addition to Grey Cloud Dunes closed and was funded by the ML19 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (7.2 acres directly through this ML21 appropriation). The 800-acre SNA at McKinley Barrens (funded through the ML21, ML23, and ML24 ENRTF SNA appropriations) has optioned. Approximately 275 of the 800 acres will be paid for through this appropriation.

Dissemination

From January 1, 2024, through January 1, 2025, this appropriation was used to regularly update the SNA website with additions of new or edited content and to frequently update the events calendar. Four issues (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter 2024) of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has

grown to over 16,100 followers. During this time, the SNA Program also contributed SNA content twice monthly to the DNR Instagram channel.

Acknowledgment 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 and invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update August 14, 2025

Date Submitted: July 8, 2025

Date Approved: August 26, 2025

Overall Update

Woody and herbaceous invasives control occurred on 1,391 acres (52 SNAs). Prescribed disturbance activities took place on 1,171 acres (24 SNAs). Site development projects were carried out at 30 SNAs and 7 interpretive panels were created. Ecological monitoring activities took place at 44 SNAs. Three SNA management briefs and 1 plan have been completed. In November 2024, there were 139 SNAs that had one or more volunteer Site Stewards (165 volunteers). Currently, 118 SNAs have one or more volunteer Site Stewards (142 volunteers). This temporary decline is part of an effort to create a more effective volunteer program. Four issues of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers. 69 events were implemented with 1,415 volunteer hours worked by 418 volunteers.

An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition was acquired utilizing multiple ENRTF SNA appropriations (25-acres through this appropriation), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA closed (fully funded through this appropriation) and a 50-acre addition to Grey Cloud Dunes was acquired (7.2 acres through this appropriation). The 800-acre SNA at McKinley Barrens (funded through the ML21, ML23, and ML24 ENRTF SNA appropriations) has optioned (165 acres through this appropriation).

Activity 1

Cumulative to-date: 1-1. Ecological monitoring activities have taken place at 44 SNAs. 1-2. Three (3) SNA management briefs and 1 plan have been completed. 1-3. Partnership projects: Staff have worked with 5 different partners to facilitate the completion of enhancement projects (e.g. woody/invasive control) on 6 SNAs. 1-4. Seven (7) interpretive panels were created and distributed to field staff for installation. Site development activities have taken place at 30 SNAs. 1-5. Prescribed fire (556 acres on 18 SNAs), prescribed grazing (384 acres on 1 SNA) and prescribed haying/mowing (231 acres on 7 SNAs) were completed for a total of 1,171 acres of prescribed disturbance. 1-6. Woody removal (889 acres on 31 SNAs) and invasive species treatment (502 acres on 36 SNAs) were completed for a total of 1,391 acres.

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

Cumulative to-date: 3-1. Work on strategic SNA acquisition prioritization and climate change risk assessments has been completed. A gap analysis, utilizing new data, identified which native plant communities are missing representation within SNAs to inform future decisions on potential acquisitions. 3-2. Proactive landowner contact took place in 10 target areas. 3-3. An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition closed and was funded by the ML19, ML20 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (25-acres directly through this ML21 appropriation), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA closed (fully funded through this appropriation) and a 50-acre addition to Grey Cloud Dunes closed and was funded by the ML19 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (7.2 acres directly through this ML21 appropriation). The 800-acre SNA at McKinley Barrens (funded through the ML21, ML23, and ML24 ENRTF SNA appropriations) has optioned. Approximately 165 of the 800 acres will be paid for through this appropriation.

Dissemination

From January 1, 2024, through January 1, 2025, this appropriation was used to regularly update the SNA website with additions of new or edited content and to frequently update the events calendar. Four issues (Spring, Summer, Fall, and

Winter 2024) of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has grown to over 16,100 followers. During this time, the SNA Program also contributed SNA content twice monthly to the DNR Instagram channel.

Acknowledgment 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 and invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2025

Date Submitted: March 21, 2025

Date Approved: May 19, 2025

Overall Update

Woody and herbaceous invasives control occurred on 918 acres (52 SNAs). Prescribed disturbance activities took place on 883 acres (21 SNAs). Site development projects were carried out at 28 SNAs and 7 interpretive panels were created. Ecological monitoring activities took place at 44 SNAs. Three SNA management briefs were completed with one additional plan on-track to be completed.

In November 2024, there were 139 SNAs that had one or more volunteer Site Stewards (165 volunteers). Currently, 118 SNAs have one or more volunteer Site Stewards (142 volunteers). This temporary decline is part of an effort to create a more effective volunteer program. Four issues of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers. 69 events were implemented with 1,415 volunteer hours worked by 418 volunteers.

An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition was acquired utilizing multiple ENRTF SNA appropriations (25-acres through this appropriation), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA closed (fully funded through this appropriation) and a 50-acre addition to Grey Cloud Dunes was acquired (7.2 acres through this appropriation). This update includes an amendment request to add an 800-acre SNA (McKinley Barrens) to the acquisition parcel list (165 acres through this appropriation).

Activity 1

Cumulative to-date: 1-1. Ecological monitoring activities have taken place at 44 SNAs. 1-2. Three (3) SNA management briefs have been completed with one additional plan on-track to be completed by 6/30/2025. 1-3. Partnership projects: Staff have worked with 5 different partners to facilitate the completion of enhancement projects (e.g. woody/invasive control) on 6 SNAs. 1-4. Seven (7) interpretive panels were created and distributed to field staff for installation. Site development activities have taken place at 28 SNAs. 1-5. Prescribed fire (268 acres on 14 SNAs), prescribed grazing (384 acres on 1 SNA) and prescribed haying/mowing (231 acres on 2 SNAs) were completed for a total of 883 acres of prescribed disturbance. 1-6. Woody removal (456 acres on 25 SNAs) and invasive species treatment (462 acres on 32 SNAs) were completed for a total of 918 acres. 1-7. Site preparation and seed harvest has begun for the Blanket Flower SNA Restoration through this appropriation, however the restoration is delayed due to staff shortages encountered during the timeframe of this appropriation. This update includes an amendment request to move restoration acre goals to woody/invasive control acre goals.

Activity 2

Cumulative to-date: 2-1. Currently, 118 SNAs (~69% of all SNAs) have one or more volunteer Site Stewards who report observations and assist with management (total of 142 volunteers). This temporary decline is part of an effort to create a more effective volunteer program. We anticipate the number to increase over the next year, ultimately exceeding historic volunteer numbers. At its peak during this appropriation, there were 139 SNAs (~82% of all SNAs) that had one or more volunteer Site Stewards (total of 165 volunteers). 2-2. From January 1, 2024-January 1, 2025, this appropriation was used to regularly update the SNA website with additions of new/edited content and to frequently update the events calendar. Four issues (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter 2024) of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers. During this time, the SNA Facebook channel grew to over 16,100 followers. SNA contributed content to DNR's Instagram channel twice per month. 2-3. A total of 69 events were implemented (a few were canceled for various reasons) from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2025 with 1,415 volunteer hours worked by 418 volunteers. *(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

Activity 3

Cumulative to-date: 3-1. Work on strategic prioritization and climate change risk assessments is in development. 3-2. Proactive landowner contact has taken place in 10 target areas. 3-3. An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition closed and was funded by the ML19, ML20 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (25-acres directly through this ML21 appropriation), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA closed (fully funded through this appropriation) and a 50-acre addition to Grey Cloud Dunes closed and was funded by the ML19 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (7.2 acres directly through this ML21 appropriation). This update includes an amendment request to add an 800-acre SNA at McKinley Barrens, as part of the Heritage Forest acquisition, which will be acquired with ENRTF funding from ML21, ML23, and ML24 appropriations.

Dissemination

From January 1, 2024, through January 1, 2025, this appropriation was used to regularly update the SNA website with additions of new or edited content and to frequently update the events calendar. Four issues (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter 2024) of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 15,250 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has grown to over 16,100 followers. During this time, the SNA Program also contributed SNA content twice monthly to the DNR Instagram channel.

Acknowledgment 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 and invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update November 1, 2024

Date Submitted: September 30, 2024

Date Approved: October 23, 2024

Overall Update

Woody and herbaceous invasives control has occurred on 856 acres at 37 SNAs. A mix of prescribed disturbance activities (prescribed fire, grazing & haying) have taken place on 714 acres at 17 SNAs. Site development projects have been carried out at 22 SNAs and 7 interpretive panels have been created. Ecological monitoring activities have taken place at 40 SNAs. Three SNA management briefs have been completed with one additional plan at draft stage. Currently, 139 SNAs (~82% of all SNAs) have one or more volunteer Site Stewards (total of 165 volunteers). Three issues (Spring, Summer, and Fall 2024) of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 14,900 subscribers. Through this appropriation 76 events have been planned or implemented since January 1, 2024 with nearly 207 volunteer hours worked by 62 volunteers.

An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition closed and was funded by the ML19, ML20 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (25-acres through this ML21 appropriation), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA closed (fully funded through this appropriation) and a 50-acre addition to Grey Cloud Dunes closed and was funded by the ML19 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (7.2 acres through this ML21 appropriation).

Activity 1

Cumulative to-date: 1-1. Ecological monitoring activities have taken place at 40 SNAs. 1-2. Three (3) SNA management briefs have been completed with one additional plan at draft stage with an anticipated completion date of 6/30/2025. 1-3. Partnership projects: Staff worked with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to do woody control at Moose Mountain SNA and Iona's Beach SNA, with the Hastings Environmental Protectors to remove cedar and sumac from Hastings Sand Coulee and with the Mississippi Park Connection to pull garlic mustard at Grey Cloud Dunes SNA. 1-4. Seven (7) interpretive panels were created and distributed to field staff for installation. Site development activities have taken place at 22 SNAs. 1-5. Prescribed fire (268 acres on 14 SNAs), prescribed grazing (384 acres on 1 SNA) and prescribed haying (62 acres on 2 SNAs) were completed for a total of 714 acres of prescribed disturbance. 1-6. Woody removal (404 acres on 17 SNAs) and invasive species treatment (452 acres on 29 SNAs) were completed for a total of 856 acres. 1-7. Site preparation has begun for the Blanket Flower SNA Restoration.

Activity 2

Cumulative to-date: 2-1. Currently, 139 SNAs (~82% of all SNAs) have one or more volunteer Site Stewards who report observations and assist with management (total of 165 volunteers). 2-2. From January 1, 2024 until present, this appropriation was used to regularly update the SNA website with additions of new/edited content and to frequently update the events calendar. Three issues (Spring, Summer, and Fall 2024) of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 14,900 subscribers. During this time, the SNA Facebook channel grew to over 14,500 followers. SNA contributed content to DNR's Instagram channel twice per month. 2-3. Currently 76 events have been planned or implemented since January 1, 2024 with nearly 207 volunteer hours worked by 62 volunteers.

Activity 3

Cumulative to-date: 3-1. Work on strategic prioritization and climate change risk assessments is in development. 3-2. Proactive landowner contact has taken place in 10 target areas. 3-3. An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition closed and was funded by the ML19, ML20 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (25-acres directly through this ML21 appropriation), an 11-acre addition to Cannon River Turtle SNA closed (fully funded through this appropriation) and a 50-acre addition to Grey Cloud Dunes closed and was funded by the ML19 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (7.2 acres directly through this ML21 appropriation).

Dissemination

From January 1, 2024 until present, this appropriation was used to regularly update the SNA website with additions of new or edited content and to frequently update the events calendar. Three issues (Spring, Summer, and Fall 2024) of the Nature Notes e-newsletters were delivered to 14,900 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has grown to over 14,500 followers. During this time, the SNA Program also contributed SNA content twice monthly to the DNR Instagram channel.

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 and invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2024

Date Submitted: March 26, 2024

Date Approved: May 21, 2024

Overall Update

Woody and herbaceous invasives control has occurred on 381 acres at 22 SNAs. A mix of prescribed disturbance activities (prescribed fire, grazing & haying) have taken place on 584 acres at 7 SNAs. Site development projects have been carried out at 12 SNAs and 7 interpretive panels have been created. Ecological monitoring activities took place at 13 SNAs with several other activities planned to take place during the 2024 field season. Four (4) SNA management plans/briefs have been contracted with plan completion aimed for 6/30/24.

An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition has closed and was funded by the ML19, ML20 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (25 acres directly through this ML21 appropriation). Request to move the 11-acre Cannon River Turtle SNA addition from ML20 to this ML21 appropriation. Negotiations continue on an addition to North Fork Zumbro SNA.

Activity 1

Cumulative to-date: 1-1. Ecological monitoring activities took place at 13 SNAs with several other activities planned to take place during the 2024 field season. 1-2. Four (4) SNA management plans/briefs have been contracted with plan completion aimed for 6/30/24. 1-3. Partnership projects: Staff worked with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to do woody control at Moose Mountain SNA and Iona's Beach SNA. 1-4. Seven (7) interpretive panels were created and distributed to field staff for installation. Site development activities have taken place at 12 SNAs. 1-5. Prescribed fire (162 acres, prescribed grazing (384 acres on 1 SNA) and prescribed haying (38 res on 1 SNA) were completed for a total of 584 acres of prescribed disturbance. 1-6. Woody removal (341 acres on 9 SNAs) and invasive species treatment (40 acres on 13 SNAs) were completed for a total of 381 acres. 1-7. Site preparation has begun for the Blanket Flower SNA Restoration.

Activity 2

Cumulative to-date: 2-1. Currently, 139 SNAs (~82% of all SNAs) have one or more volunteer Site Stewards who report observations and assist with management (total of 180 volunteers). 2-2. From January 1, 2024 until present, this appropriation was used to regularly update the SNA website with additions of new/edited content and to frequently update the events calendar. One issue (Spring 2024) of the Nature Notes e-newsletters will be delivered to 14,000 subscribers in late March. During this time, the SNA Facebook channel grew to over 11,300 followers. SNA contributed content to DNR's Instagram channel twice per month. 2-3. Currently 21 events have been planned or implemented since January 1, 2024 with nearly 24 volunteer hours worked by 6 volunteers.

Activity 3

Cumulative to-date: 3-1. Work on strategic prioritization and climate change risk assessments is in development. 3-2. Proactive landowner contact has taken place in 10 target areas. 3-3. An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition has closed and was funded by the ML19, ML20 and ML21 ENRTF SNA appropriations (25 acres directly through this ML21 appropriation). Request to move the 11-acre Cannon River Turtle SNA addition from ML20 to this ML21 appropriation. Negotiations continue on an addition to North Fork Zumbro SNA.

Dissemination

From January 1, 2024 until present, this appropriation was used to regularly update the SNA website with additions of new or edited content and to frequently update the events calendar. One issues (Spring 2024) of the Nature Notes e-newsletters will be delivered to 14,000 subscribers in late March. The SNA Facebook channel has grown to over 11,300 followers. During this time, the SNA Program also contributed SNA content twice monthly to the DNR Instagram

channel.

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 and invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update November 1, 2023

Date Submitted: September 25, 2023

Date Approved: October 9, 2023

Overall Update

Woody and herbaceous invasives control has occurred on 207 acres at 11 SNAs. A mix of prescribed disturbance activities (prescribed fire & grazing) have taken place on 240 acres at 5 SNAs. Site development projects have been carried out at 6 SNAs and 7 interpretive panels have been created. Ecological and adaptive management monitoring has taken place at 1 SNA with additional activities taking place over the summer of 2023. Four (4) SNAs have been selected for completion of site management plans or briefs and field data collection started taking place summer 2023. Several SNA acquisition projects are in the works and depending on progress may be completed with this appropriation. An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition is likely going to be split between ML19, ML20 and ML21. The acquisition of Rosedale Fen is still being negotiated but we are hoping to get to option this year. Negotiations have also begun on an addition to North Fork Zumbro SNA.

Activity 1

Cumulative to-date: 1-1. Adaptive management and ecological monitoring activities took place at 1 SNA with several other activities taking place during the 2023 field season which will be reported on in March. 1-2. Four (4) SNAs have been identified for management plans/briefs and a contract was executed in March to start work on them. 1-3. Partnership projects are currently being completed with previous appropriations and will switch to this appropriation in the future. 1-4. Seven (7) interpretive panels were created and distributed to field staff for installation. Site development activities have taken place at 6 SNAs. 1-5. Prescribed fire (122 acres on 4 SNAs) and prescribed grazing (118 acres on 1 SNA) were completed for a total of 240 acres of prescribed disturbance. 1-6. Woody removal (176 acres on 2 SNAs) and invasive species treatment (31 acres on 9 SNAs) were completed for a total of 207 acres. 1-7. Site preparation has begun for the Blanket Flower SNA Restoration.

Activity 2

Cumulative to-date: 2-1, 2-2 & 2-3. Many of these efforts are continuations of past appropriations with work currently taking place on ML19 and work scheduled to start on the ML20 appropriation December 30, 2022. Work is estimated to begin on this ML21 appropriation around December 30, 2023.

Activity 3

Cumulative to-date: 3-1. Work on strategic prioritization and climate change risk assessments is in development. 3-2. Proactive landowner contact has taken place in 10 target areas. 3-3. Several SNA acquisition projects are in the works and depending on progress may be completed with this appropriation. An 80-acre Quarry Park SNA addition is likely going to be split between ML19, ML20 and ML21. The acquisition of Rosedale Fen is still being negotiated but we are hoping to get to option this year. Negotiations have also begun on an addition to North Fork Zumbro SNA. This update includes a request to move additional money into acquisition. With so many great projects in the works, we are trying to fully utilize any money we think we can for acquisition while still meeting other outcomes.

Dissemination

Many of these efforts are continuations of past appropriations with work currently taking place on ML20. Work is estimated to begin on this ML21 appropriation around December 30, 2023.

Once this work begins, acknowledgement of the ENRTF will be 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 and invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2023

Date Submitted: March 30, 2023

Date Approved: April 10, 2023

Overall Update

Woody removal activities have taken place on 176 acres at 2 SNAs. Four (4) SNAs have been identified for management plans/briefs and a Request for Proposals will be going out by the end of March to setup contracts. Seven (7) interpretive panels have been designed and will be going out for production soon. Site development activities have taken place at 1 SNA. Adaptive management and ecological monitoring activities took place at 1 SNA with several other activities planned for the 2023 field season.

Several parcels are being explored for acquisition with this appropriation. An amendment will be requested in the future to add parcels once further internal vetting is completed.

Activity 1

Cumulative to-date: 1-1. Adaptive management and ecological monitoring activities took place at 1 SNA with several other activities planned for the 2023 field season. Details on these activities are noted below:

- An adaptive management framework was built to learn how management such as prescribed fire, haying, and grazing affect the population density of Dakota skippers and their habitat in the only known population in Minnesota at the Felton Prairie SNA.

1-2. Four (4) SNAs have been identified for management plans/briefs and a Request for Proposals will be going out by the end of March to setup contracts. 1-3. Partnership projects are currently being completed with previous appropriations and will switch to this appropriation in the future. 1-4. Seven (7) interpretive panels have been designed and will be going out for production soon. Site development activities have taken place at 1 SNA. 1-5. A total of 2.3 miles of firebreaks have been installed in preparation for this springs burn season. 1-6. Woody removal has taken place on 176 acres at 2 SNAs. 1-7. Site preparation has begun for the Blanket Flower SNA Restoration.

Activity 2

Cumulative to-date: 2-1, 2-2 & 2-3. Many of these efforts are continuations of past appropriations with work currently taking place on ML19 and work scheduled to start on the ML20 appropriation December 30, 2022. Work is estimated to begin on this ML21 appropriation around December 30, 2023.

Activity 3

Cumulative to-date: 3-1 & 3-2. These efforts are currently taking place utilizing earlier appropriations of funding. 3-3. Several parcels are being explored for acquisition with this appropriation. No projects have been developed enough to receive division approval to proceed with acquisition yet on this funding.

Dissemination

Many of these efforts are continuations of past appropriations with work currently taking place on ML19 and work scheduled to start on the ML20 appropriation December 30, 2022. Work is estimated to begin on this ML21 appropriation around December 30, 2023.

Once this work begins, acknowledgement of the ENRTF will be 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 and invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update November 1, 2022

Date Submitted: October 31, 2022

Date Approved: November 2, 2022

Overall Update

Woody removal activities have taken place on 176 acres at 2 SNAs. Site development activities have taken place at 1 SNA. An adaptive management framework was built and monitoring initiated to learn how management such as prescribed fire, haying, and grazing affect the population density of Dakota skippers and their habitat in the only known population in Minnesota at the Felton Prairie SNA.

Several parcels are being explored for acquisition with this appropriation. An amendment will be requested in the future to add parcels once further internal vetting is completed.

Activity 1

Cumulative to-date: 1-1. Adaptive management and ecological monitoring activities took place at 1 SNA with several other activities planned for the 2023 field season. Details on these activities are noted below:

- An adaptive management framework was built to learn how management such as prescribed fire, haying, and grazing affect the population density of Dakota skippers and their habitat in the only known population in Minnesota at the Felton Prairie SNA.

1-2. Four SNAs have been identified as candidates for completion or update of site management plans on this appropriation. 1-3. Partnership projects are currently being completed with previous appropriations and will switch to this appropriation in the future. 1-4. Site development activities have taken place at 1 SNA. 1-5. Prescribed burning is current taking place on earlier appropriations (ML19 & ML20). 1-6. Woody removal has taken place on 176 acres at 2 SNAs. 1-7. Planning for restoration projects to be completed with this appropriation is currently underway.

Activity 2

Cumulative to-date: 2-1, 2-2 & 2-3. Many of these efforts are continuations of past appropriations with work currently taking place on ML19 and work scheduled to start on the ML20 appropriation December 30, 2022. Work is estimated to begin on this ML21 appropriation around December 30, 2023.

Activity 3

Cumulative to-date: 3-1 & 3-2. These efforts are currently taking place utilizing earlier appropriations of funding. 3-3. Several parcels are being explored for acquisition with this appropriation. No projects have been developed enough to receive division approval to proceed with acquisition yet on this funding, as this work is focused on prior years' appropriations at present.

Dissemination

Many of these efforts are continuations of past appropriations with work currently taking place on ML19 and work scheduled to start on the ML20 appropriation December 30, 2022. Work is estimated to begin on this ML21 appropriation around December 30, 2023. In the previous update, notes were made about the website and other outreach, but that work was technically taking place on a previous appropriation and thus really should not be reported for this appropriation yet.

Once this work begins, acknowledgement of the ENRTF will be 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 and invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2022

Date Submitted: April 29, 2022

Date Approved: May 4, 2022

Overall Update

SNA habitat restoration, enhancement, and improvement activities are underway, with 175 acres of invasive species treatment and one large seed harvest complete to date. Public involvement is high as well, as we look ahead to the spring/summer field season with several SNA events on the calendar. Spending has not yet begun on outcomes related to Activity 2 (Public engagement/outreach) or Activity 3 (Strategic acquisition) on this appropriation, but rather is finishing up on prior appropriations. Planning for this work is underway, and spending on these activities will begin in the next few months.

Activity 1

Two SNAs have already had woody invasive species removed in the last few months, on a total of about 175 acres to date on this appropriation thanks in large part to the work of a Conservation Corps (CCMI) crew. A 41-acre prairie seed harvest has also been completed, in preparation for a SNA prairie restoration in future months. This funding supported the design and purchase of 4 interpretive signs for upcoming installation at 2 SNAs, with more to come. Two SNAs have so far been identified as candidate sites in need of new or updated site management plans that will be completed with the support of this funding. Planning is underway for the coming field season for other related Activity 1 outcomes.

Activity 2

The Site Steward network is strong with 166 Stewards serving at 139 SNAs. Work in this activity area is primarily still being completed with earlier appropriations, but planning is underway with work on this appropriation's public engagement outcomes to begin in the near future.

Activity 3

Exploratory acquisition work is initiating on this appropriation. No projects have been developed enough to received division approval to proceed with acquisition yet on this funding, as this work is focused on prior years' appropriations at present.

Dissemination

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 45th (Spring 2022) issue of the Nature Notes e-newsletter was delivered to 10,519 subscribers. The SNA Facebook channel has achieved over 8,800 followers at present, with the highest monthly reach in February 2022 of 51,753 instances of viewer engagement. The SNA Program also currently contributes SNA 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.