



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## M.L. 2022 Approved Work Plan

### General Information

**ID Number:** 2022-260

**Staff Lead:** Becca Nash

**Date this document submitted to LCCMR:** June 23, 2022

**Project Title:** Watershed and Forest Restoration: What a Match!

**Project Budget:** \$3,318,000

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Lindberg Ekola

**Organization:** Board of Water and Soil Resources

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### Project Reporting

**Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR:** June 27, 2022

**Reporting Schedule:** March 1 / September 1 of each year.

**Project Completion:** June 30, 2025

**Final Report Due Date:** August 14, 2025

### Legal Information

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 08j

**Appropriation Language:** \$3,318,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation with soil and water conservation districts, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and the Department of Natural Resources, to accelerate tree planting on privately owned, protected lands for water-quality protection and carbon sequestration.

**Appropriation End Date:** June 30, 2025

## Narrative

**Project Summary:** This project builds capacity in soil water conservation districts and Mille Lacs Band with BWSR and DNR to accelerate tree planting for water quality and carbon sequestration by private landowners.

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

Minnesota lost 15 million acres of forests since pre-European settlement. Over 95 percent of this historic forestland loss happened on private lands. One of the best ways to protect water quality while sequestering carbon is the protection and reforestation of today's open lands, private tracts that once were forested.

Combined resources invested in the state have supported up to 6,000 acres of tree planting per year on private lands. At this level, it would take over 160 years to reach the 1-million-acre goal of reforestation. We have a huge implementation capacity gap (6,000 ac vs 50,000 ac).

Clearly, it will take a dramatic upswing in equipment, manpower, nursery growing stock, and the requisite funding – combined with collaborative efforts of landowners and service providers – to make a measurable difference in protecting water quality while exponentially increasing carbon sequestration. Reforestation of open lands brings added benefits – habitat, source water protection, outdoor recreation – all while supporting forest industry and jobs. It will take an “all hands-on deck” approach over time through incremental ramping up of capacities by all partners to meet the tandem challenges of protecting water quality and restoring forestlands.

**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.**

This project brings the collaborative horsepower of private, local, tribal and state partners in private forest management with water quality protection highlighted in 1W1P and landscape stewardship plans (LSPs). Building from this platform, we will strategically coordinate and implement tree planting capacities and services to private landowners in three major watersheds with significant losses in forestland cover. In this way, the project will fund the restoration and protection of water quality, dramatically increase private forest management, while increasing carbon sequestration on private lands.

This proposal will purchase conservation easements guided by the LSP and 1W1P priorities, but typically those parcels one property physically away from the highest RAQ (riparian-adjacency-quality) scores (less likely to be funded by CWL or LSOHC). Tree planting projects will be administered through DNR Forestry's PFM Cost Share Program. SWCD staff will lead landowner outreach and coordinate technical assistance. Tree planting will be provided at 75% cost share rate. The project will rebalance the mix of trees planted toward species that have competitive advantages in anticipated climate conditions. We will use science-based silvicultural goals and strategies established in the Minnesota Forest Resources Council landscape plans based on research by DNR, U of MN, NRRI, USFS

**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?**

This project will provide technical assistance to 600 landowners over the 3-year timeframe. It will increase collaborative capacity of 14 SWCDs and the Mille Lacs Band to implement tree planting resulting in:

- 300 forest stewardship plans, 390 tree planting practice plans, and 780 tree planting verification checks.
- 1,390 acres of conservation easements.
- 27,000 acres of land enrolled in Sustainable Forest Incentives Act (SFIA) Program.
- 15 tree planters, site prep equipment purchased.
- 1,875,000 seedlings planted.
- 3,125 acres of open lands reforested.
- 7,437 metric tons pounds of carbon sequestered per year over a 20-year timeframe.

## Project Location

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

Region(s): Central

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

Region(s): Central

**When will the work impact occur?**

During the Project and In the Future

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Implementation – Accelerated Tree Planting Cost Share Program

**Activity Budget:** \$1,180,000

**Activity Description:**

This pilot project is the first of a five-step strategy towards reaching the 1-million-acre reforestation goal initially recommended by Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group (MCCAG) in 2009 and now, TNC and others. It brings together 14 SWCDs and the Mille Lacs Band with BWSR and DNR Forestry’s Private Forest Management (PFM) Program to significantly expand the capacity of tree planting to private landowners in three priority watersheds – Rum, Long Prairie and Redeye. These watersheds are in the transitional zone of the state, where the most significant losses of historic forestland cover occurred. Each of these watersheds has a landscape stewardship plan and a 1W1P in place or now under development. We will focus work on private parcels that have lower agricultural production ratings in priority watersheds as identified in these plans. Local forestry technical teams (LFTs) for each watershed who convene to coordinate the implementation of the landscape stewardship plans will oversee the delivery of this project. The LFTs consist of service providers – soil and water conservation districts, consulting foresters, Mille Lacs Band, BWSR, and DNR. The partners will work together on the project coordination tasks outlined in Activity 3 provided below.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Coordinate tree seedling stocking needs for the 3-year project with prospective private and public nurseries.	October 31, 2022
Purchase 15 tree planters and site prep equipment (district and tribal use)	March 31, 2023
Plant 1,875,000 seedlings to reforest 3,125 acres of land.	June 30, 2025
Sequester an estimated 7,437 metric tons of carbon per year over a 20-year timeframe.	June 30, 2025

### Activity 2: Targeted Watershed Protection – BWSR RIM Program and DNR’s SFIA Program

**Activity Budget:** \$1,390,000

**Activity Description:**

The three pilot watersheds selected for this project are within the Upper Mississippi Basin. All three have: 1) lost significant amounts of forestland cover and forest habitat, 2) generally have greater amounts of marginal, less productive agricultural lands, often with sandier or wetter soils, and 3) are tributaries to the Twin Cities drinking water supply.

The local forestry technical team (LFTs) in each watershed will provide information resources and technical assistance to landowners. The LFTs will assist landowners with navigating options to protect their working forestlands through conservation easements as administered by BWSR through its RIM Program or on lands enrolled in the Sustainable Forestry Incentives Act (SFIA) as administered by DNR. Tracts targeted for conservation easements will be selected based on the degree they implement the moderate to high RAQ scores in the landscape stewardship plans. The selection process for conservation easements will be managed by the local forestry technical teams and support the implementation of the goals in the landscape stewardship plans and comprehensive local water plans (1W1Ps).

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Purchase 463.3 acres of conservation easements in Rum River watershed.	June 30, 2025
Purchase 463.3 acres of conservation easements in the Redeye River watershed.	June 30, 2025

Purchase 463.3 acres of conservation easements in the Long Prairie River watershed	June 30, 2025
Enroll 27,000 acres of land into the SFIA Program.	June 30, 2025

### Activity 3: Project Coordination – Strategic Landowner Outreach and Technical Assistance, Watershed Coordination, Training and Evaluation

**Activity Budget:** \$748,000

**Activity Description:**

For decades, soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), have served as the primary local agency delivering conservation programs to private landowners and farmers including tree seedling sales programs. They have strong working relationships with private landowners as well as with consulting foresters, conservation service vendors, environmental organizations, and state and federal agencies.

This project will bring critical funding resources to ramp up current capacity for tree planting and private forest management services offered by the 14 SWCDs and the Mille Lacs Band in conjunction with DNR Forestry. Local forestry technical teams established by the landscape stewardship plans and 1W1Ps will lead the local coordination of the three watershed projects. These plans will provide guidance on setting priorities for strategic landowner outreach and service delivery. Consulting foresters and vendors will be contracted by SWCDs to implement this work.

Methods and approaches developed through this project will become a source for expanded delivery of tree planting capacity in other watersheds throughout the state in partnership with BWSR, DNR, NRCS, and environmental organizations. Results of this project will be shared via current training programs including DNR workshops, BWSR Academy, youth mentoring, and agency websites.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
PFM/Tree Planting Capacity Assessments – 14 districts, approximately 30 – 35 consulting foresters and vendors.	September 30, 2022
Service Provider training sessions – 6 plan writer / vendor workshops.	October 31, 2023
Youth mentoring – 6 workshops in area high schools or technical colleges to promote conservation careers	March 31, 2024
Local forestry technical teams to coordinate service delivery to landowners – convene 36 team meetings.	June 30, 2025
Technical assistance – 600 landowners, 300 forest stew plans, 390 practice plans, 780 planting verification checks	June 30, 2025
Reporting – 3 progress reports, 1 final report. 14 district evaluations and project recommendations	June 30, 2025

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Gary Michael	DNR Forestry	Serve as primary contact for DNR Forestry for the overall project development and coordination with the Private Forest Management (PFM) Program and support staff to the project.	No
Darren Newville	East Otter SWCD	Serve as the lead district for the Redeye River watershed project. Support the LFT Coordinator position. Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Deja Anton	Todd SWCD	Serve as the lead district for the Long Prairie River watershed project. Support the LFT Coordinator position. Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Susan Shaw	Mille Lacs SWCD	Serve as the lead district for the Rum River watershed project. Support the LFT Coordinator position. Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Perry Bunting	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Serve as the primary contact for the project. Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFT on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program and implement tree planting practices on tribal lands.	Yes
Steve Hughes	Aitkin SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Chris Lord	Anoka SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Bryan Malone	Becker SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Gerry Maciej	Benton SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Melissa Barrick	Crow Wing SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Jerry Hagenmiller	Douglas SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Tiffany Determan	Isanti SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Deanna Pomije	Kanabec SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Shannon Weinstein	Morrison SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Francine Larson	Sherburne SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Anne Oldakowski	Wadena SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Leann Buck	Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Provide leadership and a common voice for Minnesota's soil and water conservation districts to maintain a positive, results-oriented relationship with rule making agencies, partners and legislators; expanding education opportunities for the districts so they may carry out effective conservation programs. Promote the tree planting initiative and workshop events.	No

## 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.**

We will acknowledge the use of Environment and Natural Resources Trust Funds in the various activities and tasks in this

project using the ENRTF Acknowledgment Guidelines. We will distribute and review these guidelines to all project partners and require them to follow them too.

## 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?**

This proposal directly supports LCCMR's mission to invest in Minnesota's natural resources, "especially those that may be substantially impaired or destroyed" – the historic loss of forestlands. LCCMR funding will serve as the foundation for partner investments into this initiative. This project is the first of five-forest based carbon sequestration projects being integrated to help the state tackle this enormous challenge. The others include:

1. FY 2022 DNR Forestry Biennial Budget Change Item: Accelerated Tree Planting to Capture Carbon.
2. FSA / NRCS CREP Forestry Project.
3. TNC / AFF Tree Farm Project.
4. Carbon markets

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
BWSR Forest Stewardship Coordinator		Project coordination with watershed partners and DNR			20%	1.5		\$180,000
BWSR Easement Section staff		Process conservation easements			20%	0.6	X	\$75,000
BWSR Forest Stewardship Coordinator		Reporting – 3 progress reports, 1 final report. 14 district evaluations and project recommendations.			20%	0.15		\$15,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$270,000</b>
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
Lead SWCD from each watershed - East Otter Tail, Mille Lacs and Todd SWCDs	Sub award	Watershed project coordination. 3 LFT Coordinators (SWCD staff). Team meetings – 3 years, convene 4 local forestry team meetings in each watershed per year. Review/refine priorities in the landscape stewardship plans. Guide strategic landowner outreach, workload planning and conservation easement selection process.				1.35		\$90,000
Lead SWCD from each watershed- East Otter Tail, Mille Lacs and Todd SWCDs	Sub award	Capacity Assessments. Survey and assess tree planting and PFM service delivery capacities in each watershed. Develop service provider directories for landowners for each watershed.				0.21		\$25,000
Lead SWCD from each watershed- East Otter Tail, Mille Lacs and Todd SWCDs	Sub award	Service Provider Training. Convene 6 PFM plan writer workshops – focus on getting the right trees, planted on the right sites, through the best practices.				0.05		\$6,000
Lead SWCD from each	Sub award	Strategic Landowner Outreach. Use the minor watershed prioritization methods in landscape				0.45		\$24,000



watershed-East Otter Tail, Mille Lacs and Todd SWCDs		stewardship plans to target priority open land/reforestation parcels. Apply US Forest Service landowner outreach tools and methods (Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively).						
Lead SWCD from each watershed-East Otter Tail, Mille Lacs and Todd SWCDs	Sub award	Youth Mentoring. Convene 6 workshops in high schools or technical colleges to promote tree planting jobs, benefits of sustainable forestry and work/career opportunities, recruit for MCC.				0.2		\$8,000
Lead SWCD from each watershed-East Otter Tail, Mille Lacs and Todd SWCDs	Sub award	Seedling Stock. Coordinate seedling tree planting stock needs for the 3-year project with prospective private and public nurseries.				0.75		\$30,000
14 partnering SWCDs and Mille Lacs Band	Sub award	Technical Assistance for Landowners. SWCDs, consulting foresters – develop forest stewardship plans, practice plans, planting verification, promote and administer the SFIA and conservation easement programs – 600 landowners (200 in each watershed), 300 forest stew plans, 390 practice plans, 780 tree planting verification checks.				9		\$325,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$508,000</b>
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
	Tools and Supplies	Site prep, seeding spraying equipment (\$2,500 each district)	Equipment needed to ramp up planting of tree seedlings in each partnering district and Mille Lacs Band.					\$37,500
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$37,500</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
		Capital Equipment - 15 tree planters	To be used for tree planting	X				\$112,500
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$112,500</b>

<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
	Conservation Easement Acquisition	Acres: 1,390 Parcels: 15						\$1,390,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,390,000</b>
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
		DNR PFM Cost Share Program	Allocation to support the tree planting cost share practices with private landowners. Landowners will pay for 25% of the costs of tree planting.					\$1,000,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,318,000</b>

## Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Personnel - BWSR Easement Section staff		Process conservation easements	<b>Classified</b> : These positions are dependent on grant funding and do not supplant traditional sources of funding.
Capital Expenditures		Capital Equipment - 15 tree planters	Breaking out tree planters as a capital expenditure <b>Additional Explanation</b> : Each SWCD and the Mille Lacs Band will be asked to enter into an agreement that requires them to maintain the tree planters for their useful life using document formats approved by the state.

## Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount
<b>State</b>				
Cash	DNR Forestry - General Fund allocation	DNR Forestry is committing \$30,000 of in-kind labor to the project to assist landowner with cost share projects	Secured	\$30,000
Cash	Sustainable Forest Incentives Act (SFIA) Program payments to enrolled landowners	SFIA payment per year = \$383,850/yr. At 3 years = \$1,151,550. At 8 years = \$3,070,800. At 20 and 50 years TBD.	Secured	\$1,151,550
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,181,550</b>
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	Private landowners participating in the project	Forest stewardship plans. Landowner costs for preparing forest stewardship plan (27,000 acres - rate is \$300/plan plus \$7/acre = \$279,000)	Pending	\$279,000
Cash	Private landowners participating in the project	Tree Planting. Landowner match of 25% of the cost share for tree planting of \$1,000,000.	Pending	\$250,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$529,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$1,710,550</b>

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
What a Match project				-	-	-			
<b>Totals</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	-			

## Conservation Easement 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.**

Each local forestry technical team will review priorities developed through the watershed assessment / riparian-adjacency-quality (RAQ) scoring methodology as documented in the landscape stewardship plans to rank and prioritize parcels. The teams will coordinate the delivery of technical/financial assistance to landowners as guided by this watershed methodology to guide landowner outreach campaigns followed by the preparing of forest stewardship plans and forestland protection options as decided by the landowner. This project will typically focus on those parcels one property back from the highest RAQ (riparian-adjacency-quality) scores (less likely to be funded by CWL or LSOHC).

**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.**

Redeye River Landscape Stewardship Plan (LSP)

Redeye River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

Rum River Landscape Stewardship Plan (LSP)

Rum River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) – in progress

Long Prairie Landscape Stewardship Plan (LSP) – in progress

Long Prairie River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) – in progress

**3. For any conservation easement acquired, 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.**

The RIM Conservation Plan identifies practice areas and maximum cost-share available for practice installation and includes an Operation & Maintenance Plan. The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program that has over 8,200 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms. Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement Program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

**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.**

Private ownership of the property continues after a RIM easement is acquired.

**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.**

N/A

**6. Provide a statement addressing how conservation easements will address specific water quality protection activities, such as keeping water on the landscape, reducing nutrient and contaminant loading, protecting groundwater, and not permitting artificial hydrological modifications.**

DNR Fisheries research of over 1,300 lakes revealed that phosphorus concentrations in lakes are directly related to land use disturbance in a watershed. Fisheries staff has determined that protecting forestland cover and perennial vegetation in a watershed to 75% is a critical metric for good water quality. The primary risk to good water quality and the greatest opportunity for protection is on private lands. Conservation easements and lands enrolled in SFIA are the two primary ways to retain privately owned lands as working forests so that they are not converted into other land uses that significantly increase stormwater runoff which negatively impacts water resources. Through the development of the

landscape stewardship plans (LSPs), we are able to assess and document the watershed protection levels at the major watershed, subwatershed and minor watershed levels. Through the purchase of conservation easements and expanding as well as retaining the amount of forestland cover, this project directly protects the water resources within these three watersheds as well as those further downstream.

**7. Describe the long-term monitoring and enforcement program for conservation easements acquired on parcels by your organization, including explanations of the process used for calculating conservation easement monitoring and enforcement costs, the process used for annual inspection and reporting on monitoring and enforcement activities, and the process used to ensure perpetual funding and implementation of monitoring and enforcement activities.**

Once a RIM easement is acquired, BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement into perpetuity. The BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry-out oversight, monitoring and inspection of its conservation easements. Easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted and partners' staff document findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at \$6,500 per easement. These calculations were derived using the elements described in MS 103B.103. BWSR uses local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations which results in considerable cost savings.

## 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 lands to be reforested through this project will be on permanently protected lands with easements or lands enrolled in the Sustainable Forest Incentives Act (SFIA). On SFIA lands, priority preference will be given to parcels that are enrolled in 20-year and 50-year covenant options and landowners are committed to sustainable forest management including timber harvests and/or enrolling in carbon markets. Forest management activities on lands in this program will be required to manage their woodlands as guided in their approved forest stewardship plans and the MFRC site level guidelines.

**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.**

Landowners will be required to prepare forest stewardship plans, these documents will provide landowners with long-term management guidance for managing their woodlands. Tree planting projects will be administered through DNR Forestry's PFM Cost Share Program. Forest stewardship plans and practice plans for this project will be retained by the landowners as well as each applicable SWCD and the DNR. Silvicultural recommendations will be developed and presented by DNR Forestry at the service provider trainings and reviewed at the local forestry technical team meetings. Tree planting standards and requirements for site preparation, installation and management as well as documentation of the reforestation projects will be provided by DNR and maintained by the SWCDs.

**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.**

In combination with the current BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines, this project will also use the forest vegetation guidance developed in the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) landscape plans. The project will promote a mix of tree species like long-lived conifers and other species that are identified as having a competitive advantage in anticipated climate conditions as guided by the DNR NPC Field Guides and the US Forest Services Northern Institute for Applied Climate Science (NIACS) documents.

**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.**

Ensuring the long-term success of the tree planting projects will be a key ranking criteria used as part of the subsequent contracts with vendors for this project. Landowners will be required to take a key role in maintain and protecting the tree plantings in the more future. DNR and SWCD staff will continue working with landowners to provide technical guidance on pre-commercial and commercial thinnings of forest stands as a part of the forest stewardship plan process in the future.

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

The grants with partners on the project for tree planting will state that consideration needs to be given to contracting with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota.

**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.**

As a requirement of the grant program, 780 tree planting verification checks will be completed for the tree planting projects. The checks will be completed by SWCDs with landowners after practice establishment (growth year 1) and two years later (growth year 3) as a follow-up. This will ensure practice plan goals are met and document project success. (BWSR has routine inspection requirements for conservation projects funded with state dollars). These evaluations will also play a key role in determining if any specific maintenance activities are needed for projects.



## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Map*

File: [e5e9f376-331.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Map*

The attached is a factsheet that describes the Watershed & Forest Restoration LCCMR project. This proposal directly supports LCCMR's core mission to invest in projects that protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's natural resources, especially those that may be substantially impaired or destroyed – the historic loss of forestland cover. It matches up watershed protection with forest restoration. The attachment provides 6 power point slides to put these tandem challenges into cont...

### Optional Attachments

#### *Support Letter or Other*

Title	File
Background Check Cert Form EKOLA	<a href="#">552a46a2-9f1.pdf</a>

## Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

### *Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage*

To address the decrease in funding appropriated from \$3,728,000 to \$3,318,000 (decrease of \$410,000), we reduced the number of acres of conservation easements to be acquired from 1,800 acres down to 1,390 acres (20 parcels down to 15).

## 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?**

Yes

**Do you agree travel expenses must follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?**

N/A

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

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?**

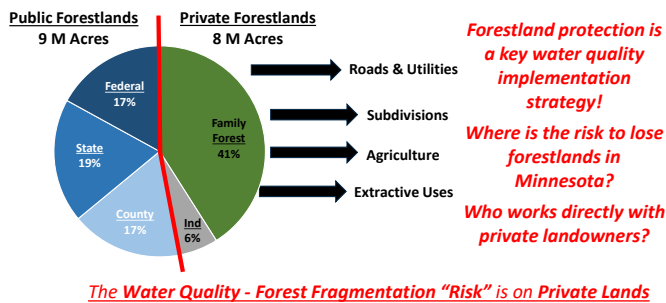
No

# Watershed & Forest Restoration: What a Match!

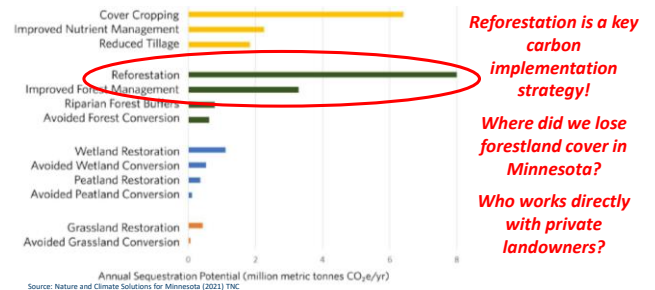
## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – 2022 Proposal



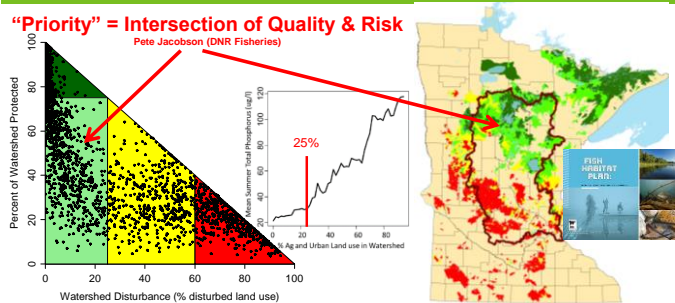
### Why Watershed Protection?



### Why Reforestation?



### Is there a tipping point for watershed disturbance?



### Context – Minnesota's Forests

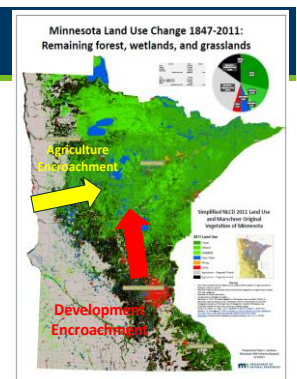
#### Gov. Walz Executive Order 19-37

- Create Climate Change Subcabinet
- Promote / implement strategies.
- Private forestry - big part of solution.
- We have a job to do!

#### Questions to consider:

- Where did we lose forestland cover?
- What are the impacts?
- Where can we make the most impact?

**How can we deliver at landscape scales?**



### Reforestation for Carbon: Do the Math!

**Reforestation of 1 million acres is a BIG job!**

Minnesota total area	54 M acres
Presettlement forest cover	32 M acres
Current forestland cover	<u>17 M acres</u>
Forestland cover loss	15 M acres
Amount lost on private lands (est)	14.5 M acres
<b>Proposed Reforestation</b>	
• Current rate – 6,000 acres/year	166 years
• 1 M acres at 50,000 acres/year	20 years



**We need an "All Hands on Deck" strategy!**

### 5 Step Strategy – Tree Planting for Carbon Sequest

**Multiple funding sources needed to reach the 1 M acre goal.**

1. 2022 LCCMR: Restore Minnesota's Forestlands – expand SWCD and consulting forester capacity, landowner outreach, easements.
2. FY 2022/23 DNR Forestry Biennial Budget Change Item – nursery upgrades, cost share, DNR capacity.
3. NRCS CREP Forestry – expand long term federal support.
4. TNC Tree Planting Project – research species migration, Amazon \$.
5. Carbon markets for family forests – 5-8 years development.

Investing in tree planting brings multiple benefits – water quality, wildlife, & more...

**LCCMR funding jump starts it. Let's grow this together!**

Activity 1: Implementation – Accelerated Tree Planting Cost Share Program	\$1,180,000
Activity 2: Targeted Watershed Protection – BWSR RIM Program and DNR's SFIA Program	\$1,800,000
Activity 3: Project Coordination – Strategic Landowner Outreach and Technical Assistance	\$ 748,000
<b>Requested LCCMR funding</b> (matched with private landowner, local and state funds – \$1,710,550)	<b>\$3,728,000</b>

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