

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on August 24, 2026

M.L. 2023 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2026

Project Title: North Shore Private Forestry Outreach and Implementation

Project Manager: Molly Thompson

Affiliation: Sugarloaf The North Shore Stewardship Association

Mailing Address: 6008 LONDON RD

City/State/Zip: Duluth, MN 55804

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E-mail: molly@sugarloafnorthshore.org

Website:

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05f

Appropriation Amount: \$375,000

Amount Spent: \$124,762

Amount Remaining: \$250,238

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The Woods Walk Advisory Program addressed a gap in assistance available to smaller private landowners along Minnesota's Lake Superior North Shore. 240 landowners were connected with trained site advisors who provided property-specific recommendations focused on planting and protecting long-lived, later successional tree species, increasing forest diversity and managing invasive species.

Summary of Project and Outcomes

The Woods Walk Advisory Program was developed to address a gap in restoration assistance available to smaller private landowners within the North Shore Coastal Forest. While many existing conservation programs focus on larger landholdings, smaller parcels collectively represent an important opportunity to advance forest restoration, increase species diversity, and support long-term stewardship across the landscape.

Over two field seasons, the program connected 240 landowners with trained site advisors who provided property-specific recommendations focused on planting and protecting long-lived, later successional tree species, increasing forest diversity, managing invasive species, and addressing other site-specific concerns. Advisors collected information

through ArcGIS Field Maps and provided participants with written summaries and recommendations following each visit. In total, participating landowners represented approximately 1,450 acres of forest restoration opportunity.

The program identified several common themes across the North Shore. Landowners expressed strong interest in personalized guidance, educational resources, and assistance navigating restoration options. Access to recommended tree species, the cost and labor associated with deer protection fencing, and invasive species management were among the most frequently identified challenges. The program also revealed a strong interest in shrubs and understory restoration, highlighting opportunities for future educational efforts. Beyond direct landowner assistance, the Woods Walk Advisory Program expanded the North Shore Forest Collaborative's network, trained 16 site advisors, created a GIS-based data collection framework, informed development of the Coastal Forest Restoration for Landowners Handbook, and generated information that will help guide future restoration efforts. The program demonstrated that landowners are eager to steward their forests when provided with accessible, site-specific support and established a foundation for continued engagement and restoration across the North Shore Coastal Forest.

A final detailed report has been uploaded to project attachments - Woods Walk Final Report - and is available online at northshoreforest.org.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

All emails advertising this free opportunity for landowners are in the attachments. We also sent an email announcing the availability of the final report on the North Shore Forest Collaborative website. We also surveyed participants and the survey results are available in the attachments section. Survey results noted that overall engagement and satisfaction are strong: participants report substantial follow-through on advisor recommendations, plan to do even more in the coming year, and overwhelmingly recommend the program to neighbors. The main obstacle to forest stewardship is time, not cost or lack of knowledge.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2023 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: September 15, 2026

ID Number: 2023-201

Staff Lead: Lisa Bigaouette

Project Title: North Shore Private Forestry Outreach and Implementation

Project Budget: \$375,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Molly Thompson

Organization: Sugarloaf The North Shore Stewardship Association

Office Telephone: (218) 525-0001

Email: molly@sugarloafnorthshore.org

Web Address:

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: August 24, 2026

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: August 24, 2026

Project Completion: June 30, 2026

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05f

Appropriation Language: \$375,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association to conduct outreach to private forest landowners, develop site restoration plans, and connect landowners with restoration assistance to encourage private forest restoration and improve the ecological health of Minnesota's North Shore forest landscape.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2026

Narrative

Project Summary: The North Shore Forest Collaborative (via Sugarloaf) seeks to contract foresters to perform a concerted private land forestry outreach to restore ecological health to Minnesota's North Shore forest landscape.

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

Given the magnitude of private landownership's influence on the Lake Superior North Shore ecological landscape it is imperative the NSFC build capacity to reach and engage landowners in forest restoration on their private properties.

Minnesota's Lake Superior North Shore forest landscape health has drastically declined in the last 140 years which adversely affects forest health, wildlife habitat, sense of place, climate resiliency, brook trout streams, and Lake Superior's water quality. The forest is in a state of poor health due to past practice, a unique North Shore microclimate, significant winter deer browsing conditions, and is further threatened due to the effects of climate change. Restoration, as guided by the North Shore Forest Collaborative (NSFC), is a critical need, and serves to restore iconic North Shore landscape aesthetics, enhance wildlife habitat, protect cold water trout streams, and provide long-term climate resiliency.

NSFC natural resource agencies and some private landowners have begun restoration work, but the scope of private land ownership is significant, and requires a shared-stewardship, "all-lands" approach. The geographic scope of this project includes approximately 105,558 acres of private land holdings (39% of the total NSFC focus area), with an estimated 6,000 individual private parcels of various acreages.

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.

Funding would allow for the contracting of private lands foresters to perform a concerted outreach forestry project with up to 1500 private landowners on the North Shore of Lake Superior, with the goal of engagement and implementation of biodiverse forest restoration on their private lands. We intend this proposal to be a catalyst to grow additional community-based capacity using other funding sources to ensure the project is sustainable over time.

Dynamics of landowner interests and site conditions require foresters to remain flexible in their outreach to catalyze and expand landowner engagement. For example, outreach may occur on a given small parcel where the landowner has expressed interest in a modest Outreach Forester-led walk on their land. In this case the final outcome may lead to a small site plan and a limited tree planting regime.

Or, for example, a group of private landowners may be joined together within a given watershed that requires a more comprehensive project along with multi-agency program integration. The Outreach Forester, therefore, must be knowledgeable of the spectrum of available agency incentive programs, community resources, and be able to effectively articulate these opportunities to the landowners.

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 primary outcomes will include:

- Seek, connect and educate landowners on methods and NSFC resources to ecologically restore their private North Shore properties.
- Evaluate the viability of biodiverse plantings and longer-lived trees based on site conditions.
- Form a simple site plan for tree planting and protection.
- Connect landowners with trees and fencing/protection materials and planting options.
- Discuss options and make connections to agencies' forestry incentive programs, contractor planting assistance, and follow-up to assure fulfillment of the planting plan.

- Measure, evaluate, and communicate effectiveness of outreach interactions using a North Shore Forest Collaborative geospatial database to seek additional outreach opportunities.

Project Location

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

Region(s): NE

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

Region(s): NE

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Outreach Forestry Program Formation, Administration and Forester Orientation

Activity Budget: \$51,000

Activity Description:

The North Shore Forest Collaborative will formulate a list of prospective private landowner contacts via solicitation of interest in the project using various marketing efforts, such as existing NSFC email lists, social media and direct mailing efforts.

In addition, the collaborative will formulate orientation materials for the Outreach Foresters to use during landowner interactions.

Once the outreach foresters are selected for the project, the North Shore Forest Collaborative Executive Committee and the Project Coordinator will provide a workshop to instill project objectives, technical guidance and project procedures to assure common goals are achieved. Much of these aspects has been previously developed, but will require coalescing materials for project purposes.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Form list of prospective landowner contacts	August 31, 2023
Compile forester orientation materials	August 31, 2023
Perform forester orientation workshop	August 31, 2023

Activity 2: Outreach Forestry Activities

Activity Budget: \$269,000

Activity Description:

Foresters will use the NSFC's contact list to reach landowners. In each interaction with a prospective private landowner, the Outreach Foresters will evaluate the site viability for longer-lived tree species plantings and other ecological restoration efforts that may be recommended. Restoration may be performed entirely by the landowner, but an added incentive may be established by offering a yet to be determined number of trees per site be planted by the Outreach Foresters, or other NSFC (in-kind) contractor, based on other in-kind funding and seedling availability.

Multiple tree seedling sources on the North Shore are available via generous seedling donations as part of community-led initiatives. Trees to be recommended for restoration will most often be White Pine, White Cedar, White Spruce, and Yellow Birch (there will be other species planted less frequently), and other native shrub plantings opportunities will also be determined. The Outreach Foresters will work toward agreement with the landowner on types and numbers of prescribed trees, native shrubs, and protection methods based on site conditions.

Outreach Foresters will complete a simple site plan for the landowner post-visit, which will identify planned plantings, and include eligible natural resource/forestry incentive programs that may be further pursued.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Begin: Outreach foresters site visits and provide Woods Walk Plans for landowners.	October 31, 2023

Complete 600 Site Visits - Woods Walk Plans: Year 1	October 31, 2024
Complete 600 Site Visits - Woods Walk Plans: Year 2	October 31, 2025
Complete 300 Site Visits - Woods Walk Plans: Year 3	May 31, 2026
Document the 1500 landowners' success on carrying-out Woods Walk Plans	May 31, 2026

Activity 3: Outreach Forester Activity Reporting

Activity Budget: \$55,000

Activity Description:

Outreach Foresters will enter the landowner contact/site data they visit into the NSFC geospatial database and communicate outcomes to the Project Coordinator. The NSFC will continue to tabulate results and make adjustments to outreach efforts/approaches and seek new landowner engagement opportunities.

In order to track the landowner visits and data collected, we need to set up a GIS data collection system. The system selected is an app designed by ESRI called Field Maps. The GIS coordinator will set this app up with the project coordinator and project manager. The GIS coordinator will train outreach foresters in the use of the app and will manage the transfer of the data collected to our GIS application. This data will be used by the NSFC partners to coordinate future work with landowners.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
GIS data and app coordination will be ongoing.	May 31, 2024
Outreach Forester enters site visit plan/data into Field Maps app and communicate to NSFC.	June 30, 2026
Project Coordinator tabulates results and reports to NSFC Executive Committee results of outreach efforts.	June 30, 2026

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Molly Thompson	Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association	Project Manager	Yes
TBD - Various Upon Selection	Contract Foresters	Outreach Forestry	Yes
Jim Manolis/Chris Dunham	The Nature Conservancy	Consulting role with potential to expand to assist with project management/and or provide outreach forestry services.	No
Thor Pakosz (DNR)	DNR - Private Land Forestry	Consulting role	No
Tara Solem	SWCD - Lake County	Consulting role	No
Ilena Hansel	SWCD - Cook County	Consulting role	No
Mike Hup	NRCS Forester	Consulting role	No
Myra Theimer	USFS - Superior National Forest	Consulting role	No
Brian Huberty	MN Forestry Association	Consulting role	No
Steve Weekes	Weekes Family Foundation	Provides a leveraging fund source for tree-protection fencing program.	No
Various	Private landowner participants	Critical grassroots, community members support on NSFC Executive Committee, and those directly working with Outreach Foresters.	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.

This project must rely on a robust information sharing/environmental educational process. In all cases, listed below, the project dissemination will follow the ENRTF attribution requirements, as detailed in the instructions for this application. During The Project, we plan to develop and publish a variety of communications that will both inform multiple audiences, but more directly solicit and engage with North Shore landowners for forester/resource professionals to visit and formulate on-site "Woods Walk" Forest Plans for their properties. We intend to utilize the following avenues of communication during the project life:

Sugarloaf Website

Sugarloaf Facebook Page

NSFC Website

NSFC Facebook Page

Updates: NSFC Bi-Monthly Updates of Project Progress

Community Events (e.g. Grand Marais Earth Day Event)

Neighbor to Neighbor Activities

Email Blasts

Landowner Webinar meetings

WTIP Radio Spot/Interviews (free)

Press Releases

After the completion of the project, we intend to broaden knowledge of the project with the purpose of growing awareness, sharing lessons-learned of the project, and building value for other similar private land forestry landscape projects throughout the state of Minnesota. We intend to utilize the following avenues of communication post-project:

- *MFRC NE Landscape Committee Meeting Presentation of Project "Lessons-Learned"

- Provide a Resource Professional Focused Project "Lessons-Learned" Webinar

- Submit Project Report to the MN Forest Resources Council Landscape Committee

- Archive the Project Report on the NSFC Website "Resource Library" webpage

- Sugarloaf Website link to NSFC Website "Resource Library" webpage

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?

Results of this project are noted above, and will inform ongoing outreach engagement analysis based on real-time activities, in order to continue to grow capacity and landowner involvement in forest restoration. Actual landowner engagements will be leveraged with larger landscape-scale grant solicitations on public and private lands, using an "all-lands" shared-stewardship approach. It is further understood that a percentage of landowners with larger acreages will be eligible for other natural resource agency program support funding (e.g., via DNR private land forestry, SWCD/NRCS programs), which will strengthen program sustainability over time.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
Project Manager		Manages all aspects of project including subcontracts, training and reporting			0%	0.48		\$25,000	-	-
							Sub Total	\$25,000	\$12,143	\$12,857
Contracts and Services										
Mike Reichenbach	Service Contract	Coordination of outreach forestry project and contracted foresters.				1.05		\$19,464	\$19,463	\$1
Various Outreach Foresters - to be determined	Service Contract	A three-year program using private land forester contractors to perform private land forestry outreach. Contracted foresters will travel to up to 600 landowner sites ranging from S. St. Louis County to the Canadian border. Travel costs: Travel costs: \$84,000 (consistent with the Commissioner's Plan); Personnel:\$225,001				12		\$298,127	\$63,315	\$234,812
Kelly Beaster	Service Contract	Kelly will be managing the GIS database and work with the other contractors on inputting data for the GIS database. She will also manage data entry and reports of data. She will also be assuming more of the contacts with the foresters that Mike was formerly doing.				0.4		\$26,410	\$24,492	\$1,918
Judi Roux	Service Contract	Judi Roux will help connect landowners to outreach foresters more effectively. This is needed because we have found that the advisors spend a lot of time trying to connect with the landowners.				0.1		\$4,999	\$4,999	-
							Sub Total	\$349,000	\$112,269	\$236,731
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-

Capital Equipment										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel In Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										
	Printing	Printing materials as needed. Up to 1500 aerial photography maps.	Parcel and other printed forestry materials needed to give to landowners.					\$1,000	\$350	\$650
							Sub Total	\$1,000	\$350	\$650
Other Expenses										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
							Grand Total	\$375,000	\$124,762	\$250,238

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
In-Kind	Donation of over 50,000 tree seedlings from Minnesota Power's Rajala Woods Initiative; Hedstrom's Lumber; and Castle Danger Brewery.	Donation of approx. 50,000+ tree seedlings/annually made available to the public on the North Shore for forest restoration work.	Secured	\$30,000	\$30,000	-
In-Kind	Private landowners, TBD, on case-by-case basis.	Acquisition of trees and fencing (required for deer browse protection). Time landowners spend with foresters.	Secured	\$100,000	\$89,654	\$10,346
In-Kind	The Nature Conservancy and private donors.	Contracted field crews, seedlings and other supplies for landowners reached through TNC Forest Program. Ongoing effort with emphasis on public lands, planning to allocate more to private lands in the North Shore Forest Collaborative landscape.	Pending	\$100,000	-	\$100,000
In-Kind	Weekes Family Foundation	Annual donation for discount fencing. Ongoing since 2016.	Secured	\$135,000	\$135,000	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$365,000	\$254,654	\$110,346
			Funds Total	\$365,000	\$254,654	\$110,346

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [4e4d8250-d4f.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The attachment is the single-page project work plan and decision-making work flow for the outreach forestry project proposal....

Financial Capacity

File: [95132b7e-0ca.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board resolution	9c58f380-2e2.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
North Shore Forest Collaborative LOS	1312ee33-820.pdf
The Nature Conservancy LOS	d865fe54-ebf.pdf
Lake County SWCD LOS	65ef593b-1ea.pdf
Cook County SWCD LOS	e018e602-112.pdf
Rob Wight North Shore Private Landowner LOS	6f331375-e4d.pdf
Dana Dickson North Shore Private Landowner LOS	0b8fc85e-76d.docx
Jeff Gniffke North Shore Private Landowner LOS	12fc5b9f-2cb.pdf
Becky Bartol North Shore Private Landowner LOS	d78a5619-9de.pdf
Background Check Certification	07408bd7-7f1.pdf
Cook County News Herald article	0c943268-22c.pdf
Postcard to recruit landowners	331fca6b-66c.pdf
Woods Walk Advisor program poster	1db87367-4c0.pdf
Postcard given to landowners with more information after their walk	94486530-342.pdf
Woods Walk Summaries	eaf545d6-969.pdf
Overview of Woods Walk training sessions	900c77af-6b1.docx
Propagating Northern White Cedar from Cuttings	6f285a5f-564.pdf
Summary woods walk advisor emails	40a21636-02f.pdf
One year review slideshow for partners	ed9320f2-daa.pdf
Woods Walk summaries - Sept 19, 2025	e53fb223-30e.pdf
Woods Walk emails to participants 9/19/25	fd7e1d8e-d1e.pdf
Woods Walk Summary reports	5c57cb57-8d2.pdf
Restoring the North Shore's Iconic Coastal Forests	a9c08a52-ad1.pdf
Facebook posts	c9586402-19e.pdf
Email blasts	69505082-ac3.pdf
Sugarloaf newsletter Fall 2024	29f57374-520.pdf
Sugarloaf summer newsletter	95a2b5dd-99e.pdf
General instructions for woods walk advisors	d9095921-865.pdf
Email blast 3_15_24	37460cc7-89f.pdf
email blast 9_3_25	64d6a9c2-9cf.pdf
email blast 6_18_25	d10512b3-3f7.pdf
email blast 5_30_25	975bebc4-60c.pdf
email blast 5_22_25	45c09640-995.pdf

email blast 5_16_25	d962bca5-6e2.pdf
email blast 4_25_25	c01a6b09-7a4.pdf
email blast 3_10_25	65de7ad1-12e.pdf
email blast 2_3_25	f72cdf2f-ee6.pdf
email blast 10_30_24	3f3d45b5-c16.pdf
email blast 7_29_24	0fa4cf86-532.pdf
email blast 7_3_24	8e257580-6a4.pdf
email blast 5_31_24	f0e4e06a-54d.pdf
email blast 4_23_24	28c92e52-b44.pdf
Northern Wilds article	9a818fc7-cd2.pdf
Linked In posting	7e89bd19-214.pdf
NextDoor posting	413efc6d-632.pdf
email blast 2_26_25	34648010-cd8.pdf
email blast 5_6_25	a131834e-f90.pdf
email blast 5_16_25	2ca933b5-a2c.pdf
email blast 3_19_24	5ac8990e-54f.pdf
Discover you Lands History	34ef2f4e-297.pdf
explore Aire Photos of your propert	a4c3abed-60c.pdf
E.-5-21-24-Protect-your-Land_-Conservation-Opportunities	8029bcc4-880.pdf
Financial-Incentives-for-Woodland-Work	b646d92c-86b.pdf
Working-Woodlands-Contractor-and-Nursery-List	56d74b47-76f.pdf
Forestry-Assistance-and-Learning	546daa8f-98d.pdf
Spruce-budworm-treatment-and-replanting-recommendations	7877dcf1-68f.pdf
Invasive-Species-Identification-and-Control	f93e3fd2-8e1.pdf
Sources-of-Seedlings-for-American-elm	f51c6c71-d07.pdf
Growing-Trees-from-Seed-Tree-Planting-Tree-Protection	f9dd251f-33a.pdf
Tree-Species-for-the-Coastal-Forest-Google-Docs	257a5578-4c4.pdf
2025-11-10_Woods_Walk_Site_Visits_MASTER_List	b63ec12a-70d.xlsx
LCCMR April 2026Woods_Walk_Site_Visits_MASTER_List	3c8866a5-3ec.xlsx
Coastal Forest Restoration for Landowners	2478d350-e2a.pdf
EMail 1_29_26	0988774b-84a.pdf
email blast 2_9_26	e8735a13-0f2.pdf
email blast 1_20_26	5c513b31-963.pdf
email blast 2_13_26	57b7bf9f-9f3.pdf
email blast 3_2_26	fc96b2d3-382.pdf
WWAP review Report 2026	a0f89921-135.pdf
Woods Walk Participant Survey 2026	9ee2ae71-95c.pdf
Woods Walk Final report	2ec99681-cf7.pdf
Final master list of visits	94dd5ef1-89d.xlsx
Final report email	b1d334f2-d29.pdf

Media Links

Title	Link
North Shore Forest Collaborative web page with sign up	https://northshoreforest.org/
Woods Walk Sign up page	https://northshoreforest.org/landowners/woods-walk-registration/
Woods Walk Program Resources	https://northshoreforest.org/landowners/woodland-advisor-program-references/
North Shore Forest Collaborative home page with link to final report	https://northshoreforest.org/

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Drafted the "Dissemination" Section of this proposal; Provided the Background Check Certification; Removed TNC receiving funds in "Project Partner Information" as the TNC, as their role has not been determined to date. Changed NSFC coordinator to Project Coordinator.

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?

N/A

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

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand

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	Amendment Request	Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts	We are requesting a \$1 change to the project coordinator budget to facilitate hiring of a coordinator. This was been discussed and recommended by the DNR Grant Manager, Katherine Sherman-Hoehn on August 22, 2023.	August 24, 2023	Yes	August 30, 2023
2	Amendment Request	- Activities and Milestones - Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts	We are requesting to move \$15,000 from the outreach contractors line to a new contract line. This new contract line is for a person to manage all aspects of a GIS database we realize is needed for this project. This person will also set up the GIS data entry system for the other contractors. Use of this new system will streamline the data collected by the contractors and help the project coordinator report results.	February 15, 2024	Yes	February 16, 2024
3	Amendment Request	- Budget - Budget - Travel and Conferences - Budget - Personnel - Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts - Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed	As per DNR, we were told to move the travel funds to the contractor line as the funds are to be used by the contractors and not staff. We also needed to adjust the FTEs as I did not realize you could record less than 1 as an FTE. The project coordinator's name is Mike Reichenbach.	March 21, 2024	Yes	March 21, 2024
4	Amendment Request	- Budget - Other - Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts - Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed - Attachments	We need to add a new service contract for Judi Roux to help connect landowners to the outreach foresters more effectively. This is needed because we have found that the foresters spend a lot of time trying to connect with the landowners. They will also set up a specific week where many visits could be conducted in a timely manner. GIS position is expanding to include more	April 21, 2025	Yes	April 21, 2025

			coordination of the program funds moving funds from coordination position.			
5	Amendment Request	Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts	We need to move money from the various outreach foresters line to the Project Coordinator and Kelly Beaster-GIS coord. line because I miscalculated the amount needed for each line after the last budget change. Since the GIS coordinator and Project coordinator invoices were a payment behind, I did not account for the correct amount in the previous budget changes to cover their payments through the end of the project after adding the Forester contact position.	May 28, 2025	Yes	June 5, 2025
6	Amendment Request	- Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts - Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed	We would like to move funds from the various outreach foresters line to the GIS coordinator line. The GIS coordinator is still receiving data and we will be including the data in the final report. The GIS work has been invaluable to evaluating our project and the state of forest restoration actions being taken by landowners. We have over \$200,000 remaining in the outreach foresters line and request \$5000 moved to GIS coordinator.	June 9, 2026	Yes	June 10, 2026
7	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2026 New Completion Date: 12/31/2026	Temporary completion date change by staff to allow for submittal of amendment request	June 9, 2026	Yes	June 9, 2026
8	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 12/31/2026 New Completion Date: 06/30/2026	Staff changing date back to original completion date after amendment submittal.	June 10, 2026	Yes	June 10, 2026

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2026

Date Submitted: August 3, 2026

Date Approved: August 3, 2026

Overall Update

Seek, connect and educate landowners on methods and NSFC resources to ecologically restore their properties.

Progress: Visits were completed this spring.

- Evaluate the viability of biodiverse plantings and longer-lived trees based on site conditions.

Progress: The Advisors took notes of this in their reports to the landowners and in the GIS database. We evaluated their reports and provided feedback to the landowners.

- Form a simple site plan for tree planting and protection.

Progress: WWAs emailed a report to all landowner participants with their recommendations for planting and protection.

- Connect landowners with trees and fencing/protection materials and planting options.

Progress: Landowners were directed to NSFC website for up-to-date information about these topics. An email list was used to notify them of free trees and our discounted fencing program.

- Discuss options and make connections to agencies' forestry incentive programs, contractor planting assistance, and follow-up to assure fulfillment of the planting plan.

Progress: When appropriate, WWAs are included this information in the reports.

- Measure, evaluate, and communicate effectiveness of outreach interactions using a NSFC geospatial database to seek outreach.

The data collected by the WWA has been entered into our GIS system and evaluated.

A final report is in the attachments.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 2

Ten more visits were completed. There were 253 site visits completed . At the end of last year's season (2024) there were 85 visits completed. A summary of the program is in the attached documents file (Woods Walk final report)

We also surveyed the participants (Woods Walk participant survey) regarding the success of they program.

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

Activity 3

Foresters completed their reports and sent our GIS specialist the information for uploading to our GIS reporting system.

This info is included in the attached final report.

We have provided training to woods walk advisors to evaluate site conditions for each of the tree species we recommend for the north shore. We also have included information about how to improve tree health, best seed sources and the risk and benefit of moving trees to all woods walk advisors.

We evaluate each summary report comparing recommendations made in the summary reports sent to landowners to the LTA reports and then provide provide comments to woods walk advisors and landowners.

We have found that some advisors preferred using paper sheets to the online program/app we offered. But the app data

is much easier to quickly evaluate.

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

Dissemination

We have added the final report to the North Shore Forest Collaborative website and are sharing the survey results with participants and advisors. An email blast was sent to all people on the NSFC email list on July 1.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update August 14, 2026

Date Submitted: June 9, 2026

Date Approved: June 10, 2026

Overall Update

"Additional update not required as per LCCMR staff

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 2

"Additional update not required as per LCCMR staff

Activity 3

"Additional update not required as per LCCMR staff

Dissemination

"Additional update not required as per LCCMR staff

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2026

Date Submitted: April 6, 2026

Date Approved: April 7, 2026

Overall Update

Seek, connect and educate landowners on methods and NSFC resources to ecologically restore their properties.

Progress: Visits continued this summer. Contractor hired to advisors with landowners.

- Evaluate the viability of biodiverse plantings and longer-lived trees based on site conditions.

Progress: The Advisors take notes of this in their reports to the landowners and in the GIS database. We evaluate their reports and provide feedback to the landowners.

- Form a simple site plan for tree planting and protection.

Progress: WWAs email a report to all landowner participants with their recommendations for planting and protection.

- Connect landowners with trees and fencing/protection materials and planting options.

Progress: Landowners are directed to NSFC website for up-to-date information about these topics. An email list was used to notify them of free trees and our discounted fencing program.

- Discuss options and make connections to agencies' forestry incentive programs, contractor planting assistance, and follow-up to assure fulfillment of the planting plan.

Progress: When appropriate, WWAs are including this information in the reports.

- Measure, evaluate, and communicate effectiveness of outreach interactions using a NSFC geospatial database to seek outreach.

The data collected by the WWA continues to be entered into our GIS system and evaluated.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 2

The forester visits are nearly complete. There are 240 site visits completed and 5 pending. At the end of last year's season (2024) there were 85 visits completed. A summary of the visits with reports is in the attached documents file (WWAP Review Report 2026). Our plan is to have all registered visits who have been able to contact, completed by early 2026 if weather allows and landowners are available.

See LCCMR Report Woods_Walk_Site_Visits_MASTER_List.xlsx for site visit report details.

We are currently putting together a survey to be administered to participants in the program.

Overall, the North Shore Forest Collaborative found that the costs in time to get the advisors trained, to organize the background infrastructure of the program, and to coordinate site visits was higher than anticipated. Landowners were all very positive about the visits.

We are currently offering our reduced cost fencing program. This grant funded (not ENTRF) program allows landowners to purchase fencing to protect seedlings at 1/3 the regular cost. We also tell participants about partner's seedling giveaway and sale programs. We will have white pine seedlings available later this spring. These programs help fulfill recommendations given to participants.

Activity 3

Foresters continued completing their reports and sending our GIS specialists the information to be uploaded data to our

GIS reporting system. We will include this info in the final report.

We have provided training to woods walk advisors to evaluate site conditions for each of the tree species we recommend for the north shore. We also have included information about how to improve tree health, best seed sources and the risk and benefit of moving trees to all woods walk advisors.

We evaluate each summary report comparing recommendations made in the summary reports sent to landowners to the LTA reports and then provide provide comments to woods walk advisors and landowners.

We have found that some advisors preferred using paper sheets to the online program/app we offered. But the app data is much easier to quickly evaluate.

Dissemination

We have completed and are distributing the publication titled "Tree Species of the Coastal Forest." We are distributing it through our website and in print as requested. It is included in the attachments.

I have added email blasts as PDF's to the attachment tab.

Finally, we have attached a report which summarizes the data we have collected from the visits and additional notes about the challenges and successes of the program. See WWAP Review Report 2026.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2025

Date Submitted: October 29, 2025

Date Approved: November 10, 2025

Overall Update

Seek, connect and educate landowners on methods and NSFC resources to ecologically restore their properties.

Progress: Visits continued this summer. Contractor hired to advisors with landowners.

- Evaluate the viability of biodiverse plantings and longer-lived trees based on site conditions.

Progress: The Advisors take notes of this in their reports to the landowners and in the GIS database. We evaluate their reports and provide feedback to the landowners.

- Form a simple site plan for tree planting and protection.

Progress: WWAs email a report to all landowner participants with their recommendations for planting and protection.

- Connect landowners with trees and fencing/protection materials and planting options.

Progress: Landowners are directed to NSFC website for up-to-date information about these topics. An email list was used to notify them of free trees and our discounted fencing program.

- Discuss options and make connections to agencies' forestry incentive programs, contractor planting assistance, and follow-up to assure fulfillment of the planting plan.

Progress: When appropriate, WWAs are including this information in the reports.

- Measure, evaluate, and communicate effectiveness of outreach interactions using a NSFC geospatial database to seek outreach.

The data collected by the WWA is being entered into our GIS system for further evaluation.

Activity 1

We continued to solicit signups from landowners. Email solicitation and newsletters are in attachments. I have converted all attachments to PDF when possible. We updated the "General Instructions for Woods Walk Advisors" document in July. It is in the attachments.

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

Activity 2

The forester visits are ongoing. There are 193 site visits completed, 17 pending, 30 awaiting reports. At the end of last year's season (2024) there were 85 visits completed. 108 visits were completed and reports submitted this field season (2025). A summary of the visits with reports is in the attached documents file. Our plan is to have all registered visits completed by the end of 2025 or early 2026 if weather allows and landowners are available.

We increased the reimbursement amount for the Woodland Advisors to \$350/visit to be more in line with going rates for this type of contract.

We are behind our goal of 600 visits due to the project starting a season late; landowners have been difficult to contact and set up visits as many were only at their properties for a week or two during the summer; and there was much more set up and administrative time needed than expected. This has been a learning process for us. We know have a better understanding of what it will take to make a program like this work with seasonal landowners along the North Shore. See Woods Walk Summary report for site visit report details.

Activity 3

Foresters continue completing their reports and sending our GIS specialists the information to be uploaded data to our GIS reporting system. We will include this info in the final report.

We have provided training to woods walk advisors to evaluate site conditions for each of the tree species we

recommend for the north shore. We also have included information about how to improve tree health, best seed sources and the risk and benefit of moving trees to all woods walk advisors.

We evaluate each summary report comparing recommendations made in the summary reports sent to landowners to the LTA reports and then provide provide comments to woods walk advisors and landowners.

Dissemination

We have been recruiting landowners through emails from the NSFC and Sugarloaf, through Nextdoor, LinkedIn and Facebook posts and giving updates at partner meetings. We are working on another publication for distribution on our website. This publication is titled "Tree Species of the Coastal Forest." We are working final edits on this document and a few others that are being funded through a different source.

I have added Facebook posts and email blasts as PDF's to the attachment tab and made many links into PDFs.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update March 21, 2025

Date Submitted: March 25, 2025

Date Approved: April 21, 2025

Overall Update

- Seek, connect and educate landowners on methods and NSFC resources to ecologically restore their private North Shore properties.

Progress: Underway, but on hold over the winter season.

- Evaluate the viability of biodiverse plantings and longer-lived trees based on site conditions.

Progress: The Woods Walk Advisors (WWA) are making note of this in their reports to the landowners and in the GIS database.

- Form a simple site plan for tree planting and protection. Progress: WWAs email a report to all landowner participants with their recommendations for planting and protection.
- Connect landowners with trees and fencing/protection materials and planting options. Progress: Landowners are directed to the North Shore Forest Collaborative website for up-to-date information about these topics. They were on an email list that was used to notify them of trees and fencing programs available to them this spring.
- Discuss options and make connections to agencies' forestry incentive programs, contractor planting assistance, and follow-up to assure fulfillment of the planting plan. Progress: When appropriate, WWAs are including this information in the reports.
- Measure, evaluate, and communicate effectiveness of outreach interactions using a NSFC geospatial database to seek outreach opportunities. We have summarized the data collected into a PowerPoint.

Activity 1

The North Shore Forest Collaborative will formulate a list of prospective private landowner contacts via solicitation of interest in the project using various marketing efforts, such as existing NSFC email lists, social media and direct mailing efforts. PROGRESS: We continue to recruit landowners through email newsletters. See attachments.

In addition, the collaborative will formulate orientation materials for the Outreach Foresters to use during landowner interactions. PROGRESS: We have produced many helpful materials for landowners that are available on our website. Since the last review we have added an additional resource - Propagating White Cedar. It is available on the website and is uploaded in the attachments section.

Once the outreach foresters are selected for the project, the North Shore Forest Collaborative Executive Committee and the Project Coordinator will provide a workshop to instill project objectives, technical guidance and project procedures to assure common goals are achieved. Much of these aspects has been previously developed, but will require coalescing materials for project purposes. PROGRESS: On October 8 and October 15 two foresters went on training walks with the Project Coordinator. An update meeting was held March 19 for the foresters. We are training an additional forester on March 25.

Activity 2

The forester visits are ongoing. We have completed 120 visits. A summary of the visits is in the attached documents file.

Activity 3

Foresters have been completing their reports and uploading data to our GIS reporting system. We have worked with the foresters to make data entry simple and fast. A Powerpoint overview of their results is attached.

Dissemination

A PowerPoint presentation of the current visit results has been produced and was presented to the North Shore Forest Collaborative (NSFC) Executive Committee on February 27. The results were also shared with the advisors on March 19. A email newsletter went out on March 10 to the NSFC list and to the Let's Plant Trees email list.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2025

Date Submitted: March 25, 2025

Date Approved: April 21, 2025

Overall Update

Visits stopped for the winter months but will resume this spring. We have been in contact with the Woodland Advisors and an update meeting took place on March 19. We are working to add a contractor who will help connect the Advisors with the landowners in a more timely manner. Currently 120 visits have occurred of the 270 registrations.

Activity 1

We continue to solicit signups from landowners. Email solicitation and newsletters are in attachments. We held another update/training session with the Woodland Advisors on March 19, 2025.

Activity 2

Foresters/Advisors work with landowners was halted for the winter season but will begin this spring.

We have been actively advertising seedling giveaways and plan to giveaway 20,000 in May. We are hearing that sales and giveaways are selling out quickly.

Outreach Foresters continue to complete simple site plans for the landowner post-visit, which will identify planned plantings, and include eligible natural resource/forestry incentive programs that may be further pursued. A summary of these site plans are included in the attachments.

Activity 3

We have refined the methods used by the foresters to upload their landowner visits into our GIS database. Also, the foresters continue to send summary emails to the landowners. A document containing all of these summaries is attached.

As a new addition, we have figured out how to use AI to summarize the results of the visits such as invasive species found, the questions landowners are asking, and the stewardship activities they are undertaking. A PDF PowerPoint presentation with the latest results is attached. This information is very helpful for the North Shore Forest Collaborative as we strive to understand landowner needs along the North Shore.

Dissemination

We have continued our landowner recruitment efforts via our newsletters/email blasts and through our partners. Email blasts are attached. We have also given a presentation to the North Shore Forest Collaborative partners at a Executive Committee meeting on February 27, 2025. A PDF of the PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2024

Date Submitted: November 5, 2024

Date Approved: November 13, 2024

Overall Update

- Seek, connect and educate landowners on methods and NSFC resources to ecologically restore their private North Shore properties.

Progress: This is underway. Landowners are pleased with the visits.

- Evaluate the viability of biodiverse plantings and longer-lived trees based on site conditions.

Progress: The Woods Walk Advisors (WWA) are making note of this in their reports to the landowners and in the GIS database.

- Form a simple site plan for tree planting and protection.

Progress: WWAs email a report to all landowner participants with their recommendations for planting and protection.

- Connect landowners with trees and fencing/protection materials and planting options.

Progress: Landowners are directed to the North Shore Forest Collaborative website for up-to-date information about these topics. They will be on an email list that will be used in the spring to notify them of trees and fencing programs available to them.

- Discuss options and make connections to agencies' forestry incentive programs, contractor planting assistance, and follow-up to assure fulfillment of the planting plan.

Progress: When appropriate, WWAs are including this information in the reports.

- Measure, evaluate, and communicate effectiveness of outreach interactions using a NSFC geospatial database to seek outreach opportunities. TBD When grant is completed.

Activity 1

This is an ongoing activity. We are constantly recruiting landowners through our website, emails, and direct mail. (See the attached postcards, posters, emails blasts, and newspaper article samples). We also work with our partners to promote this programs to landowners.

Orientation materials are complete but will be updated as needed. (See <https://northshoreforest.org/landowners/woodland-advisor-program-references/>).

The project coordinator orients all WWAs by phone and in the field. There was an initial zoom training but now as we recruit more woodland advisors, he personally trains them. (See below and attachment).

Other recruitment activities included mentioning the program during presentations to landowners in many different venues and another non profit - Let's plant Trees - included the program in their most recent e-newsletter.

Training workshops: Details in attachment. "Overview of Training Sessions."

1) March 29, 2024 - one Zoom workshop overviewing procedures for Woods Walk Advisors.

2) June 20, 2024 Woods Walk Advisor Information Session In Person at Johnson's

3) Individual Support to Woods Walk advisors - see attachment

4) September 3 - Zoom with Woods Walk Advisors to review the program

5) September 30 at 10 AM Review program with SWCD

Activity 2

This activity is ongoing. WWAs are using the NSFC's contact list to reach landowners. In each interaction with a prospective private landowner, the WWAs are evaluating the site viability for longer-lived tree species plantings and other ecological restoration efforts that may be recommended. They are providing written recommendations via email to each landowner which include types and numbers of prescribed trees, native shrubs, and protection methods based on site conditions. They also advise the landowner as to eligible natural resource/forestry incentive programs. All of this information is available to the landowners on the website (northshoreforest.org) also.

The number of landowners requesting visits is much lower than expected. We have received just over 200 requests and completed nearly 100 visits. It has been more difficult to arrange site visits with landowners than expected thus slowing our completed visit rate. This contributes to the site visit backlog. The delayed start date of the grant (we lost a whole field season) and the difficulty getting woods walk advisors approval also slowed our progress. We continue to offer group and in person training to all woods walk advisors as a means to increase consistency and additional landowner visits.

Activity 3

This activity is ongoing. WWAs enter the landowner contact/site data they visit into the NSFC geospatial database and communicate outcomes to the Project Coordinator.

In order to track the landowner visits and data collected, we set up a GIS data collection system. The system selected is an app designed by ESRI called Field Maps. The GIS coordinator set this app up with the project coordinator and project manager. The GIS coordinator is training the WWAs in the use of the app when they sign up to be WWAs. The GIS coordinator manages the transfer of the data collected to our GIS application.

Dissemination

We have advertised this program via newspapers, email blasts, Facebook pages, press releases, newsletters and landowner meetings. See the attached samples of each item.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2024

Date Submitted: March 21, 2024

Date Approved: March 21, 2024

Overall Update

All outcomes are well underway. We are actively producing documents to provide to landowners with information about trees planting and protecting, incentive programs and site conditions for each species. We have set up a GIS collection application that will be used to report on the site visits and populate the North Shore Forest Collaboratives GIS database.

We did not have a signed contract with the DNR until September 29, 2023. This meant our whole schedule of activities is delayed as we could not start work until October 1.

Landowner visits have begun as of last month.

Mike Reichenbach was selected as the project coordinator due to his prior extensive experience and professional knowledge in the area of landowner forestry education. He is recently retired as a forest educator from UM Extension. He has taught many landowner education workshops and programs in partnership with Sugarloaf. This position is unique because we needed someone who is a forester AND educator. His experience working with private landowners along the shore is especially unique as he understands small landowner needs. I worked with Monica Weber, DNR, to get the approval to hire Mike. I also completed a single-source form and received verbal quotes.

Activity 1

Forester orientation is planned for March 28 and 29. Orientation materials are in final draft form and will be ready for the orientation workshops. We have designed a method to track landowner applications that allows the foresters to select landowners from a Google Map and report to the coordinator. Orientation materials will include 8 informative handouts the advisors can reference and also direct landowners to an online webpage with each handout; their contract with Sugarloaf; and instructions on how to use the GIS Fieldmaps app.

Prospective landowner list: Our first lists are from our NSFC email list and from Sugarloaf's email list which includes all members and other interested people. Both lists combined include 2701 landowners. Currently we are putting together press releases and flyers.

Activity 2

We are on track to begin landowner visits this spring. Foresters will be trained at the end of March and landowner sign up will begin at the same time. The GIS app for foresters to use during landowner visits is ready to go.

Activity 3

The GIS Application (Field Maps) has been designed and is ready for use by the foresters.

Dissemination

We will begin advertising this program in late March. At that time there will be a sign up form for landowners on our website and information disseminated via email, social media, press releases and word of mouth.