Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2025 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2025-069

Staff Lead: Tiffany Schaufler

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: June 9, 2025

Project Title: Native Forages: Growing Drought and Climate Resiliency

Project Budget: $2,254,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Sabrina Claeys

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 24, 2025

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

Project Completion: June 30, 2031

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2031

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08d

Appropriation Language: $2,254,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources foran agreement with Ducks Unlimited to collaborate with livestock farmers to establish native grassland wildlife habitat and enhance native forages on working lands to improve ecological, economic, and climate resiliency. Notwithstanding subdivision 13, paragraph (e), restoration efforts may be undertaken on private lands but must occur on properties enrolled in long-term agreements to protect and maintain the restored areas in conformance with approved restoration and grazing plans as approved in the work plan. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2031, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2031

Narrative

Project Summary: Increasing ecosystem function and landscape resiliency by collaborating with the grazing community to establish and enhance native forages on working lands to improve ecological, economical, and climate resiliency.

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

With the ever-changing climate, drought continues to impact Minnesota's natural resources and farming community. Western Minnesota was once covered in tallgrass prairies and pothole wetlands, providing essential ecosystem services to Minnesota's natural resources. The landscape has now been converted to row crop agriculture and introduced cool season grasses, unable to provide the benefits that native grasslands once did. The loss of these ecosystems comes with the price of losing invaluable wildlife populations, such as the Monarch Butterfly, whose estimated overwintering populations are down 59.6% from 2022-2023's estimate. Additionally, Northern Pintails, a grassland nesting duck, has seen a 43% decrease in their long-term average population. The loss of native grasslands has not only removed habitat for a large suite of pollinators and birds but also negatively affected water quality, soil erosion and sediment loading in streams and wetlands by removing native plants. The loss of these drought resilient grasslands has also made livestock producers rely heavily on feeding additional hay in times of even moderate drought, digging into industry profitability. By incorporating diverse native grasslands back into Minnesota's working farms, livestock producers can improve drought resilience while simultaneously providing habitat to critical species and making Minnesota's landscape more climate resilient.

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.

Native Forages (NFs) deliver multiple benefits to Minnesota's natural resources. By establishing NFs, we are growing our drought and climate resilience in Minnesota, sequestering more carbon, and increasing water infiltration to reduce runoff and sediment loading in wetlands and streams. Livestock are the management tool necessary for maintaining grasslands on the landscape. Integrating NFs into livestock operations creates a win-win situation for conservation and the grazing community. To address this urgent climate issue and avoid any further undesirable consequences, Ducks Unlimited (DU) is proposing to use LCCMR funds to convert degraded pastures or marginal cropland into NF pastures. DU would like to take this innovative approach to effectively and efficiently address climate change and grassland habitat loss. To ensure success, interested producers would work with DU staff to establish a grazing plan and coordinate site preparation and seeding by utilizing conservation contractors. The producer will exclude livestock from the establishing pasture, making it unprofitable for a short window. DU plans to provide the producer with a deferment payment to offset the cost of deferment. Producers will maintain these practices in their own interest of increased profit margins for their operation, making these practices have a lasting longevity on the landscape.

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?

Incorporating NFs into working livestock operations will improve grassland wildlife diversity, climate and drought resiliency, and enhance soil health and water quality. NFs are adapted to Minnesota and in turn, Minnesota's wildlife is adapted to NFs. Native grasslands are a dynamic system and require management, historically accomplished through bison grazing and fire, to be functional for the wildlife that depend upon them. Working with livestock producers to establish NFs through this project will ensure that best management practices will be used to increase native grasslands and manage them to provide long-term benefits to Minnesota's natural resources and grassland wildlife habitat.

Project Location

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

County(s): Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Meeker, Morrison, Norman, Kandiyohi,

Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wilkin, Wright, Big Stone, Swift, Lac qui Parle, Chippewa, Clearwater,

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

County(s): Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Kandiyohi, Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Meeker, Morrison, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wilkin, Wright, Big Stone, Chippewa, Clearwater, Lac qui Parle, Swift,

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Establish and restore 1,925 acres of native forages into working livestock operation to improve climate and drought resilience.

Activity Budget: $1,492,338

Activity Description:
Incorporating NFs on working lands is part of the climate change solution in Minnesota. As stewards of the land, livestock producers will voluntarily convert marginal land to NFs to build Minnesota's climate resiliency, restore native grasslands, and provide operational flexibility. Livestock producers normally would not voluntarily convert, due to the time and cost involved. The combination of site preparation and seed cost alone can cost upwards of $800, not including the cost of infrastructure needed. Additionally, producers sacrifice these pastures for nearly 3 years, adding forgone income. DU plans to address these barriers by providing technical assistance and financial assistance to integrate NF into pastures, accomplishing conservation goals, and improving livestock operations. DU sees this as an opportunity to work with the grazing community to restore native grasslands and protect them in the future. DU will work with producers one-on-one to identify producer objectives, develop a grazing management plan and coordinate with contractors to complete site preparation and seeding. Producers will also receive a deferment payment for the 2 years of lost income. Once established, producers will manage these pastures as part of their rotational system, creating wildlife habitat, building climate resiliency, improving soil health and water quality.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Contract out site preparation for 1,925 acres through chemical, burning, and light disking methods.	June 30, 2027
Plant prepared sites with native grassland mixes using broadcast seeders or no-till drills through contractors.	June 30, 2027
Allow adequate rest for natives to establish. Provide producers with 2-3 years of deferment payments.	October 31, 2029
Install supporting infrastructure (fence and livestock water systems) via contractors as needed.	October 31, 2029
Allow livestock grazing on established native grasslands as a maintenance tool.	October 31, 2030

Activity 2: Development of targeted outreach and adding technical capacity to write 100 grazing plans for enrolled livestock producers.

Activity Budget: $671,662

Activity Description:
DU grazing specialists will meet with livestock producers one-on-one, to create a grazing management plan that improves drought tolerance, addresses resource concerns, and aligns with the operators' goals. Grazing and managing NFs will likely be a new type of management for many of these producers, therefore having a written plan in place to follow step-by-step instructions will be crucial. Additionally, having a technical expert, i.e. DU grazing specialists, will be necessary for when questions or concerns arise. Prior to any NF establishment, we will conduct targeted outreach to encourage landowner signup and education. This may include, written educational documents, public workshops, webinars, and field tours. The success of this project will rely on DU specialists to communicate effectively with livestock producers and contractors. Currently, DU employs two grazing specialists in MN, however with the funding of this project, we would like to hire an additional specialist to focus on the delivery and coordination to ensure on-the-ground success of each project. That specialist will correspond with contractors, producers, and other specialists to efficiently deliver this project.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Hire 1 grazing specialist to assist in the contractor management and grazing plan development.	December 31, 2025
Develop strategic outreach materials and events to educate about native forages.	February 28, 2026
Develop and submit a long-term agreement template to LCCMR staff.	February 28, 2026
Develop a prioritization and application tool to help select qualified producers and land.	February 28, 2026
Enroll 1,925 acres into agreements to be converted to native forages.	December 31, 2026
Develop 100 written grazing plans for livestock producers.	June 30, 2028
Attend and present at various conferences across MN and one out of state conference.	June 30, 2031

Activity 3: Collection of data through Integrated Monarch Monitoring Protocol (IMMP) and remote sensing monitoring on selected project sites.

Activity Budget: $90,000

Activity Description:

Monarch and pollinators are excellent indicators of grassland health. By monitoring monarch populations and tracking shifts in their habitat utilization we gain valuable insights into the impacts of practice changes on grasslands. MJV will conduct monitoring activities utilizing the POLLi remote sensing habitat evaluation platform and the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Protocol to collect data about monarch nectar resources, milkweed stems, and monarch use of the project sites before and after native forage establishment. MJV will work with DU and enrolled landowners to select sites and receive appropriate permissions and access. A minimum of 250 acres will be selected for monitoring across at least 5 separate project locations. Baseline monitoring will begin as soon as project sites are enrolled. Follow-up monitoring will occur in 2027 to capture initial changes in monarch use, nectar plant, and milkweed availability. Data processing and analyses will be conducted between field seasons and at project completion. Data summaries will be provided to landowners for each site surveyed and will be aggregated into a summary report for broader consumption. Site reports will include metrics like measures of common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca), percent coverage of blooming nectar resources, and additional monarch use data gathered by IMMP.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Select 250 acres to be monitored throughout the length of the project.	February 28, 2026
Conduct Pre-NF establishment site monitoring utilizing some combination of remote sensing and IMMP.	October 31, 2026
Post-NF establishment monitoring utilizing some combination of remote sensing and IMMP.	October 31, 2029
Post grazing monitoring utilizing some combination of remote sensing and IMMP.	October 31, 2030
Final reports created and distributed to professionals and livestock producers.	June 30, 2031

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Dale Gentry	Audubon Society	Audubon Society is in support of this project as it aligns with their Conservation Ranching Program. We foresee some producer overlap looking to enroll into both programs. Audubon has agreed to provide outreach support as applicable.	No
AnnMarie Krmpotich	United States Fish and Wildlife Service	USFWS will be providing 10,000 dollars of in-kind match for technical assistance with seed mix development, project delivery, and landowner outreach.	No
Kaitlyn Root	Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association	MSCA is an organization that represents MN cattle producers and its industry. They are in support of this project, as is it aims to improve natural resources and cattle operations. They will assist with outreach to producers when staff is available.	No
Josh Pommier	Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. Inc.	PF/QF's mission aims to conserve upland habitat for wildlife, which aligns with our project. Additionally, they have grazing specialist staff that will help advocate for this program.	No
Brittany Smith	Monarch Joint Venture	MJV will be assisting with ecological monitoring of this project. Native, well-managed grasslands are important habitat for pollinators, such as the monarch butterfly. MJV will be collecting data on monarch nectar sources, which benefit pollinators and livestock.	Yes

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.
The data collected and field observations will be used to share the success and challenges of the project with the public and other professionals in the field. This project will provide insight into management of native forages that is not well understood in Minnesota. This project will be promoted and presented to change behavior to better conserve, restore and manage our grasslands, the ecosystem services they provide, and the animals that cohabitate in them. Write ups, handouts, and presentations will be created to share the findings with the public. These products will be presented at the conferences (in state and out of state) to promote the success of the project. Additionally, we will be conducting field tours, professional trainings, and public workshops that will highlight the work being completed through the funding of ENRTF. These various presentations will help shape the behavior of farmers, ranchers, and conservationists that will better conserve Minnesota's natural resources in the future.

Partnering with MJV, their Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program will also be implemented as part of the monitoring. The data collected from this project will contribute to this publicly available, nationwide project. This program helps us better understand the available resources for monarchs and how they interact within their environments. The data will be maintained by Ducks Unlimited and Monarch Joint Venture. Producers' names and properties will be restricted, unless agreed to publish by the individual producer.

Ducks Unlimited and Monarch Joint Venture will utilize both of their wide social networks to share the information collected from this project. The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund will be acknowledged through the use of logos when distributing any handouts, presentations, social media posts, and other communications per ENRTF guidelines.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

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

Aside from the documented, long-term benefits NFs have on the landscape, through the delivery of this project, DU will strive to raise awareness of the benefits that grazing NFs have on climate resiliency and nesting waterfowl populations. After this project is complete, DU will encourage producers to share the benefits of these NF plantings. Furthermore, DU plans to continue funding these efforts through a Regional Conservation Partnership Program with NRCS converting more acres to NFs, building landscape connectivity and ecosystem resilience. It would also provide opportunities for producers to enroll in easements ensuring these grasslands stay on the landscape.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	$ Amount
Personnel								
New Grazing Biologist		New hire to coordinate with contractors, provide technical assistance and outreach opportunities to producers.			20%	3		$388,800
Grazing Biologist		Delivery of technical assistance to private landowners within the project area.			20%	6		$194,400
Grazing Program Coordinator		Supervision of field staff and project coordination			20%	3		$21,360
							Sub Total	**$604,560**
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Service Contract	Contractors will be hired to assist with site preparation of this project for all native forage establishment. They will likely use a combination of herbicides and prescribed burning. We expect this to cost roughly $150 per acre between labor, chemical, and equipment cost.				0		$288,750
TBD	Service Contract	Contractors will be hired to assist with the seeding of the native forages, likely using large no-till drill or broadcast equipment, which is not accessible to all producers. We expect competitive bids to be roughly $50 per acre.				0		$96,250
Monarch Joint Venture (MJV)	Subaward	MJV will provide monitoring services to quantify the work implemented in this project. They will be completing pre establish and post establishment monitoring. (Personnel $68,670; Travel $18,750; Supplies and Data Processing Fees $2,580)				3		$90,000
TBD	Service Contract	Contractors hired will install necessary fence and water infrastructure to facilitate the grazing rotation needed in the plan ($42,240 fence, $36,000 gravel pads, $28,000 water tanks, $38,598 pipeline). Not every producer will need the infrastructure. Any extra funds will be used for additional restoration acres.				0		$144,838
							Sub Total	**$619,838**

Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Grazing Sticks (127 sticks)	Design and purchase of "grazing sticks", which are used to assist in grazing management decisions. Additionally, they will be used for landowner outreach and education.					$1,270
	Tools and Supplies	Diverse native forages seed cost (1,925 acres at $300/acre)	Diverse native forage mixes will be purchased by DU and provided to the contractor the day of seeding. Seed design will be completed by DU grazing specialist, with the help of partner organizations.					$577,500
	Tools and Supplies	100 Metal Signs for Producer Participation	DU will purchase small metal signs that will be given to the producer to have the option to post where native forages will be grazed to promote the project and partnership between ENTRF and DU. ENTRF logo usage guidelines will be followed. Each sign will roughly cost $33.					$3,308
							Sub Total	**$582,078**
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	**-**
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	**-**
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Over the course of the grant - 45,000 miles at 0.675 per mile, 60 nights of lodging for $175/night, 60 days of meals ($43/day per Commissioners plan).	Compensation for overnight travel to landowner site visits and project delivery					$43,455
	Conference Registration Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Over the course of the grant - 9 in state conferences ($200 per registration) to present and promote the project. 30 nights in lodging at $175/night, and 30	Overnight conference travel and registration to present project results					$14,415

		days of meals at $43 per day (per commissioners plan). 9,000 miles of travel at the IRS rate of 0.675.						
							Sub Total	**$57,870**
Travel Outside Minnesota								
	Conference Registration Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Over the course of the grant - 1 out of state conference for one employee ($500 registration) to present project findings, $500 round trip air fare, 3 nights of lodging at $175/night, 3 days of meals at $43/day (per commissioners plan)	Out of state conference travel and registration to present project results for one employee.	X				$1,654
							Sub Total	**$1,654**
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	1,000 copies of 5 handouts (.40 per copy)	Project outreach and educational materials					$2,000
	Printing	Grazing plans and agreements ($10 each, 100 producers)	Written grazing plans and long-term agreements will be printed for producers to follow and keep for their records. Documents included: grazing plan, maps, seed mix, sign agreement, folder, etc.					$1,000
							Sub Total	**$3,000**
Other Expenses								
		Producer Deferment/Rental Payment	To establish the native grass and forb seedings, producers must let the pastures rest for a period of two years after planting. These are working lands that producers currently have grazing rights on either under easement or on private lands. This will result in a loss of forage and income for the producer. This deferment payment to the producer is a rental payment for the project to have the rights to keep cattle off the seeded areas for a period of two years. This payment will allow the producer to rent other pasture or buy	X				$385,000

			feed to make up for the forage loss of the restoration during establishment. The payment will be $100/acre for up to 2 years. This rate is the average of pasture rental and average CRP rental for the project area.					
							Sub Total	**$385,000**
							Grand Total	**$2,254,000**

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Travel Outside Minnesota	Conference Registration Miles/Meals/Lodging	Over the course of the grant - 1 out of state conference for one employee ($500 registration) to present project findings, $500 round trip air fare, 3 nights of lodging at $175/night, 3 days of meals at $43/day (per commissioners plan)	Conference out of state to present results of this project.
Other Expenses		Producer Deferment/Rental Payment	To establish the native grass and forb seedings, producers must let the pastures rest for a period of two years after planting. These are working lands that producers currently have grazing rights on either under easement or on private lands. This will result in a loss of forage and income for the producer. This deferment payment to the producer is a rental payment for the project to have the rights to keep cattle off the seeded areas for a period of two years. This payment will allow the producer to rent other pasture or buy feed to make up for the forage loss of the restoration during establishment. The payment will be $100/acre for up to 2 years. This rate is the average of pasture rental and average CRP rental for the project area.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	$ Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	**-**
Non-State				
In-Kind	United State Fish and Wildlife Service	USFWS will be providing in-kind support to assist with technical assistance, professional consulting on seed mix design, and outreach efforts.	Secured	$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	**$10,000**
			Funds Total	**$10,000**

Total Project Cost: $2,264,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Private Landowners in MN	Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Wilkin, Wright, Traverse, Todd, Stevens, Stearns, Sherburne, Roseau, Red Lake, Pope, Polk, Pennington, Otter Tail, Norman, Morrison, Meeker, Kandiyohi, Big Stone, Chippewa, Clearwater, Lac qui Parle, Swift,	Prairie	Restoration	1,925	-	$1,491,875	Private		Has Not Begun
Totals				**1,925**	**0**	**$1,491,875**			

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 land to be restored will be on privately owned land. We expect 60% of the acres enrolled to be in an existing, private land easement held by USFWS. These acres are permanently protected private lands that the landowner retains grazing and/or haying rights on. We expect the other 40% of the land to be enrolled by private landowners without an easement. All enrolled private landowners will sign a 10-year agreement with DU as a commitment to protect and maintain the restored area, and not drain or tile any wetlands present. Producers will maintain these practices in their own interest to have drought resiliency and increase profit margins for their operation. These lands have the potential to be enrolled into an easement with USFWS, BWSR, or NRCS, if the producer chooses during or after the 10 year agreement is complete.

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.

We plan to utilize contractors to complete the restoration and infrastructure work being proposed. Site preparation will be completed using herbicides, prescribed fire, and t argeted grazing. Each site will have a separate site preparation plan, as they could change depending on the producer's goals and site conditions. Seeding will be completed by a contractor using either a no-till native seed drill or a broadcast seeder, depending on equipment availability. The restored area will need to be deferred for 2 years before grazing will commence to properly establish. Each producer that enrolls into the project will follow a prescribed grazing plan for the designated restoration area. In that plan, there will be recommendations for grazing seasonality, longevity, and stocking rates. On average, we expect each producer to restore 20 acres, with a minimum of 5 acres. We will have limited funds for producers that need minimal infrastructure added to existing systems, whether that be fence or an extension of a water line. The installation of this infrastructure will be completed by a contractor prior to the start of grazing. Larger infrastructure projects will need to be enrolled in other programs such as EQIP, administered by NRCS or completed by the landowner without assistance. Infrastructure will be addressed on a case by case basis. After the grazing plan and agreement is signed, DU will hold and maintain those agreements for the lifetime of the agreement. They will maintain the relationship with the producers and consistently monitor these sites as time progresses. If other long-term management is desired with cost share (prescribed fire, brush management, etc), the producer will be directed to program options for assistance. Language will be included in the 10-year agreements that allow DU to extend the agreement and revisit the management plan for updating.

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.

DU grazing specialists will write an in-depth restoration plan for each producer that enrolls acres into this project. This plan will include site preparation methods, site history, seed mix, and management requirements and recommendations following the planting. DU grazing specialists will utilize BWSR's guidelines to help make site preparation and seed mix decisions on each individual restoration plan. The intent of these seed mixes will have multiple objectives: increasing diversity, providing pollinator and bird habitat, livestock palatability and forage health. Species selection will all be native to Minnesota and will be based on the ecological sections and subsections. DU specialists will collaborate with other entities, such as MNDNR, BWSR, and USFWS to design these seed mixes.

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.

After the establishment is complete and the producer will maintain that native stand with the use of livestock, haying, and/or burning. These NF pastures will be a part of the producers rotational grazing system, providing them with a drought resilient pasture and operation flexibility. Once established, these pastures will help increase operation profitability and could turn into more NF pastures, when producers see the benefits. Within our agreement with the

producer, they will be restricted to not plow, tile, interseed, or intentionally hurt the established stand. Any maintenance needed outside the funded project will be the private landowner's fiscal responsibility. Cost share assistance may be available through NRCS or other programs. Language will be included in the 10-year agreements that allow DU to extend the agreement and revisit the management plan for updating.

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

Our contractors have not been advertised or decided. As we go through that process, we will consider having a Conservation Corp crew conduct our restoration efforts, if they are available.

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.

We've partnered with Monarch Joint Venture to help us collect monitoring data during the project. They will be taking preliminary data on at least 250 acres of the 1,925-acre project. They will then re-survey those sites after establishment and after one year of grazing management. Also, DU specialists will evaluate the success of the planting and identify problems in year 1 and 3 of the establishment. Over the lifetime of the agreement, DU staff will visit these sites, identifying both successes and challenges. These findings will help other practitioners refine their restoration skills in Minnesota.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: 66844056-471.pdf

Alternate Text for Map

This map depicts where our project will be conducted and how it overlaps with the Prairie Pothole Region and DNR native plant communities. The PPR is a high priority for DU as it relates to nesting and migrating waterfowl. Additionally, we want this work to connect to native plant communities....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
DU Financials	a33a76b6-255.pdf
DU 990 - FY22	65c106e0-9df.pdf
Nonprofit Good Standing	2d5246e5-08b.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Signed Board of Resolution Letter	156e66f9-357.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Audubon Society Letter of Support	c5ca2644-5e3.pdf
USFWS Letter of Support	5dccf4b2-f7e.pdf
MN Cattlemen's Association Letter of Support	a172f333-b4e.pdf
Monarch Joint Venture Letter of Support	f5449963-706.docx
Pheasants Forever Letter of Support	686011af-eb9.docx

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

The changes in the proposal reflect the reduction in funding being allocated in comparison to what was requested. The planned acre accomplishment was reduced from 2,500 to 1,925 to reflect the funding. In the original proposal, we budgeted for all acres to receive 2 years of a deferment and 25% to receive an additional year of deferment at $135 per acre. We adjusted that budget item to only provide a deferment payment for 2 years at $100 per acre. If there are extra funds available, they will be used for the enrollment of additional acres (site prep, seeding, seed, and deferment). The travel, meals, and lodging budgets were readjusted and simplified to reflect the Commissioner's plan. All the other budget items stayed the same.

Infrastructure Budget was moved to a "service" as it will be a contracted item, with a structured budget. $3,308 was moved from out of state conference budget to a new budget item in equipment - "metal signs". Deferment/rental payments to producer was clarified in the purpose and justification. 10 year agreements on private land has more explanation and with justification that some of the acres restored will be on existing permanently protected private land easements. MJV subaward budget was itemized in the budget. Milestones were added for submitting a agreement template to LCCMR staff and a prioritization tool will be built. 5 adjacent counties were added to the work area as they were overlooked in the proposal process and provide more opportunity to work with those producers.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

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

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

N/A

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

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

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

No

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

N/A

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

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing $10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this project:

Sabrina Claeys and Ryan Diener both with Ducks Unlimited Inc.

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