

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2009 Phase 1 Request for Proposals (RFP)

LCCMR ID: B12

Project Title: Statewide Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition and Restoration

Total Project Budget: \$ \$1,200,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: July 2009 - June 2011 (2 yrs)

Other Non-State Funds: \$

First Name: Margaret (Peggy)

Last Name: Booth

Sponsoring Organization: DNR

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Region:

Statewide

County Name:

Statewide

City / Township:

Summary: Acquire about 200 acres of high quality native plant communities and rare features as Scientific and Natural Area. Restore at least 800 acres of SNAs degraded by various impacts.

Main Proposal: 0808-1-035-proposal-2009_LCCMR SNA proposal.doc

Project Budget: 0808-1-035-budget-2009_SNA Acq & Resto Project Budget.xls

Qualifications: 0808-1-035-qualifications-SNA - Booth proj mgr qual.doc

Map: 0808-1-035-maps-SNA_2009_LCCMR_Acq_&_Resto_Sites.pdf

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Scientific & Natural Area Acquisition & Restoration

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project would protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed natural state as state Scientific and Natural Area those nature features that possess exceptional scientific or education value. Specifically, about 200 acres of high quality native plant communities, rare plants and animals and other natural features of statewide importance would be acquired and designated as state Scientific and Natural Area. Also, at least 800 acres of SNAs that are threatened or degraded by human impacts, invasives, and/or lack of natural disturbance regimes would be restored or enhanced.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Acquisition & Designation of SNAs

Budget: \$1,000,000

About 200 acres of high quality native habitat will be acquired and designated as Scientific and Natural Area (SNA). This will protect rare and endangered plant and animal species, undisturbed plant communities, and geological features, and provide for their public use for scientific study, education, and nature observation. Very high priority parcels within sites of biodiversity significance will be targeted for protection that have been identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey, approved by the Commissioners Advisory Committee, are critical to meeting the SNA Long Range Plan, and which help fulfill Habitat Recommendations 1 and 3 of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (SCPP). Project sites are selected using two sets of criteria a) importance of site for protecting the rare features (e.g. its rareness on national or state scale; its quality and genetic diversity; degree of threat; and protection status in subsection) and b) practical considerations (e.g. feasibility of managing site; landowner willingness; funding for protection and management; and use for research and education).

Through this funding, all or part of about 1-3 sites would be protected at estimated costs of \$2,000 to \$12,000/acre depending on appraised land values in the location(s) being acquired. These funds would be targeted at sites that will not be protected through currently available LCCMR and bonding funds and are outside the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership's mapped corridors (other 2009 LCCMR proposal). Anticipated target locations would include several of the following: a) additions to existing SNAs, e.g. Avon Hills Forest and St. Wendel Tamarack Bog (Stearns Co); b) establishment of new SNAs recommended by MCBS, e.g. various native prairie sites (Yellow Medicine, Lac Qui Parle, and Big Stone Co), Wakanda & Little Kandiyohi Lakes Peninsula Forest (Kandiyohi Co), Cooks Lake Forest (Ottertail & Becker Co), and Nopeming Unconformity (geological site in St Louis Co); and c) new areas being identified in 2008 MCBS surveys, e.g. upland forest, headwaters, and patterned fen sites in Lake, Becker, Todd, Hubbard and Wadena Co.

Deliverable

Completion Date

1. Acquisition & SNA designation of ~200 acres of high quality native habitat 12 /31/2010

Result 2: Restoration & Development of SNAs

Budget: \$200,000

Restoration and development on at least 800 acres at approximately 30 Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) statewide will improve the health and sustainability of native biodiversity of native prairie, savanna, old growth forest, and other native plant communities. This work will directly

contribute towards achievement of restoration of degraded and rare land features (particularly native prairie, savanna, and forest) needed to support Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and thereby helps achieve Habitat Recommendation 5 of the SCPP.

Seed collection, planting, removal and treatment of exotics, control of woody encroachment, site clean up, signing, fencing and prescribed burns for restoration purposes and to bring sites acquired up to minimum standards will be the focus of the activities to be carried out by SNA crews, Sentence to Service personnel, volunteers, and/or contractors on SNAs across the state (outside of the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership mapped corridors). Results will be reported for all non-duplicated acres with activities accomplished through these funds (e.g. acres of exotics removed or treated, miles of burn breaks installed or acres of prescribed burns, acres of seed harvest, acres planted, etc). All restoration will use seeds or plants of a local ecotype, collected whenever possible from onsite or within 25 miles.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. ~100 ac: seed collection, firebreaks, site prep, exotic removal, etc	1/1/2010
2. ~300 ac: prescribed burns, planting, exotics treatment, etc	7/1/2010
3. ~200 ac: seed collection, firebreaks, site prep, exotic removal, etc	1/1/2010
4. ~200 ac: prescribed burns, planting, exotics treatment, etc	7/1/2011

III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

A. Project Partners

The SNA program will work cooperatively with other DNR Divisions, local conservation groups, and non-government organizations (e.g. The Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land) where appropriate to most effectively achieve mutual project aims.

B. Project Impact

This project will help protect and perpetuate rare species, SGCNs, and natural features of state significance at approximately 30-35 SNA sites across the state selected because of their importance and strategic value in protecting these rare resources. As a part of the State Outdoor Recreation system, all of these sites are managed as state SNAs that provide public access and opportunities to the public for nature observation and study.

C. Time

July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

D. Long-Term Strategy

The SNA Long Range Plan has a goal of protection through SNA designation within each ecological subsection of five occurrences of each native plant community (NPC) and three occurrences of each natural heritage element found in that subsection. The Division of Ecological Resources is in the process of using the recently revised Native Plant Community Classification system to assess the extent of protection for each NPC per subsection – looking at both numbers of occurrences (NPC polygons) and acreage protected. This demonstrates a substantial need for more SNA land acquisition and native habitat restoration/development for at least the next 2 decades. Towards this end, the Division could readily utilize support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund of \$2M to \$5M per biennium over this timeframe.

Project Budget

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM <i>(See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 17)</i>	AMOUNT	% FTE
Personnel: Result 1: classified and unclassified SNA acquisition staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds: ~ 0.2 FTE acquisition specialist. Fringe varies from 14-20%.	\$ 14,000	2%
Personnel: Result 2: region-based SNA project crews (paid almost exclusively with special project funds) to carry out restoration and enhancement, amounting to approx. 2.0 FTE over the life of the project and seasonal burn crew (approx 6 laborers for 3 weeks/year = .3 FTE). Fringe varies from 14-20%.	\$ 135,000	230%
Contracts: Contractors (to be selected through bid process) as needed to complete restoration projects.	\$ 20,000	
Equipment/Tools: Fleet charges for truck, tractor, trailer, and car usage & as needed incidental repair parts.	\$ 20,000	
Acquisition (Including Easements): ~ 200 acres of DNR fee acquisition (to owned by state & administered by SNA), including real estate transaction costs.	\$ 980,000	
Restoration: Supplies, etc needed for ~800 acres of restoration work. e.g. fencing, enclosure mats, signs, seeds, gloves, chemical, etc.	\$ 16,000	
Other: Instate travel & other direct expenses not included above for purposes of meeting min. standards & restoration.	\$ 15,000	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 1,200,000	

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable): Est. balance as of 7/31/08 (not including Metro Corridors): 2008 SNA Acq (\$1M) & 2008 Accelerated Prairie – Acq (\$475K).	\$ 1,475,000	<i>Not Legally Obligated</i>
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period: None proposed; if any are used, this will be reported and accomplishments prorated.	\$ -	NA
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period: None proposed; if any are used, this will be reported and accomplishments prorated.	\$ -	NA
In-kind Services During Project Period: Time and expenses of the Project Manager, SNA Management Supervisor. & Region Managers overseeing this work paid through DNR general fund, but not counted here.	\$ -	
Past Spending: (LCCMR; not including Metro Corridors): 2005 SNA Development	\$ 134,000	

Project Manager Qualifications

MARGARET (PEGGY) ANNE (SAND) BOOTH

WORK EXPERIENCE

- May 2006-current (100%) **MN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Ecological Resources St. Paul Scientific & Natural Area (SNA) Program Supervisor**
Manager and supervisor of SNA program – responsible for oversight of acquisition and management of system of 146+ state SNAs and the Division's prairie program (including Native Prairie Bank Conservation Easements, Prairie Stewardship, and Prairie Tax Exemption); managing these program's operating and capital budgets totaling up to about \$9 million. LCCMR project manager of several SNA appropriations.
- Sept 2002-May 2006 **MN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Regional Operations St. Paul Community Assistance Manager**
Including LCMR program manager of the Metro Conservation (Wildlife) Corridors partnership – Phase I and Phase II.
- July 1997-Sept 2002 **MN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Forestry Division St. Paul Metro Region Forestry Manager**
- April 1995-June 1997 **MN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Forestry Division St. Paul State Urban & Community Forestry Program Coordinator**
Including LCMR program manager for Minnesota ReLeaf.
- Oct 1992-April 1995 **MN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Forestry Division St. Paul Consultant**
Including providing technical assistance for LCMR-supported Minnesota ReLeaf Program and author of *Energy Conservation through Community Forestry*, and d) *Energy Conserving Landscapes: the Minnesota Homeowner's Guide*.
- 1982-1992 **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA Department of Landscape Architecture St Paul Administrator/Director of Center for Community Studies (1983-1992) // Lecturer/Teaching Specialist (1982-92) // Research: Planting for Energy Conservation (1989-1992)**
Including LCMR Project Manager for the University's \$199,450 research project (part of the \$1.25 million Minnesota ReLeaf program) entitled *Tree and Shrub Planting for Energy Conservation in Minnesota Communities*. Assisted DNR on writing the *Minnesota ReLeaf Implementation Plan* and on the Minnesota ReLeaf Implementation Plan Work Group. Co-author of *Carbon Dioxide Budgets in Minnesota and Recommendations for Reducing Emissions with Trees*. Author of *Planting for Energy Conservation in the North*.
- 1975-1980 **CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS Planning Department – City Planner II – Urban Design**

EDUCATION

- 1991 **MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE** University of Minnesota Graduate School
1975 **BACHELOR OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE** University of Minnesota

Organization Description

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecological Resources SCIENTIFIC & NATURAL AREA (SNA) PROGRAM

Charged under MS 84.05 to protect and perpetuate in and undisturbed natural state those natural features that possess exceptional scientific or education value; and under MS 84.96 and 84.961 to work with landowners in conserving native prairie.

Scientific & Natural Area Acquisition & Restoration 2009

