

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

LCCMR ID: B14.11

Project Title: HCP - Campaign for Conservation - Acquisition and Restoration (2n/4f)

Total Project Budget: \$

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: July 2009 - June 2010 (1 yr)

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 800,000.00

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Sponsoring Organization: The Nature Conservancy

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Region:

County Name:

City / Township:

Statewide

Statewide

Summary: Restoration of 2,723 acres of prairies, savannahs, wetlands, and forests. Protection of 435 acres (200 ETF, 235 other funds) of critical wildlife habitat, re-connecting fragmented landscapes, and preventing habitat conversion.

Main Proposal: 0808-1-016-proposal-Proposal phase VI TNC 8-22.doc

Project Budget: 0808-1-016-budget-Copy of RFP_2009_Project Budget 8-22.xls

Qualifications: 0808-1-016-qualifications-Project Manager Qualifications and Organization D

Map: 0808-1-016-maps-LCCMR Project Map - With Text - 2080820.jpg

Letter of Resolution: 0808-1-016-resolution-LCCMR_Board Resolution 2008.pdf

LCCMR Proposal 2008 – Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI

PROJECT TITLE: Campaign for Conservation

PROJECT MANAGER: Michael Pressman, Director of Protection

ORGANIZATION: The Nature Conservancy

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Total Biennial Project Budget (LCCMR Request): \$800,000.00

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The mission of the Habitat Conservation Partnership is to restore, enhance and conserve habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and plant communities for all generations. Minnesota's Habitat Conservation Partnership (Partnership), formerly the Habitat Corridors Partnership, was formed in 2000 to provide a framework for statewide land conservation in partnership with the Environmental Trust Fund. The work of the Partnership has three main objectives: 1) **Partnership:** working together to accelerate existing programs and identify new opportunities that build upon our existing investments in habitat. 2) **Focus:** The Phase VI proposal will work in nine project areas encompassing 27,442 mi². All work proposed will occur within the identified project areas. These areas were identified as focus areas where resource conservation priorities and opportunity overlap 3) **Leverage:** the objective of this partnership is to bring more resources to bear on Minnesota's conservation need by identifying non-state contributions to accelerate habitat conservation by maximizing the results from limited funding through the Environmental Trust Fund (ETF).

The Nature Conservancy's (the Conservancy) proposal furthers the Habitat Conservation Partnership's strategic objectives by complementing the other initiatives in the package and assuring a variety of high quality examples of native plant communities will be selected, protected, and restored with these funds, benefiting a multitude of native species. The Conservancy's focus on preserving functional landscapes complements existing public and private conservation investments and conserves and builds upon existing critical habitat. The Conservancy seeks to increase available habitat by building on our existing preserves and building and expanding connections between Conservancy preserves and those of our other partners. In addition, the Conservancy leverages Trust Fund investments by providing a minimum of \$1 of "Other Funds" for every \$1 of ETF funds.

The Conservancy works with a wide variety of public and private partners to deliver on-the-ground conservation and restoration results. The Conservancy reaches out to partners to ensure that our projects benefit from the skills, resources and experience each entity can bring to each project. Through the Conservancy's Conservation by Design approach, we have designed a portfolio of conservation areas that, if conserved, would protect and preserve functional, landscape scale examples of all of Minnesota's native habitats. Focusing within these portfolio areas, the Conservancy strives to protect, restore, and manage the best of the best habitats before they are converted to other uses. Through the Conservancy's work and that of our partners, we continue to stay on the cutting edge of restoration of degraded habitats and creative approaches to conservation of critical lands.

Conversion of habitat remains the greatest threat to Minnesota's biodiversity. Current trends with the expiration of many USDA Conservation Reserve Program contracts and the high price of corn place a particular urgent threat on our remaining prairie areas. Changes in ownership of Minnesota's industrial forest land have caused parcelization to become a key threat to the continued health of our forest lands. Another key threat to biodiversity in the State, and an ongoing concern for all the organizations and agencies who protect land, is loss of habitat due to invasive plant species (non-native and native alike). The restoration component of the Conservancy's proposal will restore previously drained wetlands and prairies and forestland that are being degraded through inappropriate habitat change.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS:

The Conservancy will work with partners across the majority of the Project Areas, including 1 – Aspen Parklands, 3 – Border Prairie, 5 – St. Louis River Estuary/Lake Superior Highlands, 6 – Upper Minnesota River, 7 – Alexandria Moraine, 9 – Des Moines River Valley/Prairie Coteau, and 11- Mississippi Bluff Lands. Different activities will be undertaken in each of these areas.

For its Phase VI “Campaign for Conservation,” the Conservancy proposes to acquire and retain in fee title up to 435 acres (200 with ETF funds; 235 acres with Other Funds) in one or several blocks to re-connect fragmented landscapes and create additional connections among existing public and private conservation lands; and to restore 2,723 acres of wetlands and existing protected prairie, savanna, and forest habitat (2214 with ETF funds, 509 with Other Funds).

Result 1: Fee Title Acquisition

Budget: \$400,000

Deliverables:

The Conservancy will acquire and retain in fee title 435 acres (200 with ETF funds; and another 235 acres with other funds) in one or several blocks to re-connect fragmented landscapes. Acquisition staffing will be accomplished by the Conservancy’s Director of Protection and Real Estate Specialists. All such time will be paid for by the Conservancy, above and beyond the Other Funds listed.

Result 2: Restoration

Budget: \$400,000

Deliverables:

The Conservancy will restore 2,723 acres of wetlands and existing protected prairie, savanna, and forest habitat (2214 with ETF funds; and another 509 acres with other funds). Restoration staffing will be accomplished by the Conservancy’s Field Stewards, seasonal work crews, and Landscape/Project Managers.

III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

A. PROJECT PARTNERS- This proposal is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI Proposal. Please see the main proposal for a complete list of partners involved. The Conservancy will work with a wide variety of public and private partners to deliver on-the-ground conservation and restoration results. Throughout our work, the Conservancy reaches out to partners to ensure that our projects benefits from the breadth of skills, resources, and experiences we can bring to bear on each project.

B. PROJECT IMPACT -

Leverage The Conservancy will leverage Trust Fund investments by providing a minimum of \$1 of “Other Funds” for every \$1 of ETF funds. Also, the majority of the Conservancy’s expenses for project-related salary/benefits for acquisitions and project management are excluded from “Other Funds,” but are additional expenses to the Conservancy for this project.

Measurable and demonstrated outcomes 2,723 acres restored (2214 with ETF funds, 509 with Other Funds). In addition, the Conservancy will protect an additional 435 acres (200 with ETF funds, 235 with other funds) through fee acquisition, creating additional connections among existing public and private conservation lands.

C. TIME – The Conservancy proposes a twelve month grant beginning July 1, 2009 and ending on June 30, 2010

D. LONG-TERM STRATEGY

This unique Partnership exists as a result of the desire of LCCMR to encourage conservation partners to work together as a statewide collaboration to focus resources and bring additional funds to Minnesota’s wildlife habitat resources. We are 18 formal partner agencies and organizations recognized for an ability to achieve the mission of restoring, enhancing and conserving habitat for the purpose of sustaining fish, wildlife and native plant communities for all generations.

Project Budget

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

| BUDGET ITEM <i>(See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 17)</i> | AMOUNT | % FTE |
|---|-------------------|--------------|
| Personnel: <i>Who is getting paid to do what and what is the % of full-time employment for each position? List out by position.</i> | | % |
| 2 seasonal-short term staff at \$12.00 per hour, for 720 hours, plus 120 hours overtime at \$18.00 per hour | \$ 23,674 | 72% |
| 1 seasonal-short term staff at \$12.00 per hour for 400 hours, plus 40 hours overtime at \$18.00 per hour | \$ 6,096 | 20% |
| Contracts: With whom and for what? List out by item. Long lived conifer restoration NE MN (white pine, white spruce, white cedar) - \$20,000; Upland and creek restoration in the NPTE - \$200,000; Contract work for seed harvest, site prep, and planting/restoration of sand prairie/oak savanna - \$111,730; \$25,000 for fence construction, gate, water, livestock handling facilities in Prairie Coteau. | \$ 356,730 | |
| Equipment/Tools: <i>What? List general description of needs. Prairie Forest Border - \$8,500 in supplies, Prairie Coteau - \$5,000 in supplies.</i> | \$ 13,500 | |
| Acquisition (Including Easements): <i>List # of acres and who will hold title (e.g., DNR, Non-profit) - 435 acres to be held by The Nature Conservancy or the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.</i> | \$ 400,000 | |
| Restoration: <i>Restore 2,723 acres of wetlands and existing protected prairie, savanna, and forest habitat (2214 with ETF funds, 509 with Other Funds). Restoration costs are listed in Contracts and Personnel line.</i> | | |
| Other: | \$ - | |
| TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR | \$ 800,000 | |

V. OTHER FUNDS

| SOURCE OF FUNDS | AMOUNT | Status |
|--|---------------|---------------------------|
| Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable): 2007 - \$58,400; 2008: \$317,000 | \$ 375,400 | <i>Unspent</i> |
| Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period*: | \$ 800,000 | <i>Pending</i> |
| Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period: | \$ - | <i>Secured or Pending</i> |
| In-kind Services During Project Period: | \$ - | |
| Past ETF Spending: 2005: \$350,000; 2006-2007: \$371,599.88. Past Other Funds Spending: 2005: \$555,143.84; 2007: \$196,974.44. | \$ - | |

* Although not included as Other Funds, salary for Director of Protection and Real Estate Specialists and costs for travel are additional expenses incurred by The Nature Conservancy and not recovered or counted as Other Funds.

Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description:

Michael Pressman is Director of Protection for the Minnesota Chapter of The Nature Conservancy where he coordinates all of the Chapter's real estate work. Michael has more than 15 years experience in conservation and has actively managed several projects funded by the Environmental Trust Fund. Michael has more than 5 years of experience with The Nature Conservancy, having worked for the organization in Minnesota and Pennsylvania. Prior to his current position, Michael served as Land Conservation Specialist for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Michael holds a bachelor's degree in American Civilization from Lafayette College and a Masters in Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania

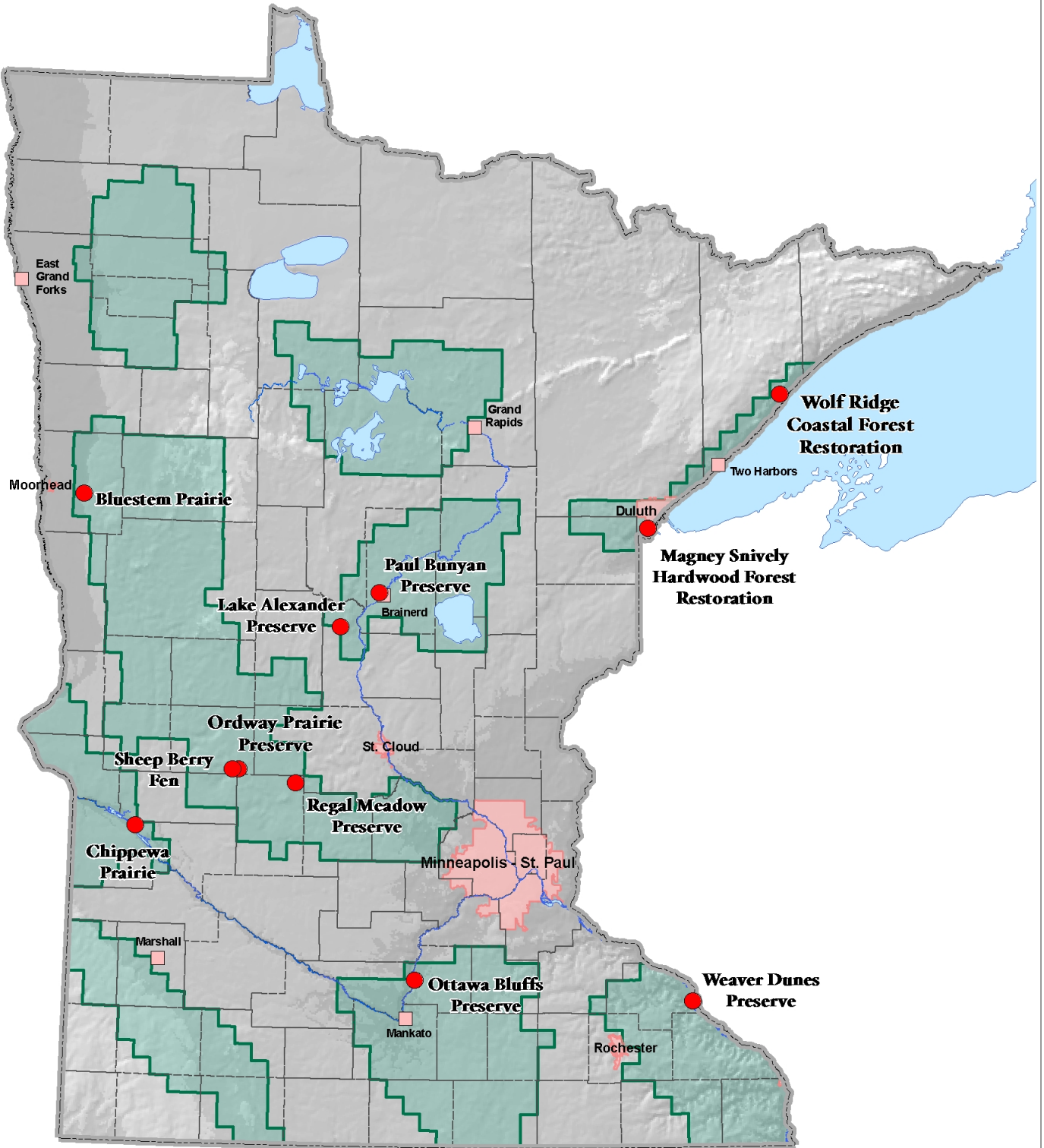
The Nature Conservancy's mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

The Nature Conservancy was founded in 1951, and we have protected more than 117 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide. We work in all 50 states, and in more than 30 countries protecting habitats from grasslands to coral reefs. We address threats to conservation involving climate change, fire, fresh water, forests, invasive species, and marine ecosystems. We use a science-based approach, and we pursue non-confrontational, pragmatic solutions to conservation challenges. We partner with indigenous communities, businesses, governments, multilateral institutions, other non-profits, and people.

This year, The Nature Conservancy is celebrating our 50th year of conservation success in Minnesota. The Nature Conservancy currently owns and manages 56 preserves in Minnesota, encompassing more than 72,000 acres. We have conserved more than 300,000 acres in the state. We have more than 23,000 members in Minnesota.

Habitat Conservation Partnership

The Nature Conservancy Campaign for Conservation
Potential Project List, August 2008 Proposal



*Please note that these are potential projects and just because a project is listed does not mean it will be completed. All projects are done on Conservancy lands, public lands, or in cooperation with willing private landowners. Projects not on this map that meet the strategic objectives of the Partnership may be added. More projects are listed than budget allocated to plan for the possibility that some projects may not come to fruition.

Legend

- Restoration Project Locations
- LCCMR Acquisition Project Areas



Map Created by: PCA, TNC in MN-N-D-SD, 2008/6/19
ArcGIS Project: MInnSPecial Projects\MN\LCCMR Project Map