

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

LCCMR ID: B14.22

Project Title: HCP - Accelerated Trout Stream Easement Acquisition (5b)

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

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 100,000

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Sponsoring Organization: DNR

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Region:

Southeast

County Name:

Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston,
Olmsted, Wabasha, Wino

City / Township:

Summary: Project will secure approximately 11 miles of permanent trout stream easement. Priority will be given to reaches that provide connection to existing permanent easements.

Main Proposal: 0808-1-023-proposal-4J main proposal2.doc

Project Budget: 0808-1-023-budget-4J project budget2.xls

Qualifications: 0808-1-023-qualifications-4J Project Manager.doc

Map: 0808-1-023-maps-hcp mn bluffland.jpg

Main Proposal – Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT TITLE: Accelerated Trout Stream Easement Acquisition – 4J

Project Manager: Mike Halverson

Affiliation: MN DNR – Fish and Wildlife, Section of Fish Management

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I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project is a concentrated effort by HCP in the Minnesota Blufflands project area and is being proposed as a project that would require additional HCP funding. This request is driven by a recent report submitted to the DNR entitled "Minnesota's Aquatic Management Area Acquisition Plan 2008-2033". The planning committee identified SE MN trout-streams as being "nationally renowned, attracting anglers from all over the Midwest and beyond, making additional public access to streams a priority". The report recommends increasing trout stream AMAs on designated trout streams from 11% (618 miles) in 2007 to 38% (2,118 miles) by 2032.

The cost of permanent trout stream easements in SE Minnesota ranges from \$80,000 to \$100,000 per mile of easement. Easement widths are typically 66 feet in width, extending 33 feet each direction from the centerline of the stream. Due to recent budget cuts, funding for easements has been drastically reduced at a time when acquisition is needed most. There is a backlog of willing sellers at this time, but time is running short. Acquisition of bluffland that includes shoreline along trout streams has also become popular with groups of individuals wanting their own private fishing and hunting preserves for trout, turkey, and deer.

Fish & Wildlife will focus on acquiring permanent angling and management easements on designated trout streams in Southeast Minnesota, using a valuation formula established in MS 84.0272, Subd. 2. Management includes in-stream and shoreline habitat protection and development. Acquired easements will be managed as Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs).

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 and Natural Resources 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 and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Permanent Trout Stream Easement Acquisition Budget: \$1,000,000

This project will secure permanent angling and management easements on approximately 11 miles of dedicated trout stream, and leverage another one mile of easement through non-state partner funds. Priority will be given to acquiring easements on stream reaches that

provide connections to existing permanent easements and which are under the greatest threat of being acquired by private hunting and fishing interests. This request includes \$50,000 for professional services to be used for legal fees, surveys, environmental assessments, closings, etc. Approximately \$25,000 will be used to insure that all parcels meet minimum maintenance standards, including but not limited to signage and parking. Projects may occur anywhere within the Minnesota Blufflands Project Area, depending on priorities, risk of development, and potential partners. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. Project money is expected to generate additional non-state funded acres and shoreline miles, for a grand total of 12 miles of critical shoreline habitat.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:

Trust Fund Budget:	\$1,000,000
Amount Spent:	\$ 0
Balance:	\$1,000,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget	Status
1. 12 miles of permanent stream easement Acquired & designated as AMA	6/30/10	\$1,000,000	

III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

A. Project Partners

This proposal is part of the Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI Proposal. Specific HCP partners include Trust for Public Lands, Minnesota Land Trust, and USDA Natural resources Conservation Service. Other HCP partners may help with restoration as needed. Please see the main proposal for a complete list of partners involved. Additional partners may include local units of government, fishing groups, landowners, etc.

B. Project Impact

Shoreland habitat protection is an essential component in preserving the cleanwater legacy that Minnesota’s citizens and visitors are used to experiencing. Aquatic management area acquisitions continue to provide a critical foundation for shoreland protection and management while providing public access to Minnesotans who fish, observe wildlife, and recreate on this state’s waters.

C. Time

We propose a twelve-month grant beginning July 1, 2009 and ending on June 30, 2010.

D. Long-Term Strategy

This project is part of a long-term acquisition strategy identified in “Minnesota’s Aquatic Management area Acquisition Plan 2008-2033”. This plan came as a report to DNR – Fish and Wildlife, focusing on “Shoreline Habitat, Angling, and Clean Water For Our Future”. Minnesota’s AMA Plan is listed as one of the Land Protection Options (2A) in the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan.

An annual monitoring program for trout stream easements is in place. Habitat improvement is an important component for trout stream management and is implemented as needed.

This HCP 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

Accelerated Trout Stream Easement Acquisition - 4J

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Easement Acquisition: 11 miles of permanent easement	\$ 975,000
Minimum Maintenance (parking, seeding, gates, signs, etc):	\$ 25,000
	\$ -
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 1,000,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$0	This a a new, accelerated approach to a known resource conservation need
Past Spending: List money spent or to be spent on this specific project, cash and/or in-kind, for 2-year timeframe prior to June 30, 2009	\$0	
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period: This project will complement projects funded with capital bonding, Trout Stamp, and Heritage dollars. These funds may also be used on projects funded with ETF dollars.	Unknown	Funds to be committed as acquisition projects mature
In-kind Services During Project Period:	N/A	

AMA Description

Aquatic management areas (AMAs) may be established to protect, develop, and manage lakes, rivers, streams, and adjacent wetlands and lands that are critical for fish and other aquatic life, for water quality, and for their intrinsic biological value, public fishing, or other compatible outdoor recreational uses. MS 86A.05 Subd. 14(a)

Guiding Principles

- Conserve critical shoreline habitat for all fish and wildlife species
- Conserve vital fish spawning and rearing areas
- Provide angling and management access corridors on trout and warm-water streams
- Provide non-motorized angler access on lakes and streams
- Preserve examples of healthy shoreline habitats as maps for future restoration of disturbed sites.

Project Manager Qualifications

Mike Halverson, Project Manager

Mike Halverson is a 31-year employee of the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. Twelve years were spent doing Fisheries fieldwork in SW Minnesota, eleven years as an Aquatic Plant Management Specialist in the Metro Region, and the past 8 years as statewide Fisheries Land Acquisition Coordinator.

Mike has a BS degree in Biology from Mankato State University. Accomplishments throughout his career have been centered around aquatic habitat.

Minnesota Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VI Corridor Map

