

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 057-B1

Project Title:

Brushland Harvesting and Equipment Development Week

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

B. Renewable Energy Related to Climate Change

Total Project Budget: \$ \$1,905,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 years, 2010 - 2012

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$0

Summary:

This proposal will: create an additional renewable resource to be utilized by wood energy facilities, provide for the development of brushland harvesting equipment, and accomplish wildlife habitat improvements on brushlands.

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Sponsoring Organization: DNR

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Location:

Region: NW, NE

County Name: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Cook, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake

City / Township:

_____ Knowledge Base	_____ Broad App.	_____ Innovation
_____ Leverage	_____ Outcomes	
_____ Partnerships	_____ Urgency	_____ TOTAL

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Brushland Harvesting and Equipment Development Week

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Although Minnesota has one of the most aggressive renewable energy mandates in the nation, its woody biomass resources are not inexhaustible. As woody biomass energy facilities continue to develop, Minnesota must consider alternate resources that are available for use as renewable energy. Funding that provides for the harvesting of Minnesota's brushlands and for the development of applicable brushland harvesting equipment is necessary in order to close the gap in this resource's availability and management. This proposal has three objectives: 1) to make available an additional renewable resource to be utilized by wood energy facilities, and 2) to make available an on-site demonstration and development period for potential brushland harvesting equipment that is light on the land and procures the resource in an economically efficient manner and 3) to accomplish additional wildlife habitat improvement on brushlands.

Currently, Minnesota's brushlands are managed well below potential levels and are not utilized for biomass production. The Department of Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife spent \$438,000 and \$340,000 in Fiscal Year 2007 and 2008 (respectively) to pay for the necessary mowing and shearing of brushlands and sources of dedicated money for brushland maintenance have been significantly reduced for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010. As many of the state-owned brushlands are located near wood energy facilities, an opportunity exists to harvest state brushlands by offering contracts that mandate the most efficient procurement and utilization of the resource. By using prescriptive brushland harvesting techniques (that follow the Minnesota Forest Resources Council's (MFRC) Brushland Harvesting Guidelines), outstanding wildlife objectives can be created while providing economic benefits for Minnesota's forest industry and renewable energy mandate.

However, significant challenges to procuring brushland resources currently exist. To date, economically efficient "light-on-the-land", brushland harvesting technology and equipment has yet to be developed. Several biomass harvesting equipment manufacturers have proposed brushland harvesting equipment; however, no purchases have been made due to uncertainties regarding the availability of the resource and the successfulness of the proposed equipment. Providing a brushland harvesting equipment development and demonstration week (in addition to making the resource available), allows operators to be able to evaluate available machinery on site and manufacturers to connect with their targeted consumers.

By funding the Brushland Harvesting and Equipment Development Week proposal, the development and marketing of infrastructure that allows for the periodic retreatment of brushlands without requiring additional government funding is made possible. In this manner, brushland resources become an additional source of sustainable renewable energy that also provide economic benefits.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: 224,000 green tons of Brushland Material delivered to Biomass Facilities

Budget: \$1,680,000

Following the MFRC Brushland Harvesting Guidelines, contract with loggers to harvest 14,000 acres of brushland over the course of two years off of state lands.

Deliverable:

1. 14,000 acres of brushland harvested for wildlife management objectives and renewable energy. Completed: July, 2012

Result 2: Biomass Harvesting Equipment Development Week

Budget: \$225,000

Provide necessary funding for the collaboration and transportation of biomass harvesting equipment manufacturers to northern Minnesota where 14,000 acres of state brushlands will be available for a demonstration and development of harvesting techniques and equipment.

Deliverables:

1. Showcase the brushland harvesting equipment of potential manufacturers and connect manufactures with interested consumers. Completed: July, 2012
2. An analysis that showcases economically efficient brushland harvesting procurement strategies and available equipment. Completed: July, 2012

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Project Coordinator, to be hired by the MN DNR, Division of Forestry. Project Coordinator will oversee the facilitation and execution of the Brushland Harvesting and Equipment Development Week proposal.

Anna Robertson, Biomass Coordinator, MN DNR, Division of Forestry. Temporary Project Coordinator responsible for organizing the initial project set up, working with and training the project coordinator, and providing assistance (when needed) to the project coordinator.

Cynthia Osmundson. Forest Wildlife Program Consultant, MN DNR, Division of Wildlife. Project Collaborator responsible for overseeing the wildlife management of harvested brushlands.

Dean Current, Research Associate, University of Minnesota, Center for Integrated Natural Resource and Agricultural Management. Project Collaborator who will aid in the coordination of the brushland harvesting equipment development week.

Dana Raines, Coordinator, Onanegozie Resource Conservation and Development. Project Collaborator who will aid in communication efforts as well as in the development of the brushland harvesting equipment development week.

B. Timeline Requirements

This project is anticipated to take two years to allow 3 months for the hiring and training of a project coordinator and two consecutive winters in which the brushland harvesting will be conducted.

C. Long-Term Strategy

N/A

Project Budget

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (\$1,905,000 for 2 years)

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Personnel:	
Project Coordinator. One Full Time Employee at 100% (75% Salary, 25% Benefits), 2 years.	\$125,000
Contracts:	
Contract with the University of Minnesota (D. Current) to help organize and arrange for the equipment transportation for the brushland harvesting equipment development week.	\$100,000
Contracts for operators to harvest and utilize brushland material off of state lands.	\$1,680,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: <i>In this column, list out general descriptions of item(s) or item type(s) and their purpose - one line per item/item type.</i>	
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): <i>In this column, indicate the proposed # of acres and who will hold title (e.g. DNR, Non-profit).</i>	
Travel: <i>Be specific. Separate in-state and out-of-state travel; explain each. Only travel essential to completing project activities can be included.</i>	
Additional Budget Items: <i>In this column, list any additional budget items that do not fit above categories. List by item(s) or item type(s) and explain how number was reached.</i>	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 1,905,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional non-state cash \$ to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional state cash \$ (e.g. bonding, other grants) to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period: <i>Indicate any in-kind services to be provided during the funding period. List type of service(s) and estimated value. In-kind services listed must be specific to the project.</i>	\$ -	
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable): <i>Specify \$ and year of appropriation from any current Trust fund appropriation for any directly related project of the project manager or organization that remains unspent or not yet legally obligated at the time of proposal submission. Be as specific as possible. Describe the status of \$ in the right-most column.</i>		<i>Indicate: Unspent? Not Legally Obligated? Other?</i>
Funding History: <i>Indicate funding secured prior to July 1, 2010 for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request. State specific source(s) of funds.</i>	\$ -	

PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS AND ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

PROJECT TITLE: Brushland Harvesting and Equipment Development Week

Project Manager Qualifications

Project Coordinator, to be hired by the MN DNR, Division of Forestry. Project Coordinator will oversee the facilitation and execution of the Brushland Harvesting and Equipment Development Week proposal.

The project manager will possess qualifications deemed necessary by the DNR divisions of Forestry and Fish and Wildlife. The successful project manager applicant will be knowledgeable in the areas of: biomass (specifically in relation to harvesting configurations and procurement technologies), natural resource management, wildlife ecology, economics and forest products utilization. The successful applicant will have strong communication skills (written and oral) and experience with the timber products industry.

Anna Robertson, Biomass Coordinator, MN DNR, Division of Forestry. Temporary Project Coordinator responsible for organizing the initial project set up, working with and training the project coordinator, and providing assistance (when needed) to the project coordinator.

Anna Robertson is currently the MN DNR's Woody Biomass Coordinator. Her responsibilities include (but are not limited to): working with stakeholders to aid in developing informed decisions about using woody biomass resources in a sustainable and efficient manner, guiding market development, building collaboration and support for state and federal biomass energy initiatives, and educating managers, supervisors, and staff about the state's woody biomass resource and policy initiatives. Anna came to the DNR in January after completing a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources Science Management at the University of Minnesota, Department of Forestry. During her graduate studies, Anna worked extensively with Minnesota's loggers who harvest biomass to understand the constraints and opportunities associated with biomass harvesting.

Organization Name: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. The department consists of several divisions based on the state's natural resources, including: Fisheries and Wildlife, Forestry, Lands and Minerals, Parks and Trails and Forestry.

The division of forestry aims to provide a long-term sustainable yield of forest resources from state forest lands; to improve the health and productivity of other public and private forest lands and community forest lands; and to protect life, property and natural resources from wildfires. Harvesting state brushlands and promoting the technological development of equipment that allows for the efficient procurement of brushland resources improves the health and productivity of our forest lands while providing a long-term sustainable resource of woody biomass material.

