

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

LCCMR ID: 085-C

Project Title:

Improving the Health of Minnesota's Family Forests

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

C. Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Acquisition

Total Project Budget: \$ \$300,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, 2010 - 2013

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$265,000

Summary:

Family forest landowners will receive cost share funding to implement forest health improvement activities. A monitoring and reporting effort will document the impact of the cost shared activities.

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Sponsoring Organization: DNR

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Web Address: www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/forestmgmt/stewardship.html

Location:

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

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

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Improving the health of Minnesota's family forests

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Invasive species have the potential to cause great harm to Minnesota's forests, water resources, and forest based economies. Buckthorn, garlic mustard, emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, and others are presently in Minnesota or can be found in surrounding states. Minnesota's family forest landowners need assistance from professional forest managers to help them prepare for, react to, and mitigate the effects of invasive species. Improving forest health can also mitigate the effects of invasive species.

FAST FACTS

- There are 147,000 family forest landowners in Minnesota who own roughly 6.4 million acres.
- Over the past 18 years 14,000 landowners have received a forest stewardship plan. Those 14,000 landowners manage 1.6 million acres.

This project will, through the DNR Division of Forestry's Forest Stewardship Program, work with family forest landowners to improve the health of their forests. Family forests will be

enhanced through specific forest management actions that address forest health concerns. Healthy forests grow faster and can adapt to changing conditions, offer better habitat for wildlife, protect water resources, provide recreational opportunities, and supply Minnesota's forest based economies the natural resources necessary to remain competitive.

The Forest Stewardship Program facilitates the preservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of Minnesota's privately held forest lands by providing the landowner a forest stewardship plan. A forest stewardship plan is required to access cost share programs like the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the DNR Division of Forestry's cost share program.

Family forest landowners will have access LCCMR cost share dollars so that they can implement the recommended forest health improvement actions that are found in their stewardship plan.

Activities include, but are not restricted to:

- Invasive species removal, for example cutting buckthorn and treating the stump
- Reforestation activities following invasive species removal
- Pre-commercial thinning to improve the health and vigor of a forest stand
- Pruning trees to reduce the risk of disease and insect damage, for example pruning white pine to reduce the occurrence of white pine blister rust

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Cost sharing for family forest health improvement

Budget: \$265,000

Result 1 would provide cost share dollars to family forest landowners through the DNR Division of Forestry's cost share program for forest health improvement activities. The Forest Stewardship Program will identify the eligible forest health practices that meet the requirements of this proposal. DNR, consulting, and SWCD foresters will develop project plans. Actual acreage accomplishments, estimated below, will vary depending on the types of projects landowners choose to implement. The DNR Division of Forestry's cost share docket that outlines management activities and associated costs is available upon request. Projects will be targeted to the "high" and "medium" priority acres that can be seen on attachment 1 (the darker green shaded areas). These priority acres were determined to be the most important privately held forest lands in Minnesota through the spatial analysis project. Additional priority areas may

be added as the DNR and other state agencies respond to emerging invasive species (eg. the discovery of emerald ash borer in western Wisconsin).

Deliverable

1. An estimated 1,650 acres of forest health improvement activities
2. An estimated 1,650 acres of forest health improvement activities

Completion Date

- June 30, 2011
June 30, 2012

Activity	Acres
Pre-commercial thin to remove diseased & undesirable trees	225
Pruning to improve health	75
Controlling and removing invasive species	1,000
Tree planting following invasive species removal	1,000
Releasing seedlings from competition	1,000

Result 2: Monitoring and reporting the effectiveness of cost sharing forest health management activities

Budget: \$35,000

Result 2 would focus on a monitoring the effectiveness of cost sharing forest health practices with family forest landowners. For example, are buckthorn removal projects worth the cost? Many dollars have been spent to remove this invasive species. What are the results of control measures one, two, five, and ten years after the project? The funds will be used to pay the salaries of DNR Division of Forestry staff to monitor and report the effectiveness of the cost share projects. The cost share projects funded by this LCCMR project will be monitored for ten years (all state funded cost share projects are required to be maintained for ten years). A report on the first two years of the project’s successes and opportunities for improvement will be written and submitted to LCCMR in late December 2013.

Deliverable

1. Monitoring and reporting the effectiveness of cost sharing forest health improvement activities

Completion Date

December 15, 2013

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Family forest landowners who receive cost share dollars will match LCCMR’s funds at a one-to-one rate. Consulting and SWCD foresters may also assist family forest landowners by developing plans and helping to implement forest management activities through this LCCMR cost share project. DNR Division of Forestry staff will develop project plans and record the cost share applications, track costs, and report accomplishments. Forestry staff will also be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the projects and writing the final report. Andrew Arends will be the team lead for this project.

B. Timeline Requirements

Result 1 will be complete by June 30, 2012 to ensure enough time to complete the monitoring and report writing that can be found in Result 2.

C. Long-Term Strategy

Invasive species, and their effect on forest health, are a threat to Minnesota’s forests and determining effective, long-term management activities is necessary. This project accelerates the understanding, from an on-the-ground perspective, of the effectiveness of recommended management activities. The effectiveness results found during the implementation and monitoring period hopefully will lead to better forest management recommendations.

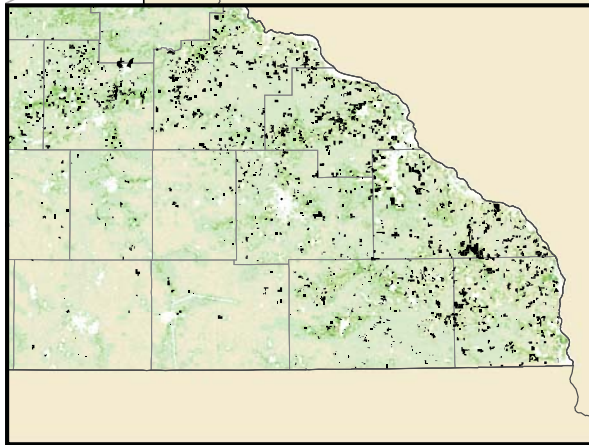
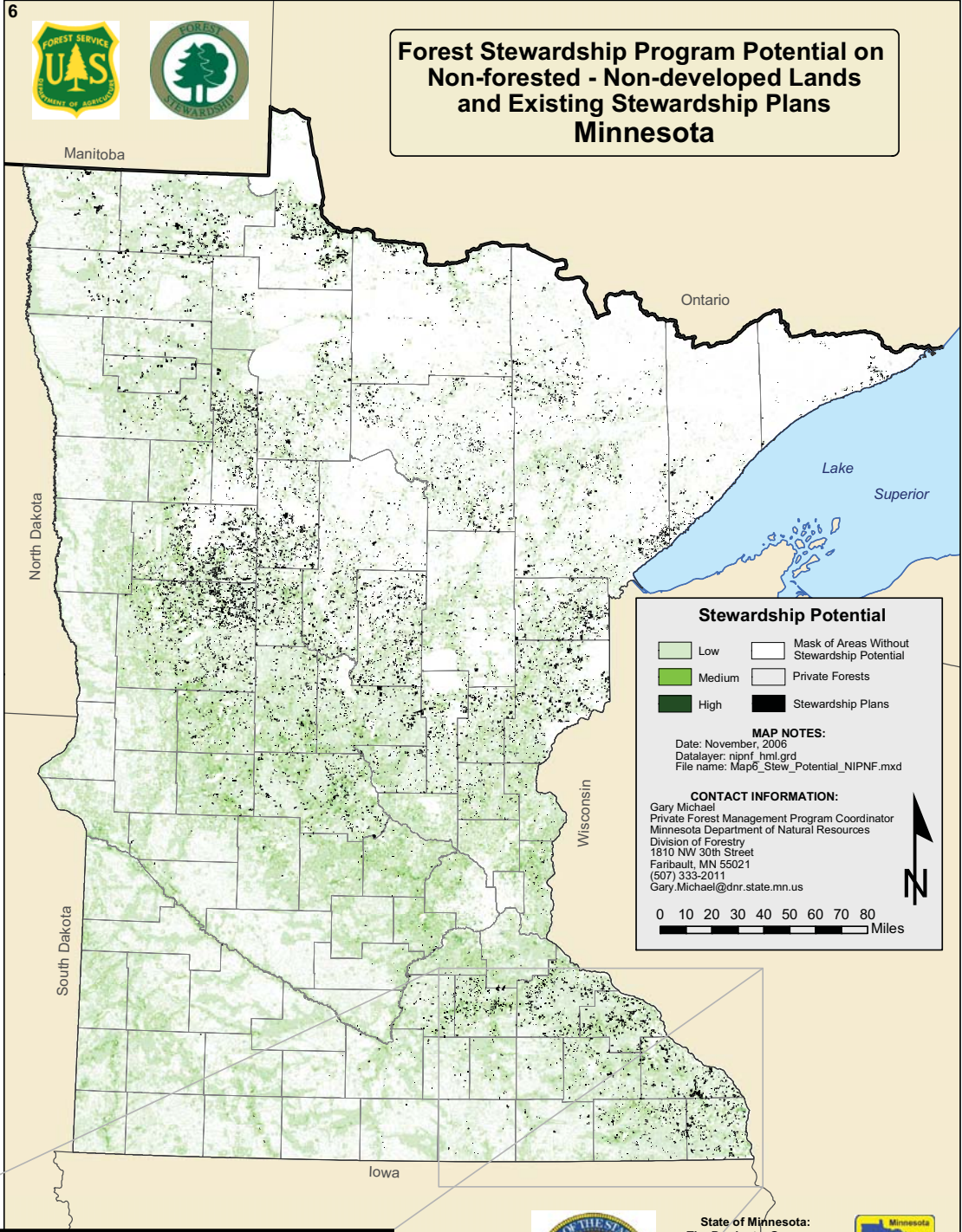
Project Budget

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET ([Insert # of years for project] years)

BUDGET ITEM (See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)	AMOUNT
Personnel: Salary for DNR Division of Forestry staff to develop the cost share plan and to conduct the monitoring and reporting on their findings. Field foresters will code time to this project as they conduct field reviews of the cost share projects implemented on family forest lands. 60% salary/40% benefits and overhead. The average Forestry employee costs \$81,250/year. Roughly 12 FTEs worth of Forestry staff time is devoted to working with family forest landowners. \$35,000 is about 45% of one FTE.	\$ 35,000
Contracts: Contracts/grants with family forest landowners for cost share projects such as controlling invasive species and tree planting	\$ 265,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ -
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	\$ -
Travel:	\$ -
Additional Budget Items:	\$ -
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 300,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Private landowners will match the LCCMR cost share dollars at a one-to-one rate.	\$ 265,000	Pending
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	\$ -	
In-kind Services During Project Period: Forestry staff and Private Forest Management partners (consulting and SWCD foresters) will write stewardship plans for all family forest landowners who receive cost share from this project. About 12 FTEs of Forestry staff work with family forest landowners.	\$ 975,000	Secured
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):		
Funding History: See sheet 2 (PFM funding history) in this spreadsheet for the funding history for the DNR Division of Forestry's Forest Stewardship Program. A portion of past cost share dollars has gone to improving forest health.	\$ -	



State of Minnesota:
 Tim Pawlenty, Governor
 Carol Molnau, Lt. Governor
 Department of Natural Resources
 Division of Forestry
 David Epperly, Director



	Non-Forest Non-Developed Lands Stewardship Potential			Total:
	Low	Medium	High	
Acres Capable of Stewardship:	17,756,315	2,540,245	115,314	20,411,874
Stewardship Plan (acres):	513,287	123,460	6,298	643,045
Stew. Plan vs. Acres Capable of Stewardship (%):	3%	5%	5%	3%

Project Manager Qualifications - Andrew Arends

Related Work Experience

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry

Cooperative Forest Management Supervisor

Oct. '03 to present

- Supervise the DNR Division of Forestry's Private Forest Management program, Urban and Community program, and Recreation program.
- Forestry sub-cabinet staffer for the Division of Forestry.

Forest Certification Program Coordinator

Dec. '03 to Oct.'07

- Achieved dual Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification on 4.9 million acres of DNR administered lands.
- Led the Forest Certification Implementation Team comprised of DNR employees.
- Identify, suggest, and help implement needed policy and business practices changes to the DNR and its management divisions to meet Forest Certification requirements.

Riparian Forester and Interim Statewide Incentives Forester

Aug. '98 to Dec. '03

- Aid private landowners in the endeavor of planting trees and prairies, restoring native prairies, and meeting other natural resource management objectives. Over 1,000 acres of trees, prairies, and wetlands have been restored through various cost share programs since 1998.
- Statewide fiscal management of the Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA) cost share program for the MN DNR from July 2001 to March 2002.

Field Forester

Sept. '96 to Aug.'98

- Assist private landowners in proper land management by writing stewardship plans, marking timber sales, preparing planting plans, and advising on cost share programs.

Education

B.S. Forest Resource Management / Minor in Environmental Studies

Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011

May 1994

Graduate Studies in Forest Biology / Minor in Water Resources

Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011

Research topic: Utilizing soil bioengineering systems to reduce streambank erosion.

Organization Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' 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.