

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

LCCMR ID: 087-C

Project Title:

SNA & Native Prairie Restoration, Enhancement & Acquisition

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

C. Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Acquisition

Total Project Budget: \$ \$8,000,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$0

Summary:

The DNR SNA Program targets sites of biodiversity significance to acquire about 1100 acres, restore and enhance at least 3800 acres, and provide assistance and incentives for native prairie landowners.

Name: Peggy Booth

Sponsoring Organization: DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 25
St. Paul MN 55155

Telephone Number: (651) 259-5088

Email: peggy.booth@dnr.state.mn.us

Fax: (651) 296-1811

Web Address: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location:

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

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

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: SNA & Native Prairie Restoration, Enhancement & Acquisition

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Sites of biodiversity significance would be permanently protected, their quality improved, and landowner and public support for their conservation increased by implementation of a suite of tools through the DNR Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) Program. Specifically, about 1100 acres of high quality native prairie and other native plant communities of state significance would be acquired in fee and designated as state Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) or through acquisition as a Native Prairie Bank (NPB) conservation easement. Native habitat restoration and enhancement activities would be implemented on at least 3800 acres of SNAs, NPBs, and high priority private prairie lands that are threatened or degraded by human impacts, invasives, and/or lack of natural disturbance regimes. Technical assistance and incentives for conservation would be provided to private landowners of native prairie.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Protection of Sites of Biodiversity Significance **Budget: \$6,000,000**

The SNA Program will protect and buffer sites of biodiversity significance by fee acquisition and designation as SNAs approximately 450 acres and by acquisition of NPB conservation easements on approximately 700 acres. Conservation easement monitoring would be initiated on new sites and on 13 NPBs previously acquired through LCMR funding. Sites are identified by MCBS as priorities for protection because they contain rare and endangered plant and animal species, undisturbed plant communities, and key habitats for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan SWAP). In addition, to be eligible for SNA acquisition, an Ecological Evaluation for each geographic area must be approved by the Commissioner's Advisory Committee. Also, SNA acquisition and designation of these sites contributes towards achievement of the SNA Long Range Plan. About 2-5 sites would be protected as SNA at about \$5,000 to \$15,000/acre depending on appraised land values plus project costs; and 3-10 sites would be protected as NPB easements at about \$2,000 to \$4,000/acre per statutory formula plus project costs.

Deliverable

Completion Date

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Fee acquisition & SNA designation of ~450 acres of high quality native habitat | 6/30/2012 |
| 2. Acquisition of NPB conservation easement ~700 acres of native prairie | 6/30/2012 |
| 3. Baseline property reports & initial monitoring for ~20 NPB CEs | 6/30/2012 |

Result 2: Native Habitat Restoration & Enhancement **Budget: \$1,500,000**

Restoration and enhancement activities would be completed on at least 3800 acres at about 30 SNAs, 10 NPBs, and 10 native prairie stewardship sites; interpretive signs-kiosks would be developed and installed at about 8 SNAs; management at about 18 SNA and NPB sites would be monitored for adaptive management purposes. The health and sustainability of native biodiversity of native prairie, savanna, old growth forest, and other native plant communities will be improved; and public awareness and understanding of rare resources increased. This will contribute towards implementation of the SWAP through restoration of degraded and rare land features (particularly native prairie, savanna, and forest) needed to support SGCN and thereby helps achieve Habitat Recommendation 5 of the SCPP. Restoration and enhancement activities – including bringing sites acquired up to minimum standards – will be carried out by DNR staff- SNA crews, Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC), Sentence to Service (STS), volunteers, and/or contractors. Activities include seed collection, planting, exotics control, woody encroachment removal, site clean-up, signing (including development & installation of interpretive kiosks), fencing, prescribed burns, management plan preparation, and monitoring (and associated adaptive management database development). All restoration will use seeds or plants of a local ecotype, collected whenever possible from onsite or within 25 miles.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. ~290 ac: prairie, forest, etc. reconstruction	6/30/2012
2. ~450 ac: woody removal & exotics species treatment	6/30/2012
3. ~ 3500 ac: prescribed burns	6/30/2012
4. ~8 SNA interpretive kiosks installed & development work on ~28 sites	6/30/2012
5. management plans completed for ~10 SNAs (incl new acquisitions)	6/30/2012
6. adaptive management monitoring on ~ 18 SNA-NPB sites & development of SNA adaptive management spatial database	6/30/2012

Result 3: Native Prairie Landowner Assistance & Incentives **Budget: \$500,000**

This result continues and expands the LCCMR-supported accelerated prairie stewardship work to assist private landowners through management consultation, information, delivery of prairie stewardship plans, and increasing participation in the Prairie Tax Exemption (PTE) Program. Ten prairie management workshops-field days and new outreach materials for private landowners will be developed and delivered. DNR staff will meet with at least 40 landowners to listen to their goals, examine their property, and provide technical consultation on how to best manage their prairie. At least 34 landowners will receive a comprehensive prairie stewardship plan including an evaluation their prairie's condition, identification of management needs, and recommendations for management action. In addition, about 90 native prairie landowners will be contacted and site visits conducted to enroll or recertify them in the PTE program.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. 10 workshops-field days & outreach mtls. delivered to prairie landowners	6/30/2012
2. consultations, guidance, mgmt asst, etc to 40 landowners	6/30/2012
3. stewardship plans provided to 34 landowners	6/30/2012
4. ~90 landowners enrolled or recertified in Prairie Tax Exemption	6/30/2012

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The SNA program staff are primarily responsible for this work. Other Divisions, conservation groups, and NGOs will be involved where appropriate to achieve mutual project aims – including Metro Conservation Corridor partners, The Nature Conservancy, STS, and MCC.

B. Project Impact

This project will help protect and perpetuate rare species, SGCNs, and natural features of state significance across the state selected because of their importance and strategic value. As a part of the State Outdoor Recreation system, SNA sites promote public access and opportunities to the public for nature observation and study. NPBs also allow for public access.

C. Timeline Requirements

Two years (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012) is requested to provide multiple field seasons for development work and to take protection projects through basic improvements needed.

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. This plan identifies a substantial need for more SNA land acquisition and native habitat restoration/development for at least the next 2 decades. In addition, through either NPB or SNA, the Division's goal is to permanently protect an additional 30,000 acres of sites with high or outstanding quality native prairie. Both NPB and SNA are starting implementation of adaptive management which requires ecological monitoring of managed sites to continuously inform and improve methods. Towards this end, the Division could readily utilize support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund of \$8M to \$12M per biennium over the next 20 years.

Project Budget

SNA & Native Prairie Restoration, Enhancement & Acquisition

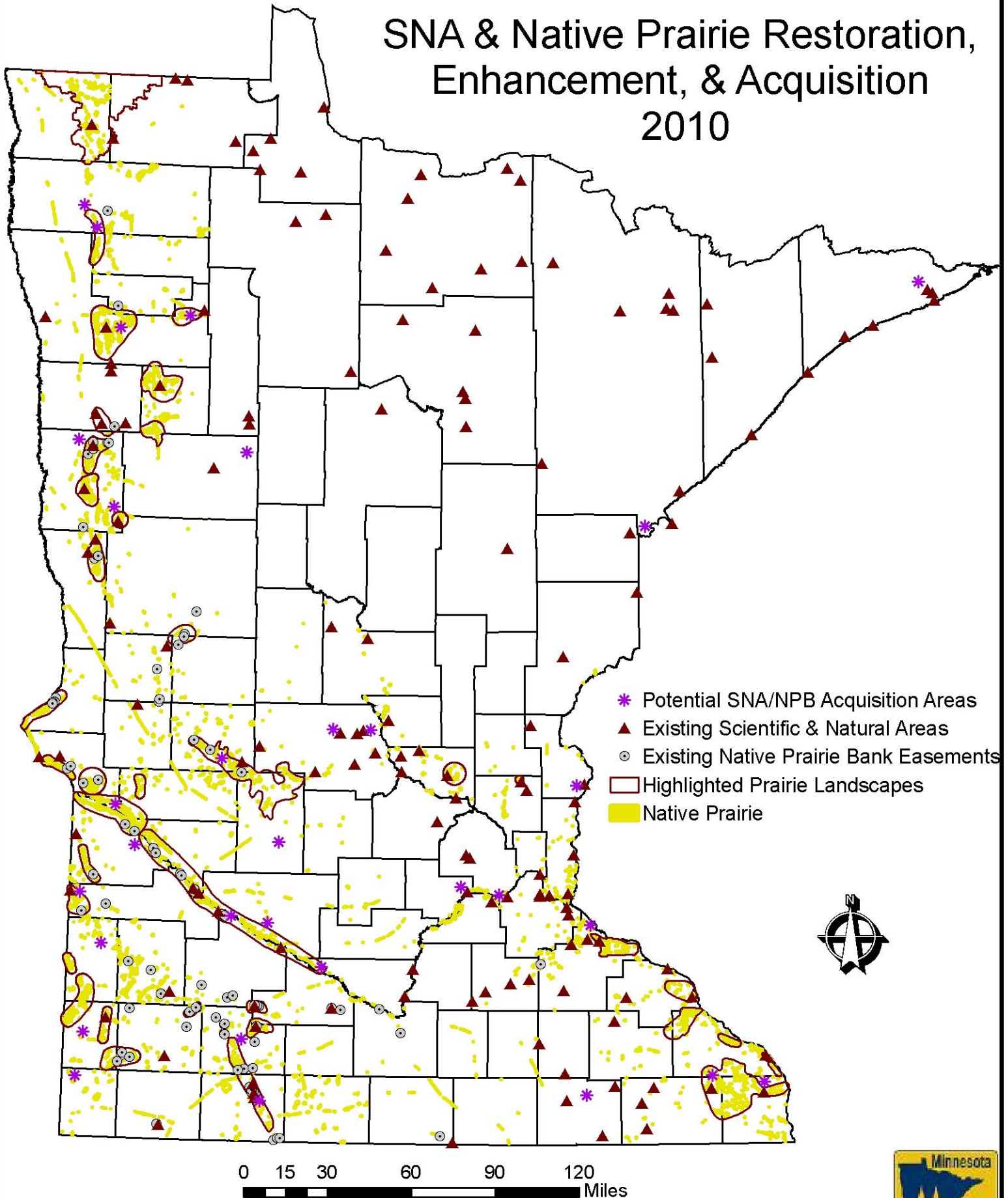
IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u> <i>(See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel: classified & unclassified specialists & technicians paid almost exclusively with special project funds (5.8 FTEs); classified project & contract coordinator (new function - 1 FTE); and project crews (laborers and seasonal burn crew): 4.3 FTE	\$ 1,310,000
Contracts: Contractors (to be selected through state bid process) for deliverables potentially including NPB baseline property reports & monitoring; native habitat reconstruction, woody encroachment removal, exotics control, prescribed burning, interpretive signs and other site development; SNA adaptive management plans; adaptive management monitoring; outreach materials development; private prairie stewardship plans; prairie tax exemption certification and enrollment.	\$ 616,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Fleet charges for trucks, cars, & equipment; parts & repair costs; supplies for restoration & enhancement, workshops: printing; etc.	\$ 136,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Fee acquisition & designation as DNR SNA (~450 acres) & Native Prairie Bank conservation easement acquisition (~700 acres)	\$ 5,832,000
Travel: Instate travel as needed for project work	\$ 18,000
Additional Budget Items: landowner costshare for restoration work (\$68K); DNR MIS charges for database development (\$20K)	\$ 88,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 8,000,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Potential funding includes partial landowner donations, federal State Wildlife Action grants.	\$ -	
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: NA	\$ -	
In-kind Services During Project Period: DNR office facilities, and other support will be provided (but contributions not tracked)	\$ -	
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation - BALANCES AS OF 4/29/09 (not including HCP \$s): 2007 Prairie Stewardship (\$66.5K encumbered; \$68.6K balance - all to be spent by 6/30/09); 2007 SNA Metro Corridors (\$1.8K encumbered; \$166.2K balance - all will be spent by 6/30/09); 2008 SNA statewide (\$4.4K encumbered; \$988.2K balance); 2008 SNA Metro Corridors (\$2.3 encumbered; \$472.9K balance - to be encumbered by 6/30/09); 2008 Accelerated Prairie (Results 3,4 & 6 only - \$28.4K encumbered; \$780.4K balance).	\$ 2,579,700	<i>see notes to left</i>
Funding History: CY 2005-2008 LCCMR appropriations (not incl HCP nor 2009 pending): 2005 SNA Statewide \$134K; 2005 Prairie Stewardship \$100K; 2005 SNA Metro Corridors \$300K; 2007 Prairie Stewardship \$220K; 2007 SNA Metro Corridors \$243K; 2008 SNA Statewide \$1M; 2008 SNA Metro Corridors \$515K; Accelerated Prairie (Results 3,4 & 6 only) \$975K. Other FY06-08 State appropriations: RIM Match \$78K; 2006 SNA \$2M; 2006 Native Prairie Bank \$1M; 2008 SNA \$1M; 2008 Native Prairie \$4M. Federal funds spent as of 4/1/09 in FY06-09: State Wildlife Grants \$94K, Landowner Incentive Program \$449K; LAWCON \$384K. Other funds spent: The Conservation Fund (Doris Duke) \$38K; Dakota County \$566K; and other partner contributions & landowner donations.	\$ 13,096,000	

SNA & Native Prairie Restoration, Enhancement, & Acquisition 2010



There are currently 147 Scientific & Natural Areas
and 92 Native Prairie Banks

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 acquire Native Prairie Bank easements and work with landowners in conserving native prairie.