

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

LCCMR ID: 118-D

Project Title:

Reducing Emeral Ash Borer Impacts in Minnesota

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

D. Invasive Species

Total Project Budget: \$ \$500,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$50,000

Summary:

The spread of EAB in MN will be addressed by developing an interagency web portal for EAB information, developing EAB outreach materials, and actively reducing large-diameter ash trees.

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Sponsoring Organization: DNR

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Location:

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

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

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Reducing Emerald Ash Borer Impacts in Minnesota

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has proved capable of killing ash trees of every species in North America, and has killed 5 percent of the ash resource in Michigan alone – 40 million trees. Since its discovery in 2002, EAB has spread to Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Missouri, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Ontario and Quebec in Canada. A recent discovery on the WI/IA border close to Minnesota brings this insect pest to the doorstep of MN.

Minnesota has the third largest acreage and volume of ash in the nation: 933 million ash trees. Ash was the main tree planted in urban areas after elms were lost to Dutch elm disease. In some Minnesota communities 60 percent of the street trees are ash. Research has not uncovered any ash resistance to EAB, and Minnesota could lose much of this resource if EAB becomes established. EAB is certain to arrive at some point in the future, but we cannot predict where or when it will be found. Campgrounds and urban areas are thought to be at highest risk of EAB introduction due to the movement of firewood.

In preparation for the arrival of EAB in Minnesota, specific actions need to be taken during the next five years (2009–2014) that will mitigate the impacts of EAB on Minnesota’s tree resources. The objective of this proposal is to institute strategies that will help forestall the introduction and spread of EAB in Minnesota, better prepare forest and urban landowners to respond to EAB, and increase the resiliency of Minnesota forests.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Develop Interagency Web Portal

Budget: \$150,000

Develop an interagency Web portal to produce a one-stop-shop for Minnesota residents, businesses, and visitors that effectively integrates new and existing EAB information and materials from varying sources (i.e. partner organizations) into one coherent portal.

Deliverables

Completion Date

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | Review existing materials and develop Minnesota-specific Web content to integrate all aspects of emerald ash borer prevention and management. | 6/30/2010 |
| 2 | Finalize Web portal development and market its availability. | 6/30/2011 |

Result 2: Emerald Ash Borer Outreach

Budget: \$200,000

Informed stakeholders and public will be an important key in timely identifying outbreaks and in supporting management actions. Outreach will focus on two areas: (1) The movement of firewood since firewood is a critical pathway for inadvertently transporting EAB; and (2) preparing urban forests since ash makes up a significant component of urban forests.

Deliverables

Completion Date

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | Assess audience and engage educators, public relations specialists, and social scientists to craft and deliver a public outreach campaign | 6/30/2010 |
|---|---|-----------|

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| 2 | Work with private campgrounds, resorts, and other agencies to develop a comprehensive plan to minimize movement of unregulated firewood | 6/30/2010 |
| 3 | Develop community preparedness plan templates and community ash management guidelines as guides for local planning efforts. | 6/30/2011 |

Result 3: Implement a Phloem Reduction Strategy

Budget: \$150,000

Larger-diameter ash trees support and sustain a greater population of EAB than smaller trees. There would be two objectives of this effort: (1) develop and implement an operational strategy to reduce the size and number of ash trees on forested sites in order to reduce stand vulnerability while maintaining an ash component; and (2) work with utility companies to develop ash reduction strategies along their rights-of-way.

Deliverables

Completion Date

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| 1 | Develop phloem reduction strategy for state forest lands and begin implementing the strategy. | 6/30/2010 |
| 2 | Develop ash reduction strategies for utility right-of-ways and market strategies to utility companies. | 6/30/2010 |
| 3 | Communicate and market phloem reduction strategies to private forest land owners and other stakeholders. | 6/30/2011 |

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Partners: The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the University of Minnesota (UM) will be directly involved in results 1 and 2; Hospitality Minnesota/Minnesota Resort and Campground Association will be involved in Result 2. US. Forest Service, county land departments, and timber industries will be involved in Result 3.

Team: Alan Jones MNDNR Forestry, Project Manager; Susan Burks, Jana Albers, Val Cervenka, and Kim Lanahan-Lahti, MNDNR Forestry (Result 1); Val Cervenka, Ed Hayes, Mike Albers, Jana Albers, and Ken Holman MNDNR Forestry and Mark Abrahamson, MDA Plant Protection (Result 2) UM Survey Group (Result 1,2); Ed Hayes, Mike Albers, Jana Albers, and Val Cervenka, MNDNR Forestry (Result 3).

B. Timeline Requirements

The timeline for this project is July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012.

C. Long-Term Strategy

The project will play a critical role in implementing the DNR Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan. The Plan lays out desired conditions for our forest resources, staff, and partners well into the future. It also identifies specific actions to be taken between 2009-2014, including those needed to allow the MNDNR to respond in a timely and effective manner when EAB becomes established in the state, as well as action needed to begin the work necessary to prepare our forest resources and dependent economies for the potential impacts related to ash mortality.

Project Budget

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Personnel: EAB Project Coordinator: results 1,2,3. (1/2 FTE for 2 years; salary and benefits; current Div. Of Forestry employee)	\$ 100,000
Contracts: Design web portal; host and maintain web site: result 1	\$ 100,000
Stakeholder surveys and design of outreach materials: results 1,2,3	\$ 100,000
Work with utility companies to develop ash removal strategy: result 3	\$ 25,000
Ash removal contracts: result 3	\$ 75,000
Additional Budget Items: Outreach materials (design, printing, distribution): result 1,2,3	\$ 100,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 500,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Ongoing USFS Forest Health Grant	\$ 50,000	<i>Secured</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>	\$ 50,000	
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>	\$ -	

LCCMR Proposal 2010

Title: Reducing the Impacts of Emerald Ash Borer in Minnesota

Project Manager Qualifications

Project Manager: Alan Jones is the Silviculture, Lands & Roads Supervisor for the DNR Division of Forestry. His program responsibilities include supervision of state forest land regeneration, ecological classification program, forest health program, the state forest roads program, and the lands program. He has been the supervisor of these programs since 2002. Previous to that, he was Area Forest Supervisor in Alexandria, the Cultural and Aesthetics Program Coordinator, and the NW Regional Forest Health Specialist. Alan has a BS degree in forest management and a MS degree in plant pathology, from Colorado State University.

Team Member: Valeria Cervenka is the Forest Health Program Coordinator for the DNR Division of Forestry. She coordinates the forest health program activities of three regional forest health specialists. She is serving as the division lead for emerald ash borer preparation and responses. She chairs the agency firewood committee, coordinates EAB outreach activities for the division, and is active in the EAB First Detector Training. Val has a BS degree in entomology and horticulture and a MS degree in entomology from the University of Minnesota.

Team Member: Susan Burks is the Invasive Species program Coordinator for the DNR Division of Forestry. She leads the division's effort to monitor and control terrestrial invasive plant species on state forestry lands. She led the team that developed division invasive species guidelines, and she chaired the task force that outlined initial MNDNR policy regarding firewood on MNDNR administered lands. Sue serves as the division's gypsy moth coordinator and serves as one of the DNR's representatives on the interagency Gypsy Moth Program Advisory Committee. Before coming to Minnesota, she was the forest health program coordinator in Missouri. She has a BS degree in from the University of Colorado and a MS degree in plant pathology from Colorado State University.

Organization Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources works with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. This mission requires sharing stewardship with citizens and partners, working together to address often-competing interests.

