

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

**LCCMR ID: 119-D**

**Project Title:**

St. Croix Corridor Invasives - Early Detection/Rapid Response

**LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:**

D. Invasive Species

**Total Project Budget: \$** \$514,400

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

**Other Non-State Funds: \$** \$200,000

**Summary:**

Invasive species threaten the forests of the St. Croix Valley; eradication efforts have not been well orchestrated. An early detection/rapid response program will be initiated and invasive species controlled.

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**Web Address:** www.greatrivergreening.org

**Location:**

**Region:** Metro

**County Name:** Chisago, Washington

**City / Township:**

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

# MAIN PROPOSAL

## PROJECT TITLE: ST. CROIX CORRIDOR INVASIVES – EARLY DETECTION/RAPID RESPONSE

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The deciduous forests of the Lower St. Croix Valley (from its confluence with the Mississippi northward to Taylors Falls) are identified as a priority natural resource in Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, *Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare*; together with the river, they are recognized as one of Minnesota's ecological crown jewels. Nominated an Important Bird Area (IBA) by Audubon Minnesota, these forests form a major north-south bird migration corridor, and provide habitat for a diverse assemblage of wildlife species of greatest conservation need, including Louisiana waterthrush, prothonotary warbler, red-shouldered hawk and bald eagle. This area contains the highest density of nesting bald eagles within the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and one of the best concentrations of breeding red-shouldered hawks in the state.

Although interest in management of these forest resources is high among public and private parties, these efforts have not been well orchestrated, are at times redundant, and are altogether inadequate to address the rising threats imposed by invasive species. Fortunately, the forests of the Lower St. Croix, in many ways, have been to date spared the onslaught of invasive species that has wreaked havoc on ecological systems elsewhere in the state. That fortune, however, is quickly changing. A narrow window of opportunity exists to establish and deliver an effective, strategic, coordinated response before the problem and associated management costs escalate.

This proposal, focused on public lands and private lands with conservation easements, complements and will mesh with ongoing efforts on private lands administered by Great River Greening, Washington Conservation District (WCD), Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), and various watershed districts. The program will target the following focal species (buckthorn, garlic mustard, Grecian foxglove, *Miscanthus*, and others to be determined) which are known to occur in the project area, but will also provide a framework for both preventing and eliminating newly established populations of other species not yet in the area.

#### Goals

1. Development and implementation of a coordinated early detection/rapid response and eradication system among program partners for focal invasive species in the St. Croix Corridor
2. Identification and eradication of at least 350 acres of invasive species populations in the Corridor on public lands and private lands with conservation easements; restoration of 50 acres.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

#### **Result 1: Outreach, Education & Engagement \_\_\_\_\_ Budget: \$ 85,200**

Develop a standardized operating plan for the program that builds an effective cooperative from an array of disparate efforts, and coordinate efforts going forward. Reach, educate, and engage private and public landowners and local government officials through various media, presentations and hands-on invasive species eradication events.

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. <i>Standardized early detection/rapid response protocol</i>	12/31/10
2. <i>Web-based information delivery system; pamphlets; other media</i>	6/30/12
3. <i>Three (3) public informational presentations</i>	6/30/12
4. <i>Five (5) public volunteer invasive species eradication/training events</i>	6/30/12

**Result 2: Eradication, Restoration & Monitoring \_\_\_\_\_ Budget: \$ 429,200**

Reduce impact of invasive species on forest resources within the project area through a variety of eradication efforts. Restore forest, woodland and savanna habitat impacted by invasive species through seeding and other techniques. Map, track and monitor populations of focal invasive species within the project area to determine success of adopted strategies, and modify approaches as warranted.

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. <i>At least 350 acres of invasive species controlled</i>	6/30/12
2. <i>At least 50 acres of forest and woodland habitat restored</i>	6/30/12
3. <i>Site invasive species management plans</i>	6/30/12
4. <i>Invasive species tracking system</i>	6/30/12
5. <i>Standardized monitoring protocol</i>	12/31/10

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners**

Audubon Minnesota (Mark Martell, Mark Peterson) – Outreach & Education, Monitoring  
 Carnelian-Marine Watershed District (Jim Shaver) – Outreach & Education, Implementation  
 Carpenter Nature Center (Jim Fitzpatrick) – Outreach & Education, Implementation  
 Chisago SWCD (Craig Mell) – Outreach & Education, Implementation  
 Great River Greening (Wayne Ostlie) – Fiscal agent, Implementation, Outreach & Education, Monitoring  
 Minnesota DNR SNA Program (Peggy Booth) – Implementation, Monitoring  
 National Park Service (Kate Hansen) – Outreach & Education, Implementation  
 Onanegozie RC&D (Dana Raines) – Outreach & Education  
 Science Museum of Minnesota (Shawn Schottler) – Outreach & Education, Implementation  
 Washington Conservation District (Jay Riggs) – Coordination, Outreach & Education, Implementation, Monitoring

**B. Timeline Requirements**

Program activities will be carried out over a 2-year period, with principle eradication field work occurring during 2011-12 field seasons, and completed by June 30, 2012.

**C. Long-Term Strategy**

The Lower St. Croix Cooperative Invasive Species Management Program is conceived as a multi-year program with projected financial investments in excess of \$5 million dollars over the coming decade. This proposal builds upon an initial Cooperative Weed Management effort led by Washington Conservation District in 2008-09 by significantly broadening the existing partnership, strategically aligning and coordinating programs, and filling critical resource and programmatic deficiencies. As a collaborative, program partners are committed to procuring revenue from a variety of sources to realize long-range program goals of invasive species eradication in the program area.

## Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> (See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel: All FTE ARE AMOUNTS OVER TWO YEARS</b>	<b>\$ 167,300</b>
Project Director (project mgnt, partner coordination, reporting) .25 FTE	\$ 17,100
Accounting Assistant (budget accounting) .05 FTE	\$ 2,100
Business Director (budget management) .05 FTE	\$ 3,900
Field Technicians (crew of 3 for implementation) 3 FTE	\$ 91,200
Restoration Ecologist (assess. & supervision of implementation) .5 FTE	\$ 22,100
Assistant Ecologist (development of web and training materials) .1 FTE	\$ 3,900
Volunteer Mngr (volunteer recruitment, training, public outreach) .5 FTE	\$ 21,000
Marketing Director (coordination of educ'l printing & design) .05 FTE	\$ 6,000
<b>Contracts:</b>	<b>\$ 252,000</b>
Local Technical Assistance Delivery	\$ 92,000
Invasive Species Tracking System	\$ 50,000
Information/Education Presentations (4 partner contracts)	\$ 10,000
Landowner Cost-Share	\$ 100,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b>	<b>\$ 59,600</b>
Crew equipment (saws, weed whips, herbicide)	\$ 4,600
Restoration materials are many and include: native trees, shrubs and plugs, local ecotype seed and seed collection activities, etc.)	\$ 55,000
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Travel: 100 round trips @ approx. 100 miles</b>	<b>\$ 5,500</b>
<b>Public Event: Eradication &amp; Training Materials</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>
<b>Additional Budget Items: Printing of educational materials</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	<b>\$ 514,400</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Source: Private landowners through cost-share contributions; Federal funds through USDA Farm Bill programs and USFWS (\$25K); National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (\$75K), and private landowner cost share (\$100,000).	\$ 200,000	Pending
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Contributions from DNR and other state programs will be part of this program but are not itemized in this budget	\$ -	
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> \$65,000 contribution of staff and equipment from non-state and federal project partners	\$ 65,000	Pending
<b>Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):</b> NA		
<b>Funding History:</b> For the past decade, Great River Greening has been working to restore natural areas and combat invasive species in the St. Croix Valley in collaboration with public and private partners. Principle projects during that time have been: 1) Restoration at Afton State Park (funding through NFWF, LCCMR, DNR), 2) a Landowner Incentive Program in the Franconia-Scandia Corridor (DNR), 3) Bucks and Acres Program (Science Museum and LCCMR), and a host of site-specific projects (LCCMR and other funding sources).	\$ 450,000	



# Lower St. Croix River Basin

## Legend

 Project Area



0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

Chisago

Taylors Falls

Anoka

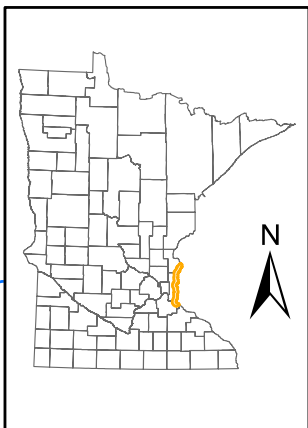
Stillwater

Washington

Minneapolis

Ramsey  
St. Paul

Hastings



## **PROJECT TITLE: ST. CROIX CORRIDOR INVASIVES – EARLY DETECTION/RAPID RESPONSE**

### Project Manager Qualifications & Organization Description

**Wayne Ostlie, Conservation Director** (M.A., Botany) is a 20-year veteran in the field of natural resource conservation with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and now Great River Greening. As Science Director of the Conservancy's Iowa program, Wayne managed the chapter's preserve portfolio, along with staff and an extensive volunteer network. Later, as Science Director for the Conservancy's Great Plains Program and then through various roles within its Central Science Program, Wayne led and managed an array of programs and high-level projects in furtherance of the Conservancy's regional and global objectives. In his new role as Director of Conservation Programs, Wayne directs new initiatives, projects, and partnerships for Great River Greening, building the organization both geographically and programmatically.

The nonprofit **Great River Greening** leads and promotes community based restoration of natural areas and open spaces. Our team of experienced ecologists and landscape designers bring over 50 years' combined experience managing native habitats, conducting natural resource inventories, fundraising for restoration projects on public lands, and engaging nearly 20,000 volunteers.

We have a regional reputation at all levels of community and government. For example the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has come to us for numerous partnerships: management for the Eagle Creek Aquatic Management Area (AMA) adjacent to private housing, the landowner incentive program for the Franconia – Scandia corridor, and restoration of Afton State Park, to name only a few. We are also a member of the Metro Conservation Corridors, a government-nonprofit collaboration of ten partners that has legislative funding for metro area protection and management.