

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

LCCMR ID: 162-E2

Project Title:

Minnesota Forests: A Strategic Investment Investment Plan

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

E. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation

Total Project Budget: \$ \$110,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 year, 2010 - 2011

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$0

Summary:

The Project will develop a Strategic Investment Plan for use in prioritizing investment opportunities in Minnesota for increasing the health and productivity of the states forested lands.

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Sponsoring Organization: MN Forest Resources Partnership

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Location:

Region: NW, NE, Central

County Name: Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Cook, Hubbard, Itasca, Kittson,
Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Mille Lacs, Otter Tail, Pine, Red Lake,
Roseau, St. Louis, Wadena

City / Township:

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

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE:

Minnesota Forests: A Strategic Investment Plan

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Healthy and productive forests are vital to Minnesota's economy. They are the basis for an industry providing jobs and economic activity that benefits communities statewide, particularly rural communities in northern Minnesota. Healthy and productive forests and their associated primary forest products industry are critical to realizing many wildlife habitat and other recreational benefits on public and private woodlands, as well as helping prevent loss of private forestland to other uses by providing revenue to landowners.

Competing stakeholder interests, budgets, and differing management visions as defined mainly by political boundaries serve to restrict, if not prevent resource management organizations and agencies – both public and private – from managing their land to optimal health and productivity and their ability to prioritize forest management and productivity investments.

The Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership will, through its respective members, who represent all land management ownership and management entities in the state, develop a plan for strategic investment in Minnesota's forests. The plan will prioritize forest landscape areas and highlight activities needed to address the highest priority needs of the state's forests in terms of forest health and productivity. It will define opportunities to address shared management priorities and achieve measurable outcomes

The MFRP will develop this plan collaboratively with key partners and stakeholders by looking at opportunity areas as currently defined and described by:

- Minnesota State Subsection Plans;
- County Comprehensive Land Use Plans;
- North, Northeast, Northwest, and North Central Landscape committees' respective Desired Future Forest Conditions;
- Conclusions from the 1998 and 2007 Minnesota Forest Productivity Conferences; and
- Additional forest management plans and desired future conditions existing on private and tribal lands.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

The MFRP will identify priority forest landscape areas and highlight work needed to address the highest priority needs of the state's forest health and productivity. It will define opportunities to address shared management priorities and achieve measurable outcomes working collaboratively with key partners and stakeholders in development of the statewide forest investment plan.

The investment plan will provide a coordinated strategy for investments to increase forest management and productivity such as pre-commercial thinnings, intermediate treatments, advanced regeneration and others. Investments opportunities will be recommended that yield the most benefit to the state's woodlands in terms of forest health and productivity.

In 2006, Governor's Task Force on the Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry proposed that funds be appropriate to increase forest management and productivity investments on private forest land. It also proposed that funding be applied to increase forest management and productivity investments, such as pre-commercial thinnings on state land.

The Strategic Investment Plan will:

- Address local, landscape, regional, and state forest health and productivity management priorities by incorporating Regional Landscape Committee's Desired Future Forest Conditions, county comprehensive management plans, state subsection plans, and private and tribal plans as they are available.
- Include a timeline for investment implementation.
- Identify strategies for monitoring outcomes within the priority investment areas, as well as how to revise investments if needed.
- Describe how the Investment Strateg(ies) will accomplish the objectives of increased forest health and productivity

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The Project Team will consist of the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership, with the 8-member Executive Committee and Staff playing the lead role in developing the Investment Plan.

The MFRP was formed in 1995 and is comprised of representation of the U.S. Forest Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, counties, private landowners, Minnesota Power, University of Minnesota, Board of Water and Soil Resources, private family forest landowners, tribes, and forest industry including UPM Blandin, Potlatch Corporation, and Boise Paper.

Each of the following MFRP Executive Committee members will play an integral role in the project by bringing the respective forest status and forest management plans to the planning table:

- Robert "Bob" Tomlinson, Assistant Director – Forest, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Bruce Cox – Clearwater County Land Commissioner
- Jim Lemmerman – District Manager Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Craig Halla – Forest Manager, Forest Capital Partners
- Greg Bernu – Carlton County Land Commissioner
- Rob Harper – Supervisor, Chippewa National Forest
- Jim Sanders – Supervisor, Superior National Forest
- Robert "Bob" Sonnenberg – Private Forest Landowner and current Chair MFRP

B. Timeline Requirements

The Project will be completed within one year, with expectation to complete the Project in less time than is being requested. It is the intent that the Project be completed and available to the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council by February 2011 for its deliberations for funding for 2011.

C. Long-Term Strategy

The Project is not part of a longer-term project or effort requiring additional investment. It is expected that the Project will serve as a base for continued strategic planning for investment that will address shared management priorities and achieve measurable outcomes through a collaboration of key partners and stakeholders.

Project Budget

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

Attach budget, in MS-EXCEL format, to your "2010 LCCMR Proposal Submit Form".

(1-page limit, single-sided, 11 pt. font minimum. Retain bold text and delete all instructions typed in italics. **Add or delete rows as necessary.** If a category is not applicable you may write "N/A", leave it blank, or delete the row.)

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

BUDGET ITEM (See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)	AMOUNT
NA	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
Kathleen Preece will serve as key contractor at 50 percent time. She will provide serves as coordinator of the project, oversee data gather, compilation and publication.	\$ 55,000
An as-yet unidentified contractor will serve as support contractor at 40 percent time. Contractor will provide support services to the coordinator in data gathering and	\$ 44,000
NA	\$ -
NA	\$ -
In-state travel will consist of Contractor and Sub-Contractor travel to collect data from stakeholders and/or meet with stakeholders to facilitate data collection	\$ 3,000
Electronic and hard copy editions of a Strategic Investment Opportunities Plan for Minnesota's Forests will be published.	\$ 8,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 110,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
NA	\$ -	Indicate: Secured or Pending
NA	\$ -	Indicate: Secured or Pending
In-kind serves wil include indeirct expenses such as contractor office maintenance, office expenses, office materials and supplies	\$ -	
NA		Indicate: Unspent? Not Legally Obligated? Other?
NA	\$ -	

Project Manager Qualifications

Kathleen Preece will serve as Project Manager.

Kathleen has served the forestry communication in a professional capacity for the past 15 years as an independent contractor specializing in natural resource communications. She currently serves as the coordinator for the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership, on a part time basis, and has held this position for 2-1/2 years.

Additionally, Preece works with the American Forest Foundation's Tree Farm Program on a national basis, does public relations and communications work for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, conducts private forest landowner workshops for the state's Resource Conservation and Development organizations, and writes a forestry information column for Minnesota Public Radio KAXE.

She edits Subsection Plans for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and develops web site content for public and private forest-based organizations. She volunteers as a director on the Minnesota Forest Resources Council.

In 2006, the Society of American Foresters awarded Preece the National Forestry Communicator of the Year.

Preece holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Minnesota.

Organization Description

The Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership (MFRP) was created in 1995 through reference in Minnesota Statutes Section 89A.04, which stated that the mission of the MFRP is to "Implement and coordinate scientifically based, technically and economically feasible forest management practices to provide sustainable forest resources and promote economic viability."

The members of MFRP represent public and private organizations involved in forest management and forest land ownership, including institutions of higher learning, private industry, utility companies, political subdivisions and private forest landowner organizations.

During its 17-plus year history, the MFRP has met as a formal gathering of forest landowners and managers who share expenses to conduct monthly Advisory Committee meetings and bi-monthly full MFRP meetings. MFRP assess themselves annually and contribute to a fund covering miscellaneous expenses associated with convening its meetings, and engaging the services of a coordinator and a legal adviser.

Over the decade-plus of the Partnership's existence, its membership has expanded beyond industry interests and timberland managers, to include utility companies, private landowners, tribes, and universities. Recognizing that "sustainable forestry" has evolved to mean sustained yields of timber - and more - the Partnership addresses challenges and opportunities of commodity production, alongside all values and uses associated with forests including clean water, recreation, fish and wildlife, and other renewable resources.

