

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**LCCMR ID: 101-D**

**Project Title:** SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Enhancement & Citizen Engagement

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ \$3,280,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2 yrs, July 2011 - June 2013

**Other Non-State Funds:** \$ 0

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**Summary:**

Bio-diverse native plant communities and rare species habitat would be acquired as Scientific and Natural Areas and their quality sustained and improved through restoration, enhancement, monitoring, and volunteer-student involvement.

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**Name:** Margaret (Peggy) Booth

**Sponsoring Organization:** DNR

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Saint Paul MN 55155

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**Web Address:** http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas

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**Location**

**Region:** Statewide

**Ecological Section:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:**

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_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL _____%

# 2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

## PROJECT TITLE: SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Enhancement & Citizen Engagement

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Sites of biodiversity significance identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) would be permanently protected as state Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs), their quality improved, and public support for and involvement in their conservation will be increased by a suite of tools through the DNR SNA Program. About 220 acres of at risk, high quality native plant communities and wildlife habitat of state significance would be acquired and designated as SNAs. Native habitat restoration and enhancement activities would be implemented on about 2600 acres of SNAs threatened by human impacts, invasives, and lack of natural disturbance regimes. Furthermore, to address gaps in sustaining SNAs and to increase citizen and student knowledge and skills about biodiversity conservation, new SNA naturalists would engage youth and volunteers in ecological activities and as SNA site stewards.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

#### Activity 1: Protection of Sites of Biodiversity Significance **Budget: \$2,230,000**

The SNA Program will protect and buffer MCBS-recommended sites of biodiversity significance by acquisition and SNA designation of ~ 220 acres. Most acquisition will be of fee title, but if more appropriate for ongoing management and use, acquisition will be of an SNA program-administered conservation easement with SNA designation. Conservation easement baseline reports and monitoring would be done on about 10 sites, including sites, if any, acquired in conservation easement with these funds. As of March 2010, the SNA Program manages 20 SNA conservation easements at 12 designated SNAs. One of these has a full baseline property report and ~11 baseline reports need to be completed. In cooperation with MCBS, the SNA Long Range Plan will be updated and GIS tools developed and applied to evaluate and prioritize candidate sites and to implement the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP); including identifying priority natural heritage features to be protected and their protection status.

Outcome	Completion Date
1a. acquisition as SNA of ~220 acres of high quality habitat	FY12-13; 6/30/13
1b. baseline property reports & monitoring for ~10 conservation easements	FY12-13; 6/30/13
1c. SNA Long Range Plan update & strategic prioritization tools	FY12-13; 6/30/13

#### Activity 2: Native Habitat Restoration & Enhancement **Budget: \$650,000**

Restoration and enhancement activities would be completed on about 2600 acres at ~30 SNAs. Interpretive signs-kiosks would be developed and installed at ~8 SNAs. Management plans will be completed for ~6 SNAs (including any sites acquired through these funds). Management practices at ~10 SNAs would be monitored to identify adaptive management process improvements needed to achieve better habitat for rare species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). 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. All restoration will use seeds/plants of a local ecotype, collected from onsite or within 25 miles. Restoration and enhancement of degraded and rare land features (particularly native prairie, savanna, and forest) helps implement the SWAP and achieve Habitat Recommendation 5 of the SCPP. This activity and its funding would include all work needed to bring up to the Department's minimum

standards those SNA parcels acquired through this funding. Statewide needs on SNAs are estimated at: one time actions: ~4100 acres plant community reconstruction, ~3600 acres woody encroachment removal, and development work (e.g. cleanup, signs, fencing or parking) at ~20 sites; plus ongoing work: ~6200 acres/year prescribed burns, revisiting about ~ 7000 acres/year to do invasive species spot treatments, revisiting ~20 sites per year to replace/repair signs or fences or do small scale mowing.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
2a. ~25 acres of prairie, forest, etc reconstruction (restoration)	FY13; 6/30/13
2b. ~200 acres of woody removal & exotics species treatment	FY12-13; 3/30/13
2c. ~2500 acres of prescribed burns	FY12-13; 5/30/13
2d. ~2 SNA interpretive kiosks installed AND development work on ~6 sites	FY13; 6/30/13
2e. management plans completed for ~6 SNAs	FY13; 6/30/13
2f. adaptive management monitoring on ~9 SNA sites	FY13; 6/30/13

**Activity 3: Citizen-Student Engagement in Natural Areas**

**Budget: \$400,000**

A new naturalist-led, local, partnership-based initiative will engage residents, students, and other interested people in ecological recreation and education activities on SNAs. This includes recruiting and assisting a network of 80+ SNA volunteer site stewards; co-sponsoring and coordinating volunteer site restoration and management work days; and 40+ locally initiated ecological recreation-educational events (guided nature hikes, birding visits, botanizing, citizen-science activities, etc) aimed at building long-lasting and action-based conservation ethics in the community. New region-based part-time SNA naturalist positions would be established to cultivate and facilitate locally-led citizen-student based activities on SNAs.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
40+ volunteer events and network of 80+ volunteer site stewards.	FY12-13; 6/30/13

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners**

This proposal includes the DNR's work and funding to be used by the SNA program towards partnership project work on SNAs being submitted as separate, but coordinated LCCMR projects. This includes work with Metro Conservation Corridors and Habitat Corridors Partnership (in lieu of SNA seeking funding through either), The Nature Conservancy (acquisition, restoration. & management), Trust for Public Land (acquisition), Friends of the Mississippi River (restoration & enhancement), and Minnesota River Green Corridors Initiative (acquisition). Some projects will be with other DNR Divisions (e.g. coordinated acquisition leading towards cooperative state units and cooperative management). These efforts are complementary not redundant; all accomplishments on joint projects would be prorated.

**B. Timeline Requirements**

Two years (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013) is requested to provide multiple field seasons for restoration and development work and to take protection projects through basic improvements needed. Work on Activities 1, 2a, and 2b is expected to span both years of the biennium, while work on the other activities will start in FY13 or after comparable funds from the pending 2010 SNA project funded through the LCCMR are expended or encumbered.

**C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

The SNA Long Range Plan goal is protection by SNA designation 5 occurrences of each native plant community and 3 occurrences of each natural heritage element per landscape. Thus, the Division could utilize support from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust fund of \$3M to \$10M per biennium over the next 20 years.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget - DNR SNA

### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
<b>Personnel:</b> see below - all FTEs are for 1 or 2 years depending on outcome	\$ -
- <b>Activities 1-3:</b> Classified & unclassified <u>specialists &amp; technicians</u> paid almost exclusively with special project funds (4.8 FTEs - for 1 or 2 years)	\$ 656,600
- <b>Activities 1-3:</b> Classified <u>project &amp; contract coordinator</u> paid primarily with special project funds (0.45 FTE - for 1 or 2 years)	\$ 80,100
- <b>Activity 2:</b> Project <u>crews</u> (classified or unclassified laborers paid primarily with special project funds and unclassified seasonal burn crew 1.9 FTEs - for 1 or 2 years)	\$ 103,200
<b>Contracts:</b> <u>Professional/technical Contractors</u> (state bid process) for deliverables including: <b>Activity 1b:</b> SNA easement baseline property reports & monitoring (~\$18K); <b>Activity 2e:</b> SNA adaptive management plans (~\$19K); <b>Activity 2f:</b> adaptive management monitoring (~\$27K); and <b>Activity 3</b> volunteer/student events/projects (~\$55K)	\$ 119,000
- <b>Other contracts</b> (MCC or state bid process) for <b>Activity 2</b> deliverables including <b>2a</b> native habitat reconstruction (~\$10K), <b>2b</b> woody encroachment removal & exotics control (~\$100K), <b>2c</b> prescribed burning (~\$140K); and <b>2d</b> site development (fences, signs, etc) (~\$8K)	\$ 258,000
<b>Equipment:</b> <b>Activities 1-3:</b> Fleet charges for trucks, cars, & equipment, e.g. mowers, seeders	\$ 24,300
<b>Tools/Supplies/Printing:</b> <b>Activity 1a-1b:</b> supplies & printing (~\$0.3K); <b>Activity 1c:</b> prioritization process printing & supplies - including large map reproduction (~\$3K); <b>Activity 2: 2a-2c</b> parts, tools, repair costs & supplies for restoration, enhancement, management plans, & monitoring (~\$4.1K); <b>2d</b> interpretive displays, signs & posts, fencing, etc (~\$4.2K); <b>Activity 2e-2f:</b> printing & supplies <b>Activity 3:</b> volunteer and school events supplies (including safety items, handtools, etc, printing, & advertising (~\$10K).	\$ 21,600
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> <b>Activity 1:</b> Fee (or conservation easement) acquisition & designation as DNR SNA (~220 acres) including \$xx for real estate transaction costs	\$ 1,963,000
<b>Travel:</b> <b>Activity 1-3:</b> in-state travel (non-fleet mileage, lodging, meals) essential to completing project	\$ 8,200
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> DNR MIS charges for <b>Activity 1c</b> strategic prioritization GIS work & development & support (~\$16K); <b>Activity 2f</b> adaptive monitoring database upgrades & support (~\$10K); and <b>Activity 3:</b> volunteer steward database development & support (~\$20K)	\$ 46,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 3,280,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	Subtotal	AMOUNT	Status
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Potential: partial landowner donations, federal State Wildlife Action grants.		\$ -	
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> - Estimated Dept Share Services - Estimated Division Support Costs		\$ 146,300 \$ 196,800	Division \$s appropriate for proj. activities; pending biennial budget approval
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> DNR office facilities, supervisor-manager time, & other support will be provided (but contributions not tracked)		\$ -	
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b> (as of 4/8/10)	<b>Approp Balance</b>	<b>Total Balance</b>	(see to left)
2008 SNA Statewide \$543.6K encumbered	\$2,980		
2008 Metro Corridors (SNA only) \$434.5K encumbered	\$1,019		
2009 SNA Statewide \$ 96.0K encumbered	\$476,212		
2009 Metro Corridors (SNA only) \$161.1K encumbered	\$222,043		
2009 HCP 6 (Native Prairie) - balance is listed in separate prairie proposal		\$ 702,254	
<b>Funding History - 2007-2010</b> by Source & Year (total appropriation)	<b>SNA - public \$s</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	(see to left)
ENTRF 2007 Metro Corridors (SNA only - \$243,000)	\$243,000		
ENTRF 2007 HCP 4 (Native Prairie - Eco only - \$100,000)	\$50,000		
ENRTF 2008 SNA (statewide - \$1,000,000)	\$1,000,000		
ENRTF 2008 Metro Corridors (SNA only - \$515,000)	\$515,000		
ENTRF 2008 HCP 5 (Native Prairie - Eco only - \$75,000)	\$37,500		
ENRTF 2009 SNA (statewide - \$590,000)	\$590,000		
ENRTF 2009 Metro Corridors (SNA only - \$410,000)	\$410,000		
ENRTF 2009 HCP 6 (Native Prairie - Eco only - \$75,000)	\$37,500		
ENRTF 2010 SNA-Native Prairie (pending - \$1,175,000)	\$703,300		
ENRTF 2010 HCP 6.5 (Native Prairie - Eco only) (pending - \$63,300)	\$31,600		
LSOHC 2010 Accelerated Prairie (SNA program only) (pending - \$1,300,000)	\$660,000		
LSOHC 2010 Accelerated Forest (SNA only) (pending - \$758,000)	\$758,800		
Bonding 2008 SNA (\$1,000,000)	\$1,000,000		
Bonding 2008 Native Prairie (\$4,000,000)	\$2,000,000		
Federal (available SFY09-10) State Wildlife Grant (\$137,000)	\$137,000		
Other partner contributions & landowner donations (not specified here)		\$8,173,700	

## 2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

**Project Title:** SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Enhancement & Citizen Engagement

**Project Manager Name:** Margaret (Peggy) Booth

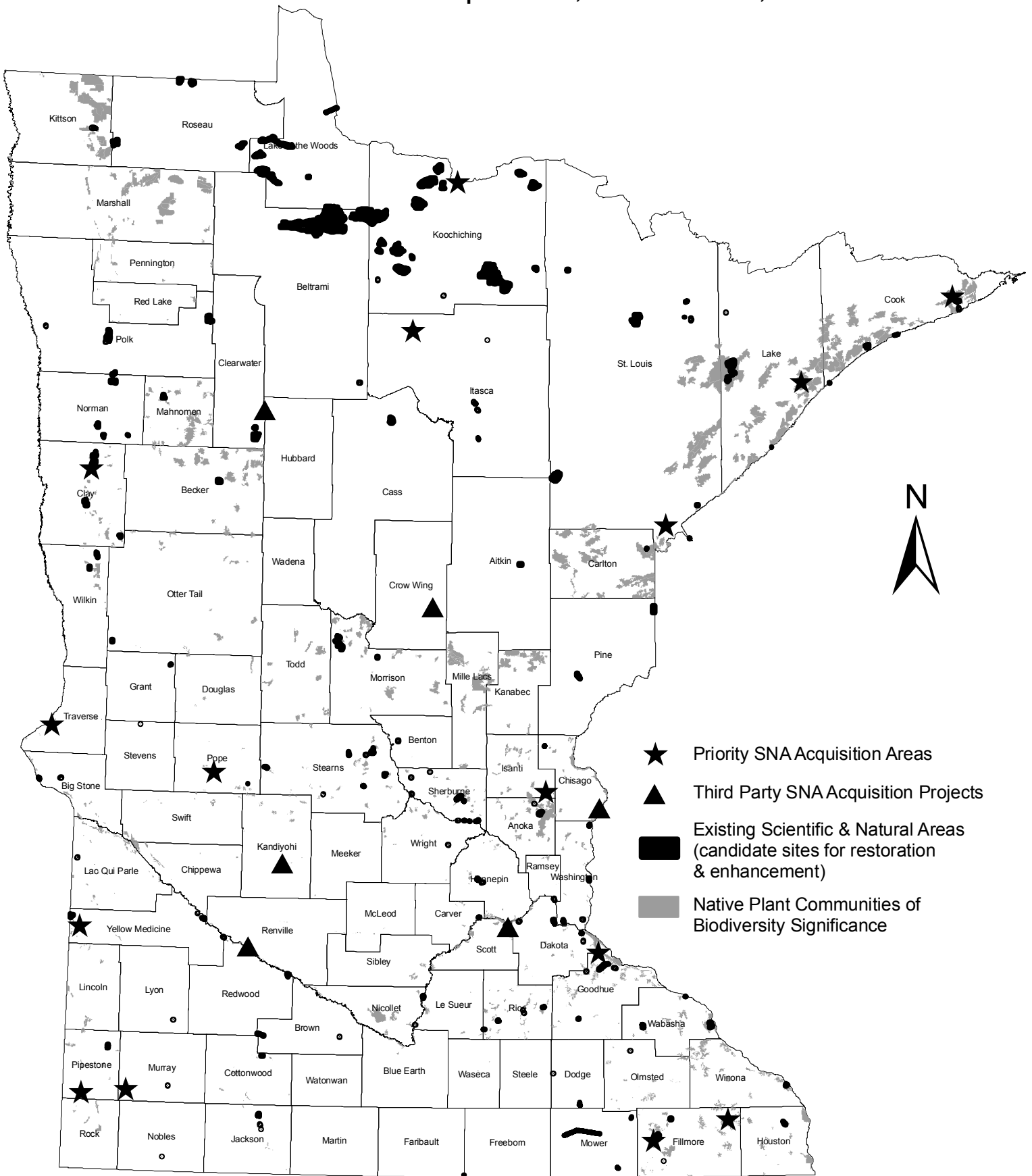
**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request:** \$3,280,000

**Final Title Holder(s):** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (administered by Scientific & Natural Area Program)

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)			
					Latitude	Longitude	UTM-X	UTM-Y
	Art Lake Hardwood Ridge	SNA fee	Lake	240			635754	5262793
	Chanarambie Creek	SNA fee	Murray,Pipestone	100			258042	4866495
	Felton Prairie	SNA fee	Clay	200			238891	5213769
	Glacial Lakes & Moraine Prairie	SNA fee	Pope	200			307591	5043821
	Goodhue Bluffs	SNA fee	Goodhue	600			522599	4942823
	Hovland Woods SNA addition	SNA fee	Cook	160			720812	5309842
	Inner Coteau Prairie	SNA fee	Rock, Pipestone, Lincoln	150			233126	4864617
	Lake Traverse Prairie	SNA fee	Traverse	70			216768	5070371
	Lost Forty SNA addition	SNA fee	Itasca	10			419006	5290893
	Mission Creek/Magney-Snivley	SNA fee or easement	St Louis	1500			560630	5181851
	Root River Prairies	SNA fee	Houston, Filmore, Winona	50			599661	4851588
	Twin Lakes	SNA fee	Isanti	120			493311	5032543
	Watrous Island	SNA fee	Koochiching	70			444004	5373837
	Wykoff- Balsam Fir SNA addition	SNA easement or fee	Fillmore	320			555818	4840181
	Yellow Medicine Coteau Prairie	SNA fee	Yellow Medicine	160			232251	4957954

**NOTES:** Sites listed alphabetically by project area working title. Proposed SNA projects are priorities identified by and/or recommended by MCBS; approval of a site ecological evaluation is required before any site is acquired as SNA. Additional projects are likely to be added to the list and priorities re-ordered to reflect best opportunities and risks to the resource at the time the funding is available. Sites designated as SNAs can be acquired in fee or conservation easement; with only some sites considered for easement acquisition where that is most appropriate for ongoing management and use. Most native prairie sites qualify for either SNA or NPB (NPB in separate LCCMR proposal) and which is used depends largely on landowner willingness at the time this funding is available. This funding would also supplement direct project funding where other organizations are the lead (3rd party projects) - including TNC lead projects (including Mille Lacs Uplands), TPL lead projects (including Franconia Bluffs SNA addition, LaSalle Lake-Phase II, Little Kandiyohi-Wakanda Lakes Peninsula Forest, and Savage Fen SNA addition). For 3rd party projects, funds appropriated to DNR-SNA program would be needed to cover state's transaction costs; results will be prorated.

# 2011-2012 Target Areas for SNA Acquisition, Restoration, & Enhancement



## 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 149+ 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 \$10 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.

