

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

LCCMR ID: 106-D-3a

Project Title: 3a - HCP 7 - Shoreland Protection Program

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ \$900,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

Protect 700-1000 acres of critical riparian habitats in three regions of Minnesota by securing permanent conservation easements along lakes, wetlands, rivers, and streams and dedicating funds to support those easements.

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Sponsoring Organization: Minnesota Land Trust

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Location

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (212N), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

County Name: Becker, Beltrami, Big Stone, Blue Earth, Cass, Clay, Douglas, Faribault, Freeborn, Grant, Hubbard, Itasca, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Le Sueur, Meeker, Otter Tail, Pope, Rice, Stearns, Steele, Stevens, Todd, Waseca, Wright

City / Township:

_____ 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: HCP 7-3A Shoreland Protection Program

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Minnesota Land Trust's Shoreland Protection Program is a focused and cost effective component of the Habitat Conservation Partnership. The focus of the Land Trust's activities under this project is on shorelands—fragile and ecologically important areas that have been recognized in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan as among the most threatened natural systems in the State and in need of protection, conservation, and restoration. Working in the delineated project areas, our land protection efforts are directed only to protecting critical riparian shorelands along Minnesota's legendary network of lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams—some of the most valuable and vulnerable habitats in the State.

The Land Trust will first conduct additional analysis to identify tracts of land most critical to the protection of habitat and shoreland within three of the mapped project areas (Prairie/Forest Transition, Mississippi Headwaters, and Southern Lakes). We then will carefully select, design and implement individual real estate projects to make sure that conservation goals and objectives can be met and that the conservation values are protected in perpetuity. Although we work with willing landowners, we prioritize projects and coordinate with other partners to the extent possible in order to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

The Land Trust works only with perpetual conservation easements. These easements prohibit land uses or development that negatively affect important habitat and other conservation values, require habitat management plans as appropriate, and direct the use of native vegetation in conjunction with any required restoration. These easements are monitored annually and enforced as necessary under the Land Trust's comprehensive conservation easement stewardship program funded in part through our Stewardship and Enforcement Fund. Funds are requested for our dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund on a project-by-project basis in accordance with our LCCMR-approved policies and procedures. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant.

Proposed activities under this grant include: 1) evaluating the current state of land protection within three project areas and identifying gaps and opportunities for additional protection; 2) contacting and negotiating with interested landowners in identified areas and in other strategic locations; 3) drafting and completing conservation easements; 4) documenting property conditions; and 5) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Analysis of Existing Protection Status & Identification of Future Opportunities
Budget: \$75,000

The Land Trust will work with a variety of partners to identify future opportunities and priorities for land protection, conservation easements in particular, within the three identified areas. This analysis will complement and provide additional detail to the evaluation currently being

conducted by the larger HCP Partnership and will: 1) evaluate data on existing protected lands; 2) assemble other appropriate natural resource data such as county biological survey information, as well as ownership data; and 3) identify gaps in protection and highlight future opportunities or priorities for protection. This work involves strategic conservation planning to identify, prioritize, and pursue those specific tracts of land that will most effectively and efficiently achieve statewide habitat and conservation goals.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Analysis with maps of potential protection priorities	June 30, 2012

Activity 2: Protect Critical Shorelands through Conservation Easements Budget: \$825,000

The Land Trust will protect critical riparian habitat within the project areas by: 1) contacting landowners identified under Activity 1 and other potentially interested landowners; 2) negotiating and completing 5-7 permanent conservation easements on 700-1,000 acres of land; and 3) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements. The Land Trust will work primarily with donated easements, purchasing easements when necessary and then at below market value whenever possible. Current potential projects are identified on the attached list. New projects will be added as landowners are identified through the process described in Activity 1. We will continually evaluate potential projects and pursue those that protect the highest quality habitat and maximize public benefit.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Protect 700-1,000 acres by completing 5-7 conservation easements with emphasis on lands strategically identified and selected through Activity 1	June 30, 2013

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The Land Trust is the only entity receiving funds through this request, however, the Land Trust coordinates its work with other Habitat Conservation Partnership partners (please see overall proposal for list of project partners) as appropriate. Additionally, our partners include private landowners, as well as various units of state and local government that help in identifying and completing potential projects.

B. Timeline Requirements

We anticipate completing the analysis by June 20, 2012 and the 5-7 conservation easements by June 30, 2013.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project is part of the Land Trust’s long-term, strategic conservation agenda. The conservation agenda sets out the specific conservation focus of the Land Trust which includes, among other things, the preservation of lakeshores, rivers and streams for their importance as habitat, for their relationship to water quality, and for the scenic values that have long been associated with Minnesota’s beauty. The conservation agenda also identifies a suite of critical landscapes throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique. All of the HCP project areas selected for this phase of the grant overlap with Land Trust critical landscapes.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

HCP 7-3A: Shoreland Protection Program

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Personnel: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA,FUTA. SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for approximately 1.5 FTE for 2 years as follows: Conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 1 FTE) and Staff attorney and other support staff (approximately .5 FTE).	\$ 210,000
Contracts: GIS analysis and planning assistance (Community GIS or other contractor selected on competitive basis).	\$ 10,000
Acquisition (Permanent Easements): Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.) to protect 700-1,000 acres of land.	\$ 570,000
Travel: Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota. \$4,000 for mileage reimbursement estimated at \$0.50/mile and \$1,000 for food/lodging.	\$ 5,000
Easement Stewardship: Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring, managing, and enforcing 5-7 easements (700-1,000 acres) acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed. Estimated at \$15,000 per easement.	\$ 105,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 900,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: \$1,000,000 - These other funds represent an estimate of the potential value of easements donated to the Land Trust under this project. The value of donated easements is difficult to predict, but we believe we can achieve at least one million dollars in leverage.	\$ 1,000,000	Pending, dependent upon actual projects completed
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Unknown at this time.	Unknown	
In-kind Services During Project Period: While the Land Trust does not itemize the specific value of in-kind services, substantial amounts of unreimbursable staff time and overhead are required to complete land protection projects with ENRTF funding.	Unknown	
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation: HCP 2008: \$39,485 unspent but committed to 2 remaining projects. HCP 2009: \$210,000. We are awaiting legislative action on a proposed HCP 2010 appropriation of \$102,000.	\$ 351,485	Spent or committed by July 2010 (2008/2009)
Funding History: HCP 2005:\$230,000; 2007: \$300,000; 2008: \$210,000; 2009: \$210,000. These values represent past Trust Fund appropriations to prior phases of this project. They do not include donated value of easements or funds from other sources spent on projects completed or expected to be completed under these grants. Outdoor Heritage Funds 2009: \$500,000; Proposed 2010: \$816,000. Outdoor Heritage Funds are allocated for geographies and projects that do not overlap with this HCP proposal.	\$ 950,000	Total includes HCP funding only

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

Project Title: HCP7-3A: Shoreland Protection Program

Project Manager Name: Sarah Strommen

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$900,000

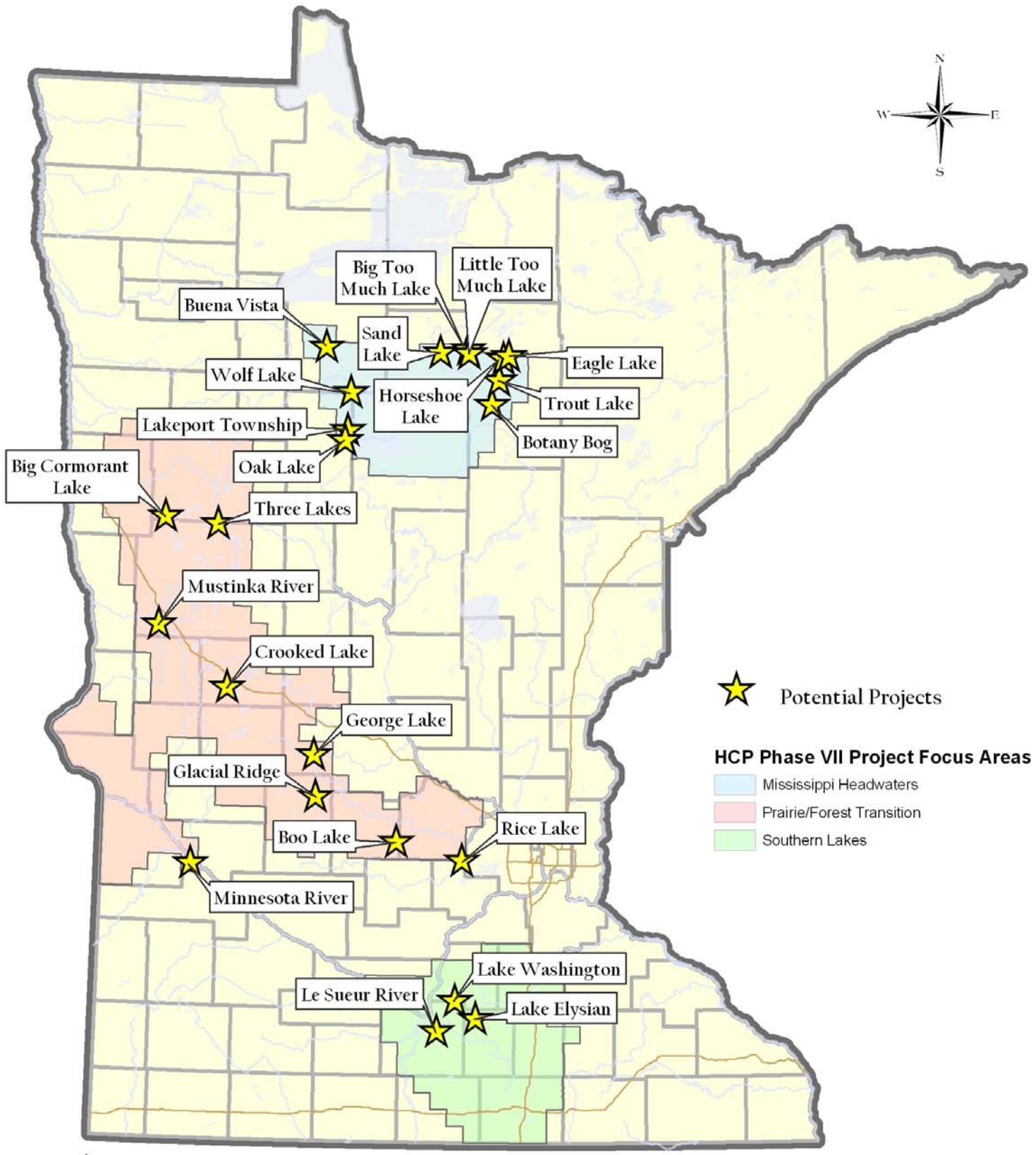
Final Easement Holder(s): Minnesota Land Trust

#	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
1	Buena Vista	Conservation Easement	Beltrami	500			359100	5279597
2	Wolf Lake	Conservation Easement	Beltrami	184			373187	5253147
3	Lakeport Township	Conservation Easement	Hubbard	80			371239	5231101
4	Oak Lake	Conservation Easement	Hubbard	72			369610	5225080
5	Big Too Much Lake	Conservation Easement	Itasca	5			441235	5277999
6	Botany Bog	Conservation Easement	Itasca	232			454946	5245535
7	Eagle Lake	Conservation Easement	Itasca	34			464861	5273928
8	Little Too Much Lake	Conservation Easement	Itasca	57			441649	5275254
9	Horseshoe Lake	Conservation Easement	Itasca	26			461655	5272370
10	Sand Lake	Conservation Easement	Itasca	7			425004	5276041
11	Trout Lake	Conservation Easement	Itasca	14			459145	5259813
12	Big Cormorant Lake	Conservation Easement	Becker	35			265537	5181279
13	Three Lakes	Conservation Easement	Becker	790			296106	5177095
14	Crooked Lake	Conservation Easement	Douglas	13			301053	5081918
15	Glacial Ridge	Conservation Easement	Kandiyohi	20			352577	5018612
16	Minnesota River	Conservation Easement	Lac Qui Parle	140			279724	4979940
17	Boo Lake	Conservation Easement	Meeker	66			399196	4991906
18	Mustinka River	Conservation Easement	Otter Tail	150			261512	5118799
19	George Lake	Conservation Easement	Stearns	120			351602	5042725
20	Rice Lake	Conservation Easement	Wright	128			437466	4980986
21	Le Sueur River	Conservation Easement	Blue Earth	140			422462	4881904
22	Lake Washington	Conservation Easement	Le Sueur	122			433126	4899725
23	Lake Elysian	Conservation Easement	Waseca	48			445082	4889261

NOTES: This is a list of projects the Minnesota Land Trust currently is considering. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are contacted. Some projects on the list will not be completed, while other projects may be completed under prior phases of this program.

Habitat Conservation Partnership Phase VII

MINNESOTA LAND TRUST POTENTIAL PROJECTS



- ★ Potential Projects
- HCP Phase VII Project Focus Areas**
- Mississippi Headwaters
 - Prairie/Forest Transition
 - Southern Lakes



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Miles



Minnesota Land Trust
Our land. Our water. Our future.
Some things should be forever.

Minnesota Land Trust Organizational Overview

The Minnesota Land Trust preserves Minnesota's natural and scenic heritage through public and private partnerships. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Minnesota Land Trust has been working with landowners and local communities since 1991 through the following three strategies:

- **PROTECT:** Directly protecting land through conservation easements, land acquisition and effective land management.
- **ASSIST:** Providing agencies, communities and organizations with assistance in planning and delivering on-the-ground conservation in order to expand the State's overall capacity.
- **ENGAGE:** Helping to foster a culture of conservation, to support enhanced conservation legislation and funding, and to ensure the state has highly-skilled, trained professionals.

As a statewide land trust, the Minnesota Land Trust has created a regional structure to deliver its programs effectively at a local level, with offices in Duluth, Ely, Red Wing and St. Paul. The Land Trust was one of first land trusts in the country to be accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and has also been recognized by the Charities Review Council as meeting all of its standards.

With a conservation focus on protecting Minnesota's natural and scenic lands—particularly its renowned lakes, rivers and streams—the Land Trust has completed 398 land protection projects, permanently protecting more than 35,000 acres and more than 700,000 feet of shoreline and aquatic resources.

Project Manager Qualifications

The Minnesota Land Trust employs 10 staff, relies on the skills of nearly 100 dedicated volunteers, and is governed by an active 17-member Board of Directors.

Sarah Strommen serves as the Conservation Director for the Land Trust's central region. Prior to joining the Land Trust in 2005, Sarah served as the Policy Director for the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. She also recently served on the State's Clean Water Council and on the City Council in the City of Ramsey, where her duties included being the Council's liaison to the City's Environmental Policy Board and the Lower Rum River WMO. Sarah has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Grinnell College and a master's degree in Environmental Management from Duke University.

Other Project Staff

Nancy Kafka joined the Land Trust in 2008 and serves as the Conservation Director for the southern region. She returned to Minnesota after nearly 30 years living and working in New England, most recently as the senior program director in the Parks for People program at the Trust for Public Land's Boston office. Nancy graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in Housing.

Francis "Fitz" Fitzgerald joined the Land Trust staff in 2003 and serves as the Conservation Director for the northern region. Fitz previously worked for The Nature Conservancy in Mosca, Colorado where he was the project director of the San Luis Valley project and general manager of the Conservancy's Zapata Ranch. Fitz graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Natural Resources after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps.

