

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

LCCMR ID: 107-D

Project Title: Natural and Scenic Area Acquisition

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ \$2,050,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 2,000,000

Summary:

Four to twelve matching grants will be provided to local governments for acquisition of approximately 200-400 acres for new or expanded natural and scenic areas for public use.

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Sponsoring Organization: DNR

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Location

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

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: Natural and Scenic Area Acquisition

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Opportunities for local governments to acquire and protect natural and scenic areas statewide are diminishing due to development, especially in high growth areas, shore lands, bluff tops and areas where land use changes may limit future opportunities. The overall aim of this project is to ensure protection of natural and scenic resources by helping and encouraging local governments to acquire and protect such land for appropriate public use, protection of natural communities, species protection, appreciation of scenic vistas, and scientific and environmental education purposes. This aim is achieved through competitive, matching grants that provide financial incentive and ensure the land and natural resources are retained for public use in perpetuity. These areas complement state protected areas and provide close to home natural resource based benefits.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Natural and Scenic Area Grants **Budget:** \$2,000,000

The requested funding will provide about four to twelve matching grants to cities, counties, townships and school districts for acquisition of approximately 200 – 400 acres for new or expanded natural and scenic areas. Two grant rounds are proposed. These grants require a 50% state and a 50% local match. The local match for projects funded at the requested level would meet or exceed \$2 million.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Provide 4-12 matching grants	June, 2011, June 2012
2. Grantees acquire 200-400 acres	By June, 2014

Activity 2. Administrative/Personnel Costs **Budget:** \$50,000

The requested funding will be used to support personnel costs for administering the grant program. Grant staff persons are involved in grant solicitation, evaluation and ranking, grant agreement management, project billings, project inspections, and compliance monitoring.

As shown in the Detailed Project Budget, work program approval is requested for personnel expenses to be incurred by three DNR classified staff involved in administering this grant program. Payment of classified staff with Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund money will not result in supplanting of the regular budget. A cost coding

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system is used to document the hours spent by each staff person in administering the program. Two grants program staff and the program manager would contribute an estimated 800-850 hours over the three year project period at a professional services rate of \$60/hr. The requested amount represents 2.5% of the proposed Activity 1 budget.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Complete application round	June, 2011, June 2012
2. Complete 4-12 grant agreements	Fall 2011 and 2012
3. Project closeouts	By June, 2014

III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

A. Project Team/Partners

Partners are local governments and school districts. They will acquire, own and manage the natural and scenic areas. They will provide match dollars as well as covering costs of appraisals, any required archeological/historical surveys, permits, etc. They will also assume all operations and maintenance costs.

B. Timeline Requirements

This is an ongoing program. The request is for two annual grant solicitations in the spring of 2011 and 2012 with acquisition completed by June 2014.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

The long-term strategy for the Natural and Scenic Area Grant program is to provide an incentive to local governments to protect natural and scenic resources that do not qualify for state designation, but have important regional or local significance. These areas complement state protected areas and provide close-to-home opportunities for nature study, science and environmental education, species protection, outdoor recreation, and appreciation of scenic vistas. These areas can play a role in addressing the increasing disconnect between people and nature. This program is not eligible to receive funding through the new Legacy parks and trails fund since these areas generally do not meet the size and recreational use criteria related to that program.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

Natural and Scenic Area Acquisition

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET: 3 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel: Three grant program staff (Audrey Mularie, Joe Hiller and Wayne Sames) will contribute an estimated 800-850 hours at a professional services rate of \$60/hr. A cost coding system will be used to document hours spent on the project.	\$50,000
Acquisition: An estimated 4-12 matching grants will be provided to local governments for acquisition of approximately 200-400 acres of natural and scenic areas.	\$2,000,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$2,050,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Local government grant recipients are required to provide at least a dollar for dollar match. In many cases the local governments actually pay more than 50% of the total project cost.	\$2,000,000	Local match
Other State \$ Being Applied During the project Period: A number of other DNR staff, functions and activities contribute to the ability to implement this program. A "shared services" formula was used to develop this estimate of contributions from these other sources.	\$25,830	Pending approval of requested funding
In-Kind Services During Project Period:	\$0	
Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable)	\$0	
Funding History: In 2007 the legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 for "Nonmetropolitan Regional Parks and natural and Scenic Area Acquisitions." Of this total, \$386,000 was used to fund two Natural and Scenic Area projects. The projects have been completed.	\$386,000	Funds have been spent

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Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

Project Manager: Wayne Sames
Affiliation: Department of Natural Resources, Local Grants Program
Telephone Number: (651) 259-5559

Manager, Local Grants Program, DNR (1988 to present)

Responsible for administration of several grant programs and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) grant funds allocated to Minnesota.

Local Grants Program staff people are responsible for the annual project solicitation; evaluation and ranking process; development of grant agreements; review and approval of reimbursement requests; project inspection and closeout; and post-completion monitoring.

Organization Description

The Local Grants Program is a unit of the Office of Management and Budget Services, Department of Natural Resources.

