

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

LCCMR ID: 132-E

Project Title: Pulling Together to Reduce Terrestrial Invasive Plants

Category: E. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species

Total Project Budget: \$ \$35,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2.5 yrs, July 2011 - Dec 2013

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

To address invasive plant management in native grassland and forest area with designated invasive terrestrial plants and to prevent the establishment and spread of these invasive species.

Name: Brad Grant

Sponsoring Organization: Becker County Soil and Water Conservation District

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Location

Region: NW

Ecological Section: No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains (212N), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M), Red River Valley (251A)

County Name: Becker

City / Township: Detroit Lakes

_____ 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: Pulling Together to Reduce Terrestrial Invasive Plants

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The primary goal of Becker County is to prevent the establishment and spread of invasive species in order to conserve the natural ecosystems of the county and prevent economic impacts to agricultural and recreational lands. The core focus areas are the townships of Hamden, Lake Park, Audubon, Riceville, Cuba, Carsonville and Pine Point. These counties were chosen because of the concentration of the National Wildlife Refuge System, State Forest and Wildlife Management Areas. The focus species are wild parsnip, crown vetch, common tansy, leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, hounds tongue, and watch weeds for Minnesota.

In Becker County the following jurisdictions of ownership including many units located in the Northern Tallgrass Prairie portion of the Prairie Pothole Region and encompasses some of the most imperiled habitats in the United States are; National Wildlife Refuge System, State Forest and Wildlife Management Areas, The Nature Conservancy Preserves, County and Watershed properties, White Earth Indian Reservation, and private lands

Developing an invasive terrestrial plant management program is needed to reduce the movement of invasive plants on roadways and pastures into the surrounding property. An educational program needs to be developed for awareness of what damage can be done to our native plant areas and how landowners and users can prevent transferring invasive plants to new areas.

This project will develop and implement management practices to prevent establishment of invasive plants, gather data with the help of project partners, set treatment sites, assess treatment sites, implement sites with all partners, develop brochures specific to invasive plant weeds on identification, treatment and prevention of spreading plants into native plant areas.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Inventory of Terrestrial Invasive Plants Budget: \$ 15,000

Inventory county, state and township roadways for designated invasive plants for the summers of 2011, 2012 and 2013 and with the information from inventory develop a treatment program. The purpose is to develop a plan to reduce invasive weeds with the least amount of impact on environment.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Map roadways and adjacent properties for each summer and then compare maps for reduction or addition of designated invasive plants in mapped areas.	October, 2013
2. Enter data from mapping roadway inventory into GPS Invasive Weed Program to get a visual of invasive plant location.	November 2013
3. Analyze treatment program with information from mapped invasive weed GPS program and make adjustments to improve invasive plant control.	November 2013
3. Share data with MDA and other organizations to improve the reduction of designated invasive plants throughout the state.	November 2013

Activity 2: Biological Control Treatment Budget: \$ 12,000

Develop a biological control program for spotted knapweed and leafy spurge using the mapped GPS inventory. Use spotted knapweed seedhead and root weevils and leafy spurge seedhead beetles to treat the invasive plants.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Choose sites to be treated for biological control for leafy spurge and spotted knapweed.	August, 2013
2. Meet with landowners on biological control and treatment: increase participation	October, 2013
3. Set up areas with highway departments to establish biological control for leafy spurge and spotted knapweed on roadways	October, 2013
4. Analyze the movement of weevils and beetles on treatment sites, move weevils and beetles and redistribute to other invasive weed areas when appropriate.	October, 2013
5. Harvest biological control agents and have available to share with other organizations	August, 2013

Activity 4: Outreach, Education, Invasive Plants Brochure Budget: \$ 8,000.00

Develop an outreach program to landowners and land managers about identification and affects of designated invasive terrestrial plants. To share successful methods and practices that will reduce the designated invasive terrestrial plants.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Promotion through radio shows, TV programs, news articles. This is done through plant identification and methods to reduce plant population.	November 2013
2. Community tours of treatment sites for all landowners. Divide county into four regions to have local tours on biological control and its effect.	October 2013
3. Invasive Plant Brochure: Work with partners to provide an identification brochure for both plants and leafy spurge beetles and spotted knapweed weevils	November 2013
4. Presentations to community service and other organizations on invasive terrestrial plants & how they can help by inventorying plant location and harvesting insects.	November 2013

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners: Becker County Cooperative Weed Management Area Committee

Inventory: inventory of invasive terrestrial plants

Treatment: treat the inventoried sites of invasive plants with recommended practice for management

Receive Dollars	Contribute	Receive and Contribute Dollars
Marsha Watland: Implement program	BSWCD: Administrator for program	Becker Co. Townships: inventory, treatment
	Minnesota Department Agriculture: Resource for biological control	Becker Co Hwy Depart: inventory, treatment
	Woods-n-Wheels ATV: Inventory	DNR: Inventory, treatment
	USFWS: Inventory, treatment	MNDOT: Inventory, treatment
		Becker Co Natural Resources: Treatment

B. Timeline Requirements:

Timeline is July 1, 2011 through December 30, 2013. The project will entail working with integrated pest management, which will involve test sites for biological control using insects, time and height of mowing, developing landowner awareness, switching methods of treatment to fit land structure and developing a method that reduces invasive plant movement from other regions.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs: The Becker County Cooperative Weed Management Area Plan is in existence and was established with a Pulling Together Initiative Grant. With this group that meets two times a year, goals have been established and are being worked on presently and will continue in the future. Each partner is willing to invest teamwork. Partners contribute financially, share experience, willing to change methods and support changes. Goal is to have county budget for continual management of BCCWMA when methods of invasive treatment are set.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

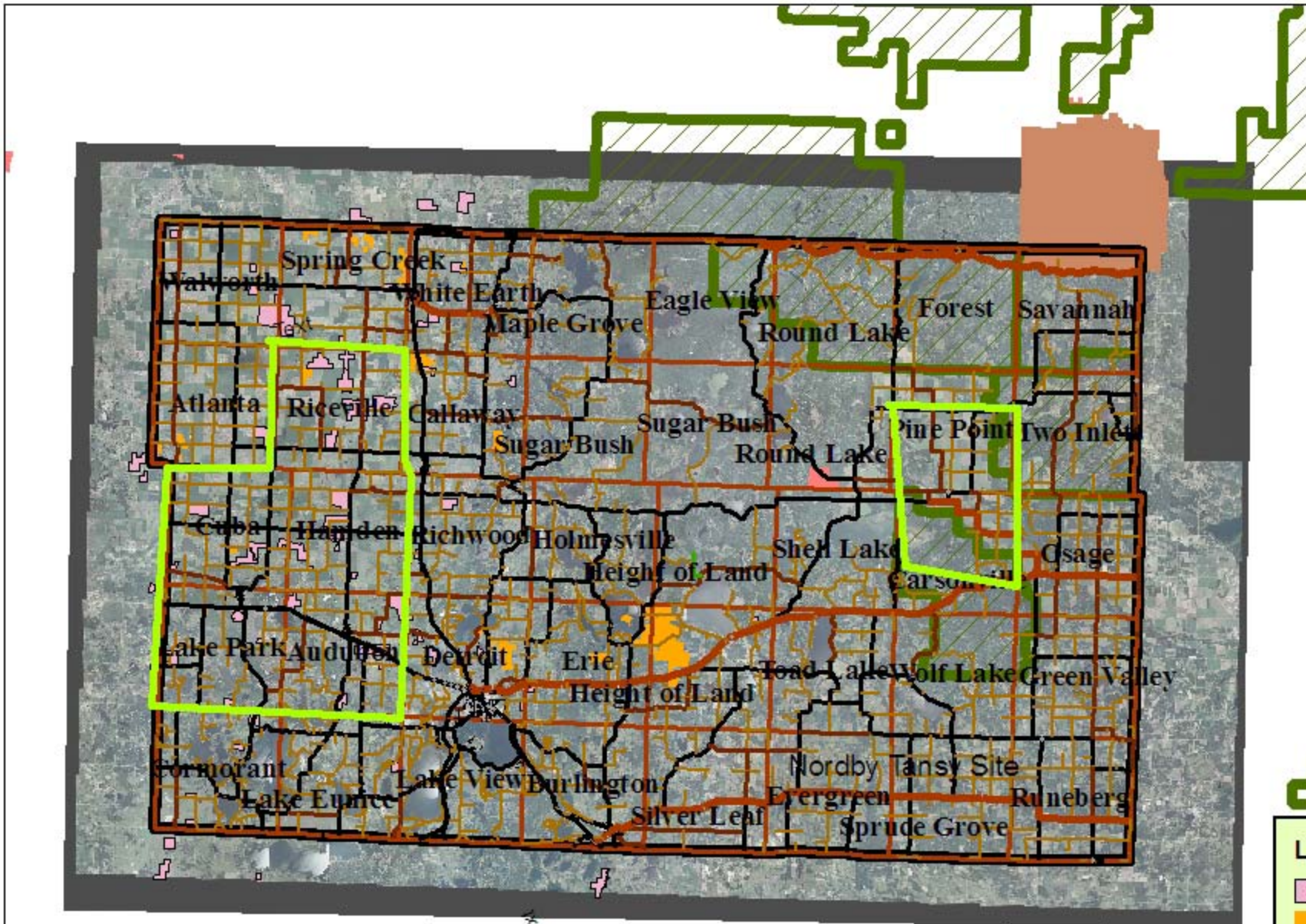
IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2.5 years

BUDGET ITEM <i>(See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	AMOUNT
Personnel: County Agriculture Inspector Marsha Watland - Implement program 20% of time 33% Salary, 6% Benefits	\$ 15,000
Contracts:	NA
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Booklet - Invasive plants; ID and management, Publication & printing	\$ 4,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	NA
Travel: Presentations - Annual County Ag Inspector Training on Invasive Plants and community tours	\$ 4,000
Additional Budget Items: Biological Control- spotted knapweed weevils (<i>Larinus minutus/obtusus</i> and <i>Cypholcleonous achates</i>), containers for shipping to other sites	\$ 12,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 35,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Board Water & Soil Resources - March 2010 to December 2011 will be used on development of invasive plant programs for ATV and snowmobile trails.	\$ 15,000	Secured
In-kind Services During Project Period: Becker County Highway Department - treatment of mapped highway roads	\$ 35,000	Pending
In-kind Services During Project Period: Becker County Townships: Inventory the township roads and property adjacent to road.	\$ 40,000	pending
In-kind Services During Project Period: Minnesota Department of Agriculture; provide GPS support on mapping invasive terrestrial plants	\$ 9,000	Pending
In-kind Services During Project Period: Becker Soil & Water Conservation District: Provide administration of paperwork and county agriculture inspector position to work with identification.	\$ 41,000	Pending
In-kind Services During Project Period: City of Detroit Lakes - treatment of new road construction and building sites, parks & recreation	\$ 50,000	pending
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):	\$ -	
Funding History: Pulling Together Initiative Grant-United State Fish & Wildlife Service Foundation October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2010 for invasive plant program.	\$ 75,000	

Cooperative Weed Management Area Becker County



Legend

- USFWS
- Management Areas
- Scientific Natural Areas
- State Parks
- State Forests

BECKER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description:

The mission of the Becker SWCD is to develop and promote long range programs that satisfy the conservation needs of the people of the District. With rapidly expanding interests in resource development, it is essential that proper resource management be carried out in the District. The programs will include, but not be limited to proper treatment of each acre of land in Becker County in accordance with its needs. Emphasis will be placed on wind and water erosion and protection practices. Implementation of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan will be administered by the District as well as serving as the Local Government Unit for the 1991 Wetland Conservation Act. Technical assistance is provided by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Becker Soil & Water Conservation District Administrator is Brad Grant. Brad oversees all the programs in Becker SWCD. Becker County Agriculture Inspector is Marsha Watland. Marsha's responsibilities are: seed inspection, township weed inspector training, noxious and restricted weed inspection, weed tours with townships, gravel pit inspection and implementing the invasive weed program.