

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2012-2013 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

---

**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 012-A**

Bald Eagle Survey Pilot Project

---

**Topic Area:** A. Fisheries & Wildlife Research

---

**Total Project Budget:** \$ 181,008

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2 yrs, July 2013 - June 2015

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

**Summary:**

Field survey of bald eagles in new habitat areas of Goodhue County utilizing input from local community and private land owners.

---

**Name:** Travis Viker

**Sponsoring Organization:** Private Citizen

**Address:** 42883 228th Avenue  
Mazeppa MN 55956

**Telephone Number:** (507) 843-2174

**Email:** windjourneyfarm@sleepvevel.net

**Web Address:**

---

**Location**

**Region:** 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 _____%



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2012-2013 Main Proposal

## PROJECT TITLE: Bald Eagle Survey Pilot Project

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Minnesota DNR and US Fish and Wildlife Services stopped performing routine nesting bald eagle surveys in 2005. The lack of current data did not provide a strong basis for meaningful input from these wildlife agencies to a variety of decisions including CapX 2020 electrical transmission routing and appropriate industrial wind turbine siting. Citizen’s built a collaborative relationship with USFWS and MN DNR, to provide significant current data on bald eagle nesting, perching, feeding, over wintering and migration for an area encompassing a significant portion of Goodhue County’s nearly ½ million acres. Most of the recently identified eagle habitat is on privately held land. Engaging the land owners makes them more likely to understand, and continue to make, eagle friendly and sustainable land use decisions.

The bald eagle survey pilot project will add a professional biologist to guide and inform as well as formalize and further citizen involvement in gathering current date on bald eagles. The study will provide data from which the agencies can provide more precise and accurate recommendations and decisions affecting bald eagle habitat in Minnesota. The study will assess the possibility that there is a difference in nest size between year-round and summer-only eagles. Goodhue County has already shown a significant increase in bald eagle nesting numbers well away from the Mississippi River and may shed light as to whether the bald eagle is repopulating the prairie where they were known to nest in pre-European times.

The project will utilize paid staff of one wildlife biologist; and two part time staff assisting with field study, community involvement, communication, assessment and report writing. The data will be shared with USFWS and the MN DNR and some or all observations will be entered into the Minnesota on-line Breeding Bird Atlas. The project includes land survey of eagles in all seasons, helicopter survey during leaf off in less accessible areas, two eagles cameras to gather data on year-round versus transient population nests, a template for engaging in similar study in adjoining Counties in coming years, sharing data with the wildlife agencies, the land owners and the wider community.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

#### Activity 1: Gather data via field observation

Budget: \$

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Install 2 eagle nest cameras: 1 year round nest, one summer only nest	2/2/2014
2. Identify previously unidentified eagle nests by car, foot , and community info	4/30/2014
3. Indentify important eagle use areas using citizens and weekly field work	6/30/2014
4. Fall migration daily observation October and November	12/15/2013
5. Spring migration daily observation as indicated	4/30/2014
6. Observe nesting brooding, fledging at selected nests twice weekly	8/1/2014
7. Helicopter surveys up to three days during leaf off	2/1/2014

#### Activity 2: Communication

Budget: \$

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Inform local community and enlist initial assistance	8/30/2013
2. Contact local landowners and gather data from local community	7/30/2014
3. Consult with USFWS and MN DNR as needed and share data	10/20/2014

4. Enter related data into MN Breeding Bird Atlas every two weeks	8/15/2014
5. Set up webpage for community information and eagle camera livestreaming	10/30/2014

**Activity 3: Analyze data and write final report and recommendations**

**Budget: \$**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Compile and analyze data gathered on eagles and on community success	9/15/2014
2. Write report	10/30/2014
3. Consult with USFWS and MN DNR as needed and share data	10/30/2014

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners**

Project Team Leader: Travis Viker will direct and supervise this project including designing and schedule data gathering, direct others in gathering data, analyze eagle data, primary liaison to the DNR and USFWS, design and write the final report. Funding for his time and equipment necessary to complete this project will come from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Project Specialists. Kristi Rosenquist and Mary Hartman will assist with field observation, information gathering, and design and analysis of the final report. Ms. Rosenquist will be primary community liaison, contributing already verified eagle data and observations from 2011 and 2012, and has developed significant networks with private landowners. Ms. Hartman will be contributing well established, positive relationships with the Minnesota DNR and USFWS. Ms. Rosenquist and Hartman will be paid an hourly wage with funding provided by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Local coordinators: We will solicit assistance from a person in each of the Townships in Goodhue County to assist with local landowner contacts and tracking and reporting eagle activity in their immediate area. Local Coordinators would be paid an hourly wage provided by the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

**B. Timeline Requirements**

15 months: 12 months minimum data gathering; 3 months analysis and report writing.

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

We anticipate that the bald eagle survey pilot project will create a template for community participation and eagle data gathering on privately held lands that can be used as a model for other counties or areas of Minnesota. Eagle populations continue to grow. As eagles continue to expand to their pre-European nesting range, they seek nesting sites in agricultural production areas. It is increasingly important to engage private landowners and members of the broader community to ensure these top-tier raptors are part of a sustainable agricultural ecosystem.

CapX 2020 electrical transmission lines are the first major expansion of high voltage transmission capacity in Minnesota since the 1970s. Passage of the 2007 Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard mandates construction of Large Wind Energy Conversion Systems (industrial wind turbines). This resulted in the construction and proposed construction of several thousand 400-500 foot turbines in Minnesota. Poorly sited industrial wind turbines in California have already devastated golden eagle populations there. MN Department of Natural Resources and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have limited time and resources to monitor and survey the recent expansion of bald eagle habitat.

The bald eagle survey pilot project provides current data and a template for community involvement.

## 2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

*Attach budget, in MS-EXCEL format, to your 2012-2013 LCCMR Proposal Submit Form.*

*(1-page limit, single-sided, 10 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 write N/A , leave it blank, or delete the row.)*

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET [Insert # of years for project] years

<b>BUDGET ITEM (See list of Eligible and Non-Eligible Costs, p. 11)</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Travis Viker: 30% FTE,\$22.37/ 830 hours, \$19,404. Mary Hartman and Kristi Rosenquist : 11% FTE each, \$22.37/ 300 hours/ \$7011 X 2 + 14.22; Community Assistants: 3% FTE, \$14.02/120 hours/ \$1683 X 22+ 37,013; grant financial management \$5000	\$68,428
Contract: Helicopter survey services at @ \$1700 per hour	\$40,800
Equipment: Two poles, two cameras and related equipment for livestreaming	\$45,000
none	\$0
Travel: mileage reimbursement for car travel in Goodhue County primarily for field surveys and getting to survey areas, driving to observe nests and important eagle use areas, and to meet with area coordinators.	\$21,280
website creation and maintenance \$3000; photograph printing up to \$500 for documentation and community education; newspaper and other community notification ads and materials up to \$2000.	\$5,500
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$181,008</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Indicate any additional non-state cash dollars to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whet</b>	\$0	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Indicate any additional state cash dollars (e.g. bonding, other grants) to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amou</b>	\$0	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period: It is possible that the poles, their installation and the cameras could be donated at a value of \$45,000; personnel already own highquality digital camera equipment, binoculars and scopes for use in the field and fo</b>	\$48,200	\$45,000 pending; \$3200 secured
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): Specify dollar and year of appropriation from any current ENRTF appropriation for any directly related project of the project manager or organization that remains unspect or not yet legally obl</b>	\$0	<i>Indicate: Unspent? Not Legally Obligated? Other?</i>
<b>Funding History: All work to date has been private donation of time, equipment and money during 2010, 2011 and 2012 for mapping, photographing, etc.</b>	\$0	

Eagles of Goodhue County in a rural sustainable agricultural setting



