

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 045-C1

Itasca County Cooperative Invasive Species Management

Topic Area: C1. Invasive Species - Aquatic

Total Project Budget: \$ 224,020

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs. July 2013 - June 2016

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 30,000

Summary:

To increase the awareness, reduce the spread, and limit the establishment of invasive species in Itasca County. Development of partnerships through the creation of a cooperative invasive species management area.

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Location

Region: NE

County Name: Itasca

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: Itasca County Cooperative Invasive Species Management

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Protection of Itasca County’s natural resources from the effects of invasive species is critical to maintaining the local economy. Itasca County is known nationally for its abundant natural resources, 1.9 million acres of public land, and is home for nearly 10% of Minnesota’s 10,000 lakes. The combination of these outstanding attributes have helped to create and maintain Itasca County as a premier Minnesota vacation destination. Along with this popularity comes an increased risk for the introduction of invasive species.

The goal of the proposed project is to develop a coordinated response to aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in Itasca County and to prevent their introduction and reduce their spread. The specific, direct outcomes that the project proposes to achieve are the development and implementation of a cooperative invasive species management area (CISMA), a strategic management plan, a county-wide invasive species map and inventory, a public outreach initiative, and on-the-ground control and eradication.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Develop a county-wide approach to invasive species management. **Budget:** \$63,000

To adequately address the threat of invasive species in Itasca County, a coordinated response must be developed and agreed upon by all stakeholders. This response will include development of a strategic management plan for Itasca County that will be species specific, address all ownerships and be based on recommendations contained within the Minnesota State Management Plan for Invasive Species.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. A strategic management plan will guide future actions. Plan will address prevention; early detection, rapid response, and containment; management of invasive species; and leadership and coordination countywide.	Sept 2013
2. Partnership agreements and management agreements will be developed between County, State and Federal agencies.	Jan 2014
3. A cooperative invasive species management area will be formed.	June 2014

Activity 2: Develop and implement shared technological tools. **Budget:** \$2,500

Critical to a coordinated response to invasive species will be technological tools (GIS, GPS, LiDar, air photos) that can help both with initial assessment as well as ongoing management. Available information will be gathered in a common database. This will help to accurately quantify the extent of invasives at the front end, will establish a shared resource for input of management strategies, and will provide for an ongoing overview of known invasive species populations.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Develop an invasive species map.	Jan 2014
2. Develop a GIS database of invasive species and deployed mitigation strategies.	Jan 2014
3. Identify user groups(ex. Lake assoc. township inspectors) and provide training.	June 2015

Activity 3: Educate public about invasive species identification, prevention, control. **Budget:** \$25,250

Public education will be the best defense against new invasive species in Itasca County and will also be key in their early detection. Public outreach strategies will include presentations to key groups, media placement, and the development of educational materials.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Develop multi media presentations for invasive species prevention and control.	March 2014
2. Deliver presentations to local groups, with an emphasis on groups that cater to or interest recreationalists, lake and public land users, seasonal homeowners, and tourists. (10-12 presentations annually, 1,000+ reached annually)	June 2014, then ongoing.
3. Develop a brochure about the Itasca County Cisma and invasive species. Distribute at presentations and key locations(resorts, baitshops, sporting goods, license vendors). (approximately 5,000 distributed annually)	June 2014, then ongoing.
4. Develop ongoing articles for local media. (minimum of 4 articles annually) combined readership approximately 8,000 per article	Ongoing

Activity 4: Implement on-the-ground strategies to control invasive species. **Budget:** \$133,270
 On-the-ground strategies will be critical for the control and management of invasive species populations once they are identified. ICSWCD will oversee these tactics and will employ college interns on a rotating basis in order to help with project implementation. Purchase of two hot water, high-pressure wash decontamination units and a vehicle to transport the units will provide significant capability for treatment of multiple species(ie.Zebra mussels,Eurasian water milfoil, spiny water fleas, etc..).

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Create and implement intern program to conduct onsite inspections and control.	May 2014
2. Implement control strategies, ie, watercraft and/or trailer decontamination, public accesses monitoring, Level 1 inspector training.	May 2014
3. Use biological, chemical, or manual strategies to control and/or eliminate targeted invasive species populations.	Ongoing

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (ICSWCD) will be the project and fiscal manager and will achieve the proposed project goal by galvanizing a partnership between the Itasca Water Legacy Partnership, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Itasca County Land Department, U.S. Forest Service – Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota Waters, Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations, and the Itasca Community College.

B. Timeline Requirements

Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District estimates that a full three years will be needed to establish a sustainable partnership organization that will provide ongoing effective action steps required to prevent and manage the introduction of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in Itasca County.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

Since 2007, control and eradication of purple loosestrife in Itasca County has been an ongoing successful project carried out by a partnership between the Chippewa National Forest, Turtle Lake Association, Itasca Water Legacy Partnership, Itasca County Land Department, and Itasca Community College. The proposed project will not only build on this effort, but will also formalize a long-term effort to control and eradicate all aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. It is anticipated that the coordinated focus on both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species will help attract funding from various foundations and agencies, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, Itasca County, Blandin Foundation, and others.

2013-2016 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel: .3 FTE Project Manager, Salary 75%, Benefits 25%, \$28,080 x 3 yrs = \$84,240 Grant fiscal mgmt., \$5,000 x 3 years = \$14,040	\$ 98,280
Contracts: Intern Stipends, 2 x \$8,640/yr x 3 yrs = \$51,840	\$ 51,840
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Decontamination Units, 2 x \$18,000 = \$36,000 Truck lease and insurance, \$450/mo x 12 mos x 3 yrs = \$16,200 Fuel, \$4,000/yr X 3 yrs = \$12,000	\$ 64,200
Travel: Travel for project manager to attend meetings, deliver presentations, and implement invasive species management and control strategies, 400 miles/mo x 12 mos x 3 yrs x .50/mile = \$7,200	\$ 7,200
Additional Budget Items: Development and printing of CISMA educational brochure, \$2,500	\$ 2,500
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 224,020

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: 1) National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to Itasca Water Legacy Partnership for purple loosestrife control and public education, 2012 to 2014.	\$ 30,000	Secured
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: NA	NA	NA
In-kind Services During Project Period: 1) Development of tech tools including invasive species map and GIS database. Services to be provided by CISMA member, \$5,500. 2) Project direction provided by Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District, .1 FTE, Salary 75%, Benefits 25%, \$10,000 x 3 years = \$30,000. 3) Office space for project manager and coordinator provided by Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District, \$7,000. 4) Development of PowerPoint presentation by CISMA partners for use in public education, \$2,500. 5) Participation of project partners in development of CISMA, creation of strategic plan, speakers bureau, and ongoing direction of initiative, \$15,000.	\$ 60,000	Secured
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): 1) Itasca County Sensitive Shoreland Identification, 2011-2014, grant to identify sensitive lakeshore and restorable shoreline in Itasca County. Project includes identification of aquatic and terrestrial plant life, including invasives.	\$ 160,000	Unspent
Funding History: 1) From USFS Chippewa National Forest to Itasca Water Legacy Partnership, Turtle Lake Association, and other project partners for purple loosestrife control, 2007 to 2012, \$47,000. 2) From Blandin Foundation to Itasca Water Legacy Partnership to study economic value of Itasca County's lakes, 2011, \$50,000. 3) From BWSR to ICSWCD for Natural Shoreland Revegetation, 2006 to 2008, \$87,000. 4) From the DNR to ICSWCD for Native Shoreland Buffer Incentives, 2009 to 2011, \$78,500. 5) From the MPCA to ICSWCD for Surface Water Assessment, 2009 to 2011, \$131,300.	\$ 393,800	

Project Manager Qualifications/Organization Description

The Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (ICSWCD) has a successful history of putting together natural resource management project proposals, obtaining funding, and implementing those projects. In the past five years, ICSWCD has implemented or completed projects including a Lake Sensitivity Study, Long-Term Lake Monitoring, Firewise, Shoreland Revegetation Grant, Surface Waters Assessments Grants, Native Shoreland Buffer Incentives, Natural Environment Lakes Study, Shoreland Stabilization Sand Lake Grant, the Bowstring Watershed Shoreland Stabilization Grant, and others. The organization has partnered with many agencies and institutions to accomplish these projects including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, University of Minnesota Extension Service, Itasca County, the U.S. Forest Service, the Natural Resources Research Institute, Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations, Itasca Community College, Itasca Water Legacy Partnership, and others. It has also collected baseline data, developed and implemented action plans, influenced county zoning policy, implemented countless on-the-ground projects, and facilitated USDA and Minnesota cost-share funding.

