

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 069-D

WMA Acquisition in the Metro/Urbanizing and Prairie Landscapes

Topic Area: D. Land Acquisition & Restoration

Total Project Budget: \$ 3,000,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

This proposal seeks to protect critical habitat and provide recreational opportunities through WMA acquisition in urbanizing and prairie landscapes. Parcels with greatest management implications and expiring CRP acres are priority.

Name: Patrick Rivers

Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd
St. Paul MN 55155

Telephone Number: (651) 259-5209

Email pat.rivers@state.mn.us

Web Address http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html

Location

Region: NW, Metro, SW

County Name: Anoka, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Dakota, Jackson, Lincoln, Pennington, Pipestone, Scott, Wright

City / Township: Townships: Buffalo, Polk Center, Empire, Columbus, Dale, Springfield, Big Bend, Marble,

<input type="checkbox"/> Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Base
<input type="checkbox"/> Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgency
<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/> Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL _____%



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

PROJECT TITLE: WMA Acquisition in the Metro/Urban and Prairie Landscapes

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

WHY-This proposal addresses 2012-13 LCCMR funding priorities 5 and 6 and the LCCMR’s six-year strategic plan goal of land and water protection. Based on 2005 population data, actual population growth throughout our metropolitan region is outpacing projections. Accompanying urbanization permanently alters—fragments, degrades and even complete loss of—our remaining high quality land and water habitats. At the same time in our prairie landscape, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres are being lost due to the favorable economic conditions for row crop agriculture.

WMAs in the metro/urbanizing landscape are anchored by four areas of emphasis: 1) Pelican Lake (Wright County); 2) Carlos Avery (Anoka County); 3) Vermillion River (Dakota County); and 4) Ney (Scott County). Additional acres are urgently needed to provide high quality outdoor recreation close to where people live, aid in hunter recruitment and retention, and for the management and restoration of these existing WMAs and their associated complexes. On the prairie, target areas have been identified by a number of plans (e.g., WMA Acquisition Plan, Working Lands Initiative, Prairie Plan, CRP). The cross section of target areas coupled with the imminent loss of CRP acres defines a narrow window of opportunity to build on previous conservation investments.

GOALS and OUTCOMES- The goal of this proposal is to permanently protect through fee title acquisition at least 400 acres of critical habitat through one or more acquisitions in each of the metro/urbanizing and prairie landscapes that will complement existing investments. For the metro/urbanizing landscape, highest priority is given to the Pelican Lake WMA where extensive shallow lakes management activities are planned that will be enhanced by acquisition of key parcels. In the prairie landscape, expiring CRP acres within the Prairie Plan Core areas/corridors will receive priority.

Outcomes of this goal include: protection of critical habitat (e.g., shallow lakes, wetlands, and prairie), protect and improve water quality, and expand “close to home” public recreational opportunities (fishing, hunting, wildlife observation) in the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

HOW- Thirteen high priority parcels have been identified and prioritized based on habitat quality, management potential and importance to the WMA program. Wildlife staff will receive local government (i.e., county, city, township) approval prior to completing the purchase of any property. In the event the acquisition of a parcel of interest does not occur, additional high priority parcels will be pursued. Our \$3 million request is exceeded by lands currently available for acquisition.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Metro/Urban area acquisitions

Budget: \$2,000,000

Fee title acquisition of one or more priority parcels to protect critical habitats that complement existing WMAs in the metro/urban landscape. Parcel acquisition is based on existing WMA investments and would likely involve one or more of the following: Pelican Lake WMA (Wright Co.), Carlos Avery WMA (Anoka Co.), Vermillion River WMA (Dakota Co.) and the Minnesota River (Scott Co.). Parcels have been assigned a “SWAAT” score, a GIS-based scoring system that considers a parcel’s wildlife habitat value. The SWAAT score, combined with management opportunities each parcel provides, determines the prioritization of acquisition. Key parcels targeted through this activity will aid in WMA management and the outdoor recreation opportunities they provide. The Department of Natural Resources will hold title to these parcels.

PROJECT TITLE: WMA Acquisition in the Metro/Urban and Prairie Landscapes

Activity 2: Prairie/CRP area acquisitions

Budget: \$1,000,000

Fee title acquisition of one or more priority parcels to protect critical habitats that complement existing WMAs in the prairie landscape. Like the Metro/Urban parcels, priority will be given to parcels with high SWAAT scores and management potential that are currently enrolled in CRP and fall within identified target areas. The Department of Natural Resources will hold title to these parcels

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Metro/Urban: 200 acres of land acquired (fee title, approx. \$9000/acre)	June 30, 2015
2. Prairie/CRP: 200 acres of land acquired (fee title, approx. \$4,000/acre)	June 30, 2016

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife (contributing)

Patrick Rivers

Regional Wildlife Managers, Area Wildlife Supervisors

Role

F&W Land Acquisition Consultant

Landowner contacts, relationships

DNR Division of Lands and Minerals (receiving)

Various staff

Role

Appraisal process, transaction managers

Other contributing partners may include Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and Audubon Minnesota.

B. Timeline Requirements

The project is proposed to be completed by June 30, 2016. A number of willing sellers own parcels on the proposed acquisition list. If acquisitions go smoothly, completion may occur by June 30, 2014.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

The goals of this proposal work toward the larger WMA program’s acquisition and management goals. Specifically, the Pelican Lake parcels will aid in the restoration and enhancement of shallow lake and wetland habitat. An independent proposal is being prepared for Pelican Lake restoration, notably water level management facilitated by lake outlet stop logs, pumps, and a new stream channel from Pelican Lake. Associated parcels of interest will aid in this effort. Acquisitions targeting CRP acres will focus on identified target areas (e.g., Working Lands Initiative, Prairie Plan) and their complement to existing WMAs.

The proposal is not dependent on additional investment. Previous acquisitions which are proposed to be added to are part of the WMA acquisition plan. Additional sources of funding that have been used in previous acquisitions (e.g., LCCMR, LSOHF, bonding, surcharge) will be sought in the future.

2012-2013 Proposed Acquisition List

Project Title: WMA Acquisition in the Metro/Urban and Prairie Landscapes

Project Manager Name: Patrick Rivers

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$3,000,000

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee Title or Conservation Easement)	County	Ecological Significance	Proposed # of Acres	Proposed # of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
1	Pelican Lake WMA- Weinand	Fee Title	Wright	Shallow lake- restoration (Metro)	99.5	0.3	State of Minnesota
2	Pelican Lake WMA-BAJ	Fee Title	Wright	Shallow lake- restoration (Metro)	40	NA	State of Minnesota
3	Pelican Lake WMA- Lenneman	Fee Title	Wright	Shallow lake- restoration (Metro)	24	NA	State of Minnesota
4	Pembina WMA- Kern Kalsnes	Fee Title	Pennington	Prairie- within Prairie Plan Core Area	950	NA	State of Minnesota
5	Vermillion River WMA-Adelman	Fee Title	Dakota	Prairie (Metro)	110	NA	State of Minnesota
6	Carlos Avery WMA- Aney	Fee Title	Anoka	Wetland complexes, intermixed woods (Metro)	80	NA	State of Minnesota
7	Arnold's Lake WMA- tr3	Fee Title	Cottonwood	Prairie- within Prairie Plan Core Area	22	0.3	State of Minnesota
8	Pat's Pasture WMA- tr5	Fee Title	Cottonwood	Prairie- Close to Prairie Plan Corridor	180	NA	State of Minnesota
9	Milan WMA- tr13	Fee Title	Chippewa	Prairie- within Prairie Plan Core Area	80	NA	State of Minnesota
10	Prairie Dell WMA- tr5	Fee Title	Lincoln	Prairie- within Prairie Plan Core Area	13	NA	State of Minnesota
11	Altona WMA- tr10	Fee Title	Pipestone	Prairie- within Prairie Plan Core Area	40	NA	State of Minnesota
12	Timber Lake WMA- tr14	Fee Title	Jackson	Prairie- Close to Prairie Plan Corridor	100	NA	State of Minnesota
13	Bradshaw Lake -Nash Farm	Fee Title	Scott	Shallow lake (Metro)	157	0.27	State of Minnesota

NOTES: Parcels were chosen based on their habitat quality and ability to meet WMA management objectives.

2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

PROJECT TITLE: WMA Acquisition in the Metro/Urban and Prairie Landscapes

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel:	NA
Contracts:	NA
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	NA
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): 400 acres fee title, State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources.	\$ 2,730,000
Direct Support Services: DNR uses a rate of 6.5% to calculate costs for direct support services, which are DNR's direct and necessary business services required to support this proposal	\$ 195,000
Additional Budget Items: Land survey, appraisal, title opinion, and related land transaction costs. Estimate based on 8 parcels being acquired.	\$ 75,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 3,000,000

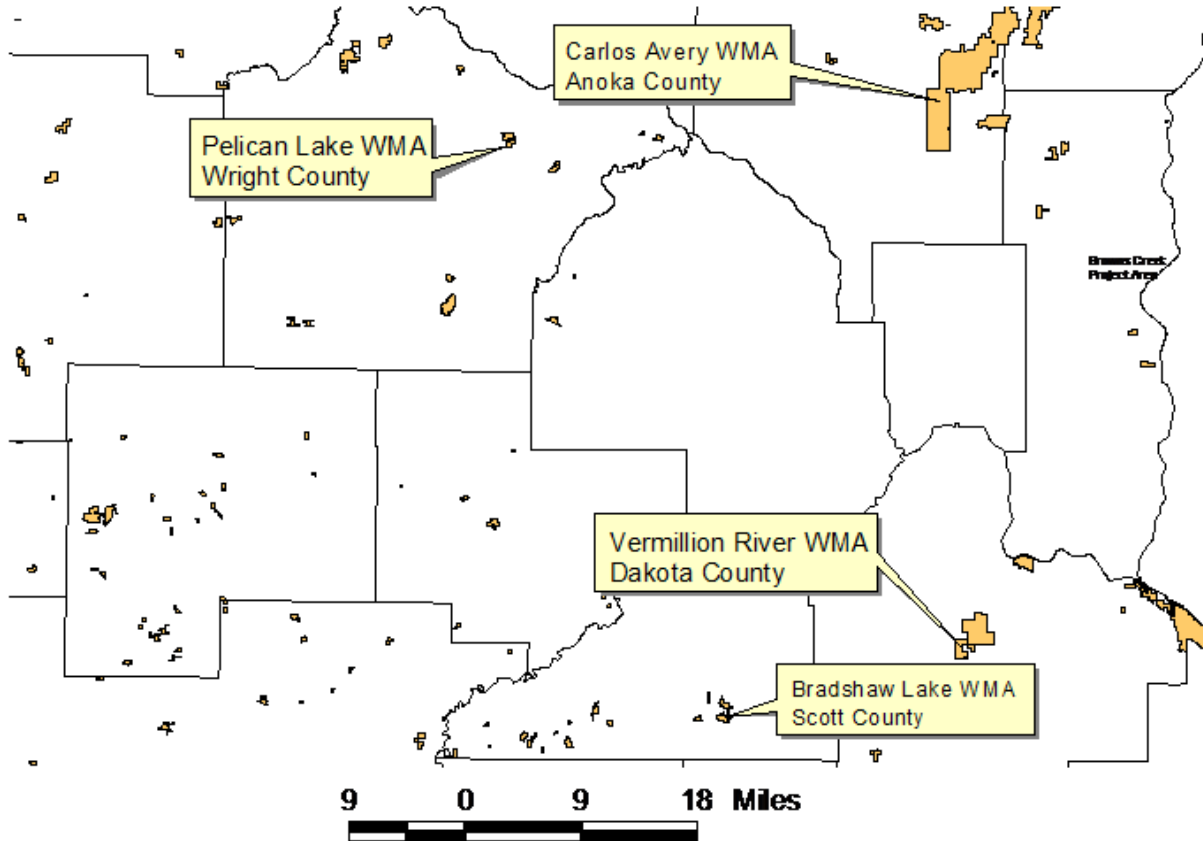
V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	\$ -	NA
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Wildlife Surcharge Account (\$6.50 from each small game license sold), pending availability at the time of need	\$ 60,000	Pending
In-kind Services During Project Period: Acquisition coordination, grant management, and landowner relationships as part of the acquisition process. DNR Employees.	\$ 25,000	Secured
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):	NA	
Funding History:	\$ -	

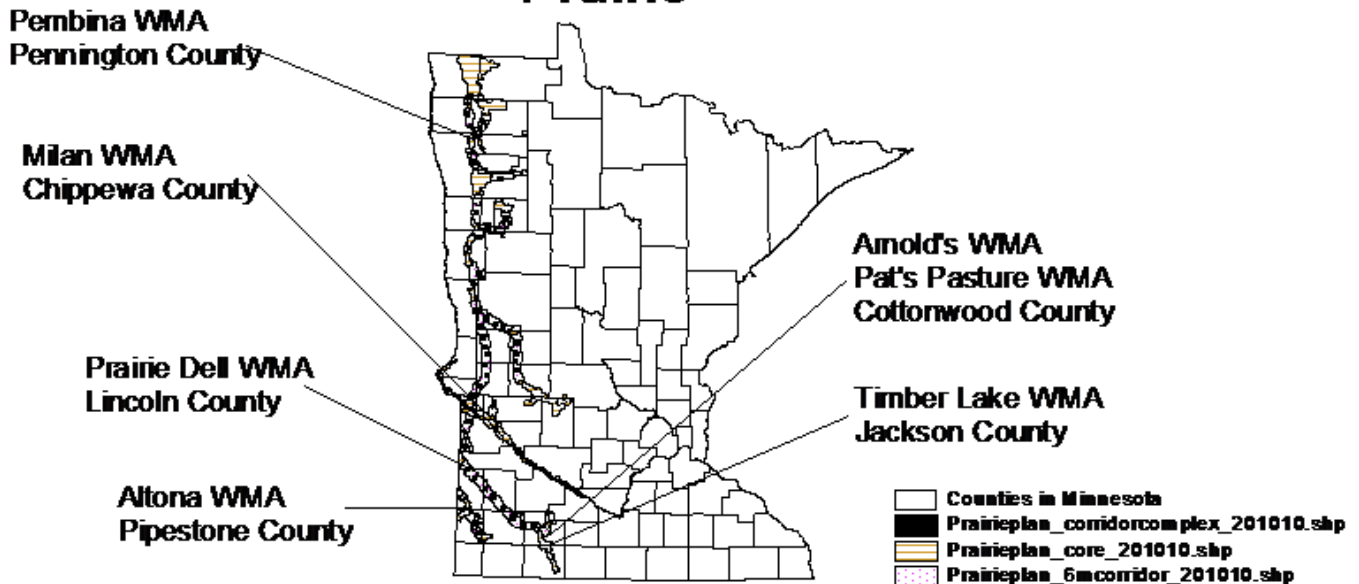
WMA Acquisitions in the Metro/Urbanizing and Prairie Landscapes



Metro/Urbanizing



Prairie



PROJECT TITLE: WMA Acquisition in the Metro/Urban and Prairie Landscapes

Project Manager Qualifications

Patrick Rivers is the Land Acquisition Consultant for the MN Department of Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife. He is responsible for coordinating the land acquisition and planning processes for the Division to ensure long-term goals are achieved.

Pat began his DNR career in 1998 in Lake City as a Trout Stream Specialist. He also held DNR positions in Walker (Large Lake Biologist), Grand Rapids (Assistant Area Supervisor), Brainerd (Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Coordinator), and St. Paul. Prior to his current position, he was the coordinator of an eight-state fish habitat partnership focused on strategic habitat conservation of lake habitats. He has a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management (1994) and a M.S. in Fisheries (1998) from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Organization Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' overall mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

State wildlife management areas (WMA) are established to protect those lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and to develop and manage these lands and waters for the production of wildlife, for public hunting, fishing, and trapping, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses (M.S. 86A.05, Subd. 8). The long-range goal of the WMA Program, as recommended by the Citizen's Advisory Committee, is to acquire 700,000 of additional WMA lands in the next 50 years to provide sustainable and diverse populations of wildlife and greater opportunities for wildlife-related recreation for future generations.

