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

Project Title: **ENRTF ID:** 072-D

Centennial Blowdown Restoration

Topic Area: D. Land Acquisition & Restoration

Total Project Budget: $ 2,894,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: $ 0

Summary:

The Centennial Blowdown Restoration Project will reforest damaged stands, restore degraded habitats, conserve natural ecosystems, and restore forest recreational opportunities to state lands damaged by the July 1, 2011 windstorm.

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Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR

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Location

Region: NE

County Name: Pine

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: Centennial Blowdown Restoration

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Over 40,000 acres of State forestlands within the St. Croix State Forest were affected by a very powerful windstorm on July 1, 2011. This project will reforest damaged sites, will restore degraded habitats and conserve natural ecosystems, will restore sustainable trout stream habitat, and will restore opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized forest recreation. Components of this project include: terrestrial invasive species control, native jack pine genetics conservation, jack pine barrens restoration, conifer and hardwood restoration, conifer enhancement along trout streams to improve trout habitat, and recreational trail restoration and repair.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Conifer and oak establishment **Budget:** $2,058,000

Following timber salvage, damaged sites will be treated mechanically and/or with herbicides, followed the next spring by hand planting and/or aerial seeding of pines, spruce, and oak. Prescribed burns will be conducted on a small subset of these sites (approx. 80 acres), followed by seeding, to restore a rare jack pine barrens plant community. Prescriptions for sites near designated trout streams will focus on increasing shad in the riparian zone and reducing hardwood beaver forage within the watershed. Planted pine and oak seedlings will be bud capped in the fall to protect them from deer browse.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Site preparation on 3000 acres	*Nov. 1, 2014*
2. Planting and/or seeding on 3000 acres	*June 1, 2015*
3. Browse protection on 3000 acres	*Nov. 1, 2015*

Activity 2: Recreational trail and dispersed campsite restoration **Budget:** $485,000

Recreational trails will be cleared of woody debris using a combination of hand crews and small dozers or skid steers, and the treadway will be restored to pre-storm conditions. In some areas, trail segments will be rerouted to improve safety and ease of future maintenance. Six damaged bridges will be replaced, and five dispersed campsites will be rehabilitated or relocated.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Clear woody debris and reshape treadway on 20 miles of snowmobile/ATV trails, 12 miles of dogsled/skiing/ hiking trails, and 30 miles of horse/hiking trails	*June 30, 2014*
2. Replace 6 bridges and restore 5 campsites on horse/hiking trails	*June 30, 2014*
3. Install and maintain erosion control measures on 30 miles of horse/hiking trails	*June 30, 2015*

Activity 3: Terrestrial invasive species control **Budget:** $37,000

Disturbed soils along forest roads, landings, and parking areas provide an opportunity for establishment of terrestrial invasive species. These areas will be inventoried for invasives using the standard DNR protocol, and infested areas will be treated.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Inventory 20 miles of system and minimum maintenance road rights of way, plus 10 acres of associated timber landings and parking areas	*Sept. 1, 2013*
2. Treat infested areas identified in #1 above with appropriate herbicides	*Sept. 1, 2014*
3. Follow up monitoring and retreatment as necessary	*June 30, 2016*

Activity 4: Reforestation of non-harvested aspen sites **Budget:** $266,000

Younger aspen stands affected by the wind storm are not economical to harvest. On some sites most of the trees present are leaning over and will not survive to maturity. These sites will be treated mechanically to flatten the remaining standing trees and stimulate aspen sprouting from the root system to create fully stocked stands.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Mechanical site preparation on 2500 acres	*June 30, 2015*

Activity 5: Jack pine genetics conservation **Budget:** $48,000

Jack pine genetics are variable across its range, and seedlings grown from seed collected farther north are not well adapted for growth in this landscape. Jack pine cones will be purchased from local collectors to ensure that adequate local-source seed remains available. Installation of a jack pine seed production area will occur in FY13. Funding will be needed in FY14 for a deer exclosure to protect the newly planted seedlings. Seed from this facility should become available by 2024.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Purchase 700 bushels of cones, picked from jack pine salvage harvest sites	*June 30, 2015*
2. Purchase and install deer exclosure fence around seed production area	*Nov. 1, 2013*

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

- DNR Division of Forestry staff from the Sandstone Area will plan, coordinate and supervise the contracted reforestation work on this project, as well as the invasive species control efforts, and will conduct the prescribed burns and the invasive species inventory.
- DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife staff will provide input on prescriptions for sites located within one half mile of designated trout streams and tributaries.
- DNR Division of Parks & Trails staff will plan, coordinate, and supervise the recreational trail restoration work. Some of the on-the-ground work will be accomplished through contracts with Conservation Corps Minnesota, some will be done using agency staff and equipment.
- Forestry staff will collaborate with Parks & Trails staff on jack pine seed collection and establishing the seed production area.
- Minnesota Horse Council will supply volunteers to assist with trail repairs and erosion control.

B. Timeline Requirements

Year 1: Site prep and planting or seeding will take place on sites where timber salvage is complete. Prescribed burns completed on jack pine barrens sites. Recreational trails will be cleared, treadways reshaped, bridges replaced, and dispersed campsites rehabilitated. Terrestrial invasive species inventory will be completed. Roller chopping for aspen regeneration will begin. Jack pine cone purchase begins and deer exclosure is installed around seed production area.

Year 2: Site prep and planting or seeding is completed on all sites. Browse protection occurs on seedlings planted in Year 1. Erosion control measures are installed and maintained on recreational trails. First herbicide treatment is completed on infested roads, landings, and parking areas. Roller chopping for aspen regeneration is completed. Jack pine cone purchase is completed.

Year 3: Browse protection occurs on seedlings planted in Year 1 and Year 2. Roads, landings, and parking areas are monitored for invasive species and treated as necessary.

2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET (3 years)

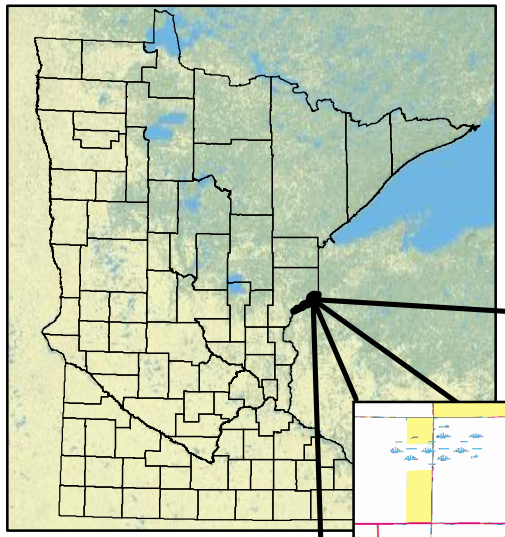
BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Contracts:	$ -
Site preparation--herbicide application	$ 375,000
Site preparation--mechanical	$ 490,000
Aerial seeding	$ 27,000
Hand planting	$ 210,000
Browse protection	$ 300,000
CCM: Trail clearing, bridge & erosion control installation, remote campsite rehab	$ 295,000
Grading--reshape snowmobile/ATV trail treadway and shoulder	$ 4,000
Dozer work--trail clearing	$ 30,000
Invasive species control--herbicide application	$ 35,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	$ -
Seedlings	$ 720,000
Seed	$ 60,000
Bridge materials	$ 6,000
Gravel	$ 20,000
Fleet charges for state equipment	$ 100,000
Fence material for deer exclosure	$ 10,000
Jack pine cone purchase	$ 35,000
Additional Budget Items: Direct Support Services expenses. DNR used 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.	$ 177,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND $ REQUEST =	$ 2,894,000

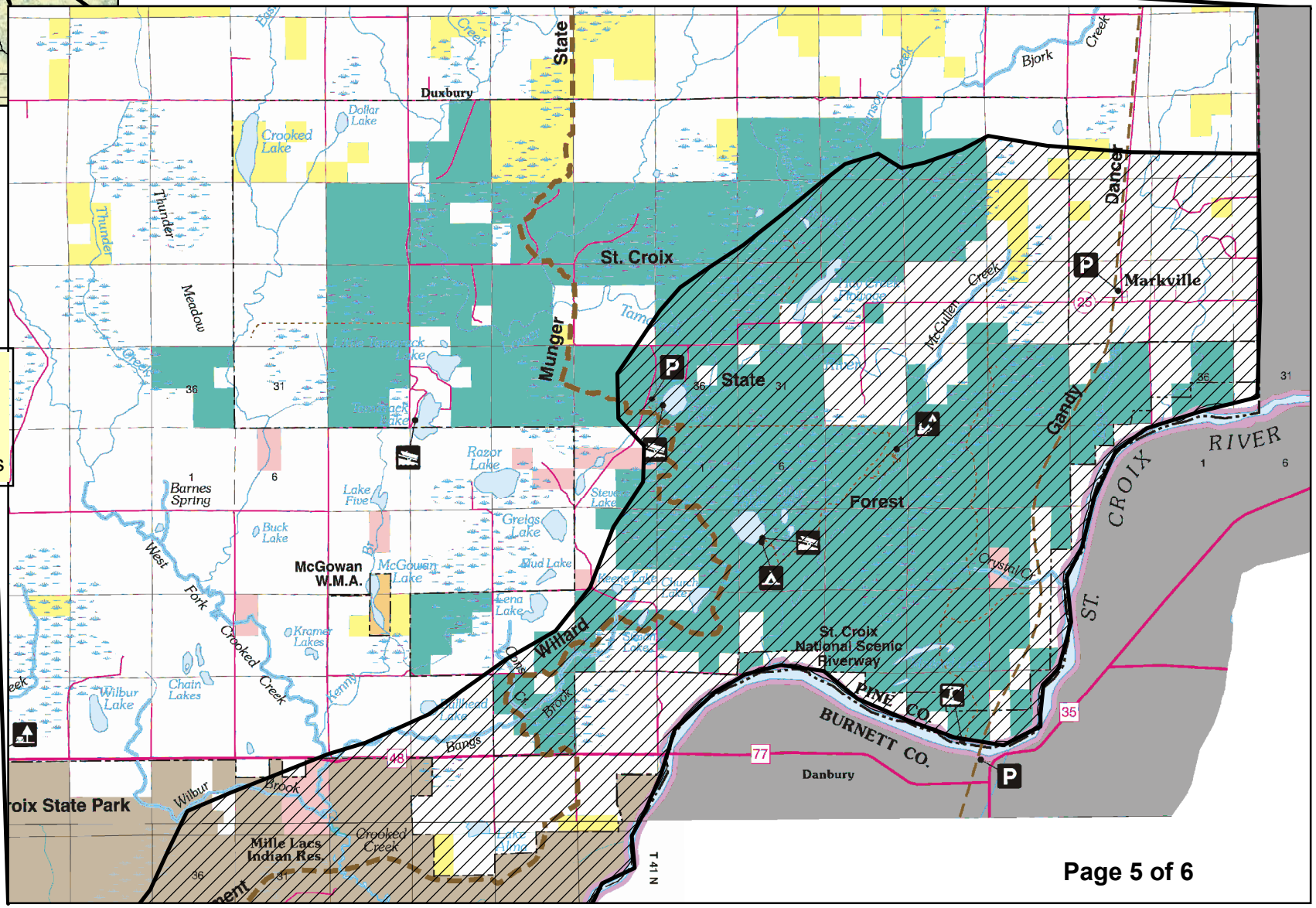
V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State $ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	$ -	
Other State $ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	$ -	
Remaining $ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):	$ -	
Funding History:	$ -	

LCCMR Centennial Blowdown Restoration Project

St. Croix State Forest, Pine County
Project Manager: J. Fauskee





LCCMR Project Proposal

Project Title: Centennial Blowdown Restoration

Project Manager
Jeremy Fauskee, Sandstone Area Forest Supervisor
Minnesota DNR - Forestry

As Sandstone Area Forest Supervisor, Jeremy Fauskee oversees the management and administration of State Forest Lands within Pine County and Southeastern Aitkin County as well as administers wildfire suppression efforts and private forest management assistance within the same boundaries. Sandstone Area averages 90 wildfires per year and manages approximately 216,000 acres of State Forest Land.

Jeremy has worked in the field of forestry for 16 years for both private industry and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Through his career Jeremy has work in a various capacities from a reforestation forester, procurement forester, field forester, timber program forester, and now Area Forest Supervisor.

Organization Description
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resource, Forestry Division (MNDNR-Forestry) has managed over 4 million acres of state land for natural resource benefits for 100 years (1911-2011). MNDNR-Forestry manages the largest land base of any entity in Minnesota. The mission of MNDNR-Forestry is:

Through shared information, technology, and understanding, we empower others and ourselves to: sustain and enhance functioning forest ecosystems; provide a sustainable supply of forest resources to meet human needs (e.g., material, economic, and social); protect lives and property from wildfi res; and provide a dollar return to the permanent school trust.