

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 079-D

Wedge Creek Stream Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Topic Area: D. Land Acquisition & Restoration

Total Project Budget: \$ 570,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

The proposed project will improve habitat for both fish and wildlife species associated with warm water streams and stabilize erosive stream banks contributing sediment loads downstream into Fountain Lake.

Name: Andy Henschel

Sponsoring Organization: Shell Rock River Watershed District

Address: 411 S Broadway
Albert Lea MN 56007

Telephone Number: (507) 391-2795

Email andy.henschel@co.freeborn.mn.us

Web Address www.shellrock.org

Location

Region: SE

County Name: Freeborn

City / Township: Albert Lea

<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 <input type="checkbox"/> %



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

PROJECT TITLE:

Wedge Creek Stream Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Our program will restore and enhance in-stream and riparian fish and wildlife habitat in Shell Rock River Watershed. The proposed project will improve habitat for both game and non-game fish and wildlife species associated with warm water streams. In addition the project will stabilize current erosive stream banks that contribute sediment loads and impair water quality down gradient of the project into Fountain and Albert Lea Lake.

Background

Shell Rock River Watershed District Management Plan developed in 2004 has identified goals for accelerating programs for improved habitat, water quality and flood control through a variety of conservation measures in the watershed district. As part of our ongoing program of warm water stream habitat restoration and enhancement, the Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD) has identified conservation projects in each subwatershed of the watershed district. The SRRWD proposes to restore or enhance in-stream and riparian fish and wildlife habitat in and along Wedge Creek in 2013 to 2015.

The project to be undertaken by the SRRWD as part of a program is designed to: 1) reduce stream bank erosion and associated sedimentation, 2) reconnect streams to their floodplains to reduce negative impacts from severe flooding, 3) increase natural reproduction of fish and other aquatic organisms, maintain or increase fish populations, 4) increase biodiversity for both in-stream and non-game species and 5) remain stabilized with minimal maintenance.

The project was selected as a critical area of restoration through numerous modeling and analysis methods that include precision conservation modeling, water quality monitoring and analysis, stream survey analysis and biological surveys. Design and construction plans have been completed for the entire project. The project was divided into six stream reach subsections in accordance to topography and landscape features. The SRRWD completed 1,500 linear feet (4.7 acres) of restoration on reach #3 of Wedge Creek in the winter of 2011. All restoration work will be completed on public land or land with appropriate easements.

Goals and Outcomes

The goal of the project is to restore in-stream fish and wildlife habitat and water quality by enhancing the existing stream and stabilizing erosive stream banks on Wedge Creek. The project will result in restoration of 9,521 linear feet (33.55 acres) on the remaining 5 stream reaches of Wedge Creek. The project is designed for long-term ecological and hydraulic stability. Following completion of the project included in this program, it is anticipated that long-term monitoring of the integrity of the improvements will be completed in conjunction with routine inspections and water quality monitoring.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project proposes to improve water quality and in-stream habitat by restoring and enhancing 9,521 linear feet (33.55 acres) of Wedge Creek.

Activity 1: Wedge Creek Stream Restoration**Budget: \$790,000.00**

The project will require state, federal and county permits prior to construction for project, construction services, surveying services and construction supervision. Pre/post fish surveys will be completed to identify fish species populations. Monitoring and maintenance will occur during and after construction to assure all requirements are followed as specified in acquired permits. Water quality monitoring will continue to evaluate the effect of stream restoration.

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Acquire state, federal and county required grading and environmental permits.</i>	<i>September 30,2013</i>
<i>2. Grade staking for proposed stream restoration structures</i>	<i>June 1, 2015</i>
<i>3. Stream Restoration Construction (Reach 1,2,4,5 &6).</i>	<i>June 1, 2015</i>
<i>4. Monitoring and Maintenance.</i>	<i>June 30, 2015</i>
<i>5. Fish Surveys (Cost not included in budget request).</i>	<i>Annual Monitoring</i>
<i>6. Water Quality Monitoring (Cost not included in budget request).</i>	<i>Annual Monitoring</i>

III. PROJECT STRATEGY**A. Project Team/Partners**

The Shell Rock River Watershed District will be the fiscal agent receiving funds for the project. The following agencies will assist by providing technical input; Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Freeborn County, MPCA, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the City of Albert Lea. Outside Services required to complete the project include; environmental, GIS, surveying, engineering and construction.

B. Timeline Requirements

The goal for timeline requirements of the project is approximately 2 years. Proposed project will be incorporated into SRRWD periodic monitoring, maintenance and fish surveys program.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

The project has been identified as a high priority in the SRRWD Management Plan, a plan developed with public participation subject to public review and approval by the SRRWD Board. A long-term monitoring/maintenance plan will be implemented for this project in conjunction with previous stream restoration projects to assure all stream restoration work is adequately functioning as designed for the project. Future funding requests will be required for addition stream restoration projects identified in the SRRWD Management Plan.

2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

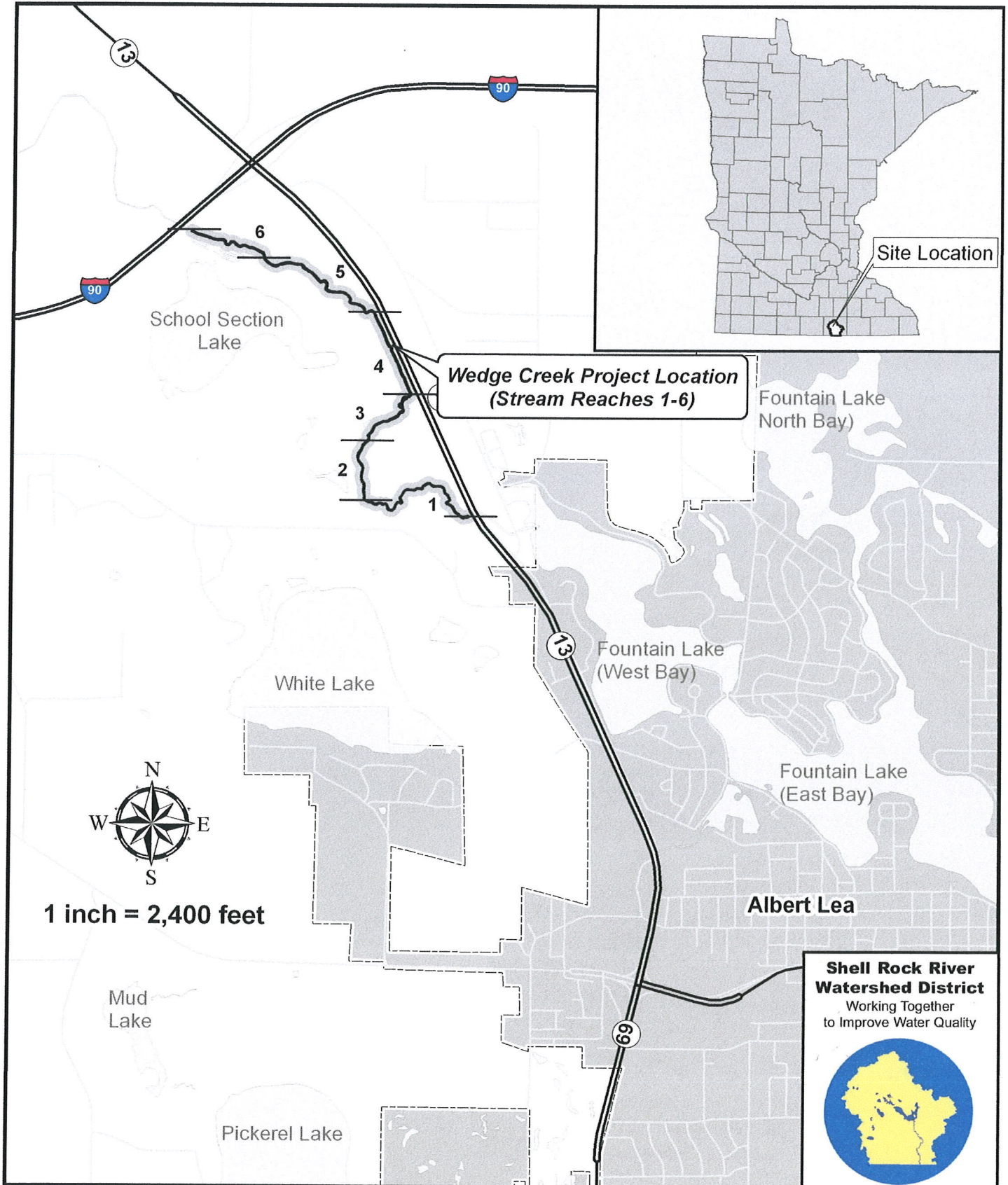
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET: 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel:	
Contracts:	
Engineering Services - Consultant	\$ 21,000
Surveying Services - Consultant	\$ 19,400
Environmental Services - Consultant	\$ 21,200
Construction Services - Contractor	\$ 229,700
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	
Rock Rip Rap	\$ 162,700
Seed and Hydro Mulch	\$ 66,000
Floodwater Overflow Structure	\$ 50,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	
Travel:	
Additional Budget Items:	
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 570,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:		
Shell Rock River Watershed District: Sales Tax Dollars	\$ 190,000	<i>Secured</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:		
In-kind Services During Project Period:		
Shell Rock River Watershed District: Construction Monitoring Services	\$ 12,000	
Shell Rock River Watershed District: Project Management Services	\$ 10,000	
Shell Rock River Watershed District: Administrative Services	\$ 8,000	
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):		
Funding History:		

Wedge Creek Stream Habitat Restoration and Enhancement



SRRWD Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

SRRWD Watershed Conservationist/Project Manager – Andy Henschel

Shell Rock River Watershed District (2007 to Present):

- Watershed Technician
- Project Manager for all watershed district projects, previous projects include: Flood Mitigation Project – South Industrial Park, 3 electrical fish barriers, Pollution Prevention Program /Onsite Sewer Compliance and water monitoring programs.

Freeborn County Watershed Field Technician (2001 – 2007):

- Performed county inspections and enforced County septic ordinances, worked with small communities on wastewater treatment projects, established County water monitoring program. Aided in re-writing the Freeborn County Water Plan

Education:

- B.S. in Environmental Science and Geography.
- Minor in Biology with a GIS Specialty.
- Erosion/Sediment Control Specialist

Organizational Description

Shell Rock River Watershed District – was established on June 25, 2003 by citizen petition. In 2004, the District finalized the SRRWD Water Management Plan, to address all water quality issues. The District covers about 246 square miles, within Freeborn County. The District has 7 Board Managers and 5 employees.

The District is blessed with 12 Lakes and is located in the Western Corn Belt Region of Southern Minnesota. Albert Lea Lake is the first lake you see when traveling north, on Interstate 35, into Minnesota. All water within the District drains to a common point – the Shell Rock River. The Shell Rock River flows into the Cedar in Iowa and finally the Mississippi Rivers.

The District has been aggressively working to solve problems that have resulted in 3 lakes and the Shell Rock River to be listed on the MPCA's impaired waters list. Accomplishments include: implementing filter strip program, Pollution Prevention Program /Onsite Sewer Compliance, wetland reclamation, water retention areas, 3 electric fish barriers, urban and rural BMPs, and many other projects that address water quality issues.

The mission of the Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD) is to implement reasonable and necessary improvements to the water-related and other natural resources of the District. The Board of Manager oversees many efforts to conserve, protect and manage water resources of the watershed. The SRRWD works closely with the City of Albert Lea, Freeborn County, Farm Service Agency, state agencies, and active citizen volunteers to improve water quality.