

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2014 Request for Proposals (RFP)

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Project Title:

Minnesota Pollinator Partnership

Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 104,600

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 Years, July 2014 - June 2017

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 110,714

Summary:

Forty community pollinator projects will be completed on at least 40-acres involving and educating 800 youth and 200 adults on the value of pollinating species and their habitat.

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Sponsoring Organization: Pheasants Forever

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Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

MP: 0613-2-245-proposa

Budget: 0613-2-245-bud

Qual: 0613-2-245-qualifi

Map: 0613-2-245-map-M

Resolution: 0613-2-24

List:

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge
Base			
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL



PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota Pollinator Partnership

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

National attention has been brought to the plight of pollinators and their key role in the production of our human food supply in recent months. Pollinator issues are related to habitat loss and fragmentation, disease, and pesticides as well as unknown factors. The current knowledge base for improving conditions for pollinators is lacking (Marla Spivak, Personal Communication), yet it is known that by adding diversity of flowering plants to the landscape, we not only provide nectar and habitat for pollinators, it also improves habitat for birds and other wildlife while furthering the aesthetics of the landscape of our state.

One urgent issue is that domesticated honey bees and native pollinating insects are experiencing alarming declines in their populations. Pollinating insects are an essential component in global food production. Approximately one-third of all food and beverages consumed by humans is delivered by pollinators. Popular foods like apples, bananas, berries, melons, coffee, chocolate, and almonds would not be available without pollinating insects. In the United States alone, the economic value of insect-pollinated crops is estimated to be \$18 to \$27 billion dollars annually. Many scientists believe that a major cause in the decline of domesticated honey bees and native pollinators is habitat loss and degradation.

Another urgent issue is that today's youth spend the majority of their time fixated on electronic devices and less than half of the time outdoors than their parents did. One in four children are obese, and as a result, diseases like type 2 diabetes are showing up at an alarming rate. Research has shown that children who spend time outdoors are healthier, receive better grades, have longer attention spans, and are less prone to depression than children who spend most of their time indoors. If this trend continues, children today will not develop a conservation ethic or attachment to the land with-out experiences that are fun and involve them personally.

In this proposal, Pheasants Forever (PF) and partners (e.g. University of Minnesota Bee Lab www.BeeLab.umn.edu) will complete 40 community pollinator projects on at least 40 acres, educate 800 youth & engage an additional 200 adults in the Minnesota Pollinator Partnership. The objectives of the Minnesota Pollinator Partnership will be to educate youth and communities across Minnesota on the value of important pollinating species and provide opportunities for youth groups and civic groups to help establish and maintain critical pollinator nesting and foraging habitat. Pollinator habitat will also be created on a minimum of 40-acres.

In order to accomplish these objectives, Minnesota Pheasants Forever's Pollinator Habitat Program will provide grants to PF chapters or other partners to educate and engage youth, families and communities in establishing and monitoring pollinator habitat projects. Grants up to \$2,000 per project will be made to chapters or partners who meet the following criteria:

- Chapters must engage a youth and/or community group in the establishment, maintenance, and monitoring of a pollinator habitat project.
- Pollinator projects must meet minimum pollinator habitat specifications set by the USDA.
- Chapters must provide a dollar to dollar match in order to receive grant funding for their projects (in-kind match is acceptable).
- Chapter must include a monitoring activity in conjunction with the establishment of the pollinator project in order to evaluate success.

All chapter grant applications will be reviewed and scored by Pheasants Forever staff based on their educational value, matching funds acquired, and the project's potential to produce and attract native pollinators. If there are



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2014 Main Proposal

Project Title: Minnesota Pollinator Partnership

more applications than available grant funding, funding will be distributed to the highest scoring applications. Expenditures for pollinator projects would include, but not be limited to the following

- Site preparation (soil test, tillage/disking, spraying)
- Planting (seed, seed carrier, plugs, plants, and planting equipment)
- Maintenance (chemical and manual weed control, supplemental plantings, prescribed burning, mowing, and signage)
- Education (curriculum, citizen science monitoring materials)
- Promotion (handouts, Ads, etc...)

Chapters that receive grants would be required to complete training provided by Pheasants Forever staff at regional workshops or via online webinars. Trainings would provide chapters’ step-by-step information on how to establish, maintain, and monitor pollinator habitat projects. At the completion of the project, chapters would be required to file a final report summarizing the details (i.e. number of youth, number of volunteers, total dollars spent, and number of acres) of the project. In addition to the project summary, chapters would be required to post a project sign that would display all major program partners.

By providing the best science & information to educate youth and communities about the real and present issues related to pollinator habitat, both best management practices and an awareness of the plight of pollinators will be achieved. Additionally, pollinator projects developed under this proposal will serve in future years to provide educational and community events to highlight pollinators (e.g. national pollinator week), their habitat and their importance.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Community Pollinator Habitat Program

Budget: \$104,600

In partnership with the local communities, 76 chapters and 25,000 members of PF, this proposal will develop a minimum of 40 pollinator habitat projects over a period of 2 years. Grant funds will match local contributions to provide site preparation, seed, planting, establishment, education, promotion and personnel. These community projects will result in the education and participation of at least 1,000 Minnesotans while providing opportunities for communities to develop their own monitoring and education programs ongoing.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Complete 15 community pollinator habitat projects (Involve 400 people)	06/30/2015
2. Complete an additional 25 community pollinator habitat projects (involve 600 people)	06/30/2016
3. Update information and education and continue to promote pollinators	06/30/2017

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners : Pheasants Forever (Result 1 - \$104,600 Drew Larsen, PF National Habitat Education Specialist) is to receive funding through this proposal. Other partners could include SWCD’s, the Minnesota Honey Bee Producers Association, University of Minnesota Bee Lab, landowners and communities. PF is committing \$110,714 in non-state match to the Minnesota Pollinator Partnership proposal.

B. Timeline Requirements

Education and outreach will begin immediately with initial projects beginning in the Fall of 2014 and ongoing throughout the project period.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

Pollinator awareness and habitat awareness will continue as long as pollinator habitat fragmentation and pollinator declines continue. PF looks to integrate its habitat and community outreach/education efforts with ongoing research (U of M) and programmatic approaches (e.g. RIM, WMA, etc) to address the decline in pollinators.

2014 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Minnesota Pollinator Partnership

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3-years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Personnel: \$3,600 is for PF Educaiton Specialist time spent directly on the delivery of community pollinator projects. \$30/hr @120 hours (3 hours per project, 40 projects)	\$ 3,600
Contracts: \$20k for herbicide and site preparation on community pollinator projects	\$ 20,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$80,000 to PF for seed, plugs, buckets and dibble bars	\$ 80,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	N/A
Travel: \$1,000 to PF for travel (mileage, Meals, lodging) associated with staff coordinating community pollinator project implementation	\$ 1,000
Additional Budget Items:	N/A
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 104,600

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: \$14,880 from PF for food and beverages at 40 pollinator projects. \$30,000 for curricula, activity materials and memberships; \$24,800 in promotional materials.	\$ 69,680	Secured & Committed through PF
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	\$ -	N/A
In-kind Services During Project Period: In-kind labor to implement community pollinator projects. Activities include seeding, planting plugs, etc.	\$ 41,034	Volunteer time through PF
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):	\$ -	N/A
Funding History:	\$ -	N/A



The Central Nebraska Quail Forever chapter and the local 3rd grade class from St. Paul, Neb., planted a 2-acre pollinator habitat project at the Leonard Koziol Wildlife Management Area. Pollinating insects play an important role in the food chain for quail chicks. And the class will be back this fall to conduct a monarch butterfly tagging event.

This is an example of the type of community pollinator projects that this proposal will result in (n=40).

Organization Description

Pheasants Forever is a non-profit 501(c)3 conservation organization dedicated to improving pheasant and other wildlife populations through habitat restoration and development, changes in land management policies and public awareness and education. Pheasants Forever was incorporated in 1982 in Minnesota and was established out of concern for the decline in pheasant populations. Today, Pheasants Forever has over 140,000 members and 700 chapters nationwide doing grassroots conservation. In Minnesota, Pheasants Forever has 25,000 members and 76 chapters. Since inception, Pheasants Forever in Minnesota has spent over \$54,000,000 on conservation resulting in the development of almost 63,000 acres of nesting cover, 84,000 acres of food plots, 10,000 acres of wetlands, and 36,000 acres of land acquisition. PF in Minnesota has also planted 3.6 million trees.

Project Manager Qualifications

Matt Holland, Director of Grant Development
Pheasants Forever, Inc.

679 West River Drive, New London, MN 56273

B.A. Biology - Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter Minnesota, 1993

M.S. Wildlife Science - South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD, 1997

National Conservation Leadership Institute – 2011



The project manager experience includes the following: LCCMR/LCMR Prairie Heritage Fund grants – Multiple phases, LCMR Critical Lands Conservation Initiative (Habitat Corridors Partnership); LCMR/LCCMR Habitat Corridors Partnership Coordinator – Multiple Phases; LSOHC WPA & WMA Acceleration Partnership grants; multiple large and small NAWCA grants; DNR Heritage Enhancement Grants, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grants.

The project manager also has participated in: MN WMA Citizen Advisory Committee, MN Pheasant Stamp Oversight Committee, MN Budget Oversight Committee (DNR), Farmland Wildlife Committee (DNR), MN Farm Bill Assistance Partnership, Non-toxic Shot Advisory Committee, MN State Technical Committee (USDA), Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Management Board, Minnesota Farm Bill Assistance Partnership, Minnesota Prairie Plan Working Group.