

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

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 028-A**

Region Five Development Commissions Sustainable Communities Initiative

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**Category:** A. Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 971,080

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

**Summary:**

Five counties (Wadena, Todd, Cass, Beltrami, and Hubbard) request aggregate mapping and natural resource data compilation to conserve and protect critical habitat. Project is led by Region Five Development Commission.

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**Location**

**Region:** Central, Northwest

**County Name:** Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Todd, Wadena

**City / Township:**

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



**PROJECT TITLE: Region Five Development Commission's Sustainable Communities Initiative**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

Local Government Units (LGUs) are the regulatory authority for non-metallic surface mining. To make informed land use decisions and to permit aggregate resources in an environmentally-sound process, counties need to have information showing where their aggregate resources are located. Aggregate resource maps will allow LGUs to address both environmental and economic concerns. Counties will be able to identify where competing resources like groundwater recharge and sensitive native habitat overly aggregate resources. Counties will be able to direct aggregate mining away from critical ecosystems and resources with the greatest need for protection and conservation. Finally, counties will be able to foresee potential land use conflicts and mitigate them through comprehensive land use planning and zoning. Aggregate resource data also plays an important role in managing a community's financial responsibilities and viability. Road construction makes up a considerable amount of a LGU's budget. For a township, road maintenance consumes up to 90% of their tax base. The identification of locally available aggregate deposits will positively impact local economies and the environment by reducing the cost of trucking and reducing the carbon footprint of road construction.

Developing sustainable, healthy, and economically thriving communities is the focus and priority of the Region Five Development Commission (R5DC). To further this goal, we are leading a partnership between local, regional, and state government to map aggregate resources for five participating counties: Wadena, Hubbard, Cass, Beltrami, and Todd. Each county passed a county board resolution requesting this work be completed, signed a letter of support (see attachment) by a representative authority, and agreed to provide a combined total of \$20,000 or an equivalent of in-kind services to assist in the aggregate mapping effort. Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) is continuing their support of aggregate resource mapping by providing \$57,000 of material/quality testing for the project. R5DC will commission the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to complete aggregate resource mapping for each of the five participating counties in three years. DNR is directed by Legislative Statute 84.94 to conduct this work. Each county will be given maps showing the distribution of aggregate resources, a survey of all of their active and abandoned pits, GIS data, and compilation of all available natural resource data (hydrologic sensitivity, areas of biodiversity, protected land classes etc.) that can be used to create Natural Resource Inventories. Furthermore, this project will outreach to communities to ensure this data is widely available and to give LGUs access to technical staff from the DNR to answer difficult questions about natural resources and mining. This effort continues on-going work by R5DC called Region Five Sustainable Communities Initiative and we are contributing a \$15,980 match to cover the costs of administration and coordination for this project. For additional information, visit [www.resilientregion.org](http://www.resilientregion.org).

**II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

**Activity 1**

**Budget:** \$ 20,980

*Coordination of project by R5DC and Headwaters Regional Development Commission*

Outcome	Completion Date
1. R5DC- coordinating between partners, preparing reports, and testimony (\$15,980 request with a \$15,980 match), includes travel reimbursement (\$2,000). Headwaters will receive a \$3,000 contract for coordination/administration for participating counties within their region.	June 30, 2017

**Activity 2**

**Budget:** \$ 219,500

*CASS COUNTY: Conduct activities necessary to complete aggregate resource mapping and natural resource data compilation. This county comprises 30% of the total project area.*

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Conduct 25 weeks of fieldwork that includes a surveying active and abandoned gravel pits; drilling and sampling of sand and gravel deposits; collection of field observations; compiling natural resource data available for those counties.	Dec. 31, 2016
2. Delineate aggregate-bearing landforms using LiDAR, analyze Mn/DOT sample results,	May 30, 2017



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

### 2014 Main Proposal

#### Project Title: Region Five Development Commission's Sustainable Communities Initiative

<i>create draft map of aggregate resources for review.</i>	
<i>3. Finalize data and publically release aggregate resource map and GIS data</i>	<i>June 30, 2017</i>

#### Activity 3

**Budget:** \$ 390,500

*BELTRAMI and HUBBARD COUNTY: Conduct activities necessary to complete aggregate resource mapping and natural resource data compilation. Although Beltrami is a large county, only the southern half has aggregate. These counties represent 51% of the study area.*

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<i>1. Conduct 12 weeks of fieldwork that includes a gravel pit survey of active, inactive, reclaimed, and unreclaimed gravel pits within the county; drilling and sampling of sand and gravel deposits; collection of field observations.</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 2016</i>
<i>2. Delineate aggregate-bearing landforms using LiDAR, analyze Mn/DOT sample results, create draft map of aggregate resources for review.</i>	<i>May 30, 2017</i>
<i>3. Finalize data and publically release aggregate resource map and GIS data</i>	<i>June 30, 2017</i>

#### Activity 4

**Budget:** \$ 288,100

*WADENA and TODD COUNTY: Conduct activities necessary to complete aggregate resource mapping and natural resource data compilation.*

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<i>1. Conduct 20 weeks of fieldwork that includes a surveying active and abandoned gravel pits; drilling and sampling of sand and gravel deposits; collection of field observations; compiling natural resource data available for those counties.</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 2016</i>
<i>2. Delineate aggregate-bearing landforms using LiDAR, analyze Mn/DOT sample results, create draft map of aggregate resources for review.</i>	<i>May 30, 2017</i>
<i>3. Finalize data and publically release aggregate resource map and GIS data</i>	<i>June 30, 2017</i>

### III. PROJECT STRATEGY

#### A. Project Team/Partners

Participating Counties: Cass, Wadena, Hubbard, Beltrami, and Todd (see map). Each county passed a County Board Resolution requesting completion of this work and/or to be included in this project. In addition, each county has authorized a representative to sign a letter of support (see attachment).

Department of Transportation: is providing \$57,000 of in-kind services for aggregate sample analysis and quality testing.

Headwaters Regional Development Commission: Coordinating counties within their region (Hubbard and Beltrami).

Department of Natural Resources: DNR Aggregate Resource Mapping Program will be commissioned for Activities 1-3 and responsible for conducting the aggregate resource mapping work. Counties are grouped together into a project area to be completed by a geologist in three years.

#### B. Timeline Requirements

The project is designed for 36 months. Several field seasons are required to drill and gather samples, which will take 1-2 years. The remaining months will be devoted to delineating map units, data analysis, and preparation of maps and GIS data. The last month of the project will be spent distributing the results of the project to each county and the public. A final workshop will be held with technical experts from the DNR to address and answer questions related to the aggregate resource data as well as technical experts from other disciplines.

#### C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

By the end of this project, LGUs will have needed information to manage natural resources. R5DC is ecologically unique in that it spans three major biomes – Prairie Grasslands, Deciduous Forest, and Conifer Forest. To foster conservation alongside of sustainable and smart growth within our communities, the long-term strategy is to develop a Natural Resource Inventory for interested counties once this data is collected.

## 2014 Detailed Project Budget

**Project Title: Region Five Development Commission's Sustainable Communities Initiative**

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

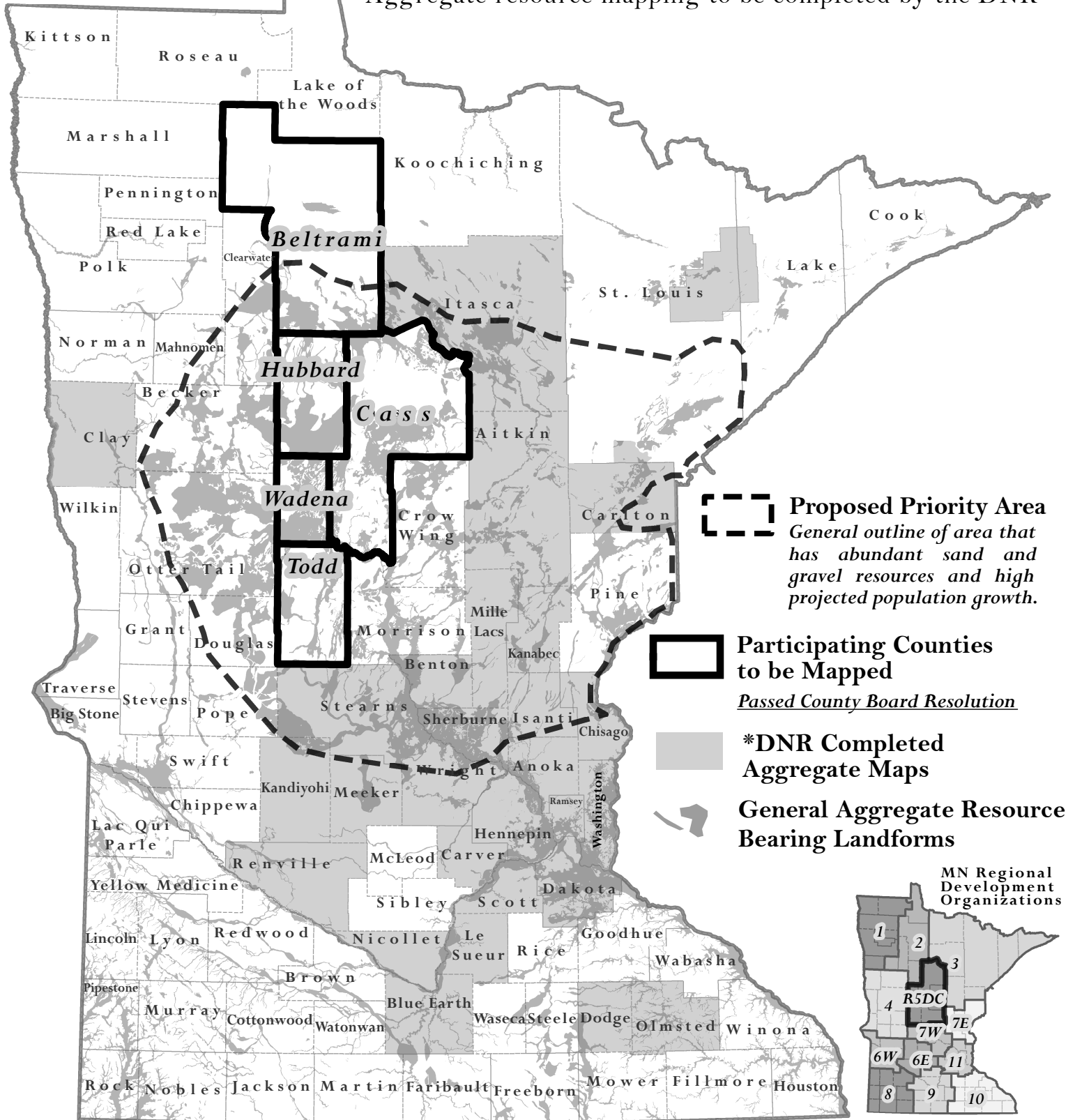
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel-Supervisor:</b> Responsibilities include coordinating county and state involvement, project status updates, and coordinating community outreach. This position has a salary rate of \$37.94/hour with \$6.45 in benefits, equaling \$44.39/hour for 20 hours a month over the term of the 36 month project totaling \$31,960. The Region Five Development Commission will provide cash match 1 : 1 in the amount of \$15,980 towards the \$31,960 for the project as shown below.	\$15,980
<b>Contracts: DNR-</b> Aggregate Resource Mapping and Data Compilation for Wadena County - \$134,900; Todd - \$153,200; Hubbard County - \$153,000; Cass - \$219,500; Beltrami - \$237,500. <b>Headwaters Regional Development Commission-</b> Coordination and Outreach to Beltrami and Hubbard Counties- \$3,000.	\$898,100
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> This includes excavating/drilling equipment rental /fleet costs (\$50,000), map printing costs (\$5,000).	\$55,000
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b>	NA
<b>Travel:</b> Travel reimbursement for R5DC staff	\$2,000
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b>	\$ -
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$971,080</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Cash match or in-kind services provided by county: Wadena \$2,500; Todd \$2,500; Cass \$7,500; Beltrami \$5,000; Hubbard 2,500.	\$ 20,000	Secured
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b>	NA	
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> Mn/DOT quality testing for sand and gravel samples which include gradations and concrete lithological examination for approximately 100 samples.	\$ 57,000	Secured
<b>Other Cash Match During Project Period:</b> The Region Five Development Commission will Match 1 to 1 to the requested \$15,980 for Administration Costs for the project.	\$ 15,980	Secured
<b>Other Cash Match During Project Period:</b> Headwaters Regional Development Commission will Match 1 to 1 to the requested \$3,000 for Administration Costs for the project.	\$ 3,000	Secured
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b>	\$ -	
<b>Funding History:</b> KANABEC COUNTY AGGREGATE RESOURCE MAPPING- Mn/DOT funded \$125,000 for salary and benefits and \$125,000 for in-kind services, which included use of drilling equipment, access to drillers, and quality analysis testing. In-kind services were also applied to the aggregate resource assessment of Aitkin and Stearns Counties. Outcomes included funding aggregate mapping for 1 county and field work and quality data for 2 counties.	\$ 250,000	
<b>TOTAL DOLLARS MATCHED =</b>	<b>\$ 95,980</b>	

# Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) Proposal to Map Aggregate Resources

Aggregate resource mapping to be completed by the DNR



**Region Five Development Commission (R5DC): Cheryal Lee Hills, Executive Director, Abilities and Qualifications:** With over 25 years of experience, Cheryal provides oversight of over \$3 million in project, levy and grant annual income. She delivers program development, program implementation, organizational planning, financial planning/oversight, and manages all contractual agreements for R5DC. In her various leadership positions, Cheryal has secured public, private, and non-profit funding to support community and regional development projects. Her responsibilities for this project include coordinating county and state involvement, project status updates, and coordinating community outreach.

The R5DC program areas include Economic Development, Transportation, Community Development (hazard mitigation planning, broadband, comprehensive and other community plans), Energy and Local Foods. One R5DC prominent current emphasis is devoted to the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning effort. Additionally, the R5DC serves the region through technical assistance loan administration of 5 separate lending programs. The R5DC staff consists of 7 full time employees 2 part time employees & typically 1-2 interns.

R5DC is the recipient of various federal, state and local grants. Annually, R5DC administers a Federal Economic Development Authority (EDA) planning grant and contracts with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) for regional planning assistance.

#### **Selected grants awarded in FY2012 – FY2013**

##### **Local:**

NWAF	\$75,000
BUSH	\$115,000
Blandin	\$95,000
Initiative Foundation	\$50,000 (estimated)
Otto Bremer	\$22,000
MN Power	\$10,000

##### **State:**

Mn/DOT	\$50,000 (annually)
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##### **Federal:**

EDA	\$60,000 (annually)
EDA	\$150,000
USDA/RCDI	\$210,000
USDA/Micro	\$400,000

The Micro Lending loan was awarded to R5DC from USDA in FY12. Local businesses are able to apply for micro lending funds for expansion/start-up costs in ten counties in central Minnesota. Partnerships include Initiative Foundation, USDA, Otto Bremer Foundation, Blandin Foundation, and East Central Regional Development Commission.

HUD/DOT/EPA	\$825,050
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The Sustainable Communities project was completed in two years and was Community driven – University assisted partnership with over 600 regional residents engaged around planning a sustainable region that integrates the disciplines of housing, transportation, natural environment (land use) and economic. Partnerships include HUD, EPA, DOT, University of Minnesota, Initiative Foundation and many others. Direct outcomes of project can be seen on the [www.resilientregion.org](http://www.resilientregion.org) web-site.

R5DC is currently engaged in numerous contracts with other organizations, foundations, and companies with a current annual budget of \$1.3 million. The Region Five Development Commission has been classified by five federal agencies as a “high performing grantee” based on execution of grant deliverables and reporting expectations.