

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 109-D

Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Project

Category: D. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species

Total Project Budget: \$ 219,890

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 Years, July 2014 - June 2016

Summary:

This project will expand AIS activities from a county based processed to a Watershed scale through a partnership with LGUs and others within a defined region in NW Minnesota

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Sponsoring Organization: Red River Basin Commission

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Location

Region: Northwest

County Name: Becker

City / Township:

<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)

2014 Main Proposal

Project Title: Regional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Project

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Aquatic Invasive species spread has become one of the top concerns especially as it relates to emerging nonnative species that threaten the recreational and economic viability of the surface water resources of the Red River of the North watershed. The greatest area of immediate concern is centered on the counties of Becker and Ottertail in Minnesota where according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Infested Waters report (4-29-2013), three species, Zebra Mussel, Faucet Snail and Flowering Rush alone have invaded 35 lakes and wetlands, with Zebra mussels also listed in the Ottertail, Pelican and Red River systems. The local governmental agencies are implementing plans to address the issues within the lakes and wetlands at the county level, but introduction into our river systems necessitate a regional approach to education, outreach and management of nonnative species evolving within the Red River Basin. Additional data supporting this idea comes from Becker and Ottertail county data related to nonresident riparian property ownership which exceeds 63% Becker and 55% Ottertail indicating that future transport of nonnative species to other regions of the watershed are of significant concern for this region.

The goal of this project is to expand Aquatic Invasive Species work from a largely county based process to a larger context or “watershed scale” through partnerships with local government units. We will target the three main watersheds, Buffalo, Ottertail and Wild Rice, which make up the Red River drainage basins of Becker, Clay, Ottertail and Wilkin Counties. Three specific outcomes will include 1) Coordination with LGU’s to develop effective AIS communication and management for basin residents. 2) Develop materials that support proper practices for AIS outreach Education and citizen engagement planning strategies at the watershed scale. 3) Expand and leverage opportunities with state, federal and Provincial agencies and institutions efforts to develop and deliver an AIS program based on promising practices and newer more innovative methods that are replicable throughout the Red River of the North Watershed.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Coordination with LGU’s

Budget: \$102,545

Description: At the urging of county leadership, we will provide the necessary staff and infrastructure to provide development of AIS prevention strategies and resources that are developed beyond the local level supporting a watershed based approach within the targeted project area. The plan will include survey of riparian property owners, regional businesses and natural resource partners. From baseline knowledge, work will begin to develop strategies that support watershed approach to AIS efforts. Contracted field staff person will spend up to 75% of time working with localized activity. RRBC personnel will spend up to 25% time in this activity area.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Watershed scale inventory and survey to develop baseline information around AIS Attitude and knowledge.	01/15/2015
Research, Develop and distribute Watershed scale vision and plan for addressing AIS prevention and management that is integrated with county and local watershed plans	6/30/2016
2. Attend AIS task force, COLA and local Lake association meetings and functions to support and develop the watershed approach to AIS prevention and management	6/30/2016
3. Develop GIS data base for use by LGU’s, citizens and decision makers	06/15/2015

Activity 2: Material development, distribution

Budget: \$84,545

Description: The project will expand programs like the “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” campaign and State Agency Invasive Species resources and materials to the Red River Basin, efforts will be undertaken to brand resources to



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fit the impact area (Red River Watershed) in an effort to support ownership and sense of place connections to the decisions that citizens of this region make as they relate to surface water impacts from nonnative species. To support the current trend of mobile media as a tool for sharing and receiving information, this project will expand on two successful mobile apps developed for the watershed, “River Mapper” and “CRED- Flood reporting” by expanding and adding an Invasive species tool to these mobile based educational tools. Contracted field staff will spend 25% of their time in this activity with support from RRBC personnel, outreach director 75% and project director 10% of total FTE allocation

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Develop regionally branded AIS material for distribution to targeted project site	03/15/2015
2. develop and beta test “invasive App” in counties and watersheds within project	06/30/2015
3. Evaluate and summarize effectiveness of branded materials and Invasive mobile tools	12/31/2015

Activity 3: Leveraging to sustain promising practices

Budget: \$ 32,800

Description: As a function of the overall coordination effort by the project director, time will be devoted to developing promising practices that can be integrated throughout Red River Watershed. The RRBC board of directors, water quality and Fish and Wildlife work group members will engage in a strategy that will support leveraging of resources from North Dakota and Manitoba to sustain and build upon the watershed scale decision-making and thinking around AIS program development.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Articulate work plan strategies for Water quality and Fish and Wildlife Work groups that reflect needs for action items around AIS	09/30/2015
2. Develop and initiate a base funding strategy to support sustainability of AIS program efforts for the Red River Watershed	4/30/2016

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

This project is in cooperation with Becker and Ottertail Counties and the watersheds of Buffalo, Ottertail/Pelican, and Wild Rice. Geographically the counties of Clay and Wilkin fall within the project area largely due to the impacts from the rivers and will be included in the partner section. Additionally Minnesota Sea Grant has been contacted to support as a partner survey and branding as part of the outreach campaign. The Water Institute/River Watch are partners supporting GIS and Mobile app development.

B. Timeline Requirements

Developing a thinking and action process for decision makers, citizens and private businesses at and beyond the local level is a long-term endeavor. The timeline has been thought through to include assessing attitudes and beliefs during the first phase of the project, while building relationship and synergies at the local level. While this is happening “regionalized” educational resources will be created to introduce concepts that support thinking and decision making at the watershed level using current programs and resources. As the project evolves new and more innovative resources that engage and take advantage of the mobile data and information environment will be developed and integrated into the outreach efforts.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

The project will serve to expand AIS thinking and planning beyond the local level using a watershed approach for the Red River Watershed. Both promising practices and new educational tools will be part of sustainability planning effort that will involve expansion of the project to the Red River of the North Watershed. The long term strategy will include planning that will leverage additional resources from North Dakota and the Province of Manitoba.

2014 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Regional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Project

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

Attach budget, in MS-EXCEL format, to your "2014 LCCMR Proposal Submission Form".

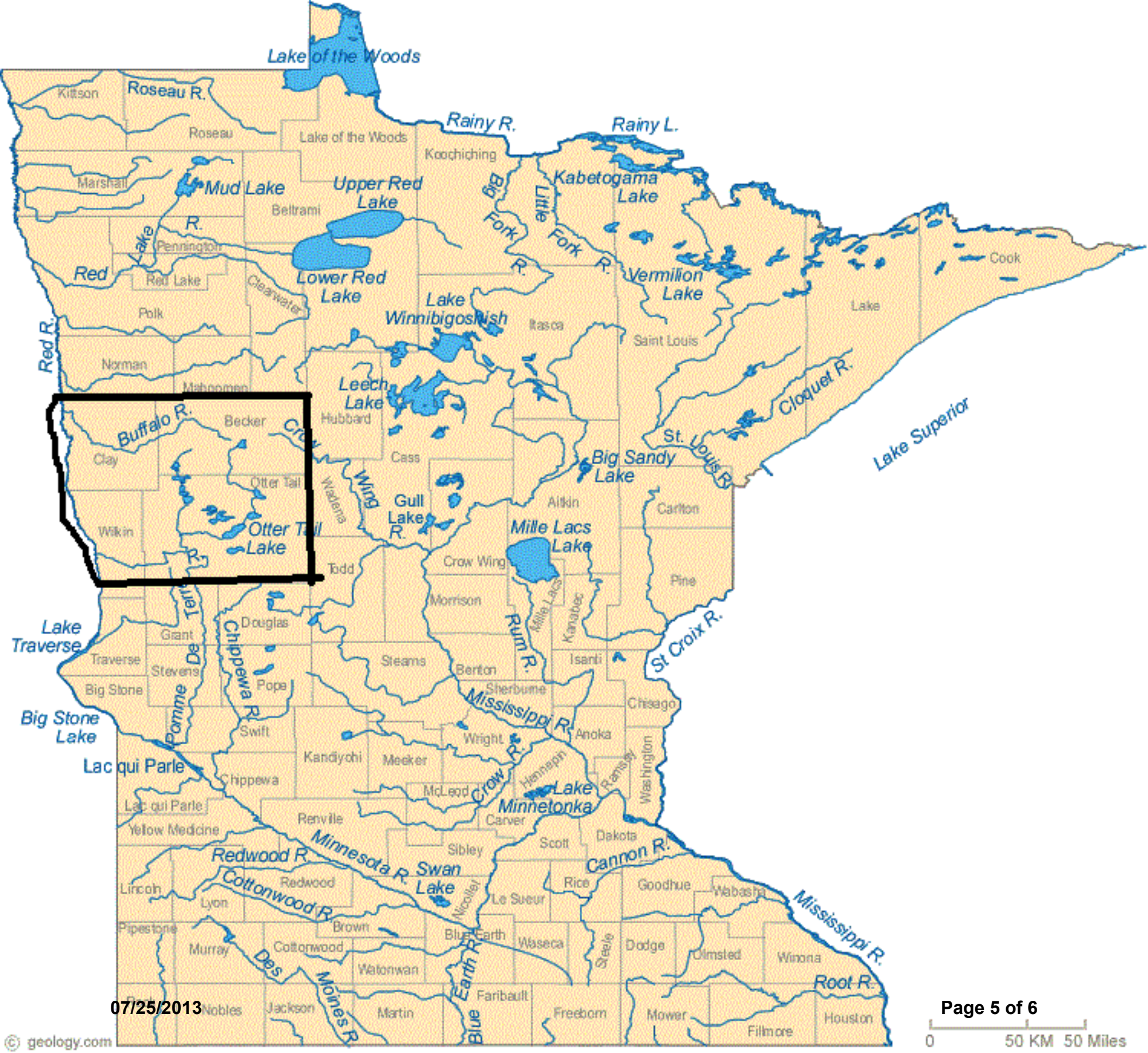
(1-page limit, single-sided, 10 pt. font minimum. Retain bold text and DELETE all instructions typed in italics. ADD OR DELETE ROWS AS NECESSARY. If a category is not applicable write "N/A", leave it blank, or delete the row.)

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET [Insert # of years for project] years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses", p. 13)	AMOUNT
Personnel: Project Director (Courneya) . 25 FTE salary and fringe (\$26,000 x 2) who will provide overall coordination of project, liason to local LGU and watersehd administrators, project reporting and planning for sustanability of promising practices. Outreach director (Thevdt) .25FTE salary and fringe (\$21,125 x2) who will provide technical support for materials, publications and outreach program efforts, liason to county based joint powers group and event planning leadership	\$ 94,250
Contracts: Funds to hire a 1 FTE contract field project coordinator, salary and fringe (\$47,320 x 2) to work with partners, establish outreach data bases and support development of GIS based maps related to AIS threatening Watershed.	\$ 94,640
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: <i>In this column, list out general descriptions of item(s) or item type(s) and their purpose - one row per item/item type.</i>	\$ -
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): <i>In this column, indicate proposed number of acres and and name of organzation or entity who will hold title.</i>	\$ -
Travel: Extensive project travel within the targeted watershed region with additional trips during the grant period throught Northwest Minnesota to support regional project efforts within the Red River Watershed (\$3000 x 2)	\$ 6,000
Development of regional AIS mobile media applications (\$5000 x 2) \$10,000. Development and distribution of Red River Watershed targeted educational AIS resources for Raparian property owners in targeted project location (\$6,000 x 2), \$12,000, Development of GIS based decision tools for LGU's watersheds and citizens \$1500 x 2). \$3,000	\$ 25,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 219,890

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional non-state cash dollars to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional state cash dollars (e.g. bonding, other grants) to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period: <i>Indicate any in-kind services to be provided during the funding period. For each type of service, list type of service(s), estimated value, and indicate whether it is secured or pending. In-kind services listed must be specific to the project.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): <i>Specify dollar amount and year of appropriation from any current ENRTF appropriation for any directly related project of the project manager or organization that remains unspent or not yet legally obligated at the time of proposal submission. Be as specific as possible. Describe the status of funds in the right-most column.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Unspent? Not Legally Obligated? Other?</i>
Funding History: <i>Indicate funding secured prior to July 1, 2014, for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request, including past ENRTF funds. State specific source(s) of funds.</i>	\$ -	



07/25/2013



Red River Basin Commission

Manitoba • Minnesota • North Dakota • South Dakota

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2013-2015

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Project Manager Qualifications & Organization

Organization:

The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) is a charitable; not-for-profit organization designed to help facilitate a cooperative approach to water management within the Basin and is a well-established forum for identifying, developing, and implementing solutions to cross-boundary issues.

The RRBC is led by 42 directors representing the diversity of this multi-jurisdictional Basin and is comprised of local, state, provincial, and First Nations government representation, the environmental community, and at-large members. It maintains offices in Moorhead, MN and Winnipeg, MB, and is dedicated to innovation in the management of the Red River Basin's water resources.

The mission of the RRBC is to develop a Red River Basin integrated natural resources framework plan; to achieve commitment to implement the framework plan; and to work toward a unified voice for the Red River Basin.

Project Manager Qualifications:

Joe Courneya, Assistant Executive Director-Program, is the proposed Project Manager for this project. Mr. Courneya has worked for the RRBC since January of this year. Prior to this, Mr. Courneya, worked for the University of Minnesota for 18 years as Extension Outreach Faculty, 10 years for North Dakota State University, Extension as an educational Program Design Specialist and Director for the Red River Center for Watershed Education. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from North Dakota State University and a Masters of Education- Natural Resources Emphasis from the University of Minnesota. He has experience in shoreland volunteer, solid waste and benthic macro invertebrate program development and delivery, has provided leadership in the development of the current River Watch program in the Red River Watershed and successfully led a \$725,000 National Science Foundation grant that help build stronger STEM connections for River Watch students and teachers involved in data collection and dissemination through citizen based River Watch activities. Courneya is currently providing leadership to next generation activities focusing on integration of the mobile communication and learning environments into current citizen based outreach and engagement strategies.