

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

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 186-G**

Accelerated Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Matching Program

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**Category:** G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 2,017,920

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

**Summary:**

Accelerate the Reinvest in Minnesota programs ability to utilize donations and protect 1,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat by leveraging donations to secure fee title interest in the lands.

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**Name:** Patrick Rivers

**Sponsoring Organization:** MN DNR

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**Location**

**Region:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**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 _____%



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

## 2014 Main Proposal

**PROJECT TITLE:** Accelerated Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Matching Program

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project addresses 2014 Funding Priority Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program encourages private citizens and organizations to help fund the acquisition and development of critical fish and wildlife habitat. Donations of land or cash are matched with state funds. Most of the matching dollars are spent to purchase high priority critical habitat for Wildlife Management Areas, Aquatic Management Areas, Scientific and Natural Areas, State Parks, or State Forests and are available to the public for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation. Because of the success of the RIM program, private donations have outpaced state matching funds. During the past five years, new donations averaged \$4.0 million per year. In addition, approximately \$1 million per year are donated to the Nongame Tax check off and are eligible to be matched. The Conservation License Plate Program has been a steady source of matching dollars, and currently generates approximately \$3.0 million per year that is used to match new donations. The average rate of donations has exceeded the match available from the Conservation License Plate Program. Additional matching dollars are needed to cover this deficit, allow for Nongame match and cover future donations that may be eligible for match. Matching is often a key factor in many donation decisions. Without sufficient matching funds, some donations or matching opportunities could be lost.

This project will accelerate the RIM program's ability to utilize donations. The goal of this project is to protect 1,000 acres of high priority fish and wildlife habitat by leveraging donations to secure fee title interest in the land. Willing donors are found throughout the state and priority will be given to parcels with exceptional habitat quality (notably in Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan core or corridor areas), enhance habitat connectivity, and/or exist in areas with limited protected public lands.

Participation and interest in this program has been tremendous as evidenced by the wide variety and number of donors that have made contributions. Of the over 426 donors, 193 were private individuals, 212 conservation groups, 16 corporations, and 5 were miscellaneous groups. These funds will allow the state to capture donations from individuals and groups that are not eligible for other matching programs.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**Activity 1:** Fee title acquisition

**Budget:** \$2,017,920

Outcome	Completion Date
Fee title acquisition of 1,000 acres of high priority lands	June 30, 2017

Landowners interested in selling their high quality lands to the state of Minnesota are often asked if they wish to donate any value to the state, creating a possible RIM match. It is not uncommon for the answer to be yes. Many times landowners are willing to accept 50 percent of the appraised value, creating a 100 percent RIM-funded acquisition. A recent donation of 100 percent value created more than \$600,000 in ready match for state funds.

### III. PROJECT STRATEGY

#### A. Project Team/Partners

**Project Manager:**

Pat Rivers

**Affiliation:**

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

**Mailing Address:**

500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4007



## **Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**

### **2014 Main Proposal**

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**Location:** Statewide

This project relies on the donation of value by landowners. Minnesota is fortunate to have citizens throughout the state with a conservation ethic and a desire to see their lands conserved and open to public use. A current map of proposed locations is not possible at this time. RIM acquisitions have taken place throughout Minnesota and include Wildlife Management Areas, Aquatic Management Areas, and Scientific & Natural Areas.

DNR staff at Area, Region, and St. Paul offices review and approval all proposed land acquisitions. Many times, parcels are approved for acquisition, pending available funding. Having RIM matching dollars available to acquire a parcel is a strong motivator for donated value.

#### **B. Timeline Requirements**

Activities will begin July 1, 2014 and be completed no later than June 30, 2017.

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

In 1986, the Reinvest in Minnesota Program was established by a recommendation from the Citizen's Commission to Promote Hunting and Fishing in Minnesota. The Minnesota Legislature has appropriated bonding and LCMR funds to count as the state match. The Critical Habitat Plate was created in 1995 to provide an opportunity for citizens to contribute a nominal amount to conservation of Minnesota's natural resources, and show their commitment and individuality with a special vehicle license plate. The Critical Plate Match is now the main source of match for private donations. The minimum donation remains at \$30 per year, yet donations exceed the \$3.0 million raised annual through this source.

## 2014 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Matching Program

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	NA
<b>Contracts:</b> Initial development of parcel (e.g., parking lot, survey)	\$ 90,000
<b>Professional Services:</b> Appraisal, title opinion, and related land transaction cost	\$ 200,000
<b>Direct and necessary costs for this request:</b>	\$ 17,920
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> supplies	\$ 10,000
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title):</b> 1,000 acres, State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources.	\$ 1,700,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 2,017,920</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> Landonwer donations	\$ 1,700,000	Pending
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Critical Habitat Plate Match	\$ 9,000,000	Pending
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b>	NA	
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b>		
<b>Funding History:</b>	\$ -	
<b>LCMR Budget History:</b>		
ML 1995, Chapter 220, Section 19, Subd. 10(b ) \$250,000		
ML 1997, Chapter 216, Sect. 15, Subd. 17(I) \$630,000		
ML 2003, Chapter 128, Article 1, Section 9, Subd. 5(c) \$400,000		
<b>Non-LCMR Budget History:</b>		
ML 1996, Chapter 463, Sect. 7, Subd. 22 \$2,500,000		
ML 1997, Chapter 216, Sect. 5, Subd. 7 \$600,000		
ML 1998, Chapter 404, Sect. 7, Subd. 14 \$5,500,000		
ML 2000, Chapter 492, Sect. 7, Subd. 27 \$750,000		
ML 2002, Chapter 393, Sect. 7, Subd. 28 \$400,000		
<b>Total: \$11,030,000</b>		

## Reinvest in Minnesota: A Recent Gift to the State

### Wo Wacintanka State Wildlife Management Area, Freeborn County

Size: 553 acres

Donated by John C. Goetz

Gently rolling lands, wetland complexes, remnant prairie and Freeborn county's highest point.

Many wildlife species including sand hill cranes, bald eagles and trumpeter swans.

Donation Value: \$664,000, leveraging an equal amount from the Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match Account (state funds).





**PROJECT TITLE:** Accelerated Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Matching Program

**Project Manager Qualifications (for DNR WMA acquisition)**

Patrick Rivers is the Land Acquisition Consultant for the MN Department of Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife. He is responsible for coordinating the land acquisition and planning processes for the Division to ensure long-term goals are achieved.

Pat began his DNR career in 1998 in Lake City as a Trout Stream Specialist. He also held DNR positions in Walker (Large Lake Biologist), Grand Rapids (Assistant Area Supervisor), Brainerd (Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Coordinator), and St. Paul. Prior to his current position, he was the coordinator of an eight-state fish habitat partnership focused on strategic habitat conservation of lake habitats. He has a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management (1994) and a M.S. in Fisheries (1998) from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

**Organization Description**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' overall mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

State wildlife management areas (WMA) are established to protect those lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and to develop and manage these lands and waters for the production of wildlife, for public hunting, fishing, and trapping, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses (M.S. 86A.05, Subd. 8). The long-range goal of the WMA Program, as recommended by the Citizen's Advisory Committee, is to acquire 700,000 of additional WMA lands in the next 50 years to provide sustainable and diverse populations of wildlife and greater opportunities for wildlife-related recreation for future generations.

State aquatic management areas (AMAs) are established to protect, develop, and manage lakes, rivers, streams, an adjacent wetlands and lands that are critical for fish and other aquatic life, for water quality, and for their intrinsic biological value, public fishing, or other compatible outdoor recreational uses (M.S. 86A.05, Subd. 8). The long-range goals of the AMA Program, as recommended by the Citizen's Advisory Committee in 2008, are outlined in Minnesota's Aquatic Management Area Acquisition Plan, 2008-2033 by type (coldwater stream, warmwater stream, and lake) and within each Ecological Classification System section.