

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2015 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 143-G

MeCC VIII: MN DNR Metro Conservation Corridors 8, Ecological Landscapes

Category: G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 530,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 years, July 2015 - June 2017

Summary:

This project includes one 82-acre acquisition of high-quality habitat along the lower reaches of the Vermillion River in Dakota County. The parcel is an inholding of Gores Pool WMA.

Name: Patrick Rivers

Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR

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St. Paul MN 55155

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Email pat.rivers@state.mn.us

Web Address _____

Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Dakota

City / Township: Ravenna

Alternate Text for Visual:

The map depicts land along the lower reaches of the Vermillion River, Dakota County.

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



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2015 Main Proposal

Project Title: *MN DNR Metro Conservation Corridors 8 (MeCC 8) – Ecological Landscapes*

PROJECT TITLE: *MN DNR Metro Conservation Corridors 8 (MeCC 8) – Ecological Landscapes*

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The proposed project includes one strategic acquisition of an estimated 82 acres of high quality habitat along the lower reaches of the Vermillion River. The parcels are inholdings within the Gores Pool WMA and the Vermillion River Complex and are high-priority for DNR; the area is classified as Outstanding Regionally Significant Ecological Areas for documented colonial waterbird nesting and red shouldered hawks. The property includes more than one mile of river shoreline, high value wetlands and floodplain forest (red oak- sugar maple-basswood forest; silver maple floodplain forest) important for waterfowl, furbearers, whitetail deer and numerous other species including non-game species of special concern. Bald eagles and common snapping turtles are present; lake sturgeon and blue sucker occur in Mississippi River Pool 3 nearby.

There is potential to expand this acquisition to include 142 acres.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Strategic acquisition of fee title lands in the greater Twin Cities Metro Area
Budget: \$0.530 m

Outcome	Completion Date
1. At least 82 acres of high quality Vermillion River habitat and shoreline protected through fee title acquisition.	6/30/17

The parcel selected was recently reviewed and ranked by Central Region DNR Wildlife staff as a high priority acquisition. Factors considered include habitat quality, relation to existing state ownership, and management significance. The State of Minnesota will hold the title to this parcel and designate it as part of the Wildlife Management Area System.

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The DNR is working with Dakota County on this acquisition. The county supports public ownership of these acres.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

This acquisition will protect significant habitats, provide new public access from the south, and ease management due to reduced boundaries with private lands.

The WMA system started in 1951, when the state established its “Save the Wetlands” Program to buy wetlands and other habitats from willing sellers in order to preserve them. As a result of 60 years of support by conservationists, hunters and legislators, 1.16 million acres of land in 1,413 units were brought under the control and management of the Division of Fish and Wildlife as WMAs, making it one of the best and largest WMA systems in the country. Acquisition of wildlife lands is focused on protecting critical sites for wildlife and native plants, and providing public hunting and other wildlife-related activities, with primary emphasis on completing existing WMAs.



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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.

B. Timeline Requirements

2 years; until June 30, 2017

2015 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: MN DNR Metro Conservation Corridors 8- Ecological Landscapes

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	\$ 500,000
DNR Acquisition costs/Baseline report/Management plan, initial site development plan	\$ 30,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 530,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Various local, federal and private funds		
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:		
In-kind Services During Project Period:		
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):	\$ -	
Funding History:	\$ -	
2003: \$384,000 ETF + \$1,832,810 in other funding	\$2,216,810	Spent
2005: \$290,000 ETF + \$444,050 in other funding	\$734,050	Spent
2007: \$172,000 ETF + \$60,250 in other funding	\$232,250	Spent
2008: \$557,000 ETF + \$1,342,205 in other funding	\$1,899,205	Spent
2009: \$500,000 ETF + \$266,800 in other funding	\$766,800	Spent
2011: \$300,000 ETF + \$117,000 in other funding	\$417,000	Spent

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2015 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List**

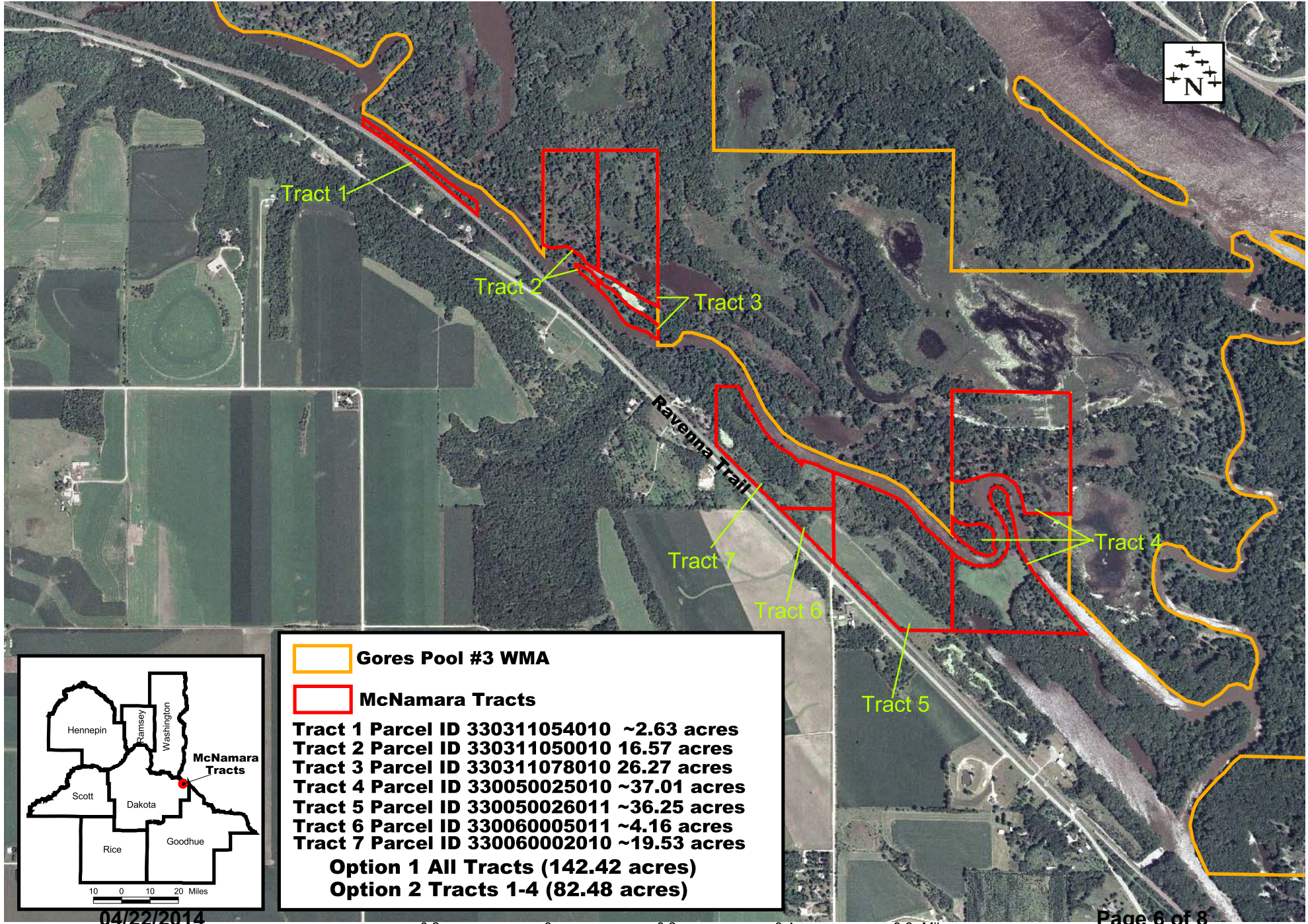
Project Title: MN DNR Metro Conservation Corridors 8 - Ecological Landscapes

Project Manager Name: Patrick Rivers

ENRTF Request: \$530,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		County	Estimated Cost	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
		Latitude	Longitude								
1	Gores Pool #3 WMA	44 42' 54N	92 45'58W	Dakota	500,000	Outstanding Regionally Significant Ecological Area. The property includes high value wetlands and floodplain forest important for waterfowl, furbearers, whitetail deer and numerous other species including non-game species of special concern. Vermillion River and associated floodplan	Fee Title	82	1+	private	State of MN
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
NOTES:											

Francis McNamara Tracts



Tract 1

Tract 2

Tract 3

Ravenna Trail

Tract 7

Tract 6

Tract 5

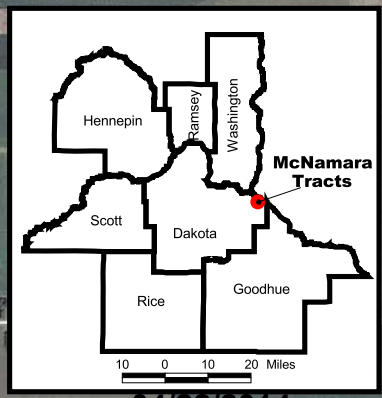
Tract 4

Gores Pool #3 WMA

McNamara Tracts

Tract 1 Parcel ID 330311054010 ~2.63 acres
Tract 2 Parcel ID 330311050010 16.57 acres
Tract 3 Parcel ID 330311078010 26.27 acres
Tract 4 Parcel ID 330050025010 ~37.01 acres
Tract 5 Parcel ID 330050026011 ~36.25 acres
Tract 6 Parcel ID 330060005011 ~4.16 acres
Tract 7 Parcel ID 330060002010 ~19.53 acres

Option 1 All Tracts (142.42 acres)
Option 2 Tracts 1-4 (82.48 acres)



04/22/2014

0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 Miles

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Project Manager Qualifications

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.

