

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2017 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 158-F**

MN Honey Bee & Monarch Butterfly Partnership

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**Category:** F. Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 732,162

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 4 Years, July 2017 - June 2021

**Summary:**

This proposal contributes to the recovery of monarch butterflies and native pollinators by working cooperatively on 75-100 sites to enhance 800-acres of permanently protected habitat in priority Minnesota landscapes.

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**Sponsoring Organization:** Pheasants Forever

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**Location**

**Region:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:**

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

Map of potential enhancement sites

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



**PROJECT TITLE: MN Honey Bee & Monarch Butterfly Partnership**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

This proposal contributes to the recovery of monarch butterflies and native pollinators by working cooperatively on 75-100 sites to enhance 800-acres of permanently protected habitat in priority Minnesota landscapes. Enhancements will be designed to provide high-diversity native plantings for the benefit of native pollinators, especially the monarch butterfly. Unique and innovative to this partnership is the effort to engage beekeepers directly (via MN Honey Producer’s Association) in the promotion of the program to landowners. Further, we propose to monitor these enhancements in collaboration with the University of Minnesota in an effort to evaluate enhancements, inform practitioners of best practices and provide a path to future habitat enhancements for native pollinators across Minnesota’s farmland region.

Grassland habitat loss and fragmentation continue to be the major factor in the decline of monarchs, pollinators & grassland wildlife. In Minnesota, 99% of the original prairie has been converted. And while we have restored hundreds of thousands of acres of grasslands over the last three decades, our early restorations rarely considered or appreciated the needs of pollinators, the value of milkweed species to the monarch, or the structural & species diversity required by many species of grassland dependent wildlife now in decline. Projects will be solicited, scored, and selected to maximize benefits to native bees, honey bees & monarchs. Evaluation criteria will refined by the project team and include:

- Proximity to native remnant prairie habitats
- Proximity to other permanently protected lands
- Size of restoration and cost share of participating land manager or landowner
- Location in priority area for monarch butterfly
- Proximity to known apiaries
- Adoption of BWSR native vegetation and enhancement guidelines
- Opportunity for additional habitat enhancement

Existing sites will be enhanced by seeding 50% of the field to diverse mixes to provide high quality foraging habitat for native bees and honey bees (funded through USDA, PF and other partners) and 50% of the field to diverse mixes that provide high quality breeding habitat for monarch butterflies. The goal is to demonstrate how designed mixes and active re-seeding can provide high quality forage and breeding habitat for honey bees and monarch butterflies. Projects will be solicited by PF and project partners through a sign-up period and project request to SWCD’s, the Farm Bill Assistance Partnership (LCCMR Funded), and other private land partners in the agricultural region of Minnesota (please see map for 63-county project area). One of the innovative approaches this proposal takes is to solicit the support of Minnesota Beekeepers in the promotion of the program to the landowners they house their honey bee hives on. By connecting this effort to the Honey Bee & Monarch Butterfly Partnership (USDA NRCS’ Regional Conservation Partnership Program) and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation’s Monarch Conservation Fund, the partners believe this effort provide the programmatic focus and incentives to make real progress towards addressing the habitat needs to improve conditions for monarch butterflies, native bees, and honey bees.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1:** Design & conduct sign-up, do outreach to eligible land managers and landowners, select projects **Budget: \$ 85,625**

Reach out to public land managers and private landowners who own permanently protected habitat to gauge interest, engage in the plight of grassland wildlife including monarch butterfly, native pollinators and grassland birds and provide opportunity to enhance habitat. Engage SWCDs to assist in the development of quality pollinator plot enhancement project proposals for consideration. Engage beekeepers (via Minnesota Honey Producers Association) in the promotion of the program. Design, implement and administer the program.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
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**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**  
**2017 Main Proposal**  
**Project Title: MN Honey Bee & Monarch Butterfly Partnership**

1. Develop and distribute project solicitation, including pollinator project requirements, eligibility, scoring factors, and information about project implementation.	8/1/2017 & 2018
2. Outreach to landowners through SWCDs, Farm Bill Assistance Partnership, MN Department of Agriculture, MN Honey Producer’s Association, US Fish & Wildlife Service, MN BWSR, MN DNR, PF, University of Minnesota and other partners.	9/1/2017 & 2018
3. Develop requests for proposal to implement habitat enhancement deliverables following PF’s procurement policy and following newly updated RIM Conservation Plans.	10/1/2017 & 2018
4. Rank & award projects, determine if another sign-up is required. This will be done in collaboration with the project team.	10/1/2017 & 2018

**Activity 2:** Enhance 800-acres on approximately 75-100 sites with native plantings designed to benefit monarch butterflies & pollinators. **Budget: \$440,000**

Release RFP’s to accomplish the habitat enhancements. This includes all site preparation (mechanical, herbicide, packing), seed, seeding, clipping, or other professional services required to achieve the habitat enhancement objective. Estimated average cost for the establishment of 4-acre monarch/pollinator plots is \$800/acre. Associated enhancement activities include 500-acres of diversity seeding (e.g. brome conversion) at an estimated average cost of \$400/acre. Award contracts, communicate with landowners and partners, & ensure project fulfillment.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Develop work specific RFPs & award contracts to complete pollinator plots (300-acres) & associated diversity seeding (500-acres)	2/1/2018 & 2019
2. Monitor and document fulfillment, complete contract obligations and payment for work successfully completed. Coordinate projects with University of Minnesota to facilitate efficient monitoring of insect response to enhancement activities.	6/30/2020

**Activity 3:** Assess, monitor, and report results of enhancement activities **Budget: \$ 206,537**

Conduct an assessment of enhancement activities with the University of Minnesota. Assess enhancements for pollinator and plant responses under the direction of Dr. Daniel P. Cariveau. Conduct three habitat tours/workshops that highlight Pollinator & Habitat Enhancement program projects, provide the latest and best science, & best practices for enhancements

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Assess plant establishment and insect responses to enhancement activities via graduate student over final three years of project	6/30/2021
2. Conduct four habitat tours/workshops	6/30/2021
3. Identify and catalog bees for vouchering specimens at U of M insect collection	6/30/2021

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners:** This proposal has been developed in partnership with the following partners: Minnesota BWSR, MN Department of Agriculture, MN Honey Producers Association, U.S. Fish Wildlife Service, MN Association of Soil & Water Districts, Minnesota DNR, and the University of Minnesota. Pheasants Forever would receive \$500,125 and sub-award \$202,037 to The University of Minnesota. Participating SWCDs would receive \$30,000 for developing 75 updated conservation plans.

**B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy:** This proposal catalyzes programmatic focus to deliver objectives of the *North American Monarch Conservation Plan* and deliver high quality honey bee forage in conjunction with Minnesota beekeepers. Specifically, this proposal aims to plant 30 million milkweed seeds for breeding monarchs, contributing directly to the goals outlined by President Obama’s Pollinator Health Task Force (May 2015). By providing programmatic focus and demonstrations, a functional enhancement program that lives beyond the 4-year life of the project will be built.

**C. Timeline Requirements:** 4 years to complete sign up, enrollment, conduct enhancements, evaluate and share results.

## 2017 Detailed Project Budget

**Project Title: Minnesota Honey Bee & Monarch Butterfly Partnership**

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET: 4 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
<b>Personnel:</b> Project Manager; 0.1 FTE (74% salary, 26% benefits) for three years, part of a new position to manage project at Pheasants Forever as well as coordinate outreach deliverables with partners. Direct to project hours will be tracked.	\$ 20,250
<b>Personnel:</b> Habitat Restoration Specialist 0.15 FTE(74% salary, 26% benefits) for three years to develop, implement and fulfill pollinator and habitat enhancements. Additional duties will include coordination with University of Minnesota graduate student and advisor to assist with research. Direct to project hours will be tracked.	\$ 30,375
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> University of Minnesota Graduate Student @ \$43,000/year for 3 years (includes tuition, health) + 3% COLA	\$ 123,049
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> University of Minnesota Seasonal Field Technician @ \$10,000/year for 3 years + 26.3% fringe + 3% COLA	\$ 37,477
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> University of Minnesota Graduate Advisor @ 2 weeks summer salary + 33.8% Fringe and 3% COLA	\$ 13,011
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> Monarch Butterfly Enhancements. 75 plots X 4 acre average X \$800/acre; includes all items for establishment: site preparation (e.g. tillage, packing), herbicide, seed, seeding and clipping. Work would be contracted following PF's procurement policy and per Minnesota BWSR seeding guidelines	\$ 240,000
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> Grassland Enhancements. Contract 500 acres of grassland enhancement @ \$400/acre for diversity seeding and/or undesirable tree removal. This includes all items for establishment: site preparation (e.g. tillage, packing), herbicide, seed, seeding, clipping. Work would be contracted following PF's procurement policy and per Minnesota BWSR seeding guidelines	\$ 200,000
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> RIM conservation plans & updates. 100 plans @ \$300 for participating SWCDs. Each landowner will require an updated RIM long-term management plan to provide guidance to RIM landowners on how to maintain grassland and pollinator habitats, suggested management regimes, and other techniques for keeping RIM easements highly productive for pollinators, monarchs and grassland birds. Work would be contracted following PF's procurement policy	\$ 30,000
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> University of Minnesota Bee identification @ \$2,500/year for three years	\$ 7,500
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> University of Minnesota monitoring equipment, data collection equipment for field reconnaissance, \$3000 in drawers a cabinets for vouchering specimens in UMN insect collection	\$ 6,000
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b>	\$ -
<b>Travel:</b> In-state travel for Habitat Restoration Specialist for project design, procurement, fulfillment, 100 projects @ 100 mile average round trip @ \$0.50/mile	\$ 5,000
<b>Travel:</b> In-state travel for graduate student and technician 9,260 miles/year for three years @ \$0.55/mile	\$ 15,000
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Landowner/Practitioner tours and workshops; 3 @ \$1500; costs include facility rental, bus transportation	\$ 4,500
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 732,162</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> USFWS Partners for Wildlife Program will assist with the delivery of private land projects that implement the Minnesota Honey Bee & Monarch Butterfly Partnership	\$ 100,000	Secured
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> PF (via USDA NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program Honey Bee & Monarch Butterfly Partnership.	\$ 200,000	Pending
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Participating Landowners @ 5% of habitat enhancement project cost	\$ 74,500	Pending
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Pheasants Forever - direct funding support for enhancement activities and outreach	\$ 20,000	Secured
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Minnesota BWSR cost share funds to improve RIM lands	\$ 100,000	Pending
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Minnesota Honey Producer's Association donated time of beekeepers to promote enhancement program to landowners	\$ 1,500	Pending
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Minnesota Department of Agriculture	\$ 1,750	Pending
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Pheasants Forever donated indirect costs	\$ 12,192	Secured
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Minnesota BWSR donated staff time for promotion and implementation with SWCDs and other partners	\$ 25,920	Secured
<b>Funding History:</b> NA	NA	NA
<b>Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b> Funding History: ML 2014, Minnesota Pollinator Partnership, \$23,000 expended and remainder of projects obligated for Spring and Fall 2016 projects. Project will be completed 6/30/2017, before this appropriation would become available.	\$ 100,000	In progress

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2017 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List**

**Project Title:** MN Honey Bee & Monarch Butterfly Partnership

**Project Manager Name:** Matt Holland

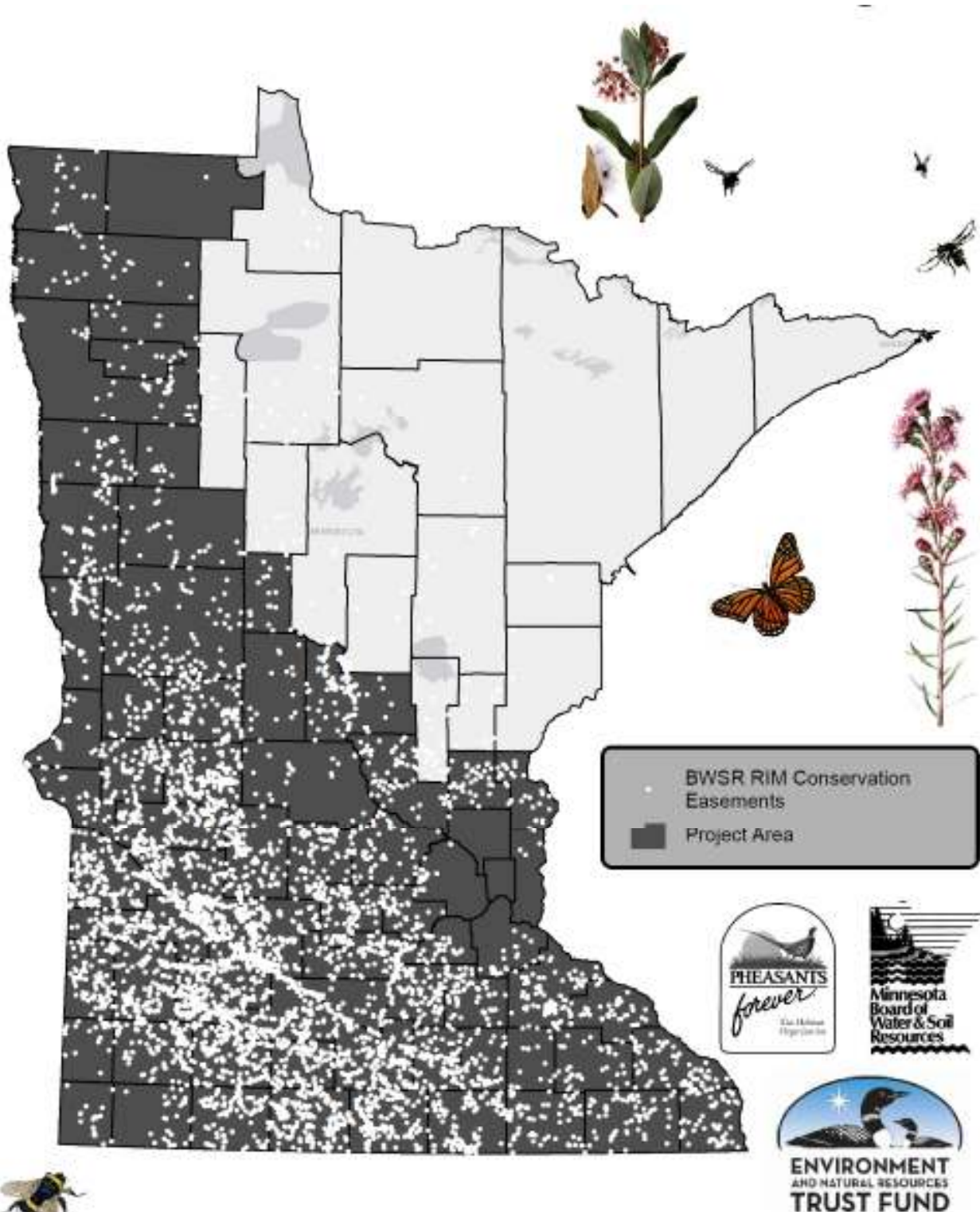
**Organization:** Pheasants Forever, Inc.

**ENRTF \$ Request:** \$732,162

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
		Latitude	Longitude								
1	PROJECTS WILL BE SOLICITED, RANKED AND SELECTED										
2											
3											
4											
5											
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10											
<b>NOTES:</b>											



The MN Honey Bee & Monarch Butterfly Partnership will enhance 75-100 sites and 800-acres of the state's existing habitat investments (e.g. State Parks, RIM, WMA, etc.) for the benefit of monarch butterflies and native pollinators. Potential project sites include RIM easements in the 63-county project area that includes the farmland region of Minnesota.



## 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, Cohort 5 – 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; NRCS Contribution Agreements.

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, Governor Dayton's Pheasant Technical Team.

