

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 174-G

Leech Lake Natural Resource Multi-Benefit Conservation Acquisition

Category: G. Land Acquisition, Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 1,500,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 year, July 2017 - June 2018

Summary:

Acquisition and protection of 45.27 acres, 0.67 miles of shoreline of high quality aquatic and wildlife habitat and the historic meeting place between Henry Schoolcraft and Anishinabe people.

Name: Levi Brown

Sponsoring Organization: Leech Lake Division of Resource Management

Address: 109 Sailstar Dr NW
Cass Lake MN 56633

Telephone Number: (218) 335-7400

Email levib@lldrm.org

Web Address http://www.llojibwe.org/drm/index.html

Location

Region: Central

County Name: Cass

City / Township: Otter Tail Penisula

Alternate Text for Visual:

Aerial photo of parcel location within the State including two islands, acres for each parcel and Parcel ID numbers.

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



PROJECT TITLE: LEECH LAKE NATURAL RESOURCE MULTI-BENEFIT CONSERVATION AQUISION

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The proposed project will include the strategic acquisition of 45.27 acres of high quality wildlife habitat, historic village site where the meeting between Henry Schoolcraft and Anishinabe people occurred, also comprising of 0.67 miles of shoreline that is important aquatic habitat on the third largest lake in Minnesota and one of the most pristine fisheries in North America. Success of this project will not only show a joint commitment among local governments but will demonstrate the effectiveness of the Leech Lake Association Management Plan. The project will be a step towards attaining the vision statement of this plan which states “Our vision for the future of Leech Lake and its shore lands is that they retain the characteristics of largely undisturbed ecosystems in spite of increasing pressures to provide more habitation, water access, recreation, and enjoyment for more people. This vision follows from our which is to be good stewards of the lake and environs, recognizing the vulnerability of the lake, and the need of citizen-individually and collectively –to assume responsibility for its care”.

The Leech Lake area is a retirement magnet which makes it one of the fastest developing areas in the State of Minnesota with projection indicating that Cass, Crow Wing and Aitken Counties could grow by 64% by 2030 as compared to 27% growth state wide. Increase development pressures are challenges that every water shed face but it is the believe that good management and a concerted effort to protect the natural resource investments being made by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Leech Lake Division of Resource Management (LLDRM) and Chippewa National Forest will benefit all users of Leech Lake and terrestrial users of the proposed property who also will have a consolidated terrestrial area to utilize.

The proposed project will have multiply benefits which include; long term access, protection of water quality, riparian areas, reduction in forest fragmentation, wild life habit connectivity, world class recreation opportunities and protection of an important historical site. Achievement of goals will be reached through fee title acquisition and ensured access for all users that maintain the integrity of the property.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: *Strategic Acquisition of fee title lands in sensitive, historical and unique land* **Budget: \$1,500,000.00**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. 47 acres of sensitive, historical and unique land will be protected through fee title acquisition	7/1/18

The site was considered for purchase by several entities including MNDNR, MN Lands for trust, Leech Lake band of Ojibwe (LLBO) and after consultation with the (LLBO) it was agreed the lands Historical, uniqueness, water resource and importance of public access that acquisition by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe was the priority. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe will hold title, designate as a Wildlife Management area and be managed under the philosophy of Leech Lake Association Lake Management Plan.



III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
 - LLDRM (Levi Brown, Environmental-Land Director) responsible for fee title acquisition (\$1,500,000.00)
 - LLDRM, Chippewa National Forest, MNDNR and Cass County responsible for landscape natural resource protection.
 - Cass County no net loss of public lands
 - Leech Lake Association support acquisition of public lands

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

Natural shoreline areas and wetlands have unique and sensitive ecosystems which are impossible to replicate and even harder to restore when disturbed. The strategy for LLDRM and other local governing bodies has been to consolidate natural areas and solidify human development areas. Human development can change not only terrestrial resources but can devastate aquatic ecosystems or introduce invasive species both terrestrial and aquatic. Under the vision and goals put forward by the Leech Lake Association these natural areas would not be subject human development and would be left as natural shoreline. Natural shoreline acquisition now is the most cost effective time to purchase because there is no initial restoration needed.

A large part of the long term economic sustainability of the Leech Lake watershed area is depended on and the quality of those natural resources. Preservation and acquisition of strategic shoreline is in itself is the strongest and best tool that can be used when proposing long term strategy or to promote economic sustainability to an area especially when trying to achieve resource preservation and general public wellbeing.

This project is only one component of multiple ongoing management goals which includes preservation of Natural shorelines which in turn protects other investments like; Fishery protection and enhancement, quality recreation access, invasive species prevention and maintaining outstanding biodiverse areas. All Governments tend to be responsive in matters of natural resource preservation which is not the most cost effective way to manage natural resources and with the amount of Tribal, Federal, State and County government funds that are invested to protect the Leech Lake watershed, this proposals budget is only a fraction of what the costs would be to repair such a historical, diverse and unique shoreline ecosystem.

C. Timeline Requirements

Project would be accomplished before July 1st 2018.

2017 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: LEECH LAKE NATURAL RESOURCE MULTI-BENEFIT CONSERVATION AQUITION

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 1 year

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	\$ 1,500,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 1,500,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional non-state cash dollars secured or applied for 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>	N/A	N/A
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional state cash dollars (e.g., bonding, other grants) secured or applied for 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>	N/A	N/A
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional in-kind service(s) secured or applied for to be spent on the project 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>	N/A	N/A
Funding History: <i>Indicate funding secured but to be expended prior to July 1, 2016, for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request, including past and current ENRTF funds. State specific source(s) of fund and dollar amount.</i>	N/A	N/A
Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation: <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. Indicate the status of the funds.</i>	N/A	N/A

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

Project Title: LEECH LAKE NATURAL RESOURCE MULTI-BENEFIT CONSERVATION AQUITION
 Project Manager Name: Levi Brown
 Organization: Leech Lake Division of Resource Management
 ENRTF \$ Request: \$1,500,000.00

#	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	28-008-2200	47° 13' 14.094" N	22° 46.660" W		Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.20	0.06	Private	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
2	28-005-3308	47° 13' 24.094" N	22° 29.123" W		Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.14	0.06	Private	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
3	28-008-2200	47° 13' 21.294" N	22° 49.557" W		Cass	Sensitive shoreline with high quality wetlands and Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	7.05	0.28	Private	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
4	28-005-3304	47° 13' 32.394" N	22° 36.264" W		Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.91	0.02	Private	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
5	28-005-3305	47° 13' 31.494" N	22° 36.118" W		Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.74	0.02	Private	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
6	28-005-3310	47° 13' 25.494" N	22° 38.209" W		Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.61	0.02	Private	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
7	28-005-3303	47° 13' 25.094" N	22° 41.157" W		Cass	Sensitive shoreline with high quality wetlands and Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	2.64	0.06	Private	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
8	28-005-3309	47° 13' 25.994" N	22° 36.479" W		Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.70	0.03	Private	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
9	28-005-3308	47° 13' 26.594" N	22° 34.799" W		Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.70	0.04	Private	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
10	28-005-3307	47° 13' 27.594" N	22° 35.495" W		Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.60	0.02	Private	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
11	28-005-3306	47° 13' 28.494" N	22° 36.110" W		Cass	Sensitive shoreline with Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	0.73	0.02	Private	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
12	28-005-3302	47° 13' 28.294" N	22° 48.571" W		Cass	High quality wetlands and Maple Basswood forest important for waterfowl, furbears, whitetail deer and aquatic other species	Fee Title	30.26	0.04	Private	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

NOTES: All parcels will open to public

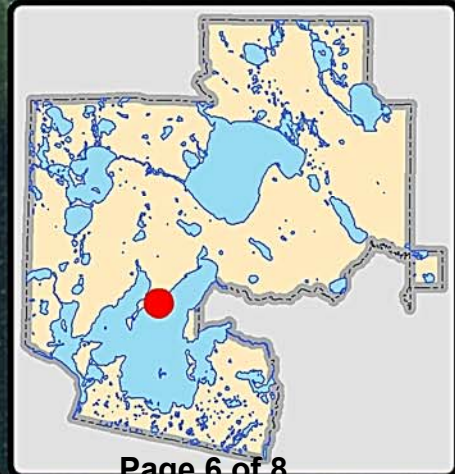
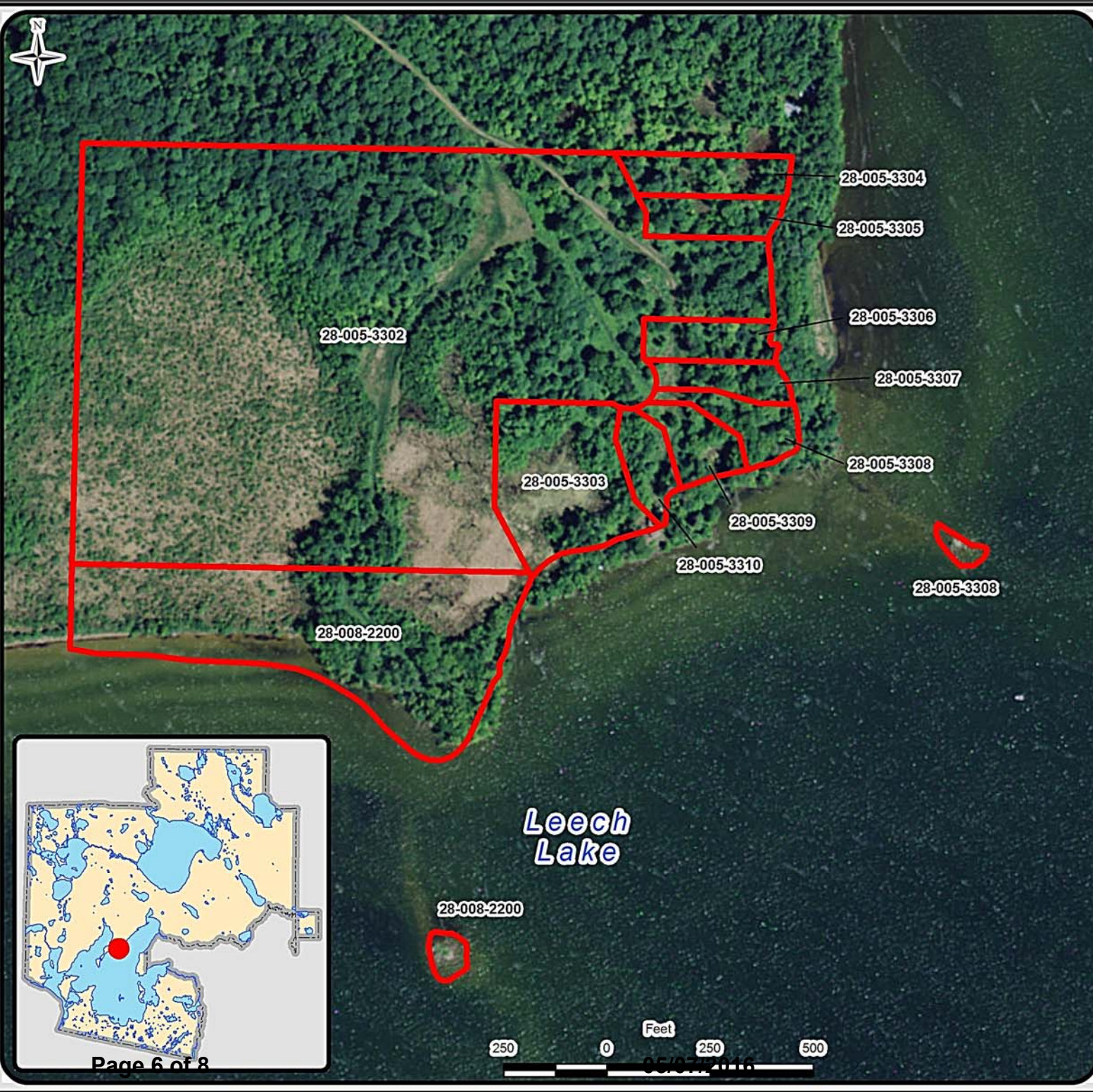


Robinson Two Points Parcels

- Lakes
- Parcel Boundary
- County Boundary
- LLBO Reservation Boundary

Parcel ID	Acres
28-008-2200	0.20
28-005-3308	0.14
28-008-2200	7.05
28-005-3304	0.91
28-005-3305	0.74
28-005-3310	0.61
28-005-3303	2.64
28-005-3309	0.70
28-005-3308	0.70
28-005-3307	0.60
28-005-3306	0.73
28-005-3302	30.26

**45.27
Total
Acres**





**LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE
DIVISION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
115 6th ST. NW Suite E, Cass Lake, MN 56633**

Project Manager Qualifications and Organization

PROJECT MANAGER

Levi Brown, the Environmental-Land Director of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is responsible for the management, lease administration of over 31,000 acres and has regulatory responsibilities over the entire 833,068 acres within the exterior boundaries of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation.

He is an experienced land administrator with federal credentials and has lead the acquisition team for Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for the last four years. His acquisition achievements includes an ongoing seven year acquisition project with Potlatch Inc. for 1,815 acres with a value of \$2,100,000.00 and overall acquisition amount totaling 2,190 acres of land in his current position as Environmental-Land Director.

Mr. Brown has experience working on acquisition or management with Chippewa National Forest, Cass County, Itasca County and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR). In 2014 Mr. Brown in collaboration MNDNR were able to successfully process a lease on MNDNR managed lands to allow for a southern public use area on Lake Winnibigoshish which was another great example of Mr. Brown's ability to work across government lines to ensure public interests are addressed through proper land acquisition or use.

ORGRANIZATION

The Leech Lake Division of Resource Management is a governmental unit of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and has been delegated the responsibility to protect and enhance all natural resources on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation. The Leech Lake Division of Resource Management is committed to the protection, conservation and enhancement of the reservation's natural resources in a sustainable manner for the present and future benefit of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. This mission statement is only accomplished with close working relationships with all of our federal, state and local partners. The LLDRM has enjoyed a 43 year working relationship with MNDNR which has preserved and enhanced some of the best natural resource areas in the State of Minnesota.

