

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 192-K

Voyageurs National Park Crane Lake Visitors Center Partnership

Category: G. Land Acquisition, Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 950,000

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

Summary:

\$950,000 to purchase prime land to build in partnership with the Voyageurs National Park a Visitors Center in conjunction with the MN DNRs development at the Crane Lake.

Name: Jim Janssen

Sponsoring Organization: Town of Crane Lake

Address: PO Box 402
Crane Lake MN 55725

Telephone Number: (218) 993-1303

Email info@canelaketwp.com

Web Address www.canelaketwp.com

Location

Region: NE

County Name: St. Louis

City / Township: Crane Lake Township

Alternate Text for Visual:

Overview of the land and shoreline to be purchased at the entrance to Crane Lake, 30 acres and 300 shoreline, nearly adjacent to the MN DNRs boat access and campground site.

_____ 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)

2017 Main Proposal

Project Title: *Voyageurs National Park Crane Lake Visitor Center Partnership*

)

PROJECT TITLE: Voyageurs National Park Crane Lake Visitor Center Partnership

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Our goal is to secure a majestic thirty acre former resort site on the shores of Crane Lake at the entrance to Voyageurs National Park in order for the Town to work in partnership with an adjacent DNR 7 acre site to build a comprehensive entrance point to the Park that will include a Department of Interior Visitors Center, boat ramp, docks, beach, campground, restrooms, and educational and community space. This site is the last of four Visitors Centers planned for the Park forty years ago.

Voyageurs National Park is Minnesota’s only national park and the nation’s only water-based national park, consisting of more than 84,000 acres of water and 134, acres of land. The interconnected waterways of the park provide an unparalleled opportunity for citizens to explore the Northwoods lake and border country. You must leave your car and take to the water to fully explore and experience the lakes, islands, and shorelines of the park. Nearly 200 years ago, voyageurs paddled birch bark canoes full of animal pelts and trade goods through the park on their way to Canada. Today, people explore the park by canoes, kayaks, houseboats, and motorboats.

Water is the defining feature of Voyageurs National Park. Access and tourism expansion was the long-term promise of the park—increasing economic opportunities for local residents while preserving a national treasure and developing recreational and educational opportunities for our citizens.

This request for \$950,000 is to purchase the former Borderland Resort site on the shores of Crane Lake. The overall goal is to create a Visitor Center operated by the Department of Interior and coordinated with the DNR’s new boat ramp and entrance point while combining all with a new campground and public space. The purchase of this key property is a one-time opportunity to fully develop the final entrance point of the original four entrance points to the park.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The main effort is to purchase and secure the prime piece of property that is essential to create and build a national caliber visitors center, campground, boat ramp, docks, beach, restrooms, and educational and community space in cooperation with the Department of the Interior, the VNP, the DNR, and the Town of Crane Lake.

The total budget for the project is \$950,000, our best estimate subject to appraisal of the property.

The total activity directly related to this request is to secure this prime property to ensure the available space for a comprehensive visitor center and entrance to VNP. The purchase plan developed from a comprehensive community planning effort including consultations with the DNR and VNP and approved by the Town Board. The Town of Crane Lake will hold title to this 30 acre section of land with 300’ of shoreline on Crane Lake. The measurable outcome will be the purchase of the property and the completion of the master plan for the Center.

In this section break the project into individual activities (i.e., distinct efforts, phases of effort, types/categories of effort) and their outcomes. Be specific. List as many activities as needed using the format indicated below. For each activity:



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2017 Main Proposal

Project Title: *Voyageurs National Park Crane Lake Visitor Center Partnership*

Activity 1: Land Purchase

Budget: \$950,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. <i>Purchase of the 30 acre former Borderland Resort</i>	<i>October 31, 2017</i>

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The project team includes a committee of the Town of Crane Lake that will negotiate, appraise, and purchase the property. The Town of Crane Lake Board will receive the money, and if granted, will execute the purchase. Partners in the process to develop the comprehensive site include Bill Carlson, Acting Superintendent of the VNP, Scott Kelling representing the DNR in the development of their nearly adjacent site, and Jim Janssen, Chair of the Town Board of Crane Lake. We are working through the offices of Congressman Nolan and US Senators Franken and Klobuchar to coordinate our efforts with the General Services Administration and the US Department of Interior and Crystal Franklin, NPS Facilities.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

The long-term strategy is to complete a comprehensive Visitor Center for Crane Lake at the entrance to Voyageurs National Park to complement the other three centers at Rainy Lake, Kabetogama, and Ash River. The model is the recently completed Visitors Center at Rainy Lake in International Falls, where the General Services Administration on behalf of the VNP leases a facility over thirty years that was built by the City of International Falls to Park Service specifications. In addition, the site identified is nearly adjacent to a new boat ramp, restroom facilities, and small campground being developed by the DNR in cooperation with the park which will be expanded as a result of this initiative to complete a comprehensive visitors center and recreational site for the region. The sustainability of the project is the long-term lease and commitment by the VNP to operate a park presence in the Crane Lake area in cooperation with the DNR development nearby. Other funds will be sought, including funding from the Township, the State perhaps through bonding, USDA Rural Services, and the USFS.

C. Timeline Requirements

The timeline of the project is to complete the appraisal mid-2017 and the purchase by October 31, 2017.

2017 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Voyageurs National Park Crane Lake Visitors Center Partnership

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

Attach budget, in MS-EXCEL format, to your "2017 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 budget item row is not applicable put "N/A" or delete it. All of "Other Funds" section must be filled out.)

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

BUDGET ITEM <i>(See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses", p. 13)</i>	AMOUNT
Jim Janssen, Project Manager and Chair of the Town of Crane Lake Board. Volunteer.	\$ -
N/A	\$ -
N/A	\$ -
30 acres to be held by the Township of Crane Lake, Minnesota	\$ 950,000
no travel	\$ -
N/A	\$ -
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 950,000

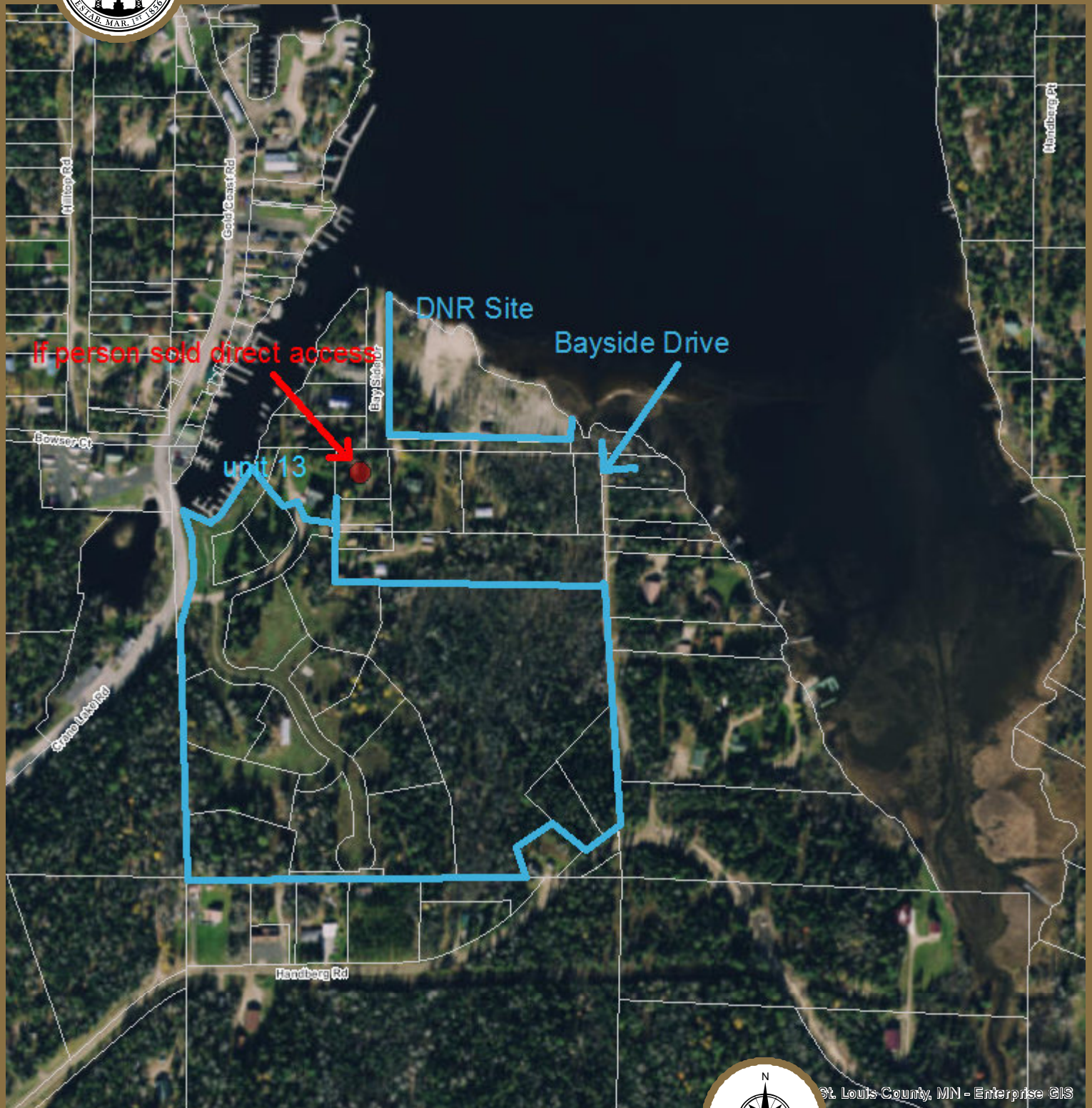
V. OTHER FUNDS *(This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)*

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Non-state resources will include appraisal costs to be paid for by the Township of Crane Lake	\$ 5,000	<i>secured</i>
N/A	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
In-Kind services primarily staff time devoted to the partnership from the Town of Crane Lake, the Voyageurs National Park, and the MN DNR.	\$ -	<i>Pending</i>
Town of Crane Lake Community Plan costs	\$ 10,000	<i>secured</i>
N/A	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Unspent? Legally Obligated? Other?</i>



County Land Explorer

St. Louis County, Minnesota



County Land Explorer Map - St. Louis County MN

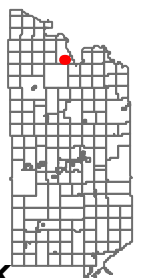


St. Louis County, MN - Enterprise GIS

County Land Explorer
St. Louis County www.stlouiscountymn.gov/CountyLandExplorer Minnesota

Disclaimer

This is a compilation of records as they appear in the Saint Louis County Offices affecting the area shown. This drawing is to be used only for reference purposes and the County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein



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

Voyageur National Park Crane Lake Visitor Center
 Jim Janssen
 Town Board Chair, Crane Lake Township
 \$950,000 request

#	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	Borderland Resort	48.264243	92.488456	950,000	St. Louis	Prime 30 acre site with shoreline	purchase	30	300'	private	n/a
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											

NOTES:

Project Manager Qualifications

Jim Janssen is the volunteer project manager for the acquisition of the 30 acre site to be used by the Town of Crane Lake for a Park Service Visitor Center at Crane Lake.

Jim is the Chair of the Town Board of Crane Lake. He is the owner/operator with his wife Gretchen of the Voyageur Lodge and Houseboats Resort at Crane Lake. He has extensive business experience owning and operating several resorts. Jim has been an active member of the community, including leading the Crane Lake Community Planning effort, which has resulted in the plan submitted to the LCCMR.

Jim has a BS in biology and chemistry from Valparaiso University.

The organization is the Town of Crane Lake, a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota.

