

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2018 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 182-F

Restoring Minnesota's Forests in State Parks

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

Total Project Budget: \$ 432,240

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 5 years, July 2018 to June 2023

Summary:

Restores 420 acres of high-quality forests at Itasca, Jay Cooke, Scenic, Forestville Mystery Cave and Wild River State Parks and Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area.

Name: Edward Quinn

Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR

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Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Becker, Carlton, Chisago, Clearwater, Fillmore, Hubbard, Itasca, Meeker

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

This visual is a map of the state of Minnesota depicting the Minnesota DNR wildlife action network and the six sites proposed for forest restoration work.

_____ 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)
2018 Main Proposal
Project Title: Restoring Minnesota's Forests in State Parks

PROJECT TITLE: Restoring Minnesota's Forests in State Parks

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project will restore 420 acres of forests at Itasca, Jay Cooke, Scenic, Forestville-Mystery Cave and Wild River State Parks; and Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area. At Itasca State Park, large blocks of existing forest will be enhanced by planting a mix of [mostly] conifer species. Fencing will be constructed to eliminate deer browse. At the five other State Park locations, open fields that were once forested will be restored by planting and protecting a diverse mix of hardwood and conifer tree species.

This project will:

- Provide additional habitat for nearly 30 species identified in Minnesota's *Wildlife Action Plan* as a *Species of Greatest Conservation Need*¹, including 10 MN Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern species;
- Help meet the statutory mandate for MN State Parks to "restore, preserve and perpetuate natural and scenic features..." (86A.05 subd. 2c);
- Aid the MNDNR in meeting the goals and objectives identified in Minnesota's *Wildlife Action Plan* (2015-2025) and the MNDNR *Conservation Agenda* (2015-2025).

Secondarily, by restoring agricultural lands that historically were forested, this project will be consistent with Division and Department direction to reduce the amount of land under agricultural lease or cooperative farming agreements.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Restore 420 acres of forested native plant communities at five(5) State Parks and one(1) State Recreation Area **Budget: \$420,000**

Outcome - Itasca State Park – Clearwater/Becker/Hubbard Co. - 255 acres	Completion Date
1. Site Preparation Phase (tree harvest or thinning, invasive species control (if needed), archaeological review, seed collection)	Fall 2019
2. Deer exclosure(s) construction	Spring 2020
3. Seeding and/or Planting Phase	Fall 2021
4. Establishment phase - management activities to insure a successful restoration (mechanical conifer release, invasive species control and monitoring (if needed))	Summer 2023

Outcome – Jay Cooke State Park – Carlton Co. - 30 acres	Completion Date
1. Site Preparation Phase (Invasive species control (if needed), archaeological review, seed collection, herbicide application(s), tillage or scarification (if needed))	Fall 2019
2. Seeding and/or Planting Phase	Fall 2019
3. Establishment phase - management activities to insure a successful restoration (mechanical conifer release, bud capping, invasive species control/monitoring (if needed))	Fall 2021

Outcome – Scenic State Park – Itasca Co. - 5 acres	Completion Date
1. Site Preparation Phase (Invasive species control (if needed), archaeological review, seed collection, herbicide application(s), tillage or scarification (if needed))	Fall 2019
2. Deer exclosure(s) construction	Fall 2019
3. Seeding and/or Planting Phase	Spring 2020

¹ "Native animals, nongame and game, whose populations are rare, declining, or vulnerable to decline and are below levels desirable to ensure their long- term health and stability." (MNDNR 2015)



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

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Project Title: *Restoring Minnesota's Forests in State Parks*

Outcome – Forestville State Park – Fillmore Co. - 65 acres	Completion Date
1. Site Preparation Phase (Invasive species control (if needed), archaeological review, seed collection, herbicide application(s), tillage or scarification (if needed))	Fall 2021
2. Seeding and/or Planting Phase	Fall 2021
3. Establishment phase - management activities to insure a successful restoration (mechanical conifer release, bud capping, invasive species control/monitoring (if needed))	Fall 2023

Outcome –Wild River State Park – Chisago Co. - 45 ac.	Completion Date
1. Site Preparation Phase (Invasive species control (if needed), archaeological review, seed collection, herbicide application(s), tillage or scarification (if needed))	Fall 2020
2. Seeding and/or Planting Phase	Fall 2021

Outcome – Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area – Meeker Co. - 20 ac.	Completion Date
1. Site Preparation Phase (Invasive species control (if needed), archaeological review, seed collection, herbicide application(s), tillage or scarification (if needed))	Fall 2020
2. Seeding and/or Planting Phase	Fall 2021
3. Establishment phase - management activities to insure a successful restoration (mechanical conifer release, bud capping, invasive species control/monitoring (if needed))	Fall 2022

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The project team will consist of MNDNR Parks and Trails staff. The Parks and Trails Division is an important partner in Minnesota's *Wildlife Action Plan*. MNDNR Division of Forestry will likely be a partner in accomplishing certain site preparation activities, as well as supplying some tree seedlings, as appropriate.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

The Parks and Trails Division has an excellent track record of implementing and managing high quality native plant community restorations. The Division has restored more than 3,500 acres of high-quality forests over the past 10 years. This project will significantly increase the amount of forest habitat the Parks and Trails Division restores annually, while also providing critical habitat to Minnesota's *Species of Greatest Conservation Need*. A coarse filter analysis suggests that there are $\geq 25,000$ acres of Parks and Trails administered lands that are in need of restoration to appropriate forested native plant communities. These lands are presently old fields, areas of declining aspen, conifer plantations, agricultural land, and similar sites. Given the Division's current restoration rate, it will take over 70 years to restore the lands it manages to appropriate forested native plant communities. This additional funding more than doubles the acres that the Division restores annually and would shorten the time needed for the Division to fully restore the forests it manages. Lastly, this project would reduce the amount of land encumbered by agricultural lease or cooperative farming agreements on Parks and Trails lands by 50 acres.

C. Timeline Requirements

It is anticipated that all aspects of this proposal will be completed within a 60-month period of receiving funding, starting in July 2018 and ending by June 30th, 2023. This timeframe is longer than the typical 36-month funding period, however this proposal requires extra time in order to provide for necessary tree establishment activities, particularly tree seedling release. With that said we expect that after 36 months, upwards of 80% (\$336,000) of the project budget would be expended.

2018 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Restoring Minnesota's Forests in State Parks

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET :

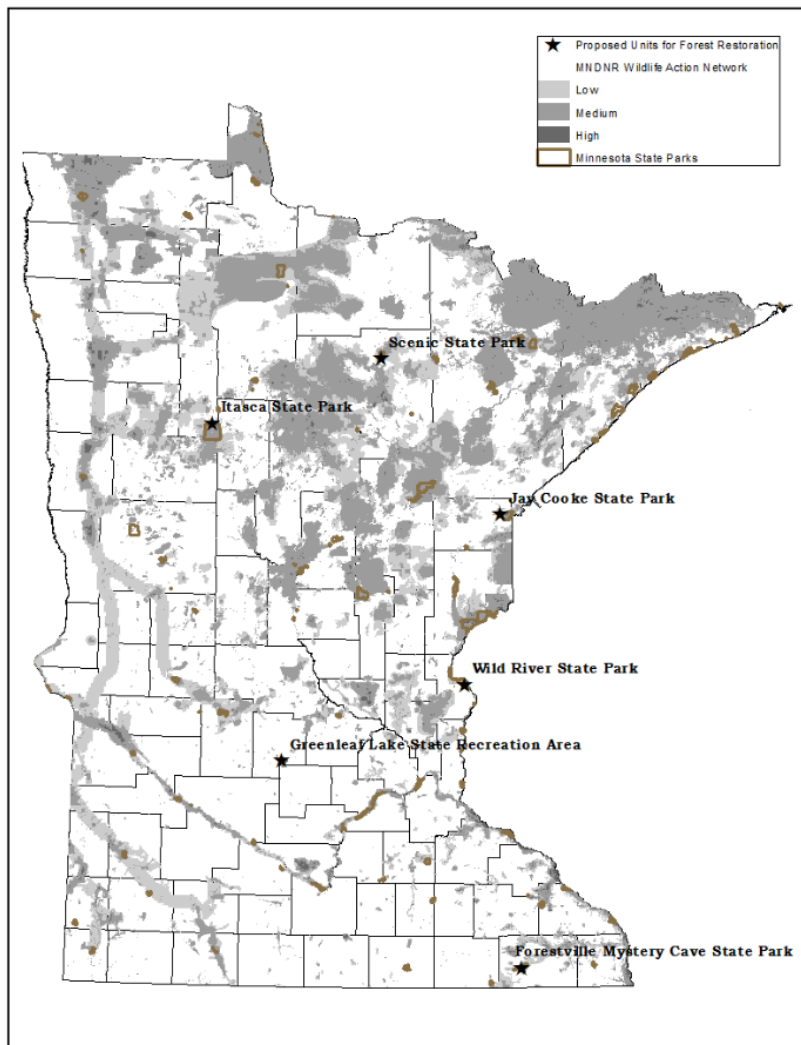
BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses", p. 13)	AMOUNT
Personnel:	
Seasonal labor staff equivalent to a total of 0.3 FTE. 70% salary/30% benefits. Existing staff will assist with site preparation, planting/seeding, and restoration establishment activities.	\$ 20,000
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$ -
Site Preparation Service Contract(s)	\$ 90,000
Tree Planting/Seeding Service Contract(s)	\$ 70,000
Restoration Management Service Contract(s)	\$ 50,000
Deer Exclosure Construction Service Contract(s)	\$ 40,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ -
Site Preparation Supplies	\$ 10,000
Plants, Seeds, and Planting Supplies	\$ 65,000
Fencing Supplies	\$ 75,000
Additional Budget Items: *Direct and necessary expenses: HR Support (~\$1,336), Safety Support (~\$307), Financial Support (~\$5,487), Communications Support (~\$1,271), IT Support (\$2,767), Planning Support (~\$1,072) necessary to accomplish funded project.	\$ 12,240
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 432,240

*Direct and Necessary expenses include Department Support Services (Human Resources, IT Support, Safety, Financial Support, Communications Support, and Planning Support). Department Support Services are described in the agency Service Level Agreement and billed internally to divisions based on rate that have been developed for each area of service. These services are directly related to and necessary for the appropriation. Department leadership services (Commissioner's Office and Regional Directors) are not assessed. Those elements of individual projects that put little or no demand on support services such as large single-source contracts, large land acquisitions, and funds that are passed through to other entities are not assessed. Direct and Necessary costs for those activities.

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
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: 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.	NA	NA
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Conservation Corps of MN - assistance with site preparation, seed collection, invasive species control, and tree establishment activities (Parks & Trails Legacy)	\$ 50,000	Pending
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: DNR resource specialist time directed at this forest habitat restoration project. Activities include contract administration and oversight, planning and directing staff, purchasing and deploying supplies, and site visits. (400hrs@\$45/hr)	\$ 18,000	Pending
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation: 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.	NA	NA
Other Funding History: Indicate funding secured but to be expended prior to July 1, 2018, for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request. State specific source(s) of funds and dollar amount.	NA	NA

Restoring Minnesota's Forests in State Parks



Proposed Units for Forest Restoration

Itasca State Park – 255 acres

Scenic State Park – 5 acres

Jay Cooke State Park – 30 acres

Wild River State Park – 45 acres

Forestville-Mystery Cave State Park – 65 acres

Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area – 20 acres

Restoring our natural heritage



Tree Establishment and Protection



Tree Planting Crew

Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

Project Manager: Edward Quinn
Affiliation: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails
Telephone Number: 651-259-5594
Title: Resource Management Program Supervisor

Experience:

Ed Quinn has worked for the State of Minnesota for over 18 years. He oversees and manages the Parks and Trails Division Resource Management Program. He has been awarded other funds by the LCCMR, and is proficient in the procedures and additional requirements associated with a variety of funding sources including the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, Park and Trail Legacy Fund, Lottery in Lieu funding, and Minnesota capital bonding and general fund dollars.

Organization Description:

The mission of the Minnesota DNR 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.

The MNDNR Parks and Trails Division's vision is to create unforgettable park, trail, and water recreation experiences that inspire the public to pass along the love for the outdoor to the next generation.

More information on the Minnesota DNR can be found at MNDNR.gov