

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 233-FH

Develop Forest Management Methods that Enhance Bird Habitat

Category: H. Proposals seeking \$200,000 or less in funding

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

Total Project Budget: \$ 197,337

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2022 (3 yrs)

Summary:

Develop, publish, and promote guidebooks on forestry methods that enhance breeding bird habitat while engaging landowners in forest stewardship and encourage the sustainable production of Minnesota forest products.

Name: Michael Lynch

Sponsoring Organization: Forest Stewards Guild

Title: Lake States Projects Coordinator

Department: _____

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Mankato MN 56001

Telephone Number: (608) 449-0647

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Web Address www.forestquild.org

Location

Region: Central, Northwest, Northeast

County Name: Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Cook, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mille Lacs, Pine, St. Louis

City / Township: _____

Alternate Text for Visual:

Connection between the tools this project would develop, the practices that would be implemented, and the resulting wildlife habitat, forest products, and a strengthened interest in land stewardship.

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity	_____ Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL _____%
_____ If under \$200,000, waive presentation?			



PROJECT TITLE: Develop Forest Management Methods that Enhance Bird Habitat

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project will develop, publish, and promote forest management techniques that enhance breeding bird habitat, engage woodland owners in forest stewardship, and help ensure a sustainable future for Minnesota's forests and associated forest products.

We will utilize multiple existing state-wide datasets collected by the Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI), including the Breeding Bird Atlas and a 24-year monitoring program on Minnesota's forest bird habitat use, to develop methods for assessing, improving, and maintaining forested habitat for breeding birds in the state. Information will be disseminated to foresters, land managers, and natural resource professionals through the publication of two guides and a series of training workshops held throughout the forested portion of the state.

Many of Minnesota's breeding birds make astonishing migrations from their breeding to wintering grounds and back throughout their life cycle. Many of these species are experiencing long-term declines indicative of larger ecosystem problems. In response, the Forest Stewards Guild (FSG), American Bird Conservancy (ABC), NRRI, and other partners are proposing to launch a "Forestry for the Birds" program in Minnesota that will target the improvement of summer breeding habitat. Similar programs have been highly effective in other states at promoting forest stewardship and enhancing bird habitat while adding to the production of local forest products. This model has been piloted in Minnesota using the Golden-winged Warbler as a focal species in promoting management for young forest conditions. This project would follow a similar model in other forest types.

Research shows that an increasing number of private woodland owners use their property for wildlife viewing and are less driven by traditional timber production goals. The key to this program is developing guidelines that provide foresters and landowners with the information they need for effectively communicating and implementing forest management with bird habitat in mind. The partners will use these tools to engage foresters, land trusts, and woodland owners in implementing forest management practices that promote breeding bird habitat across the state.

Specifically, we will:

1. Develop science-based silvicultural recommendations based on breeding bird habitat suitability models for Minnesota's major forest types.
2. Develop 10 silviculture demonstration sites and monitor breeding bird community response to silvicultural treatments.
3. Host 10 training workshops that educate a network of forest managers and private woodland owners on silvicultural treatments that promote breeding bird habitat in Minnesota's forests.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Develop printed guides on how to improve forest bird habitat utilizing silviculture techniques in Minnesota's major forest types.

**ENRTF BUDGET:
\$ 124,800**

Develop forest management recommendations for Minnesota's breeding birds utilizing data from long-running studies. Disseminate information in two training guides: 1) Forest bird habitat assessment, and 2) Silvicultural management recommendations within Minnesota's major forest types. Printed guides will be issued free of charge to users.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2019 Main Proposal Template

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Use existing breeding bird data to develop science-based forest management recommendations that will increase benefits for breeding forest birds.	Fall 2020
2. Develop and print field guides for assessing forest bird habitat conditions and silvicultural management recommendations.	Summer 2021

Activity 2: Training Workshops and Demonstration Sites

Host 10 full-day training workshops using classroom and field-based learning to educate at least 150 practitioners in forest management methods that enhance breeding bird habitat. Establish 10 demonstration sites for field-based learning and conduct bird surveys to assess avian response to the silvicultural treatments.

ENRTF BUDGET:
\$ 72,500

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Identify 10 forest management demonstration sites to be used for outreach training.	Fall 2019
2. Conduct bird surveys at silvicultural treatment demonstration sites.	Spring 2022
3. Conduct a minimum of six training workshops targeted at land managers and four workshops aimed at private woodland owners.	Summer 2022

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Michael Lynch	Lake States Projects Coordinator	Forest Stewards Guild	Project Co-coordinator
Shawn Graff	Great Lakes Region Director	American Bird Conservancy	Project Co-coordinator
Alexis Grinde	Wildlife Ecologist	Natural Resources Research Institute	Project Co-coordinator

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role

IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING: The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has made a commitment to the Great Lakes Region and has successfully secured multi-year grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund, and National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to undertake forest management activities that support the habitat needs of threatened and endangered birds. These grants are not directly related to the proposed project but laid a strong foundation for this project. This project also builds off the collaborative work the Forest Stewards Guild (FSG) has undertaken in developing “Forestry for the Birds” programs in several other states using a variety of funding sources. The printed materials and trained practitioners resulting from this project will not require continued funding to have a long-lasting impact after the grant period. However, ABC and FSG are developing a fundraising strategy that identifies additional partners and potential funders to promote implementation of the information developed in this project.

V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS: July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022

VI. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

B. Visual Component or Map

F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

G. Letter or Resolution

H. Certified Audit or 990 Tax Information

2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Develop Forest Management Methods that Enhance Bird Habitat

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET three years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Personnel: Forest Stewards Guild Project Co-coordinator: 50% FTE Yr 1 & 2, 30% FTE Yr 3; \$119,480 (76.44% salary/23.66% fringe) Project Contributor: 1% FTE Yr 1, 2, & 3; \$3,226 (76.44% salary/23.66% fringe) Grant Compliance: 0.5% FTE Yr 1, 2, & 3; \$1,633 (76.44% salary/23.66% fringe)	\$ 124,339
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: American Bird Conservancy (Non-Profit Partner) Project Co-coordinator: 4% FTE Yr 1, 2% FTE Yr 2 & 3; \$11,488 (73% salary/27% fringe) Staff Foresters (2): 2.5% FTE Yr 2, 2% FTE Yr 3; \$6,952 (73% salary/27% fringe) Mileage reimbursed at \$0.545/mile (Federal rate); 6,000 mi Yr 1, 5,400 mi Yr 2, 4,200 mi Yr 3; \$8,502	\$ 26,942
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Natural Resources Research Institute (Gov. Partner) Co-Project Coordinator: 2% FTE Yr 1, 2, & 3; \$6,695 (fringe rate 33.5%) Research Scientists/Field Techs (2): 12.5% FTE in Yr 1, 7.5% FTE in Yr 2, 4.5% FTE in Yr 3; \$15,843 (fringe rate 33.5%) General field season supplies (batteries, bug spray, Write in the Rain notebooks) = \$200 Travel for fieldwork and planning meetings, including mileage (75%) and lodging (25%) for researchers. Mileage will be reimbursed at \$0.545/mile (University of MN rate). Lodging is estimated between (\$90-\$130 per night) = \$2,000	\$ 24,738
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Printing 250 copies of the Forest Bird Habitat Assessment Field Guide - water resistant printing and binding \$18 per book = \$4,500; Printing 250 copies of the Silvicultural Management Recommendations Field Guide - water resistant printing and binding \$18 per book = \$4,500. Books will be issued free of charge to users.	\$ 9,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	N/A
Travel: Travel required through rural MN for expert panel meetings and training workshops: 45 vehicle rental days (\$65/day vehicle \$25/day fuel) = \$4,050; 24 nights lodging (55%) and food (45%) = \$3,768	\$ 7,818
Additional Budget Items: Ten full-day training workshops will included venue (33%) and in-the-field bag lunches/snacks (67%) expenses totaling \$450 per meeting = \$4,500	\$ 4,500
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 197,337

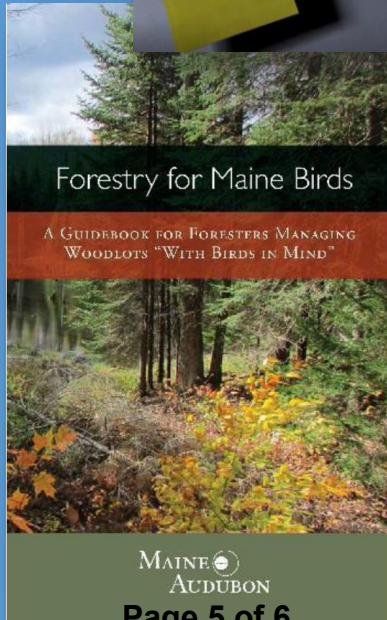
V. OTHER FUNDS (This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: American Bird Conservancy Staff Foresters - 230 hours (73% salary/27% fringe)	\$ -	Secured
Non-state Employee Expert Panel Members - 144 hours (6 members, 6 meetings, 4 hours each); \$45 per hour.	\$ 8,883 \$ 6,480	Pending
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:	N/A	
Other Funding History: An additional \$45,000 has been secured by the Forest Stewards Guild to support current "Forestry for the Birds" programs in other states from a variety of Trusts and Foundations to create the foundation for this project. Additional funds will be sought for continuing support of this project in MN.	\$ 45,000	Secured

Forestry for Minnesota's Birds

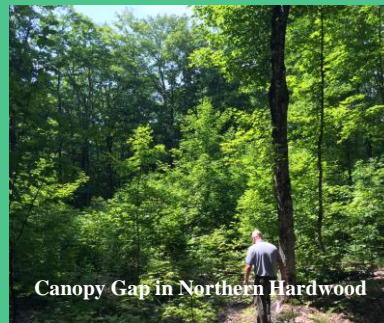
- Use science-based silviculture techniques to enhance forest breeding bird habitat
- Connect timber management and wildlife habitat objectives
- Train foresters and woodland owners to see forest bird habitat opportunities

Tools



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Practices



Canopy Gap in Northern Hardwood



Snag Tree Retention



Forest Training

Results



ENRTF ID: 235 FH

Project Management Qualifications:

About the Forest Stewards Guild:

Since its founding in 1995, the Forest Stewards Guild has worked to promote ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forestry as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them. We have professional members from California to Maine and operate programs throughout the United States. The FSG and our members understand the value of good silvicultural recommendations and have been involved with the development of several successful 'Forestry for the Birds' projects throughout the county. We have the experience, resources, and capacity to deliver a similar project in Minnesota that enhances migratory songbird habitat, engages woodland owners in forest stewardship, and helps ensure a sustainable future for Minnesota's forests and associated forest products. More information can be found at: www.forestguild.org

The Forest Stewards Guild's Administrative Headquarters is: 612 W Main St, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53703

About the Michael Lynch:

Michael Lynch is the Lake States Projects Coordinator for the Forest Stewards Guild and will be the project manager and primary content developer for this project. Michael holds a B.A. from Gustavus Adolphus College with majors in Biology and Environmental Studies and a M.S. in Biological Integration from the University of Minnesota. Prior to working for the Forest Stewards Guild, Michael worked with the MN DNR, WI DNR, Minnesota Forest Resources Council, Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association, and the USDA Forest Service. Throughout his career as a natural resources professional, Michael has worked at the intersection of ecological, economic, and social concerns related to natural resources and developed a variety of integrated solutions that balance these multifaceted resource needs. Michael has coordinated the development of several publications in the region and lead numerous training workshops. Michael will be supported by the FSG national staff as needs and skills merit.

Michael is based at our Minnesota Field Office in Mankato, Minnesota and can be contacted at (608)449-0647 or mike@forestguild.org