

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 240-FH

Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge Wetland Restorations

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: \$ 80,500

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2021 (2 yrs)

Summary:

To fully restore and permanently protect the natural hydrology to 119 wetland basins within the Clearwater watershed for the significant and measurable benefits to wildlife, water quality and flood reduction.

Name: Tom LaBarre

Sponsoring Organization: Friends of Tamarac

Title: Vice President

Department: _____

Address: 35704 County Highway 26

Rochert MN 56578

Telephone Number: (612) 386-0121

Email trlabarre@gmail.com

Web Address https://www.tamaracfriends.org

Location

Region: Northwest

County Name: Clearwater

City / Township: Bagley and Clearbrook

Alternate Text for Visual:

Map of wetland restoration locations on private lands in Clearwater County, MN.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge Base	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urgency	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capacity Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/>		TOTAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	%
<input type="checkbox"/> If under \$200,000, waive presentation?								



PROJECT TITLE: FRIENDS OF TAMARAC WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project seeks to restore the natural hydrology of 119 drained or degraded wetland basins comprising 180 acres. This project focuses on restoring wetlands within the Clearwater River Watershed located in Clearwater County. Outflows from the watershed flow directly into the Red River Basin and contribute to the larger hydrologic functions of this larger watershed. Wetlands restored as part of this project are protected in perpetuity by United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) conservation easements and provide significant wildlife habitat, water quality, ground water recharge and flood reduction benefits.

Within the Prairie Pothole Region portion of Minnesota, greater than 90% of wetlands have been drained and approximately 99% of historic native prairie has been converted for agricultural production or urban development. This alteration is well documented and one only needs to drive across the rural country-side or look at aerial photography to see how drastically humans have changed the ecology of this landscape. This alteration of our landscape has had two significant impacts. First, wetland drainage in support of agricultural development has removed hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands that provided habitat for a vast array of wildlife. Secondly, the drainage of wetlands and subsequent alteration of watersheds is contributing to increased erosion of uplands, reduced water quality with increased sedimentation, increased and prolonged flood events and limited opportunity for ground water recharge.

With 85% of land in the Prairie Pothole Region in private ownership, addressing these issues at an effective scale requires working with private landowners. The proposed project uses the best conservation science to strategically restore the hydrology of wetlands in existing grasslands, to sustain and increase migratory bird, pollinator, and resident wildlife populations. The restoration of wetlands can also provide significant improvements to water quality, reduce downstream flooding, and improve ground water recharge at the local and landscape level, while also contributing to working lands by providing forage and water for livestock.

The projects identified in this proposal help meet the goals and objectives of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, the Minnesota Duck Plan, Red Lake Watershed District objectives and USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. All seven parcels identified for wetland restoration in this proposal are properties that rank high on scoring criteria for priority protection of wetlands according to the models for waterfowl and grassland bird habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region of the state. These tracts have been reviewed by USFWS biologists and all necessary wetland restoration actions have been identified. The landowners are also provided with technical assistance to maintain these areas to ensure the viability of anticipated benefits for years to come. The overall objectives of this project are anticipated to provide a wealth of wildlife, habitat and ecosystem benefits, while also supporting existing farming, grazing or haying land uses.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: *Fully restore the natural hydrology of 119 wetlands by constructing earthen dikes on private lands where the USFWS will be final Wetland Easement holder.*

The seven tracts in this proposal were prioritized by a USFWS, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program biologist to identify high priority sites that will provide excellent wetland restoration opportunities to benefit wildlife. All wetlands have a previous drainage history. Using current restoration techniques, sound science, and the best available information, biologists assemble restoration plans for these areas, coordinate



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

with landowners, complete topographic survey and wetland design work, seed disturbed soil and construction areas to complete full restoration of the natural hydrologic functions of each basin. No seeding or planting of the wetland basin is needed since the natural seed bank is intact and many wetland plants still exist if even a degraded condition. Biologists oversee all phases of the project with contractors and landowners and the Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge staff will perform grant administration, contracting, project management, and reporting. Heavy equipment contractors will be hired to conduct the earthwork associated with this project to complete the full restoration of each basin. Wetlands are restored to their historic hydrologic water regime by filling surface drains to the original surrounding topography and/or construction of an embankment to stop the outflow of water from the wetland basin. In addition, each dike will be armored with rock to minimize any long-term negative impacts from cattle or other land uses.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$80,500

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Construction of 27 earthen dikes on parcels 1-3</i>	<i>11/19</i>
<i>2. Construction of 92 earthen dikes on parcels 4-7</i>	<i>11/20</i>

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Jim Sinclair	President	Friends of Tamarac NWR	Grant Administrator

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Kurt Svendsgaard	Partners Biologist	USFWS, Tamarac Refuge	Project Coordinator

IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

The majority of project proposal funds (~95%) will go directly to contracted heavy equipment to facilitate earth movement and construction associated with wetland restoration. Contractors will be selected through a competitive bid process conforming to state regulations. Most potential contractors for this project have a history of working with the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. They understand the bid process, invoices, and what the biological staff expects them to do and how to do it. Because of this history, the work will proceed smoothly and there will be minimum supervision needed in the field. Together, this makes for a smooth and efficient operation. It is much more cost effective to hire local contractors familiar with project locations, experienced in similar work requirements and within reasonable equipment mobilization distances. The majority of grant dollars will go directly to small businesses in Minnesota, stimulating the rural economy where the work is done. The match funding and in-kind contributions will be secured and are being provided by the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program out of multiple fiscal year (2019 and 2020) Congressional appropriated funds. The landowners may also provide a cash contribution or in-kind services to complete the projects.

2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Clearwater County Wetland Restorations

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET for years 2019 and 2020

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Personnel: FOT Staff Wetland Restorations and grant administration 5% of salary of part time employee each year is \$1,500.	\$ 3,000
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$ -
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Dozer 120hrs dozer/ 120 dump truck loads (12 yards of rock per load)/ 100hrs of skidsteer	\$ 76,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	\$ -
Travel: Expenses for in state travel for project review in years 2019 and 2020	\$ 1,500
Additional Budget Items:	\$ -
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 80,500

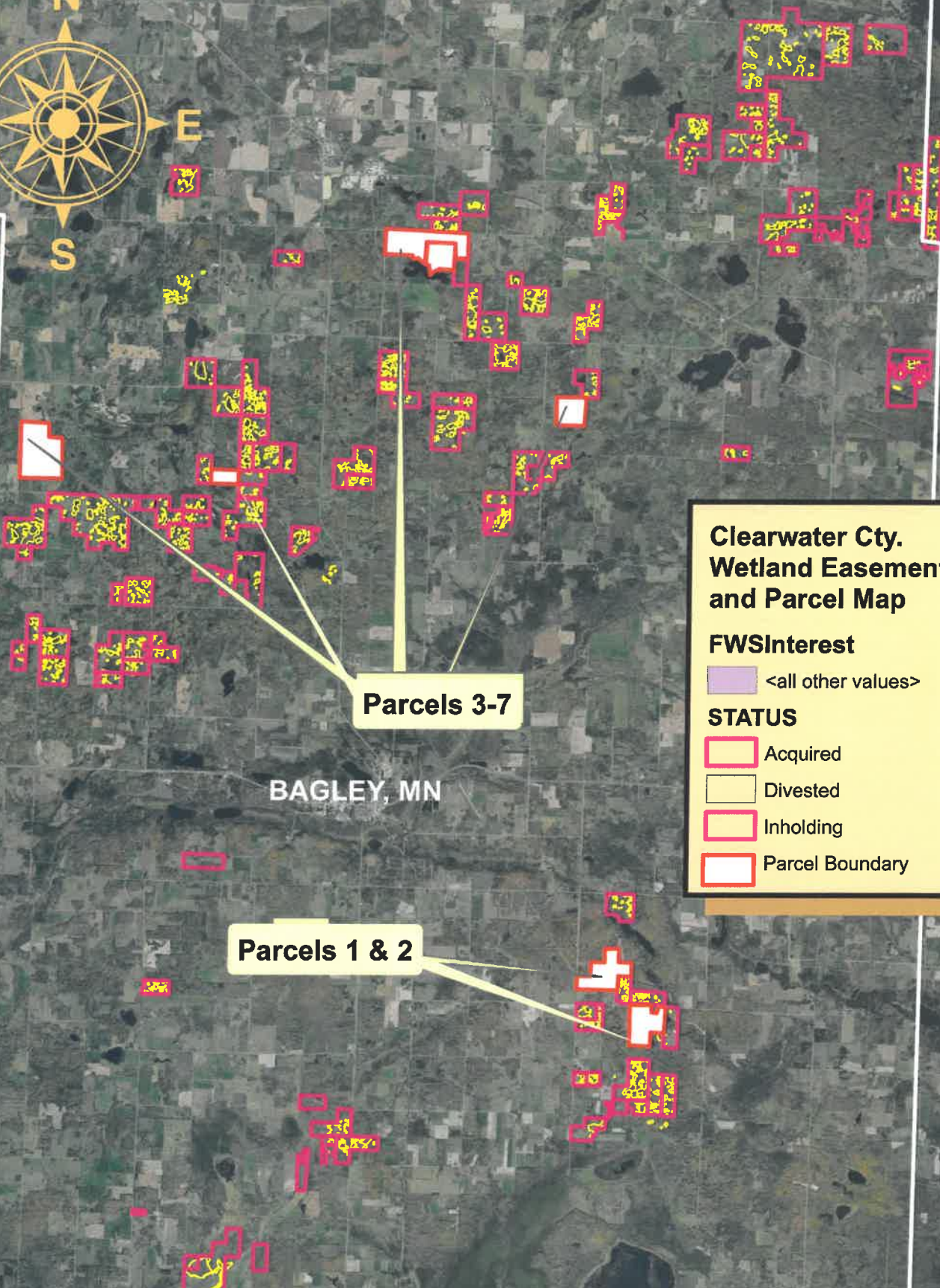
V. OTHER FUNDS (This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Partners for Fish and Wildlife annual appropriated dollars	\$ 9,000	<i>secured</i>
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	NA	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ 4,000	<i>secured</i>
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:	\$ -	
Other Funding History:	\$ -	

Attachment C:
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2019 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet
 Project Title: Tamarac Refuge Wetland Restorations
 Legal Citation:
 Project Manager: Jim Sinclair
 Organization: Friends of Tamarac
 College/Department/Division: NA
 M.L. 2019 ENRTF Appropriation: \$82,500
 Project Length and Completion Date: 7/2019-11/2020
 Today's Date: 3/29/2018



#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance (please include what ecosystem (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) is represented as well as the ecological significance, site importance, conservation value, and public benefits)	Activity Description (e.g. fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, restoration)	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner (private individual or trust, non-profit organization, for-profit entity)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status of work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway)
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Parcel #1	47deg 28' 46.1"N	95deg 18' 27.9"W	\$ 3,760	\$ -	Clearwater	Perpetually restore 5 wetlands by the construction of earthen dikes for the benefits of flood reduction, water quality and wildlife.	Restoration on wetland easement	7.5	0	Private	USFWS holder in Perpetual Wetland Easement	USFWS Wetland Easement finalized
2	Parcel #2	47deg 27' 58.9"N	95deg 17' 29.1"W	\$ 9,025	\$ -	Clearwater	Perpetually restore 12 wetlands by the construction of earthen dikes for the benefits of flood reduction, water quality and wildlife.	Restoration on wetland easement	18	0	Private	USFWS holder in Perpetual Wetland Easement	USFWS Wetland Easement finalized
3	Parcel #3	47deg 37' 38.7"N	95deg 19' 49.5"W	\$ 7,521	\$ -	Clearwater	Perpetually restore 10 wetlands by the construction of earthen dikes for the benefits of flood reduction, water quality and wildlife.	Restoration on wetland easement	15	0	Private	USFWS holder in Perpetual Wetland Easement	USFWS Wetland Easement finalized
4	Parcel #4	47deg 36' 42.4"N	95deg 32' 10.6"W	\$ 24,067	\$ -	Clearwater	Perpetually restore 32 wetlands by the construction of earthen dikes for the for the benefits of flood reduction, water quality and wildlife.	Restoration on wetland easement	48	0	Private	USFWS holder in Perpetual Wetland Easement	USFWS Wetland Easement finalized
5	Parcel #5	47deg 40' 13.1"N	95deg 23' 45.2"W	\$ 26,323	\$ -	Clearwater	Perpetually restore 35 wetlands by the construction of earthen dikes for the for the benefits of flood reduction, water quality and wildlife.	Restoration on wetland easement	52.5	0.23	Private	USFWS holder in Perpetual Wetland Easement	USFWS Wetland Easement finalized
6	Parcel #6	47deg 40' 1.5"N	95deg 23' 1.84"W	\$ 9,777	\$ -	Clearwater	Perpetually restore 13 wetlands by the construction of earthen dikes for the for the benefits of flood reduction, water quality and wildlife.	Restoration on wetland easement	19.5	0.48	Private	USFWS holder in Perpetual Wetland Easement	USFWS Wetland Easement finalized
7	Parcel #7	47deg 36' 25.5"N	95deg 27' 50.1"W	\$ 9,025	\$ -	Clearwater	Perpetually restore 12 wetlands by the construction of earthen dikes for the for the benefits of flood reduction, water quality and wildlife.	Restoration on wetland easement	18	0	Private	USFWS holder in Perpetual Wetland Easement	USFWS Wetland Easement finalized
8													
9													
10													
NOTES:													



BAGLEY, MN

Parcels 3-7

Parcels 1 & 2

**Clearwater Cty.
Wetland Easement
and Parcel Map**

FWSInterest
 <all other values>

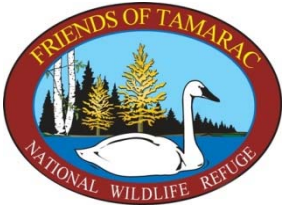
STATUS

- Acquired
- Divested
- Inholding
- Parcel Boundary



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Tamarac Refuge
 35704 Cty Hwy 26
 Rochert, MN 56578
 218.247.2641





Friends of Tamarac NWR

35704 County Hwy 26
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Phone: 218-844-1767
www.tamaracfriends.org

Becca Nash, Director
Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources
65 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS

The mission of the Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge is to facilitate activities and programs that interpret, protect and restore the natural and cultural resources of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and Tamarac Wetland Management District. Established over 25 years ago this nonprofit group is made up of an active 12 member board and over 200 members. The Friends sponsor educational programs and community based events, support critical refuge facility improvement projects, manage and administer grant funding for water quality and habitat restoration projects, host a popular nature photography contest, and so much more. They are an advocate for wildlife refuges and passionate about protecting wild places for current and future generations. In addition, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge volunteers donated over 8,500 hours of service last year with approximately 1/3 of those hours directly benefiting habitat and wildlife.

Sincerely
Jim Sinclair
Friends of Tamarac NWR, President

