**PROJECT TITLE: Optimizing Management of Minnesota’s Forest Landscapes**

**F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**

**Dr. George Host, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota Duluth**

Dr. Host will serve as project manager and be responsible for overall project coordination. Dr. Host is a forest ecologist and director of the Forest and Land Initiative. His current research includes application of LiDAR and other remotely-sensed data for forest resource analysis, interactions between forests and aquatic systems, large-scale landscape assessment. Areas of expertise include quantification of environmental stressors, spatial analysis, and visualization of complex data for scientific and public audiences. Dr. Host has served on the MN Forest Resources Council’s Information Management Committee, MN Department of Natural Resources Heritage Programs, and the UPM Blandin Advisory Group.

**Education**

PhD Forest Ecology, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 1987

MS Botany, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. 1982

BS Botany, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. 1977

**Project Team:**

This team brings a broad set of skills including research and work experience in forest resource characterization using field and remotely-sensed methodologies, wildlife habitat modeling for game and non-game species, identification and economic valuation of ecosystem services, forest mapping, and computer programming.  **Dr. Lucinda Johnson** is an Associate Director at NRRI-UMD, and a landscape and aquatic ecologist; she has considerable experience leading large projects, including a current project to validate indicators of coastal ecosystem conditions ($1.67M, funded by USEPA). **Dr. A. Stephen Polasky** in the UM Twin Cities Applied Economics Dept. is a natural resource economist whose work focuses on the market and non-market valuation of natural resources and the quantification of ecosystem services.

**Dr. Ron Moen** is a Wildlife Ecologist and Research Lab Manager at NRRI-UMD. He has over 25 years of research experience focusing on mammals, telemetry, and wildlife ecology. **Dr. Christopher Wright** is a remote sensing specialist with experience in carbon accounting and quantifying land use change as it related to the distribution of energy facilities.

**ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

**The Natural Resources Research Institute** is a University of Minnesota Duluth applied research organization. NRRI's mission is to deliver research solutions to balance Minnesota's economy, resources and environment for resilient communities.