**PROJECT TITLE: Monetizing Carbon Capture by Minnesota Forests**

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

**Dr. Chris Wright, Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI), University of Minnesota Duluth**

Dr. Wright will serve as project manager and be responsible for overall project coordination. Dr. Wright is a quantitative ecologist and Program Manager in Landscape Ecology. His current research includes carbon accounting, analysis of land cover/land use change, climate change impacts on critical bird habitat, and Big Data applications for environmental monitoring. His areas of expertise include geospatial computing, remote sensing, and the analysis of complex ecological systems. Dr. Wright’s work has informed natural resource management by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and natural resource policy at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. His work on land cover/land use change in the Prairie Pothole Region was featured in the 2018 National Climate Assessment. Lastly, he has experience leading large, multi-disciplinary projects ($2.4M in funding from National Science Foundation).

**Education**

PhD Ecology, Montana State University, Bozeman. 2004

MS Agronomy, Montana State University, Bozeman. 1994

BA Biology, Williams College, Williamstown, MA. 1990

**Project Team:**

Team members at NRRI bring a broad set of skills including research and work experience in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), ecological simulation modeling, applied forestry, business development, and public dissemination of environmental information on the web.  **Will Bartsch** is a Senior Research Scientist and manager of the MN Natural Resource Atlas. **John Duplissis** is the Silviculture Research Program Manager, with experience in Forest Extension and carbon offsets. Tim White is the Business Development & Intellectual Property Manager, with previous experience marketing carbon offsets at the Kohler Company. **Kristina Nixon** is a GIS analyst.

**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.

**V. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:**

**A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet**

**B. Visual Component or Map**

**C. Parcel List Spreadsheet**

**D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements**

**E. Research Addendum (Not required at proposal submission stage. Required later in process, if proposal is recommended. Staff will provide further information at that time)**

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

**G. Letter or Resolution**

**H. Financial Capacity**