# Program Manager Qualifications

**Project Manager:** Judy Schulte, Prairie Biologist

**Affiliation:** Department of Natural Resources, Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA)

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Judy Schulte is the Scientific and Natural Area Program’s Prairie Biologist. The SNA Program’s mission is to “preserve and perpetuate the ecological diversity of Minnesota's natural heritage, including landforms, fossil remains, plant and animal communities, rare and endangered species, or other biotic features and geological formations, for scientific study and public edification as components of a healthy environment”. Judy is responsible for coordinating and administrating programs designed to improve native prairie conservation and management on private lands and oversight of conservation easement stewardship. She provides programmatic direction and management for Native Prairie Bank, Native Prairie Tax Exemption, and Prairie Stewardship Planning Assistance. She has been involved with the implementation and management of several previous LCCMR & LSOHC projects, including:

ML 2010 ENRTF Scientific and Natural Areas & Native Prairie Restoration, Enhancement & Acquisition

ML 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017-2018 ENRTF Native Prairie Stewardship & Native Prairie Bank Acquisition

ML 2011, 2013-2019 ENRTF Scientific and Natural Areas Acquisition and Restoration

ML2010-2019 OHF Accelerated Prairie Restoration & Enhancement of DNR Lands

ML2011-2019 OHF WMA, SNA & NPB Easement Acquisition

ML2014-2018 OHF Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection

Judy has served as the Prairie Biologist with the SNA program since March of 2015. She has been officially acting as the interim SNA Unit Supervisor since May 2018. Other related experiences include:

*Region 4 Prairie Specialist, MN DNR (2011-2015)* regional lead for Native Prairie Bank easement acquisition and enhancement work, Prairie Tax Exemption, Prairie Stewardship Planning Assistance and general private prairie land technical assistance.

*District Technician, Redwood Soil & Water Conservation District (2009-2011)* Provided outreach, acquisition and management support to landowners and operators in Redwood County for a variety of county, state and federal conservation programs.

*Program Technician, USDA Redwood County Farm Service Agency (2007-2009)* Program Technician responsible for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) for Redwood County.

Education: Graduated from South Dakota State University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Park Management & Horticulture.

Judy will provide overall management to this proposed LCCMR project. She has effectively demonstrated her capacity to manage programs and budgets, maintain accurate records, and direct staff. Judy has experience and has demonstrated the ability to collaborate with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders in addressing complicated and contentious prairie protection and management issues. She is organizationally driven and has the knowledge and background to get the work done on the ground.

**Organization Description:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecological & Water Resources, Scientific & Natural Areas Program

Charged under MS 86A.05 to protect and perpetuate in and undisturbed natural state those natural features that possess exceptional scientific or education value; and under MS 84.96 and 84.961 to acquire Native Prairie Bank easements and work with landowners in conserving native prairie.