



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-221

Proposal Title: DNR Scientific and Natural Areas (ML20 Resubmit)

Project Manager Information

Name: Molly Roske

Organization: MN DNR - Ecological and Water Resources Division

Office Telephone: (651) 259-5094

Email: molly.roske@state.us.mn

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) habitat restoration/enhancement (~600 acres), increased public involvement, and strategic acquisition (~250 acres) will conserve Minnesota's most unique and rare resources for everyone's benefit.

Funds Requested: \$3,000,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2024-06-30

LCCMR Funding Category: Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation (G)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Minnesota's Scientific & Natural Areas (SNAs) are established to protect and perpetuate natural features possessing exceptional scientific or educational value, in an undisturbed natural condition. SNA designation represents the highest form of nature protection in the state; accordingly, these are the sites that meet the highest standards of quality: ratings by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) of high to outstanding biodiversity significance, key habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species, and presenting Minnesota's flagship geologic features.

Ensuring that Minnesota's natural heritage is not lost from any of its ecological regions, however, is a race against time: to protect just five occurrences of every native plant community (NPC) in each of the state's ecological subsections, and three viable populations of every animal and plant species native to Minnesota, the SNA Program currently still falls short by an estimated 130,000 acres (2014 SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan). As impacts to native ecosystems from development, agricultural conversion, fragmentation, human disturbance, and invasive species accelerate, compounded by climate change, natural area protection and stewardship are increasingly urgent.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

To safeguard the state's natural heritage for future generations, both the designation of currently unprotected areas and the attentive land stewardship of acres already under SNA protection, will be critical actions. The SNA land base must continue to proactively seek out, acquire, and protect the "gaps" in the protected area system, but it must likewise lift up the critically-important land management and stewardship work taken on by its talented staff, partners, and volunteer base with every new acre protected. Their work is needed in order to revitalize the native plant communities and habitats protected on SNAs that sometimes need prescribed disturbance, invasive species treatment or removal, and other actions to reduce or remove the factors leading to site degradation. The SNA Program continues to chart new territory in meeting these challenges with innovative solutions through partnering with the broader conservation community and by ramping up Minnesotans' appreciation and support for protected natural spaces.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

The vital mission of Minnesota's Scientific & Natural Areas (SNAs) will be furthered through restoration and enhancement, public involvement, and strategic acquisition. About 600 acres of habitat restoration, enhancement, and site improvement activities will target SNAs threatened by invasive species and lack of natural disturbance regimes. Outreach and citizen science efforts will enhance public participation and nature-based recreation through ~45 SNA events, sustaining the network of volunteer stewards at 130 SNAs. Around 250 acres will be strategically acquired from willing sellers and designated as SNAs to protect at-risk native plant communities and wildlife habitat of state significance.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Native Habitat Restoration, Enhancements and Improvements

Activity Budget: \$849,749

Activity Description:

Native habitat restoration and site improvement activities will be completed on about 580 acres at approximately 25 SNAs. Management plans will be completed for about 4 SNAs (including sites acquired through these funds). Around 30 SNAs will be monitored to improve management and track changes to rare species, imperiled plant communities and other important protected features. SNA staff will provide ecological/technical guidance and on-site verification for 3 projects implemented by partners on SNAs. Restoration and improvement activities will be carried out by DNR staff, Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI), Sentence to Service, volunteers, and/or contractors, and will be tracked in the Adaptive Management Spatial Database (AMSD). Activities include seed collection; site preparation; planting and aftercare; invasive species early detection, control and removal; site clean-up, signing, interpretive kiosks, and fencing; and prescribed burns (or alternative prescribed disturbance, such as prescribed haying, mowing or grazing, necessary where use of fire is limited). This activity includes work to bring acquired parcels up to DNR's minimum standards for SNAs, and includes restoration and improvements of acquired sites if ecologically advisable and feasible within the appropriation period.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
~10 acres of restoration of forest, prairie, & outcrop sites	2024-06-30
~170 acres of woody removal & invasive species treatment	2024-06-30
~400 acres of prescribed burns	2024-06-30
~1 SNA interpretive kiosks installed and development work on ~16 sites	2024-06-30
Ecological/technical guidance for ~3 partnership projects	2024-06-30
Management plans completed for ~4 SNAs	2024-06-30
Adaptive management, ecological & conservation easement monitoring on ~30 SNAs	2024-06-30

Activity 2: Public Engagement, Outreach & Citizen Science in Natural Areas

Activity Budget: \$439,822

Activity Description:

Minnesotans will be involved in volunteer habitat conservation and education activities at SNAs, and in the conservation of other key natural areas statewide. A network of ~130 SNA volunteer site stewards will be sustained, and 45+ events organized and executed (volunteer work days, recreation-educational events, guided nature hikes, citizen science monitoring, Bio-blitzes, etc.) to further engage Minnesotans. New and refined electronic/social media communications tools, maps, and interpretive information will be developed and disseminated to advance the public's understanding of Minnesota's wild places and biodiversity, and to enhance nature-based recreation on SNAs. Natural Area Registry partnership promotion will be part of this outreach, to further conservation of other public natural areas. In September 2021 Minnesota hosts the Natural Areas Conference in Duluth, which brings natural resource professionals from across the nation and globe to Minnesota to share new research, evaluate best management practices, and develop ongoing connections. The Natural Areas Association (NAA), a national nonprofit dedicated to the advancement of the community of natural areas practitioners, is the fiscal agent and coordinates logistics (DNR generates no income). This appropriation allows SNA to contribute expertise on Minnesota's natural areas to NAA and conference-attendees (as field trips, presentations, etc.)

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
~45 citizen science & volunteer events (management work days & ed. events incl. online)	2024-06-30
SNA website, e-book, social media, maps & other interpretive info	2024-06-30
Network of volunteer site stewards at ~130 SNAs	2024-06-30
SNAs and rare features highlighted at 2021 Natural Areas Conference through field trips, presentations, displays	2024-06-30

Activity 3: Strategic Acquisition of Sites with Biodiversity Significance**Activity Budget:** \$1,710,429**Activity Description:**

Acquisition and designation of ~250 acres as state SNAs will protect and buffer the most important Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) designated sites of biodiversity significance. Proactive landowner contacts will target SNA Strategic Plan priority areas, including MN Prairie Conservation Plan priority areas. Acquired sites must be recommended through an Ecological Evaluation report and numerically evaluated to ensure prioritization of MBS biodiversity significance sites that are predominantly MBS native plant communities with habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species and Species in Greatest Conservation Need. Most acquisition will be of fee title, but if more appropriate, acquisition could be a SNA-administered conservation easement with SNA designation. Included on the parcel list, are specific sites currently protected via permanent conservation easements that fall into SNA's Strategic Plan. The rare features and unique plant communities on these sites would benefit from the protection and management provided by SNA and would add great value to SNA goals and mission. If acquired, an appraisal would be used to find the fair market value including current encumbrances such as conservation easements. New MBS/other scientific data will be incorporated into the SNA Strategic Plan to refine and increase strategic prioritization.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
acquisition and designation as SNA of ~250 acres of high quality habitat	2024-06-30

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

Without SNA conservation, habitats for rare species and sites of high biodiversity significance are likely to be lost forever. The SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan targets acquisition (on existing public land/through acquisition) to insure the best ecological value for every dollar spent. Achieving SNA habitat management, public engagement and acquisition goals depends upon ongoing support from the ENRTF of \$5M-\$10M per biennium. Annual/biennial appropriations will also be sought from the Outdoor Heritage Fund and state bonding.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$3,500,000
Scientific and Natural Areas Program	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 09I	\$3,250,000
Scientific and Natural Areas Acquisition, Restoration, Citizen Science and Engagement	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b	\$2,500,000
Minnesota Point Pine Forest Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition	M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 09b	\$500,000
Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition and Restoration	M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$1,386,000
SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Enhancement and Public Engagement	M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c	\$4,000,000
Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Restoration, Improvement and Citizen Engagement	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 07a	\$2,540,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Molly Roske

Job Title: Scientific & Natural Area Program Senior Supervisor

Provide description of the project manager’s qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Molly Roske is the MnDNR's SNA Program Senior Supervisor. The 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.” Molly is responsible for coordinating and administrating efforts designed to protect, manage, monitor, interpret, promote research on, and acquire state lands of high biodiversity significance and sensitive or vulnerable resources.

While Molly is relatively new as SNA Program Supervisor, having served in this role since August 2019, she brings project management experience from prior positions:

- Executive Director, Fundación Cordillera Tropical, Ecuador (2017-2019), managing multiple concurrent environmental conservation projects with grants and other funding from local, national, and international sources.
- Research Associate, Colorado State University (2015-2016), coordinating implementation of a nation-wide network of researchers/practitioners across many state and federal agencies and funding types, to advance understanding of climate change impacts to forest ecology & management.
- Research Fellow, University of Minnesota’s Cloquet Forestry Center (2014-2015), co-leading planning and logistics for national advanced forest management certification courses and research networks.

Education:

- BA in Environmental Studies and Spanish from the College of St. Benedict | St. John's University (MN), 2008
- Master of Forest Science (MFS) from Yale University, School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (CT), 2014, concentration in forest ecology and forest hydrology

Molly will provide oversight to this project. She has effectively demonstrated her capacity to manage programs and budgets, maintain accurate records, and direct staff. Molly has experience in collaborating with a wide range of internal-external stakeholders in addressing complex land protection and management issues. She is organizationally driven and has the knowledge and background to attain project accomplishments.

Organization: MN DNR - Ecological and Water Resources Division

Organization Description:

Charged under MS 86A.05 to protect and perpetuate in an 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.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Seasonal Laborers & crews		On the ground project implementation			20%	2.2	X	\$82,800
Coordinators & planner		Coordinate acquisition, restoration, and budget implementation, contract execution, partner coordination			25%	2.4	X	\$211,900
Specialists & Technicians		On the ground project implementation			25%	7.6	X	\$521,725
							Sub Total	\$816,425
Contracts and Services								
TBD, and CCMI (Conservation Corps of MN & IA)	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Restoration of forest, prairie, & outcrop sites; invasives removal & treatment; prescribed disturbance; site development; adaptive management planning & monitoring; contracted volunteer events; video/photo/outreach materials; CCMI individual placements.				4		\$252,500
State of Minnesota	Acquisition costs	Professional Services for Acquisition: Attorney General's Office and DNR Lands and Minerals costs associated with completing an acquisition				0.76		\$100,000
State of Minnesota	Professional or Technical Service Contract	MNIT contract to provide ongoing upgrades and maintenance to the SNA Program's spatial outcomes tracking system, the Adaptive Management Spatial Database (AMSD)				0.06		\$16,000
							Sub Total	\$368,500
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Materials & supplies	Herbicide, posts, signs, safety supplies, equipment repair/parts, seed cleaning/testing, field tools, enclosure fence for monitoring, outreach					\$40,200

			materials, safety equipment for volunteers, etc.					
							Sub Total	\$40,200
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 250 Parcels: 3						\$1,530,000
							Sub Total	\$1,530,000
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	DNR fleet charges (for operation of trucks, cars, & special fieldwork equipment) & instate travel costs (as per state contracts)	Travel expenses needed to complete direct project work					\$147,100
							Sub Total	\$147,100
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Printing of interpretive signs/kiosks, brochures, maps, pocket cards; citizen science, educational & volunteer materials; publication of Commissioner's Designation Orders in State Register (required to designate acquired parcels)	To achieve improved public awareness and management efficiency of SNAs, enhance outreach/citizen science experiences, and transparently disclose additions of new SNA parcels.					\$4,842
							Sub Total	\$4,842
Other Expenses								
		DNR's Direct and Necessary Costs	Pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated projects.					\$92,933

			Direct and necessary costs cover HR (~18,728), Safety (~3,390), Financial (~13,639), Communication (~6,939), IT (~44,547), and Planning Support (~5,691)					
							Sub Total	\$92,933
							Grand Total	\$3,000,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Personnel - Seasonal Laborers & crews		On the ground project implementation	Classified : Consistent with approved work plans for previous ENRTF appropriations for the SNA program, this funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for classified and unclassified staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds. These positions would not exist, but for special project funding received through the ENRTF and other funds. Each year these positions are assigned work based on the particular combination of soft funding available to address priority SNA Program activities.
Personnel - Coordinators & planner		Coordinate acquisition, restoration, and budget implementation, contract execution, partner coordination	Classified : Consistent with approved work plans for previous ENRTF appropriations for the SNA program, this funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for classified and unclassified staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds. These positions would not exist, but for special project funding received through the ENRTF and other funds. Each year these positions are assigned work based on the particular combination of soft funding available to address priority SNA Program activities.
Personnel - Specialists & Technicians		On the ground project implementation	Classified : Consistent with approved work plans for previous ENRTF appropriations for the SNA program, this funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for classified and unclassified staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds. These positions would not exist, but for special project funding received through the ENRTF and other funds. Each year these positions are assigned work based on the particular combination of soft funding available to address priority SNA Program activities.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Antelope Valley SNA	Yellow Medicine	Wet Saline Prairie, Upland Sandpiper noted onsite	Restoration	17	-	\$10,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Badoura Jack Pine Woodland SNA	Hubbard	Jack pine (yarrow) woodland	Restoration	23	-	\$30,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Boltuck-Rice Forever Wild SNA addition	Itasca	Provides better public access to the site and protects old growth forest.	Fee Title	25	0.03	\$150,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Englund Ecotone SNA addition	Benton	Provides the only public access to the site and protects additional oak forest, oak savanna, and sedge meadow.	Fee Title	300	-	\$1,800,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Falls Creek SNA addition	Washington	One of the most diverse forested natural areas remaining in Washington County. Will add to core SNA habitat, protect St. Croix River frontage, fill a protection gap within the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, and provide better public access.	Fee Title	120	0.5	\$2,400,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Frenchman's Bluff SNA addition	Norman	Dry Sand-gravel prairie in good condition.	Fee Title	73	-	\$511,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Hemlock Ravine SNA	Carlton	Imperiled boreal hardwood forest: Red oak - Sugar maple - Basswood - (Bluebead lily) forest and White pine - White spruce - Paper birch forest (S2 ranked) with a state-endangered tree (Eastern hemlock). Project will continue an effort to stabilize and re-establish vegetation on eroded slide areas in the ravine.	Restoration	2	-	\$10,000	Public	DNR-SNA	In progress
Hythecker Prairie SNA addition	Dodge	200 foot grassland buffer on the east and north sides of the SNA to protect prairie from overspray from agricultural fields.	Fee Title	40	-	\$320,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Lake Bronson Parkland SNA addition	Kittson	Borders the Two Rivers river and harbors rare orchids on wet prairie of outstanding biodiversity significance.	Fee Title	180	0.25	\$150,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has not begun

Lester Lake SNA	Hubbard	High quality Red Pine - White Pine Forest.	Restoration	10	-	\$15,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Mille Lacs Moraine SNA	Crow Wing	Restore high-quality Red oak - Basswood forest (Noncalcareous till) with several listed bird species. Project would rehabilitate a small former building site where debris and invasive species are present.	Restoration	2	-	\$7,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Mille Lacs Moraine SNA addition	Crow Wing	MBS-mapped forest communities; Red-shouldered hawk, Cerulean warbler habitat	Fee Title	265	0.5	\$800,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Minnesota Point Pine Forest SNA	St. Louis	Restore unique and critically imperiled ecosystems eroded by storm surge: Beachgrass dune (Lake Superior), Juniper dune shrubland (Lake Superior), and Sand beach (Lake Superior), with numerous listed species; complement beach nourishment activities underway by Army Corps of Engineers.	Restoration	2	0.25	\$7,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Morton Outcrop SNA addition	Renville	Protect additional rock outcrop and mesic prairie along with additional access to site	Fee Title	3	-	\$24,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Mound Prairie SNA addition	Houston	Protect additional mesic and dry bluff prairie, and provide better management access to the SNA	Fee Title	40	-	\$200,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
North Fork Zumbro SNA addition	Goodhue	Protect additional floodplain forest and improve public access.	Fee Title	68	0.5	\$476,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Rock Ridge SNA addition	Cottonwood	Protect additional rock outcrop prairie.	Fee Title	80	-	\$640,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has not begun
Totals				1,250	2.03	\$7,550,000			

Fee Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

To be acquired and designated as SNA, the site must be recommended for SNA designation in an Ecological Evaluation report, which serves as the site's baseline assessment for fee acquisitions. All such sites are predominantly MBS-mapped native plant communities and contain habitat for rare species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need. In addition, SNA staff use the "SNA Candidate Site Evaluation Guide" (initially developed through the ENRTF-funded SNA strategic planning process) which incorporates criteria to rate which sites are currently pursued. Criteria include diversity and quality of the native habitat, occurrence of rare species, occurrence of native plant communities under-represented in SNA system, parcel size, location of parcel in relation to biodiversity hotspots (particularly MBS-mapped areas of outstanding and high biodiversity significance) and other conservation lands (including SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan's Conservation Opportunity Areas and Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan's Core Areas), potential for long-term management, and additional factors (e.g. landowner readiness, urgency, and willingness to donate; degree of threat, and partnership opportunities).

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

- SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan – <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snap/plan.html>
- Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan – <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mnwap/index.html>
- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan – www.dnr.state.mn.us/prairieplan

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

Each parcel acquired as a new SNA in fee will have an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) or if as an addition to an existing SNA, that SNA's Management Plan would be amended to add the new parcel. The AMPs include goals, ecological description, priority features with indicators, and management recommendations. The intended outcome of management of SNAs is that 1) all the lands be native plant communities or restored to plant communities that would have been native to the site, 2) these plant communities are sustained over time, and 3) that visitors are accommodated safely (unless visitor access is restricted by designation order). The goals for the SNA's management are based upon soils, topography, geology, and other factors necessary to sustain the plant community. Each plan includes an implementation timetable that summarizes ongoing management needs and a statement on funding. Long-term management costs (e.g. invasive species treatments, prescribed fire, and monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination funding sources, including, but not limited to, ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF), federal grants, and other funds as appropriated. Each AMP is kept in a DNR internal shared electronic filing system accessible to all SNA staff.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

The DNR follows Minnesota Statutes 84.033, which require that any land acquired for designation as SNA must have county board approval as prescribed under MS 97A.145.

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

As part of the DNR acquisition process, all SNA acquisitions are required to have approval of the Ecological and Water Resources Division Director and land conveyances are accepted by the Director or Assistant Director of the Division of Lands and Minerals who have delegated authority to approve this for the Commissioner.

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

All restoration/enhancement-related activities done with this appropriation are on lands designated as SNA that the state owns in fee or easement.

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

Each restoration/enhancement project will be based upon an ecological restoration and management plan and/or project plan with goals for reconstructing plant communities that are native to the site that are based upon soils, topography, geology, and other factors necessary to sustain the plant community. Each plan includes an implementation timetable, which summarizes ongoing management needs. Each restoration and management plan and project plan is kept in a DNR internal shared electronic filing system accessible to all SNA staff.

3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

The SNA Program follows or exceeds the recommendations found in the BWSR “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines”. SNA restorations typically follow the current BWSR Guidelines, including Project Guidance, Plant Community Restoration, Temporary Cover and Forest/Woodlands. The SNA Program follows the general direction of the BWSR Guidelines for “Recommended Steps for Obtaining Plant Materials”, and has additional and more restrictive requirements for restoration material sources. Specifically, SNA restorations use seeds of a local ecotype, collected from onsite or within 25 miles. Restoration and management of DNR lands are governed by DNR Operational Order #124 on “Plant Material Standards for Native Plant Community Restoration” and #130 on “Pollinator Habitat” (which include BMPs).

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

Long-term management costs (e.g. invasive species treatments, prescribed fire/disturbance, and monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination of funding sources, including, but not limited to, ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF), federal grants, and other funds as appropriated.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

DNR has a standing general contract with CCMI under which the SNA Program often does project or activity specific agreements. For restoration and site improvement projects, CCMI has been and will continue to be used when appropriate for hand seed harvest, invasive species treatment, prescribed burning, and will be considered on restoration projects for post-planting weed control.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

Plant community reconstruction and rehabilitation projects will be evaluated and a report submitted to the LCCMR to ascertain how well the native plants have been established and non-natives controlled. Each evaluation report will include a summary of management plan outcomes, activities completed through the project, map of the project area, statement of ongoing management needs and funding, and summary of the evaluation.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [badf7ab6-b61.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map - SNA restoration priorities are located in existing/proposed SNAs across the state, and the acquisition priorities are located in Conservation Opportunity Areas. Photo - Boy holding a frog on an SNA....

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration, Fee Acquisition,

Does your project have patent, royalties, or revenue potential?

No

Does your project include research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

