



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-439

Proposal Title: Pollinator & Beneficial Insect Strategic Habitat Program

Project Manager Information

Name: Dan Shaw

Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources

Office Telephone: (612) 236-6291

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This pilot program will restore and enhance diverse native habitat over approximately 90 projects on conservation lands and natural areas strategically located across Minnesota to address declining pollinators and insects.

Funds Requested: \$780,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2024-06-30

LCCMR Funding Category: Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat (F)

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.

Dramatic declines of bees, butterflies, dragonflies and other beneficial insects that support our ecosystems and food systems have been raising significant alarm among scientists and conservation professionals both locally and globally. Currently there is no state grant program focused on establishing targeted pollinator habitat on conservation lands and natural areas. There is also a need to combine current efforts with updating state seed mixes, refining restoration methods and the identifying lands that are a high priority for restoration into a structured conservation program with supporting resources.

This project was recommended for funding as part of the 2020 RFP. We are requesting the funding amount that was requested in BWSR's initial application.

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.

The Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Strategic Habitat Program will build a new BWSR initiative to restore and enhance approximately 1000 acres of diverse native habitat over 90 projects strategically located across Minnesota. Project placement and seed mix design will be tailored to address the habitat needs of a wide diversity of insects, including at-risk species. This program will align with the Governor's pollinator executive order (EO 19-28), address several habitat goals and recommendations of the Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection (including GCPP recommendations 1.1 and 1.2), and help attain goals of the Interagency Pollinator Protection Team.

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?

Funding through this new initiative will be distributed through BWSR's Cost-share process and a competitive grant RFP. Eligible projects will include public lands or private lands with a public investment, including existing RIM easements, CRP, city parks, county parks, and protected natural areas. Approximately 1000 acres and 90 projects will be restored. Projects will focus on:

- 1) Establishing new floral rich plots or riparian plantings 0.5 to 5 acres in size and/or
- 2) Enhancing prairie, savanna, wetland, and shoreline communities that provide high value habitat. Planned to benefit a variety of beneficial insects and at-risk-species.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Strategic Program Planning and Education

Activity Budget: \$54,000

Activity Description:

Develop project ranking criteria and pollinator-beneficial insect conservation plan templates, conduct three regional pollinator workshops.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Assemble an advisory team to guide program development, combine habitat maps, and develop ranking criteria	2021-11-30
Collaborate with Xerces Society to develop two pollinator – beneficial insect conservation plan templates.	2024-06-30
Collaborate with Xerces Society on three regional pollinator workshops to present BMP's and plan templates.	2024-06-30

Activity 2: Pollinator Habitat Project Planning and Restoration

Activity Budget: \$724,500

Activity Description:

Restore and enhance approximately 1000 acres across 90 sites on conservation lands.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
SWCDs or their designees develop pollinator-beneficial insect conservation plans/conservation plan updates for protected lands.	2024-06-30
Conduct site preparation, planting and management of projects with the goal of maintaining diverse plantings.	2024-06-30

Activity 3: Program Assessment, Signage and What's Working Outreach

Activity Budget: \$1,500

Activity Description:

Assess disseminate results, findings, and best practices.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Assemble the advisory team to discuss results, successes, improvement and next steps in refining program.	2024-04-30
Add ENRTF signage at all project sites	2024-06-30
Document successful planning, design, installation and management strategies and case studies on BWSR's webpage.	2024-06-30

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
LeAnn Buck	Minnesota Association of Conservation Districts	Conduct outreach with Conservation District Staff about the program structure, workshops and opportunities for participation as program advisors and landowner contacts.	No
Sarah Foltz-Jordan	Xerces Society	Co-develop with BWSR staff two pollinator – beneficial insect conservation plan templates, one for new habitat installations, and one for enhancement/management of existing habitat, based on Xerces’ existing habitat guidance. Conduct three regional pollinator workshops to present program requirements, best practices and new conservation plan templates.	Yes

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?

This proposal enhances existing investments in long-term conservation as part of a solution to the decline of at-risk species and other important insects. The project will develop and implement conservation plans that will guide the long-term management and monitoring of protected lands. Once the new BWSR program is established BWSR will pursue other funding sources for the program such as federal grants and foundation funding.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Lawns to Legumes	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08f	\$900,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Outreach and Implementation	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08k	\$6,000,000
Acceleration of Minnesota Conservation Assistance - Final Phase	M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 08d	\$1,000,000
Northeast Minnesota White Cedar Restoration - Phase 2	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 06d	\$335,000
Minnesota Conservation Apprenticeship Academy	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$392,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Dan Shaw

Job Title: Senior Ecologist/ Vegetation Specialist

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

Dan Shaw, is the Senior Ecologist and Vegetation Specialist for BWSR where he works on invasive species, restoration, native vegetation, wetland, agricultural BMPs, stormwater design, pollinator habitat, and climate adaptation programs through conservation partnerships. Dan has also taught classes at the University of Minnesota for the last seventeen years and currently teaches a course on “Ecological Restoration Planning and Management”.

Related projects include:

- Establishment and management of BWSR’s Native Buffer Cost-share Program
- Establishment and management of BWSR’s Cooperative Weed Management Area Program
- Establishment and management of BWSR’s Habitat Friendly Solar Program

- Coordination of BWSR's Pollinator Initiative
- Development and updating of BWSR's Native Vegetation Establishment and Management Guidelines
- Development of BWSR's Pollinator, Landscape Resiliency and Buffer Toolboxes
- Development of State Seed Mixes
- Author, co-author or contributing author of "Plants for Stormwater Design", "The Minnesota Wetland Restoration Guide", "Native Vegetation in Restored and Created Wetlands", The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens", BWSR's Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines "Ecological Restoration in the Midwest, Past, Present and Future"

Before coming to BWSR, Mr. Shaw's experience included being Conservation Director at Great River Greening, working for environmental consulting firms, restoration companies, native plant nurseries, research at the University of Minnesota and over 20 years of farming experience.

Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources

Organization Description:

BWSR Mission Statement and Charge: Improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners. BWSR is the state soil and water conservation agency, and it administers programs that prevent sediment and nutrients from entering our lakes, rivers, and streams; enhance fish and wildlife habitat; and protect wetlands. The 20-member board consists of representatives of local and state government agencies and citizens.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Personnel		Program Coordinator			22%	0.78		\$20,000
Personnel		BWSR Grant Coordinator			22%	0.39	X	\$33,000
							Sub Total	\$53,000
Contracts and Services								
SWCD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	SWCDs or their designees develop pollinator-beneficial insect conservation plans/conservation plan updates for awarded projects on protected lands. Conduct site preparation, planting and management of projects with the goal of establishing and maintaining high diversity plantings.				0		\$704,500
Xerces Society	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Develop two pollinator – beneficial insect conservation plan templates, one for new habitat installations, and one for enhancement/management of existing habitat, based on Xerces’ existing habitat guidance. Collaborate on three regional pollinator workshops to present program requirements, best practices and new conservation plan.				0.21		\$21,000
							Sub Total	\$725,500
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								

							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		Signage (90)	Print and add ENRTF signage at all project sites.					\$1,500
							Sub Total	\$1,500
							Grand Total	\$780,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Personnel - Personnel		BWSR Grant Coordinator	Classified : This position is necessary for the project to develop grant agreements and oversee the distribution of grants.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
In-Kind	General Fund Appropriation to BWSR (citation to be determined)	Minnesota BWSR Senior Ecologist (8% FTE) of time over three years.	Secured	\$32,400
			State Sub Total	\$32,400
Non-State				
In-Kind	Public and private landowners	Minimum 25% cost share requirement for public projects and 10% for private landowners.	Pending	\$108,000
In-Kind	Xerces Society	Outreach	Secured	\$1,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$109,000
			Funds Total	\$141,400

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
				-	-	-			
Totals				0	0	-			

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 lands to be restored through this project will be permanently protected with an emphasis on lands with easements or parks on city, county or state land.

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.

As part of this project templates for project implement and project enhancement will be developed to be used on all projects. These templates will include detail on project site preparation, installation and management as well as needs for documentation of the restoration process. In addition to being saved at local SWCD offices, these documents will be provided to landowners to guide long-term management. Ensuring the long-term care of projects will be a key ranking criteria used as part of the competitive RFP process for the grant program.

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.

Use of the BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines will be stressed as a project requirement in the program RFP, as well as the project templates used for all projects. There will be an emphasis on protecting the genetic integrity of any remnant plant communities associated with projects.

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.

Ensuring the long-term care of projects will be a key ranking criteria used as part of the competitive RFP process for the grant program, this will include considerations about future funding availability for management. The project templates developed for all projects will also provide direction for the long-term management. The role of landowners to maintain projects into the future will be stressed and local conservation staff will continue working with landowners to provide technical guidance.

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

The grant RFP for the program will state that consideration needs to be given to contracting with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota.

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.

Project assessments/evaluations will be completed by local staff working with landowners after completion and three years as a follow-up to ensure that project goals are being met and to document project success that will be a requirement of the grant program (BWSR has routine inspection requirements for conservation projects funded with state dollars). These evaluation will also play a key role in determining if any specific maintenance activities are needed for projects.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [748cf226-fcd.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

This graphic shows the state of Minnesota with insect species that this program benefits and provides information about program goals and outcomes.

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration,

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?

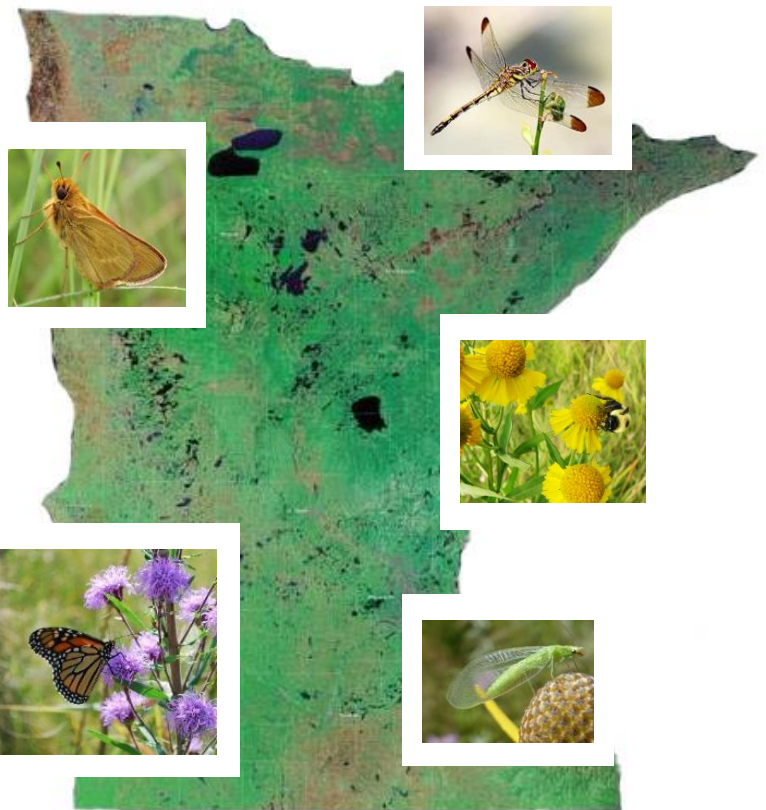
No



Pollinator & Beneficial Insect Strategic Habitat Program

Insects at Risk

- Dramatic declines of bees, butterflies, dragonflies and other beneficial insects have raised significant alarm by scientists and conservation professionals.
- These insects provide critical support to our ecosystems and food systems



Project Benefits/Outcomes

- This program is designed to provide multiple benefits including:
 - Build collaboration with local teams of experts
 - Restore and enhance approximately 1000 acres of diverse native habitat over 90 projects strategically located across Minnesota
 - Facilitate development of new BWSR Pollinator-Beneficial Insect Cost-share Program
 - Conduct three regional pollinator-beneficial insect workshops across the state.
 - Develop conservation plan templates for pollinator habitat installation and enhancement
 - Document successful restoration strategies

